

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, September 23, 2025
5:00 p.m.
42A North Street, Goshen, CT 06756

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: Marianne Stilson; Marie Lucas; Mark Harris; Lynette Miller; Susan Wheeler;

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 Tuesday, September 16, 2025:** In a **motion** made by Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Selectman, Scott Olson who proceeded to give his opinion on what took place at this meeting. He proceeded to give account of statements made by Lynette Miller First Selectman, Todd Carusillo, did not agree with Olson. The motion to “approve” the minutes of September 16 was not reached. Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, abstained; Selectman, Scott Olson gave a “nay”. **This brought the motion to approve as “failed”.**
3. **Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – 09 25, 2025:**
In a **motion** made by Selectman Scott Olson, seconded by Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the **total** warrant in the amount of \$74,916.64. The warrant is in the amount of \$47,341.44 and Payroll is in the amount of \$27,575.20. Voted unanimous. Included in the Warrant were: BCBS – \$22,758.25; CIRMA - \$6,660.00; Dime Oil - \$4,684.13; Oddo Print Shop - \$4,859.00.
4. **First Selectman’s Report:**
The Board of Selectmen’s conduct at the previous meeting (Sept. 16, 2025) did not meet the acceptable standards as normally accepted/expected. All attendees must be civil. First Selectman Todd Carusillo does **not** have to offer *public comments* to attendees; it is not required. Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella agrees with Selectman Scott Olson. First Selectman Todd Carusillo wants *everyone* in attendance to show respect. In summary, First Selectman Todd Carusillo called for a vote – Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella voted to abstain; First Selectman Todd Carusillo yeah; First Selectman Scott Olson voted Nay. Motion to approve “failed”.
5. **Correspondence:**
Letters attached. Russell Blair; Susan Wheeler; Marianne Stilson
6. **Old Business:** A “draft” of the *Code of Conduct* is with Attorney Chip Roraback for his review. Upon his approval of this draft, the Board of Selectmen will vote to approve.
7. **New Business:** None
8. **Other Business:**
In a **motion** made by Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to move into **Executive Session – for Personnel Issue**, following (9) Public Comment. Voted unanimous.
9. **Public Comment (Two (2) minutes)**
Lorraine Lucas - Inland Wetlands forsaken land did not come through Inland Wetlands. Approved November 2024 only. This did not come through Wetlands.

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Mark Harris – (former Goshen Selectman); Mr. Harris understands the meaning of *more* than two(2) minutes. He gave an explanation to audience as to what it means. It was never “extended” for any one speaker. There is no violation when everyone is getting 2 minutes.

Lynette Miller – spoke about the article in the Goshen Newspaper stating they weren’t accurate, Mr. Carusillo was accused of putting forth false statements. Ms. Miller continued to be “unruly and disrespectful”- disrespectful to the First Selectman calling him a liar.

Marianne Stiltson – 2 minutes for each resident to bring forth their comments should be adequate. Afford each the proper 2 minutes.

Susan Wheeler – attached to minutes .

In a **motion** made by Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Selectman Scott Olson it was **voted** to move into **Executive Session** regarding a personnel matter. Voted unanimous. 5:30 p.m.

In a **motion** made by Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Selectman Scott Olson it was **voted** to move out of **Executive Session**. Voted unanimous. At 5:48 p.m. No action was taken.

10. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Selectman Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:51 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman’s Aide

Todd Carusillo

From: Todd Carusillo
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 4:10 PM
To: 'jmckenna33@optonline.net'
Subject: FW: 9/16 BOS meeting

See below message from Russell Blair.

Todd

From: Blair, Russell <Russell.Blair@ct.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, September 17, 2025 2:40 PM
To: Todd Carusillo <1stselectman@goshenct.gov>
Subject: 9/16 BOS meeting

Hi Todd,

Just to recap our conversation, nothing in the FOIA requires you to record and post videos of a meeting if it is in a hybrid format. Recording and posting of videos is only required under FOIA if it is an online-only meeting. If the Town has a video of the meeting available, somebody can certainly request a copy under FOIA, but you have more discretion about what you post on your website. Regardless, I do understand that Wednesday night's meeting has since been posted to the website. As for any concerns regarding Robert's Rules, the FOI Commission does not have jurisdiction with regards to Robert's Rules, and we do not adjudicate disputes over those matters.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any other questions.

