

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 22, 2025

1. CALL to ORDER: Vice Chairman Ned Bixler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

2. Attendance: Chairman Allan Walker (zoom) Vice Chair Ned Bixler, Bob Valentine, Paul Collins, Scott Tillmann, Patrick Reilly. Excused: Jim Korner, Russell Murdock.

Others: First Selectman Todd Carusillo, Acting Superintendent Kristen Della Volpe, Chief Financial Officer Consultant Thomas Ariola, Fire Commissioners Chairman Seth Breakell, Public Works Supervisor Garret Harlow, Recreation Director, Erin Reilly, Fire Chief Barry Hall and Susan Wheeler.

3. Seating of an Alternate: Motion by Bob Valentine, seconded by Scott Tillmann to seat Patrick Reilly. Vote Unanimous.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Bob Valentine made a motioned to approve the minutes as amended (see attached), seconded by Paul Collins. Vote Unanimous.

5. Financial Reports Review: The board received and reviewed the financial reports. Bob Valentine commented to the Recreation Director regarding contributions being greater than what was budgeted and the revenue being \$12,000 less than budged. The board will discuss further when they review the Recreation budget. Paul Collins had a question for First Selectman Carusillo regarding the increase cost to the website, Carusillo answered that it will be an annual increase.

6. Tax Collector's Report Review:

The Board received and reviewed the Tax Collector's report. **Motioned by** Bob Valentine, seconded by Paul Collins to receive the Tax Collector report. Vote Unanimous.

Motioned by Bob Valentine, seconded by Vice Chair Bixler to move New Business 10a and 10b.

New Business:

10a. Region 20 Acting Superintendent, Kristen Della Volpe introduce herself, joining her was Thomas Ariola, Chief Financial Officer Consultant to help answer questions.

Bob Valentine started by saying it was disconcerting for the Board of Finance as the budgeting authority for the town of Goshen and who set a mil rate in addition to persuading people to pay those taxes, to have not gotten any communication from the school district concerning the budget shortfalls and having to rely on newspaper articles for information. He went on to say he hoped in the future to have better communications between the District and the Board of Finance. He stated; We are starting our budgeting process; we take the larger budgets first than the smaller budgets so we can have the budgets set for the annual budget meeting in May. Without question Region 6 liabilities and what region 20 liabilities are for last fiscal year, current fiscal year and next fiscal year are going to have a substantial effect on the mill rate and the taxation of the people of the Town of Goshen as well as the other towns in the district.

Reading the newspaper recently it appears the shortfall for Region 20 is now up to almost 2m having been cut recently from a 2.1 m 1.7m. Questions Bob asked were: Given we knew since July the budget had a shortfall, what other things have been done, have we had a spending freeze? Moneys are being spent that have not been appropriated by the town's people. We have been told by our First Selectman that Region 20 cannot bond past debt because the new district has no credit rating, is that true? (No answer was provided).

Acting Superintendent, Della Volpe stated she is willing to help with the communications going forward and apologized, it's been a whirlwind piecing thing together. Tom will talk on the bonding. I can talk about where we are now with our cuts, close to 1 million in cuts have been made to mitigate this issue, we have a way to go and have ideas on how we can do this in the future.

Chief Financial Officer Consultant, Ariola agreed on communication and acknowledge communications should have been better. Region 6 was winding down, bills starting coming in at the end, if you read the auditor's report both districts were on self-management, the superintendent trying to close two (2) district and opening another with limited staff and doing his best he could with the least number of little resources, which in the end hurt the way it was closed out. We knew in July Region 6 wasn't going to have enough money and we probably shouldn't have given the back to the RSD 6 Towns the \$500,000 in capital reserve funds, but it was part of the budget and we had money at that time. Once vendors heard we were closing out district's books, bills began to coming in. At that time Region 6 bills were held aside until the audit was completed; we knew we had a problem with cash.

Region 20 gets started in July; they knew the budget structural wasn't there to support the expenditures. At that time there wasn't an appetite knock down the budget. He went on to say that he made clear at that time that the further along in the budget year they went the more difficult it would be to address the issue. We made \$300,000 in cuts, but we had increase of \$100,000 for snow removal, etc. Structural deficit of 1.9 million where cash flow is the issue. 41 million budget is really 43 million budgets. There is a spending freeze in effect. In the end the district has a cash flow problem. There are many things that need to be looked at but, in the end, given the current budget situation the budget for next year is really a 45m budget. And they really need to start at 45M and work back from there to determine next year's budget.

