

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, May 13, 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 (Zoom)

Others: Susan Wheeler; Audrey Blondin; Seth Breakell; Cindy Barrett; Marianne Stilson

- 1. Call to order:** Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
- 2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, May 6, 2025** In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of May 6, 2025 with a correction to the term of Daniel Kobylenski on his appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals will expire April 23, **2027** – correct date of expiration. Voted unanimous.
- 3. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – May 15, 2025**
In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the **total** warrant in the amount of \$236,162.82. The warrant is in the amount of \$219,169.07, payroll is \$16,993.75. Voted unanimous. Included in the Warrant were: Cardinal Engineering - \$5,200.00; Freightliner – \$149,007.60; McKesson- \$3,005.51; MIRA - \$15,464.55; Nationwide Pension - \$4,714.45; USA Waste - \$9,821.95.
- 4. First Selectman's Report:**
This coming Thursday, May 15, First Selectman, Todd M. Carusillo, will conduct "Meet with the residents" segment, (4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.). All are welcome.

First Selectman, Todd Carusillo described his account of being at a local residents home over the weekend wherein a bear was observed attempting to get into a "bear proof" style waste container. The bear did not succeed. Again, be on alert to their presence and persistence.

Wednesday, July 30th at 6:30 p.m., the State Department of Transportation will give a presentation on the reconstruction and upgrades to be done to the Goshen Rotary. This event will be held in the school gymnasium.

First Selectman Carusillo spoke with Attorney General William Tong and asked if the AG's office can initiate an investigation or a forensic Audit, along with the State Board of Education conducting a forensic audit of the Region 20 budget.

First Selectman Carusillo sits on the NWCOG "Waste Committee" which is trying to secure the Torrington Transfer Station as a public option for the future of the 21 towns that are the NWCOG.

First Selectman, Todd Carusillo has contacted State Representative, Maria Horn, to advise her of the plans regarding the "transfer station" acquisition for the NWCOG, citing the **benefits, savings** for the towns here in the northwest corner.

A letter of resignation has been received from Matthew “Matt” Sweet, resigning as Treasurer of the town of Goshen. All of us thank him for his good service and capability.

Goshen’s Public Works Dept. has issued a public notice to all Goshen residents to clean out their culverts on their property. Far too many are currently clogged and in dire need to be cleaned to allow water flow.

5. Correspondence: None

6. Old Business: None

6a. Appointments: In a motion made by Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Selectman Scott Olson, it was voted to reappoint to the Zoning Board of Appeals: Donald Moore, Amanda Cannon, Audrey Blondin, their terms expiring out to 2027.

A motion was made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson to move Devon Stilson up to Treasurer, voted unanimous.

7. New Business:

7a. Title 67 Funding (town vote):

Title 67 Goshen Land Acquisition Fund (Ordinance). Research by the law firm of Roraback & Roraback results in that no statutory nor case law addresses repeal of land acquisition fund ordinance. There is no precedence that exists for this action. Both Selectmen, Scott Olson and Dexter S. Kinsella choose not to act on this now and turn this opinion letter over to the Board of Finance.

7b. Zoning Permits:

Spencer Musselman – Goshen’s Land and Zoning Officer brought to the attention of the First Selectman, he stated other towns that he services, charge by the square foot for their land-use permits. Currently Goshen charges \$85.00 for all land use permits. If someone is adding a small shed or a full size house – Goshen is losing revenue. Mr. Musselman will about neighboring towns charging fees by the scale/size of the “building” being planned/designed. Mr. Musselman will be added to the agenda for more info/discussion on this issue.

8. Other Business:

8a. Town Road Maintenance – Supervisor of Public Works:

Garret Harlow, Supervisor of Goshen Public Works, presented a history dating back to 2015 entitled “**TOWN AID ROAD EXPENDITURES**” 2015 to 2025. He listed the road projects that were completed along with the costs. He displayed not only the costs, but the miles of road covered per budget. Mr. Harlow gave a full explanation of 10 years operational budget review i.e., fiscal year, budgeted amount, S.Y. costs and miles of road covered. For example, 2025 cost for 9.51 miles of road - \$350,000; 2025 Chip Seal Budget - \$170,000; 2025 Budget Shortfall - \$180,000. He reported on the Chip Seal Annual Goals; Road Reconstruction Annual Goals; He submitted and reviewed the Goshen Annual Road Reconstruction Program (10 Year Capital Budget Review).

Current 2025 cost for 2.3 Miles of Road - \$810,369; 2025 Major Road Project Budget - \$350,000; 2025 Budget Shortfall - \$460,639.

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

Audrey Blondin – Thank you for my reappointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Will the Region 20 Budget meeting tomorrow night be on zoom? First Selectman Todd Carusillo will provide the agenda and link.

Seth Breakell – he asked for clarification on the traffic cameras that were installed in Washington CT. He attended an event in Washington, CT wherein he learned that the traffic cameras they recently installed had a 30 day grace period. First Selectman, Todd Carusillo, understood that those cameras would have no revenue for the 1st 30 days. First Selectman Carusillo will get more information.

Cindy Barrett – TAR – Town Aid Roads monies come from the State of CT. Two (2) payments come from the State - one in January and another in July. Garret Harlow stated the TAR grant amounts are based on the miles of road per town.

Susan Wheeler – Everything is expensive! The public can go to “RSD20.org” for information on the budget. Next week a new budget will be distributed.

Marianne Stillson – Thank you Dexter Kinsella, for your honesty and truth. Should fees be raised for permits? Garret Harlow showed the Public Works department is underfunded. What choices do we have?

10. Adjournment: In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman’s Aide

RORABACK & RORABACK

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WILLARD A. RORABACK (1883-1928)
CHARLES P. RORABACK (1923-1964)
JAMES W. RORABACK (1927-1964)

May 13, 2025

Mr. Todd Carusillo
First Selectman
Town of Goshen
42A North Street
Goshen, CT 06756

RE: Land Acquisition Fund

Dear Todd:

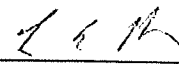
The Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance have asked for our opinion regarding the potential repeal of the Ordinance Creating the Goshen Land Acquisition Fund (the "Ordinance") and the resulting status of the funds held in the Land Acquisition Fund.

The law is clear that the municipal power to enact ordinances ordinarily implies the power to repeal them by a subsequent ordinance. Our research has revealed no Connecticut statutory or case law which addresses the repeal of a land acquisition fund ordinance. Likewise, we have found no law pertaining to the status of funds which have been deposited in a fund deemed perpetual by ordinance or any law which identifies a situation where the implied power to repeal an ordinance does not apply.

Although it is clear that the town meeting has the power to repeal the Ordinance, it is our opinion that a judge could well rule that the fund itself remains intact and can be used only for the intended purposes stated in the Ordinance. Given the unique nature of the question presented, we are reluctant to predict how a court might rule on this issue.

Sincerely,

Roraback & Roraback

By: 
Charles E. Roraback

CER:bdf