

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

5:00 p.m.

42 North Street, Goshen, CT 2025

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: Sarah Leonard; Audrey Blondin; Marissa Wright

1. Call to order: Todd M. Carusillo called the meeting to order at 05:00 p.m.

2. Approval of the minutes of the meeting of Tuesday, January 7, 2025. In a **motion** made by Scott Olson, seconded by Todd M. Carusillo, it was **voted** to approve the minutes of December 31, 2024 as corrected: Under "Code of Conduct", Mr. Olson clarified that "with 3 of the same party" means "no more than 3 of the same party". Also, should be included in the Code of Ethics the method of enforcing rules, etc. Voted unanimous.

3. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – January 16, 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 \$102,092.01. Payroll was in the amount of \$16,358.59, and the warrant in the amount of \$85,733.42. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Fire Equipment - \$4,270.20; MIRA - \$13,815.26; Morton Salt - \$36,588.57.

4. First Selectman's Report:

Todd Carusillo thanked everyone for the messages, cards, etc. of condolences in memory of his mother, who recently passed away.

Todd Carusillo stated that with the continued high winds in the weather forecasts, the emergency number for the Goshen residents to use when there are downed trees, hanging wires and other interruptions of electrical power (1-800-286-2000) is resulting in positive responses from *Eversource*.

The endeavor by the NWCOG/MIRA to purchase the transfer station located in Torrington is ongoing. The current costs from MIRA to haul Goshen's trash may be increased to \$202.00 per ton. If the purchase can be executed, it will mean a meaningful savings for the towns in the NWCOG.

First Selectman, Todd Carusillo is having Trooper Bronson from Troop B speak to the Goshen Senior at the Goshen Community Care luncheon to alert Goshen senior citizens of the scams that

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are being reported from other towns in the northwest corner to the state police, that are directed at senior citizens. The scam involves the use of credit cards advising that there are outstanding toll charges. Dexter Kinsella added that he too has been scammed. He was advised that he had outstanding toll charges - \$6.99, etc.

First Selectman, Todd Carusillo announced a new activity that will enhance the public's ability to get their messages to the First Selectman, i.e., regarding issues affecting Goshen's residents. "Coffee with the First Selectmen" - Thursdays at 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. (**one day a month**) may be a good opportunity for our

taxpayers in that most Town Hall personnel close their offices at that time and leave for home thereby enabling the First Selectman to accommodate the requests/issues from the residents/taxpayers face to face.

5. Correspondence:

Eric Warner from the *Goshen News* asked last week about a town employee that left. An employee misunderstood the who the actual employer was in that as Child Coordinator, she did **not** work for the Goshen Center School, but rather her employer was the Town of Goshen (Library).

The State Dept. of Transportation (DOT) will be trimming trees at Route 63 North to the Route 7 junction.

First Selectman Todd Carusillo received a letter from the *Goshen Land Trust* advising him that they will *not* be moving forward with their pursuit of land acquisition at 190 Sharon Turnpike. At this time, it presents a "conflict of interest" to move forward.

A letter from Marissa Wright was received thanking the Selectmen for their work on "needs assessment" of 38 Torrington Road.

6. Old Business: None

6a. Appointments: None

7. New Business: None

8. Other Business:

8a. 2010 F550 Dump Truck – Public Works:

Is outside the Public Works property for people to view, inspect.

8b. Grant monies and Plans for refurbishing 38 Torrington Road:

First Selectman Todd Carusillo stated he has not heard from Martin Heft of OPM regarding the Property. He will be contacting him for updated information concerning the grant.

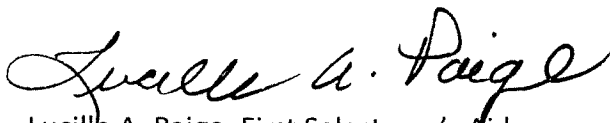
9. Public Comment: - (Two (2) Minutes):

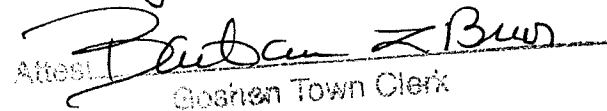
Sarah Leonard - She thanked the First Selectmen, Todd Carusillo and Selectmen Scott Olson for his work with Garret Harlow in the needs assessment at the Public Works facility. (see letter attached).