Bob Valentine acknowledged that during a budget year the school district can have things happen that can change the budget that are out of the control of the district, but that they have ways of addressing that. But what is clear is the both RSD 6 and RSD 20 have been spending monies that have not been appropriated. Tom Ariola went on to say that a lot of work needs to be done before decisions on budget meetings and appropriations the district is going to ask for, but they will be getting back to us in the future on that subject.

Patric Riely asked if there was a reduction in staff from the two previous districts and the new district? Superintendent Della Volpe replied that there was not in the end, but there were some before special ed needs came about. She went on to say she would work to in the future to do what she can to address the fiscal issues. Education is a people drive business, something we have to think about, including teacher student ratios.

10b. Fire Company needs assessment- Fire Commissioners Chair, Seth Breakell presented the needs assessment for the Company. The Board of Finance will review received assessment.

7. Budget Projection Review:

Contingency Department 59

Current Budget 2024-2025 \$40,000 Proposed Budget 2025-2026 \$40,000

Bob Valentine motioned to receive, seconded by Vice Chair Bixler. Voted unanimously.

Fire Protection Department 26

Current Budget 2024-2025 \$109,120 Proposed Budget 2025-2026 \$118,634

Bob Valentine Motioned to receive, seconded by Pat Reilly. Voted unanimously. Will review further On the Company volunteer appreciation.

Rescue Department Dep28

Current Budget 2024-2025 \$ \$35,415 Proposed Budget 2025-2026 \$35,415

Paul Collins motioned to received, seconded by Pat Reilly. Voted unanimously.

Fire Protection Capital

Current Capital \$318,000 Proposed Capital \$ 375,000

Bob Valentine motioned to receive, seconded by Paul Collins. Voted unanimously.

Public Works Department 2

Current Budget 2024-2025 \$1,168,537 Proposed 2025-2026 \$1,220,835

Paul Collins motioned to received, seconded by Pat Reilly. The board will review further on the TAR Expenses.

Public Works Capital

Current 2024-2025 \$574,500 Proposed 2025-2026 \$718,000

Pat Reilly motioned to received, seconded by Paul Collins. Voted unanimously.

Recreation Department 22

Current Budget 2024-2025 \$235,114 Proposed Budget 2025-2026 \$234,769

Paul Collins motioned to received, seconded by Pat Reilly. Voted unanimously

Recreation Capital

Current 2024-2025 \$23,700 Proposed 2025-2026 \$24,200

Bob Valentine motioned to received, seconded by Pat Reilly. Voted unanimously

Town Office Building Department 61

Current Budget 2024-2025 \$93,202 Proposed Budget 2025-2026 \$95,034

Paul Collins motioned to received, seconded by Pat Reilly. Voted unanimously

Town Hall Capital

Current Budget 2024-2025 \$35,500 Proposed Budget 2025-2026 \$38,000

Current Lakewood 2024-2025 \$45,000 Proposed Budget 2025-2026 \$45,000

Paul Collins motioned to received, seconded by Pat Reilly. Voted unanimously

Waste Removal Department 03

Current Budget 2024-2025 \$354,300 Proposed Budget 2025-2026 \$472,713

The Board will review further on tipping fee cost.

8. Selectman's Report:

- Spoke on overages on PW rental line item. Debbie Franklin report showed the excavator/skid steer for use on Newcomb Road.
- The Public Works Backhoe's transmission finally went.
- The Air Boat needed a new propeller, cost us \$1,436 charged to the credit card, The Litchfield Lions Club sent us a check in the amount of \$1,436 as a donation. A letter was sent thanking them.
- I invited the Acting Superintendent Kristen Del Volpe from Region 20 for a Q&A with the BOF.
- Auditors report shows Region 6 owes Litchfield \$178,000 for expenses; Goshen's portion is 47.24% equaling \$84,087.20
- The Waste Removal Budget shows an increase in MIRA fees from \$131 per ton to \$181 per ton. I had a MIRA meeting this past week, those fees maybe \$202. Per ton if so, it will be a substantial increase.
- My appointment with Enviro Express for pricing for MSW went well, if the Town opts out of MIRA agreement, and the NWHCOG takes control of the Torrington Transfer Station we should have fees from Enviro around \$116.50 per ton, if everything has to fall into place.
- The Selectmen Capital under Town Hall Budget, we should start saving for a new hallway copier, the last one cost \$3,500. We should budget small amounts for the next couple of years. This item was missed when the budget was prepared.
- The Ford F550 went out to auction, sold for \$8,700 check should be delivered within 60-90 days.
- The Stop signs were installed over at Woodridge, hopefully they will slow down traffic.

