

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Tuesday, January 7, 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)

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, December 31, 2024: 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: Adjournment time should have read 11:19 a.m. Voted unanimous.

3. Approval of the Payroll and Warrant – January 9, 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 \$45,515.95. Payroll was in the amount of \$27,881.93, and the warrant in the amount of \$17,934.02. Voted unanimous. Included in the warrant were: Dime Oil - \$1,938.75 and \$3,399.20; Knox - \$2,125.00; Yucatech - \$2,000.00.

4. First Selectman's Report:

Todd Carusillo, First Selectman, wished everyone present (those on zoom) a "Happy New Year".

First Selectman, Todd Carusillo received an e-mail from Burton White regarding "emergency management" and if there were any plans i.e., flooding, fire safety, etc. He was given the website for this type of information to the public. In addition, he was given the direct phone number for *Eversource* for residents to who need assistance: 1-800-286-2000.

Following information requested by Janet Hooper regarding "Social Services" for Goshen, Todd Carusillo solicited information from each of the members of NWCOG (21 towns). Most of the responses received from those towns that do have a Social Services department, it was only a *part-time* position. Additional information will be garnered as is received.

5. Correspondence:

First Selectman, Todd Carusillo has received information from Marissa Wright who has concerns for the project at 38 Torrington Road. This item will be on next week's agenda.

A request from the staff at Public Works is for the 2010 F450 Dump truck. Despite the age of this vehicle, they will submit reasons for them wanting to retain this vehicle in service.

6. Old Business:

6a. Needs Assessment for Public Works Garage: Selectman Scott Olson completed a “needs assessment” regarding the heavy equipment currently in use by Goshen’s Public Works Department. The equipment, currently stored outdoors, was considered to be housed *indoors* at the former 190 Sharon Turnpike property purchase. Scott Olson gave an in depth report on current condition of the Public Works heavy equipment located at 38 Torrington Road. He found that heavy equipment deteriorated not from “outside storage” but rather from use of its intended purpose, i.e., effects from snow, ice, salt, etc. when in use on the roads. *Selectman Olson’s opinion from all this information is for the Board of Selectmen is to “cease” moving forward on this project at this time until the expenditure can result in a positive cash flow for the people of Goshen.*

Selectman Dexter S. Kinsella, stated that he had sent a full report, data analysis, from a firm located in Meredith, New Hampshire, to Selectman Scott Olson that rendered just the opposite results. Their facts showed clearly that storing heavy equipment indoors actually *extended the life/usage the equipment; this indoor storage did support positive cash flow.*

First Selectman Todd Carusillo turned to the upcoming town budget for Goshen. He questioned how much influence the additional high sums of money coming from the start-off of Region 20 are going to affect the town of Goshen (formerly Region 6). First Selectman Todd Carusillo does not want an extra burden to be placed on the Goshen residents. He gave a “make a decision” date required for the grant of **July 1, 2025**. He thanked both Selectman Scott Olson and Garret Harlow, Supervisor of Public Works for the time they dedicated to culling all the information regarding the needs assessment for 35 Torrington Road, home of the Goshen Public Works Department.

First Selectman Todd Carusillo shared with the audience that on Thursday, January 9th, at 10:00 a.m. there will be a moment of silence given to the ceremonies regarding the death of former President Jimmy Carter.

6.b Code of Conduct – Lori Clinton

Ms. Clinton began her report thanking the public for their feedback of this issue. She added that this is a “working document”. Various important sections were discussed: Code of Ethics, Code of Conduct, go through proper channels, various examples to be reviewed, etc. Dexter Kinsella is in favor of Code of Conduct. Public vote as to who will have say. Dexter then submitted “Code of Ethics”. Selectman Scott Olson made a motion to create a committee to draft a “Code of Ethics”, brought to the Board of Selectmen for approval of 5 members, with 3 of same party, seconded by First Selectmen Todd Carusillo. Voted unanimous. Everyone in town has ample time to consider this and contact their Board of Selectman. Perhaps February 11th to submit to BOS. Followed by BOS meeting of 2-18-25 to make final decision.

6c. Appointments: None

7. Budgets:

The following 2025-2026 Budget Projection materials were reviewed:

Contingency – Dept. 59

Fire Protection

Rescue

Public Works Operating Budget

Public Works Capital Expenditures Request 2025-2026

Recreation

Recreation Capital Expenditures Requests 2025-2026

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Budgets (continued)

Waste Removal

Town Office Building Capital Expenditures 2025-2026

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted to receive** the budgets for 2025 – 2026 and forward to the Board of Finance for their review and consideration. Voted unanimous.

8. Other Business: None

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

Janet Hooper - It was good to hear the comparisons of year to year in the Budgets. I give honor to Lori Clinton's work on the "Code of Conduct". It makes all people feel comfortable.

Audrey Blondin – I agree with Janet Hooper's comments, Lori Clinton did a wonderful job. Selection of people for roles in government must be in open session – not executive session. Support for the Public Works Building – I agree to disagree. I support the repairs/maintenance for it. It is foolish for the town not to use the grant monies we've been entitled to – this is for town equipment, town employees. Hope we proceed with this. Happy New Year to everyone.

Garret Harlow, Supervisor of Public Works – regarding the grader, excavator, backhoe which equals 3 garage bays, \$90,000 being cost to store **outside**; to **keep these outside** the cost goes to \$500,000. The hose and radiator had to be replaced just recently on the road grader.

Cindy Barret – Ditto to Janet Hooper's remarks regarding Lori Clinton's work. I am glad the "committee" is going to continue.

Eric Warner – reporter for the "Goshen News" – He has heard another employee from the Library has resigned. Is this factual? Todd Carusillo stated this to be taken up at next week's meeting.

10. Adjournment:

In a **motion** made by Dexter S. Kinsella, seconded by Scott Olson, it was **voted** to adjourn the meeting at 6:50 p.m. Voted unanimous.

Lucille A. Paige, First Selectman's Aide