Town of Goshen
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 24, 2026
Hybrid Meeting

PRESENT: Seth Breakell, Dexter Kinsella, and Scott Olson.

EXCUSED:

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER: Seth Breakell called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of November 17, 2026 regular meeting were reviewed. **MOTION** by Dexter Kinsella and seconded by Scott Olson, it was **VOTED** to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 17, 2026. Motion carries.

3. APPROVAL OF THE PAYROLL AND WARRANT - NOVEMBER 25, 2026: MOTION by Scott Olson and seconded by Dexter Kinsella, it was **VOTED** to approve the payroll and warrant dated November 25, 2026 in the amount of $421,556.02. The Warrant was in the amount of $391,745.57 and Payroll amount of $29,810.45 Included in the Warrant were: Blue Cross & Blue Shield, $23,096.95; Ben Shaffer Recreation, $61,117.44; Palmer Paving, Pie Hill, $226,719.72; Pete's Tires, 6,116.96; and USA Waste & Recycling, $10,418.08. Motion carries.

4. FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT: We were able to assist 11 families with the donations received from the Thanksgiving Giving Tree and we would like to thank everyone that donated. The Giving Tree for Christmas is almost ready, so please be sure to visit the tree and help out Goshen residents. The Turkey Trot is Thanksgiving morning with a start time of 9am. The Selectmen's meeting for December 1st is canceled due to the contract negotiations for Region 20.

5. CORRESPONDENCE: None.

6. OLD BUSINESS: None.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

A. **Approval of 2027 Board of Selectmen Meeting Calendar:** Mr. Breakell said that the Selectmen's meetings will be going bimonthly (2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month) starting in 2027. **MOTION** by Dexter Kinsella and seconded by Scott Olson, it was **VOTED** to adopt the 2027 Calendar. Motion carries.

B. **MOTION** by Dexter Kinsella and seconded by Scott Olson, it was **VOTED** to table the Municipal Policy Prohibiting Chemical Rodenticides (Anticoagulants, neurotoxins, and acute toxicants) on Town Property to the December 8, 2026 meeting. Motion carries.

8. NEW APPOINTMENTS/ RESIGNATIONS: None.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT: Marianne Arancio-Stilson, 25 Cornwall Drive: Congratulations given on passing of the prohibiting chemical rodenticides and wished everyone a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving.

11. ADJOURNMENT: **MOTION** by Dexter Kinsella and seconded by Scott Olson to adjourn the meeting at 5:07PM. Motion carries.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lori Clinton, First Selectman Aide

Received: Nov. 25, 2026 @ 12:34 PM
Attest: Barbara L Bliss
Bozrah Town Clerk

TOWN OF GOSHEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETINGS 2027
Town Hall Conference Room, 5:00 PM
42 North Street, Goshen

January 12, 2027	July 13, 2027
January 26, 2027	July 27, 2027
February 9, 2027	August 10, 2027
February 23, 2027	August 24, 2027
March 9, 2027	September 14, 2027
March 23, 2027	September 28, 2027
April 13, 2027	October 12, 2027
April 27, 2027	October 26, 2027
May 11, 2027	November 9, 2027
May 25, 2027	November 23, 2026
June 8, 2027	December 14, 2027
June 22, 2027	December 28, 2027

*** Town Meeting May 26th**
*** Election Day Nov 2nd**
*** Town Meeting Nov 15th**

TOWN OF GOSHEN

42A NORTH STREET GOSHEN, CT 06756-0187
PHONE 860 491-2308 x 232 FAX 860 491-6028

MUNICIPAL POLICY PROHIBITING CHEMICAL RODENTICIDES (ANTICOAGULANTS, NEUROTOXINS, AND ACUTE TOXICANTS) ON TOWN PROPERTY

Adopted by the Goshen Board of Selectmen | *Effective Date:* **December 8th, 2026**

Section 1. Purpose and Findings

The Town of Goshen, through this policy, is committed to protecting public health, domestic animals including pets and farm animals, native wildlife, and local watersheds, while maintaining safe, sanitary municipal buildings and public spaces. In adopting this policy, the Board of Selectmen finds that:

1. **Secondary Poisoning of Wildlife:** Anticoagulant rodenticides—both First-Generation (FGARs) and Second-Generation (SGARs)—do not kill target rodents immediately; poisoned rodents remain active for several days, becoming easy prey for natural predators. SGARs persist and bioaccumulate in liver tissue for months, and FGARs cause lethal toxicity through repeated feedings, thus, poisoned rodents pose severe secondary poisoning risks to birds of prey (such as owls and hawks) and wild carnivores (such as fisher, mink, foxes, bobcats, and coyotes).
2. **Acute Neurotoxic and Non-Anticoagulant Hazards:** Non-anticoagulant chemical rodenticides—including neurotoxins such as bromethalin and strychnine, as well as cholecalciferol (Vitamin D3) and zinc phosphide—pose severe primary poisoning risks to children, companion animals, livestock, and scavenging wildlife. In particular, bromethalin and cholecalciferol have no known antidotes once clinical toxicity develops, while zinc phosphide releases toxic phosphine gas upon ingestion.
3. **Ecological Rebound Effect:** Research demonstrates anticoagulant rodenticide residues in 80% to 90% of tested raptors and wild carnivores in suburban and rural-interface habitats. Eliminating natural predators—such as a single family of barn owls capable of consuming up to 3,000 rodents annually—undermines natural population control and leads to long-term rodent rebounds.
4. **Risks to Public Health and Pets:** Deploying chemical rodenticide baits on municipal properties and rights-of-way presents ongoing risks of accidental exposure to children, residents, farm and companion animals through damaged bait stations or dying rodents wandering into wetlands, parks, trails, public facilities and rural-interface habitats.