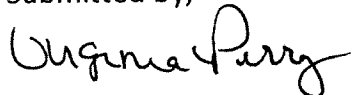
Vice Chair Bixler asked if there was any public comment. Susan Wheeler expressed appreciation on communicating with region 20.

9. Correspondence: Fire Company needs assessment and Board of Finance Revenue Estimate report.

See above 10a and 10b. New Business.

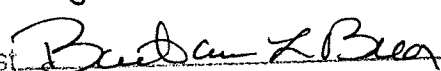
11. Adjournment: Motioned by Paul Collins, seconded by Bob Valentine. Adjourned at 9:05 pm. Vote Unanimous.

Submitted by,



Virginia Perry, Selectman's Admin Asst.

Received Jun 27, 2025 @ 9:30AM

Attest 
Goshen Town Clerk

AMENDED
Town of Goshen
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday December, 18, 2024

1. CALL to ORDER: Chairman Allan Walker called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m., then turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Ned Bixler.

2. Attendance: Chairman Allan Walker, Vice Chair Ned Bixler, Robert Valentine, Paul Collins, Russell Murdock, Scott Tillmann, Jim Korner

Others: First Selectman Todd Carusillo, Seth Breakell, Fire Commissioner Chairman, Ashley Daddona, BOE Member, Michael Leonard.

3. Seating of an Alternate: None

4. Approval of Minutes:

Paul Collins motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Robert Valentine, Scott Tillmann and Jim Korner abstained, hearing no changes, all in favor. Vote Unanimous.

5. Financial Reports Review: Bob had a question on Public Works Equipment Lease line item why it's 263.21% or \$4,570 over budgeted, (he thought the town got rid of leases), and why crack sealing item is 38%, are we done with crack sealing. Todd will look into it the equipment lease and for the crack sealing, there are outstanding invoices. The Board reviewed and received the financial report.

6. Tax Collector's Report Review:

The Board reviewed the Tax Collector's report. **Motioned by** Robert Valentine, seconded by Ned Bixler to receive the Tax Collector report. Vote Unanimous.

Patricik Reilly arrived at 7:36 p.m.

7. Selectman's Report:

Paul Collins asked about Region 6 bonded debt being assumed by Region 20? Todd said that it cannot be assumed; Region 20 will have to get bonding or get a loan, because Region 20 is a new entity, they have no credit to be bonded. They will need to take out a loan for all the debt. Region 6 bond is a 3.4%, if Region 20 takes a loan for the 1.9 million with a local bank the interest is 7%.

Bob inquired on the timeline for the Board of Education Superintendent, within the last 8 months she hadn't made any cuts, these cuts should have been made before the school year started. Bob asked what cuts were made, Todd stated there were \$600,000 cuts made in September and \$326, 217 cuts made this pasted Tuesday 12/17/24. Bring the school debt from \$2.1 million down to \$1.77 million. The only information this board has received on the school budget is from the newspaper; Bob would like to extend an invitation to the Acting Superintendent to the next Board of Finance meeting for clarity.

Discussion regarding the \$1,262.13 balance from the Fire Company Appreciation Dinner. Accounting practices were discussed. The final results were the Fire Commissioners wanted to give out Sixty (60) \$20.00 gas cards to the active members and active life members as an appreciation. Motioned was made to spend the town contribution on the gas cards and apply the money that was donated against the cost of the dinner. Motioned by Jim Korner, seconded by Paul Collins. Vote Carried. Scott Tillmann abstained.

The Litchfield School District auditor's report shows that Region 6 owes Litchfield \$ 178,000 for expenses related to the merger of Litchfield and RSD 6, Goshen portion is 47.24% equaling \$84,087.20. The Region 20 referendum vote for Litchfield debt of 1.9 million passed. Region 20 may not be able to bond the debt due to a lack of credit and may have to borrow from a local bank instead.