Audrey Blondin – First Selectman, Todd Carusillo thanked Audrey Blondin for the check she sent to *Goshen Good Neighbors* on behalf of Carusillo family on the loss of Todd's mother.

10. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m. Voted unanimous.


Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide

Received Jan. 15, 2025 @ 3:02 PM

Attest: Paul Dan Z. Burr
Goshen Town Clerk

Sarah Leonard
22 School Hill Road
Goshen CT 06756

January 9th 2025

Board of Selectmen
42A North Street
Goshen CT 06756

Dear Selectmen,

Please include this letter for your correspondence for BOS meeting 1.14.25.

I am writing to applaud the First Selectmen and Scott Olson for completing a needs assessment at our town's Public Works facility. This is something that I have been following closely for over a years' time, and I'm very impressed that Scott took it upon himself to meet with Garret Harlow and Public Work's staff members to go through our town's buildings and equipment, which is no small feat! I support the results of this assessment (that a storage building is not necessary at this time), and I want to personally THANK him, Todd, and Dexter via this correspondence.

Furthermore, I'd like to propose a policy idea for the future. That the Board of Selectman and the Board of Finance *need* to approve building projects *before* creating applications for the Inland Wetlands and Watercourses Commission or Planning and Zoning Commission. Also, whichever department is proposing a building idea, the department head should be *required* to give a presentation to both the BOS and BOF.

By implementing these two simple ideas, which would give the public and our essential boards ample information regarding the said project, it would: prevent exorbitant legal fees, save countless hours of commission work which is all volunteer base, prevent confusion among residents, save time and the valuable resources of our paid public officials, avoid high engineer and design costs, and calm resident turmoil over issues that may affect their wellbeing. In addition, it may save tax payers from premature and unnecessary land acquisitions!

The positive results of better organization on future building projects could even exceed these expectations.

As always, thank you for the consideration.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leonard

Good Afternoon,

I would like to commend Selectman Olson for taking the time to meet with the head of public works to provide a needs assessment and recommendation on ceasing to move forward with a substantial addition to the public works site. I am equally pleased the First Selectman concurs with this approach.

I am in agreement with this assessment.

Given the current economy, it is imperative that we practice strategic fiscal responsibility and not overburden taxpayers of this town with unnecessary infrastructure additions. It is most important to maintain the buildings that we do have, to the highest standards.

I applaud the first selectman for applying for and receiving a substantial grant. As it is a matching grant, the taxpayers will need to provide the match money, so use of the grant should be in a conservative fashion, and only for items that are absolutely needed and which will provide a tangible return on investment. The previous proposals for 190 and most recently for Torrington Road, proposed by the public works department, could not

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demonstrate a positive return on investment and would place an undue burden on taxpayers.

If grant money can be used to fix, improve or repair building items that are slated for repair or replacement within the next 5 years, such as a roof etc, it makes sense to do so with the matching grant. I also encourage the Selectmen to determine if a cost effective native shrub buffer at the back of the site near the wetlands, would be possible with this grant, as that would improve protection of the sensitive wetlands behind the site dramatically.

Regarding the septic system repair vs replacement: I would recommend repair if it is feasible, only to prevent having to abandon the existing leach fields. An engineer was only able to find one other suitable location, should a new septic be needed.

What that means is that there are no other feasible locations for leach fields, should a brand new system have issues in the future. Thus, saving that area for as long as possible and doing a repair vs. replacement may be in the town's best interest. If it is determined with factual data that a replacement is warranted, I would support such a replacement.

Regarding the truck that is slated for replacement, I hope that if this vehicle is kept as a back up (which may have merit), that it will not add to the tax burden with excessive repairs, or be used to claim a larger addition is needed to house an additional vehicle. If a time comes that it does prove to be a financial liability, in relation to the items mentioned above, it should be sold or disposed of.

Thank you for receiving my letter and for your consideration.

I appreciate the work you do for the town of Goshen.

Sincerely,

Merilee Wright