

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

REGULAR MEETING

This meeting held in-person and recorded via Zoom.us and is available as a recording

PRESENT: Todd M. Carusillo, Scott Olson; Dexter S. Kinsella

OTHERS: Susan Wheeler; Audrey Blondin; Henrietta Horvay; Sarah Leonard; Michael Leonard

1. Call to order: Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10/8/2024: In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scotty Olson, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of 10/8/2024. Voted unanimous.

3. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – October 17, 2024:

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the total warrant in the amount of \$80,664.99. Payroll was in the amount of \$15,983.23 and the warrant in the amount of \$64,681.76. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Chadwick Baross - \$6,000.00; MIRA - \$15,029.63; Sepples Tree Service - \$3,750.00; USA Waste - \$9,821.95; Yucatech - \$10,104.22.

4. First Selectman's Report:

Todd Carusillo announced that "early voting" will begin Monday, October 21, 2024.

A new waste hauler (from New York) is interested in maybe serving Goshen. Perhaps, Goshen can save on "tipping fees"? Todd will garner more information.

As we have spoken previously about the need for new windows in the Goshen Library, the construction has begun.

DON'T FORGET - the *Board of Education* referendum presentation will be held next Tuesday, October 22nd at Litchfield Intermediate School – at 6:00 p.m. Capital and Bonding – added to the Litchfield debt; \$93,000 in legal fees – Litchfield wants to add to the debt. School \$7,540,300 per capital per town- 2% \$19,779.45 add \$57,385.62. \$57,385.62 = \$26.00 per tax paying household – if this is reduced down to 10 years, - \$114,700.00 equals (\$2,200) \$52.00 per household. If the REFERENDUM DOES NOT PASS, then next year over 8% = \$6,016.540 debt and increases wherein 1 mill = \$768.000.

The referendum VOTE will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2024.

Todd will cancel the Board of Selectmen meeting next week as he has a mandatory class in Glastonbury. We will do the payroll and warrant the following week.

Scott Olson stated it was required to install a security camera on the ballot box (that's outside the front door of the town hall). Initial bids came in approximately \$10,000. Goshen friend and neighbor Gary Stango, Jr. installed not only the security camera but the necessary software as well for a cost of \$2,400!! And volunteered his time. Gary was also instrumental in volunteering his time along with Mark McCarthy to install "Fiber" at Camp Coch. Please give a "thank you" to Gary when you see him, for his generosity and time he donated for the town of Goshen.

Tiffany & Parkhouse gave me the numbers for Goshen – Goshen's percentage is 21.26% for the school portion; the budget this year is \$7,547,300. The debt bond is \$57,385.67 x 2,200 households (taxpayers) equals \$26.00 per household. If the referendum does not pass, the debt next year will be \$615,540 which is over 1 mill increase. The mill rate now is 14.2; if the budget passes, it will be \$52.00 for the next 10 years.

Todd has a mandatory class to attend next week; the BOS meeting will be cancelled accordingly.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Old Business: None

6a. Appointments: There will be a list of appointment/reappointments that are due by October 31, 2024. Both Dexter and Scott will review, assist in making calls, etc.

7. New Business:

7a. Legal Fees:

Todd reviewed the legal fees owed to our attorney for services, currently the fees can add up to \$17,000. Todd wants to ask the Board of Finance for \$19,000. Scott Olson stated that he thinks we should ask for \$25,000. Todd stated we would need to go to a Town Meeting for that. Dexter stated that the invoices need to be paid; to ask for fund to pay the bills or maybe we can take it out of the contingency fund. Todd will take it up with the Board of Finance. Scott Olson suggested that we just call the Attorney and tell him that we are going to be 90 days late – that's what he does. Dexter stated we need to pay our bills.

8. Other Business: None

9. Public Comment: (Two (2) Minutes):

Susan Wheeler grateful for getting the ballot-box camera installed. Unexpected issues (budget) do come up; Ms. Wheeler is passionate about school funding. Todd stated his hard work and time he has spent going over their numbers. Ms. Wheeler stated there are so many unknowns.

Audrey Blondin reminded everyone that election day is coming up soon. She asked if the BOE meeting will be "hybrid". There is a need for transparency; Less money to taxpayers – not more. Legal Counsel contract in Litchfield was done by RFP to bid. Todd stated that Roraback & Roraback will continue to be our Town Attorney; if they choose not to continue, then it will go out to bid.

Henrietta Horvay asked Warning of Public Hearing on October 22nd will have zoom. Scott Olson stated that Region 20 Board of Ed has not ratified zoom. Henrietta replied that then they should notify the public.

Sarah Leonard with reference to the lawsuit regarding 190 Sharon Turnpike, the Judge told Mark Connolly that the town should honor the referendum vote. Was there a miscommunication?

Michael Leonard suggested we ask what were the prior year's spending on "legal" - \$6,000 was cut to \$4,000 – then it went back up to \$11,000. Get real numbers in part to cover the future. Todd stated he asked \$18,000.

10. Adjournment:

In a motion made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was voted to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman' Aide