The board revisited the request from WLPOA concerning speed humps Board member, James Korner questioned if WLPOA owes the town money for the work on the sedimentation projects. Todd will send sedimentation report to the Board members for review. With all that is going on, the board tabled the WLPOA request.

Allan Walker questioned who was Carmody, Torance & Hennessey and why is there a \$7000 Invoice. Todd explained that was from the Board of Education vote complaints from June 17, 2024. Todd explained that he put a stop to the attorney speaking with the residents and The town won't be responsible for any other cost without First Selectman approval. Ned Bixler will share legal documents with the board.

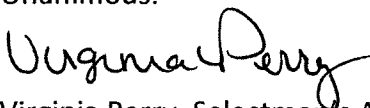
Bob Valentine provided two separate spreadsheets; one was used to set our mil rate in May of last year; it included the 2nd refund payment from region 6 of \$247,000. The second spreadsheet, shows what happens to our fund balance of \$3,122,383 after paying for the RSD 6 and RSD 20 overages for FY 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 and a 4% increase in Town and School budgets. Both would result in a 16.5 mill rate next year The Board discussed taking moneys from Fund Balance to cover the RSD6 & RSD20 overages or creating a special tax assessment to pay for them.

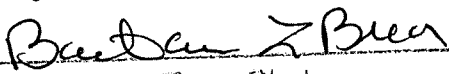
Ned asked if there were any comments from the audience, Sue Wheeler of Westside Rd stated she goes to all BOE meetings and she believes there should be more cuts.

8. Correspondence: None

9. New Business: None

10. Adjournment: Motioned by Jim Korner, seconded by Paul Collins. Adjourned at 8:40 p.m. Vote Unanimous.


Virginia Perry, Selectman's Admin Asst.

Received Jan 27, 2025 @ 9:29 AM
Attest 
Goshen Town Clerk

January 21, 2025

The Goshen Volunteer Fire Company has long been recognized as one of the premiere volunteer Fire Company's in Litchfield County as well as throughout the State of CT. We provide Fire, Ambulance/EMS, and Dive/Rescue Services to the residents of Goshen as well as mutual aid agreements with several neighboring Towns. As Goshen has grown, we have seen a steady increase in call volume from 318 calls in 2017/2018 to 466 in 2023/2024. To meet the demand, we have continued to upgrade and improve not only our training but our equipment as well.

This has forced us to increasingly compartmentalize our space in our existing firehouse leading to an overcrowding of our vehicles and equipment resulting in inefficient flow throughout the firehouse as well as diminished response times. An informal review of several neighboring firehouses revealed an average of over 600 sqft of floor space per unit, currently our area provides less than 400 sqft per unit. While not as vividly apparent our lack of space also affects our maintenance as well as storage of gear and supplies.

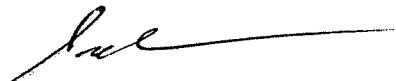
As part of our budget this year we have asked to have monies appropriated for design/engineering of conceptual plans for an addition to the existing firehouse.

At the request of several BOS/BOF members we have retained the services of an emergency fire services professional uniquely qualified to do an independent needs assessment of our current facility.

Samuel Kinkade is a long serving, decorated member of the City of Waterbury Fire Department. He was most recently honored as the city's 2022 firefighter of the year. Sam also serves as secretary of the Firefighters Local 1339. His experience serving in CT's 5th largest municipality gives him a unique perspective over millions of dollars of equipment as well as 1000's of sqft of numerous firehouses. Additionally, until 2022, Sam also served as Fire Marshall for the Town of Litchfield giving him a thorough understanding of current building and fire codes.

I have enclosed his report for your consideration. Thank you in advance for your time and cooperation.