Best,

Russell Blair

Director of Education & Communications
Freedom of Information Commission
860-256-3968
russell.blair@ct.gov

Todd Carusillo

From: Marianne Stilson <mastilson@optonline.net> on behalf of Marianne Stilson
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 4:23 PM
To: Olson Scott; Kinsella Dexter; Carusillo Todd
Subject: Agenda and Public Comment

Hi All

As a person who participates in the BOS meetings during public comment on a wide range of topics and issues, I take exception to this weeks agenda restricting public comment to only agenda items.

Let's move forward and not backward. As public officials you need to take the praise and the heat and allow residents the opportunity to voice their opinions without silencing them.

As a participant at last weeks BOS meeting as a Zoom participant, during public comment, I was confused and dismayed at the turning off the sound and then the meeting going black. We deserve better as residents. I've spoken to many in the room to find out what happened and the sentiment was that first amendments rights were violated. Since I was not there I can't speak of it myself. I hope we have a written legal opinion to back it up.

As a recording secretary for many years and a firm believer in Robert's Rules there is a right way and wrong way to address public comment and the closing of a meeting and that was not it.

Sincerely,
Marianne Arancio Stilson

FYI:
From Robert's Rules:

When government bodies establish public comment periods, they must adhere to fundamental First Amendment principles. They cannot shut down or silence speakers simply because they offer a disfavored viewpoint or criticize government officials.

Consider FIRE's successful lawsuit (<https://www.thefire.org/cases/hall-rayford-v-city-eastpointe-michigan-mayor-censors-public-public-hearing>) against the (now former) mayor of Eastpointe, Michigan, Monique Owens for silencing citizens who criticized her at city council meetings. When community activist and school board member Mary Hall-Rayford (<https://www.thefire.org/news/fire-sues-michigan-mayor-who-abused-power-shouted-down-constituents-city-council-meeting>) spoke out during the public comment period in favor of a council member involved in a dispute with the mayor, Mayor Owens cut her off. When others also tried to show their support, Mayor Owens shouted them down (<https://www.thefire.org/news/watch-youve-got-let-her-speak-michigan-residents-sue-after-mayors-temper-tantrum-shuts-down>). But the mayor was happy to let other commenters praise her as

“beautiful” and “wonderful.” She even ignored the advice of the city attorney, who warned her that citizens have “free rein” to voice their opinions during the public comment period. When public officials act out like this, they violate several fundamental First Amendment principles.

Conclusion

When government bodies establish public comment periods, they must adhere to fundamental First Amendment principles. They cannot shut down or silence speakers simply because they offer a disfavored viewpoint or criticize government officials. The essence of a free society is that members of the public have the ability to voice their opinions, including ones critical of government officials.

Marianne

Sent from my iPad

Todd Carusillo

From: Susan Wheeler <susan@susanvwheeler.com> on behalf of Susan Wheeler
Sent: Monday, September 22, 2025 6:00 PM
To: Todd Carusillo
Cc: solson@goshenct.gov; dkinsella@goshenct.gov
Subject: 9/16/25 meeting

Dear First Selectman Todd Carusillo,

I am writing to express my deep concern and sadness over the way last week's Board of Selectmen meeting was conducted. To not allow Lynette Miller to speak during public comment, when she was clearly not "unruly, using vulgar, disrespectful language" (as recorded in the minutes), was absolutely untrue.

It is clear to many of us who follow politics in our small town that your professional relationship with Ms. Miller has come to an end. Unfortunately, the fallout from that has spilled into town matters. The hateful remarks being printed and spoken about Lynette are not only personal in nature but are also casting a dark shadow over our town government. The community should not be subjected to the consequences of personal rifts.

Every resident has the right to speak during public comment when it is listed on the agenda. Whether you agree with what is said or not, it is their right as citizens to be heard. I attended the meeting in question and have since rewatched the video (before it was cut off). It was clear that Lynette was not unruly, did not use vulgar language, and that the audience did not become disruptive. Furthermore, the meeting was never officially adjourned.

Goshen deserves a leader who will stand by their words, take criticism when it is appropriate, and behave with the dignity and composure the role requires. Silencing constituents or walking away from difficult conversations is not leadership—it is avoidance.

What has happened to our beautiful Goshen, the land of milk and honey? It has been weighed down by bitterness and division.

In the future, I expect—and the people of this town should demand—that every resident who comes forward in public comment be heard, without exception and without manipulation of the record.

Sincerely,

Susan Wheeler