5. **Inadequacy of Existing State Restrictions:** Connecticut law classified SGARs as Restricted Use Pesticides effective January 1, 2026, yet licensed commercial applicators may still deploy SGARs—and both applicators and retailers may continue deploying FGARs, bromethalin, cholecalciferol, and other chemical rodenticides—unless restricted by municipal policy.
6. **Viability of Safer Alternatives:** Integrated Pest Management (IPM) prioritizes sanitation, structural exclusion, and non-chemical controls, providing effective, humane, and sustainable rodent management without secondary toxic hazards.

Section 2. Definitions

For the purposes of this policy, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

- **Chemical Rodenticide:** Any pesticide product formulated to kill rodents using synthetic or acute toxic active ingredients, including: (a) First-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (FGARs: warfarin, chlorophacinone, diphacinone); (b) Second-Generation Anticoagulant Rodenticides (SGARs: brodifacoum, bromadiolone, difenacoum, difethialone); (c) neurotoxic rodenticides (bromethalin, strychnine); and (d) other acute or metabolic non-anticoagulant toxicants (cholecalciferol/Vitamin D3, zinc phosphide, and phosphide fumigants). This definition excludes non-toxic mechanical devices, electronic traps, and EPA-exempt botanical repellents.
- **Integrated Pest Management (IPM):** A proactive, ecosystem-based pest management strategy focusing on long-term prevention through structural exclusion, sanitation, habitat modification, biological controls, and non-chemical mechanical or electronic trapping, using chemical controls only as a documented last resort.
- **Municipal Property:** All real property owned, leased, managed, or controlled by the Town of Goshen, including Town Hall, public works facilities, parks, athletic fields, cemeteries, open space parcels, trails, municipal buildings, and public rights-of-way (including town roadsides, culverts, and town-maintained easements).

Section 3. Prohibition on Municipal Properties

1. **General Ban:** The purchase, storage, application, or deployment of Chemical Rodenticides—including all FGARs, SGARs, bromethalin, strychnine, cholecalciferol, and zinc phosphide—is strictly prohibited on all Municipal Property, including public rights-of-way, in the Town of Goshen.
2. **Applicability to Contractors:** This prohibition applies to all Town employees, departments, boards, commissions, and any third-party pest control contractors or vendors retained to service Municipal Property. All municipal pest control contracts entered into or renewed after the effective date of this policy shall explicitly incorporate compliance with this prohibition.
3. **Phase-Out of Existing Stock:** Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this policy, all Town departments and contracted vendors shall remove any existing Chemical Rodenticide bait stations from Municipal Property and dispose of unused products in accordance with Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) hazardous waste guidelines.

Section 4. Mandatory Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Standards

All rodent control on Municipal Property shall follow an Integrated Pest Management protocol emphasizing prevention and non-toxic intervention:

1. **Sanitation and Waste Management:** Municipal facilities and parks shall maintain wildlife-proof, tightly sealed waste receptacles, enforce regular rinsing and cleaning of outdoor food and dumpster areas, and promptly repair leaking pipes or standing water sources.
2. **Structural Exclusion:** Maintenance staff shall inspect municipal structures regularly and seal exterior gaps larger than one-quarter (1/4) inch using durable materials (such as steel wool, copper mesh, hardware cloth, or masonry) and install heavy-duty metal brush door sweeps on exterior doors.
3. **Non-Chemical Trapping and Monitoring:** Where active population reduction is necessary, staff and contractors shall utilize enclosed mechanical snap traps, high-voltage electronic traps, commercial botanical repellents, or digital sensor-based non-toxic monitoring systems.
4. **Support for Natural Predators:** Where appropriate on municipal open space and parks, the Town encourages the installation of owl nesting boxes and raptor perches to support natural rodent predation.

Section 5. Emergency Public Health Exemption

1. **Limited Waiver:** A temporary, site-specific waiver from Section 3 may be granted only in the event of an urgent, non-routine rodent infestation that poses a documented, imminent threat to human health or critical municipal water/sanitation infrastructure.
2. **Authorization Requirements:** Prior to any Chemical Rodenticide application under this section, the requesting department or vendor must submit written documentation demonstrating that:

Comprehensive sanitation, structural exclusion, and non-chemical trapping methods have been implemented and proven insufficient to abate the public health threat; and

The lowest-toxicity, least persistent target-specific option has been selected, with priority given to avoiding SGARs and non-antidote neurotoxins/acute toxicants wherever feasible.

3. **Approval, Signage, and Public Transparency:** Written approval must be jointly issued by the First Selectman and the Torrington Area Health District (or local Director of Health). Approved emergency applications shall be limited to tamper-resistant, anchored bait stations, restricted to the shortest duration necessary, and accompanied by prominent public warning signage at the treatment site. Notice of any granted emergency waiver—including the site location, justification, active ingredient used, and duration—shall be publicly posted on the Town of Goshen official website.

Section 6. Administration, Public Outreach, and Review

1. **Oversight and Enforcement:** The Office of the First Selectman, in coordination with the Public Works Department and the Goshen Conservation Commission, shall oversee implementation of this policy. Any vendor found to be in violation of this policy shall be subject to contract termination.

2. **Community Education and Outreach:** The Goshen Conservation Commission, in collaboration with the Goshen Land Use Official and Town leadership, is encouraged to conduct public education and outreach informing residents, homeowners' associations, and local businesses about the ecological and animal-health hazards of Chemical Rodenticides (including FGARs, SGARs, bromethalin, and cholecalciferol) and encouraging voluntary adoption of IPM and poison-free pest control on private property.
3. **Annual Review:** The Board of Selectmen shall review the effectiveness and compliance of this policy on a yearly basis.

Approved and Adopted by the Goshen Board of Selectmen:

_____ _____

First Selectman Date