Respectfully,



Seth Breakell

Chairman, Goshen Fire Commissioners

To: Goshen Fire Commission

Subject: Goshen Fire Company Needs Assessment

Overview: The original building housing the Goshen Fire Company was constructed in 1972 based on assessor recorders. The original building made up of communication room, meeting hall, kitchen and five garage bays. The five garage are used for the following vehicles:

- 1) Utility 4 – 2022 pickup used as a support vehicle in addition to towing trailers for varies emergencies.
- 2) Truck 5 – 1989 Brush Truck
- 3) Truck 8 – 2017 Ambulance
- 4) Truck 9 – 2006 Ambulance
- 5) Airboat on a trailer with an inflatable boat

In addition located behind Truck 8 and Truck 9 is a utility vehicle on a trailer outfitted with brush fire equipment. This includes pump, hose and tank. The utility vehicle also has the ability to move an injured patient from areas not accessible by ambulance or other vehicles. As the trailer for the utility vehicle is located behind other vehicles it cannot be easily accessed in an emergency. This requires 2 vehicles to be moved before the trailer can be hooked up to Utility 4 for response.

The original section of the building has a loft area used for training and storage which is utilized by the Boy Scouts.

Located behind Truck 4 and 5 is a work bench but does not offer proper space to service and maintain equipment and items are stored in a block the mean of egress.

An addition was added in the 1980's adding a second floor with two stairwells and four bays. The four garage bays are currently used for the following vehicles;

- 1) Engine 1 – 2001 Pumper (Currently replacement for this engine is being built)
- 2) Engine 3 – 2010 Pumper
- 3) Engine 2 – 1989 Tanker
- 4) Truck 6 – 1998 Dive Rescue Truck

In addition located behind Truck 6 is two utility vehicles (quads) on a trailer. As the trailer for the utility vehicle is located behind other vehicles it cannot be easily accessed in an emergency. This requires minimally 1 vehicles to be moved before the trailer can be hooked up to Utility 4 for response.

Second floor has an office, workout room and lounge area.

Both stairwells serving the second floor are being used for storage of but not limited to cleaning supplies, training equipment, bottled water, Self Contained Breathing Apprautus (SCBA) and spare bottles for SCBA.

Conclusion: Based on the walk through of the building this writer recommends the following;

- 1) Current building configuration lacks adequate storage space, more storage space needed
- 2) Adding utility area for maintenance and repairing equipment.
- 3) Adding a room dedicated for emergency medical supply storage.
- 4) Additional garage bays are needed for the trailers allow quick access in an emergency.
- 5) Adding a SCBA storage and maintenance area.
- 6) Stairwells are being used for storage which is a violation of the CT Fire Safety Code.
- 7) It would be beneficial adding on to the current building rather than building a large outbuilding for additional storage.
- 8) Calculation of the second floor is needed to determine occupant load for means of egress requirements.
- 9) Adding an additional garage bay to house Engine 1 after replacement is not recommended by this writer. This would add an additional vehicle maintenance cost. As the building process for a new fire apprautus is taking three to four years there is a market for used fire apprautus. Brokers such as but not limited to Command Fire Apprautus, Firetech, Fenton Fire could assist in selling Engine 1 after replacement.

If the you have any further questions please feel free to contact me,

Samuel Kinkade

REVENUE ESTIMATE		Mil Rate FY 25/26 17.7 99.125% collection
Grand List		\$738,522,151
Mil rate		17.8
Tax Revenue		\$13,145,694
% of taxes expected to collect		0.99125
Expected Revenue from taxes		\$13,030,669
Taxes FY 25/26		\$13,030,669
Interest & Lien Fees		\$33,000
Total		\$13,063,669
All other revenue (based on 24/25 State & Town)		\$1,113,028
Transfers from funds		\$51,000
Total Estimated Revenue FY 25/26		\$14,227,697
EXPENSES		
Region 20 (11% increase)		\$9,887,717
Town 25/26 (4% increase)		\$3,764,404
		\$13,652,120
Capital Non-Recurring (4% Increase)		\$1,067,924
Total Estimated Expenses FY 25/26		\$14,720,044
Projected use of Fund Bal.		\$492,347
Estimated Fund Bal. after RSD 6 & RSD 20 shortfalls		\$2,290,931
Projected Fund Bal. year end		\$1,798,584
% of Fund Bal. VS total budget		12.22%

Region 6 shortfall (Goshen's share of 645,697K including 178,707k start up cost paid by Litchfield	\$305,027
Region 6 pension liability (Goshen's share of 220K)	\$103,928
Region 20 shortfall (Goshen's share of \$1,956,003	\$422,497
Total	\$831,452

Current Fund Balance	\$3,122,383
Less RSD 6 & RSD 20 shortfall	\$831,452
Fund Balance	\$2,290,931