

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, October 08, 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: Emily Cole; Dawn Wilkes; Sarah Leonard; Audrey Blondin

1. Call to order: Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of 10/1/2024: In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Todd M. Carusillo, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of 10/1/2024; Dexter S. Kinsella abstained. Motion to approve passed.

3. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – October 10, 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 *\$69,780.78. Payroll in the amount of \$28,441.86 and the warrant in the amount of \$41,338.92. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Dime Oil - \$4,049.52; Nationwide (Pension) - \$5,194.08; (Hold \$1,336.50 – Legal Fees: Adjusted Warrant now - \$40,002.42 New final **Total** now- *\$68,444.28.

4. First Selectman's Report:

Todd Carusillo has been receiving many calls regarding black bears in Goshen. Inasmuch as they are preparing to go into hibernation in the coming months, they are searching for food. Put any food items, place bird feeders up high, get/use a bear-proof container for garbage – *watch your livestock!*

Todd Carusillo has received a letter of resignation from Matthew Perry, Deputy Animal Control Officer, in that he can no longer continue as our Deputy ACO. He cites work related issues. Bethlehem's ACO, Nick Papposki stated he is willing to cover Goshen and assist our Animal Control Officer, Kate Graham. (It is difficult to find "certified" ACO's).

Budget request letters are going out to all the town departments; we are starting early this year; the **largest dollar** amount budgets are going out **first** and the **smallest** dollar amount will go out **last**.

Board of Education Region 20 will feature a budget and bonding presentation on Tuesday, October 22nd, at the Litchfield Intermediate School.

5. Correspondence:

6. Old Business: None

6a. Appointments: None

7. New Business: None

7a. Public Works Permits (Driveway and Road Construction):

A proposal has been submitted by Garret Harlow with reference to driveway permits fees increase from \$100. To \$150.; Road excavation from \$150. to \$350. There are often times many inspections to a singular driveway and adjacent road portions; inspections to the various processes per project can take two (2) workers a lengthy amount of time. Dexter S. Kinsella has no objection to Garrett Harlow's requests for increases in these fees. Scott Olson expressed the monetary struggles residents are experiencing now; these expenses are considerable to our residents.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Todd M. Carusillo, the increase in fees for driveways and road excavation are accepted as submitted. Motion has carried with Scott Olson voting no. . Motion has carried with Scott Olson voting no. Todd Carusillo stated that far and wide the majority permit requests for driveways and road excavation are for homes costing \$500,000 and over \$1,000,000.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, **Legals Fees** was added to the agenda under 7b., Legal Fees. Voted unanimous.

7b. Legal Fees:

Legal fees submitted last year to the Board of Finance were \$18,000. Todd Carusillo is asking the fees be increased to \$20,000. Todd Carusillo suggested the need to add to that figure. Todd Carusillo will request \$15,000 to be added on October 23rd Board of Finance meeting inasmuch as more legal fees are anticipated in the coming months. He reminded members any increase can be requested only once per year.

8. Other Business: None

9. Public Comment (Two (2) minutes)

Emily Cole stated that now is the time to support the students in Region 20. The monetary shortfall is not that serious. 80% is for staff salaries and benefits, special ed, maintenance, extra curriculum, etc. It is hoped that the First Selectman will educate the people and give the Region 20 school system a chance to thrive. First Selectman, Todd Carusillo stated that the BOE needs to go back and sharpen their pencils.

Dawn Wilkes thanked Emily Cole for her comments; Dawn appreciates her work and perspective on the merger.

Sarah Leonard thanked all those who attended the Goshen Community Care Luncheon. The BOS legal fees are 125.6%; it is expected the BOF will pass this. Todd Carusillo has provided a year-end clarification to the Board of Finance. The legal fees are about 125.6% over, due to the BOF cutting the budget from \$18,000 to \$10,000.

Audrey Blondin provided her personal opinion; This issue needs much, much more transparency Ms. Blondin agrees with Todd Carusillo to garner more clarification from the Board of Education.

10. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella; seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:35 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Respectively submitted:

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide