

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Tuesday, January 21, 2025
5:00 p.m.

42 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: Shilo Gargeau; Janet Hooper; Annette Lott; Audrey Blondin; Susan Wheeler; Cindy Barrett; Patrick Lucas; Seth Breakell

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, January 14, 2025.** In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of January 14, 2025 as corrected: The letter from Marissa Wright will be attached to the minutes of January 21. Voted unanimous.
3. **Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – January 23, 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 \$51,873.28. Payroll is \$26,084.71 and Warrant is in the amount of \$25,788.57. Voted unanimous. Included in the Warrant were: Dime Oil - \$3,260.60; East Coast Sign- \$3,104.00; USA Waste - \$9,821.95.
4. **First Selectman's Report:**
Thank you to our Public Works Dept. for the great job applying salt/sand on our public roads.

The used truck Ford-F550- that was for sale (Public Works) was successfully sold to the highest bidder at \$8,700.

Former Superintendent of Schools, Chris Leone, would like to address the Region 20 Board of Education. He has a proposal for the Region 20 Board of Education.

First Selectman, Todd Carusillo announced that a "spending freeze" may be placed on the town of Goshen. **(The cold weather protocol in place from the Governor's office will be adhered to.)**
5. **Correspondence:** A letter has been received from Supervisor of Public Works, Garret Harlow, requesting allocation of TAR Funds. The amount of \$200,000.00 to O&G Industries. These funds are to be used for payment of HMA paving for the following roads: Newcomb Road and Beach St. intersection; West Street Ext. and Town Hill Intersection.

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to approve the allocation of \$200,000.00 in payment to O&G industries for paving services – Newcomb Road and Beach Street intersection; West Street Ext. and Town Hill intersection. Voted unanimous.

6. Old Business:

6a. Appointments: None

7. New Business: Spending Freeze

Except for emergencies, First Selectman, Todd Carusillo is imposing a “Spending Freeze” beginning immediately and out to the end of the year. This is due to the anticipation of the final bill from Region 20 and Region 6. There is a 11% hike in next year’s budget out to June 30th. *There will be no new purchases. (Operating costs are **not** a part of this action.)* First Selectman Todd Carusillo will submit a “draft” of said document to the Board of Selectmen for review.

7a. Seth Breakell, Chairman of the Goshen Fire Commissioners

Mr. Breakell submitted an overview of a “Needs Assessment” to address the lack of space for Goshen’s Fire Department, the lack of much needed space for equipment, which affects storage of gear and necessary supplies. As part of their budget this year, the Goshen Fire Department is asking to have monies appropriated for design/engineering of conceptual plans for an addition to the existing firehouse. An itemized list of “Needs Assessment” has been submitted from Samuel Kinkade. Mr. Kinkade serves Connecticut’s largest municipality for Fire Fighting, giving him a unique perspective over millions of dollars of equipment as well as 1000’s of sq. ft of numerous firehouses. See report attached.

In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Dexter S. Kinsella, it was **voted** to add item 7b; Emergency Services. Voted unanimous.

- 7.b** Emergency Services: Ms. Shilo Gargeau, Goshen’s Emergency Management Director, stated Goshen’s Cold Weather Protocol inclusive of Governor LaMont’s instructions to residents: Call 211 for access to emergency resources.

8. Other Business: None

9. Public Comment (Two (2) Minutes)

Janet Hooper reported that the *Human Services to Goshen* was brought up about several meetings ago. She feels that hearing from other towns will provide valuable information. She also stated that Region 20 has begun to send reports and updates on a regular basis.

Annette Lott – She has been out hiking on a regular basis and when trekking East St. North trail; she found signage stating “New England for Whitemen Only”. She immediately took the signage down. She wanted others to know about this and perhaps do the same.

Audrey Blondin – Gave thanks to First Selectman, Todd Carusillo for initiating a “spending freeze”; she appreciates him being proactive.

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Susan Wheeler - commented on the 11% increase in the BOE Region 20 budget. Board of Education is unwilling to make much needed cuts. Unfortunate- \$5 million for next year? It is very important to keep a finger on the pulses. Our tipping fees for the refuse will show an increase. It is important we keep a finger on the pulse.

Cindy Barrett - She urged residents to "stop buying "things" that necessitate extra refuse; this will reduce the weight of same and help bring down our waste fees. First Selectman Todd Carusillo added that 67 new homes have been built adding to the fees. Also, he stated that the previous Selectman did enact a spending freeze.

Patrick Lucas wanted to thank the Board of Finance for the handling of the sedimentation projects at Woodridge Lake. He urges the Selectmen to keep an eye on the erosion projects there in that they may need to share the costs of said projects with Woodridge Lake Projects Association.

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.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide

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.

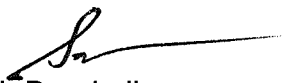
As part of our budget this year we have asked to have monies appropriated for design/engineering of conceptual plans for an addition to the existing firehouse.

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