



REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Monday July 10, 2023 6:30pm

Meeting held at Goshen Town Hall

Unapproved minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomasina Magoon, Bill Mathis and Timmi Moffi, Selectboard Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tammy Walsh

OTHERS PRESENT: Elsie Sherril, Jerry Douglas, Jeff Whiting, Vickee Whiting, Luci Stevens, Galena Chernaya, Marty Fjeld, Dave Sabatini, Will Mathis, Bob West, Chad Chamberlain, Kathy Mathis, Aaron Todd, Ethan West, Ben Lawton

Bill called the meeting to order at 6:42

Vickee requests to add the tax sale to the agenda.

Galena requests consideration be given to purchasing a picnic table for the Town Hall. The Historical Society had trouble opening the door to the Town Hall and held their meeting outside.

Setting Tax Rate: Vickee presents the tax rate figures to the Selectboard for approval

Tax Rate takes total expenses per approved budget less other income. Town funds needed of \$157,443 minus available funds \$24,997 leaves amount to be raised by taxes \$132,446

Take amount to be raised by taxes divided by the Grand List sets the Town tax rate at .4866

Road expenses per approved budget less other income. Road funds needed less available funds is \$107,244 sets the Road tax rate at .3940

School tax rate non-homestead rate is set at 1.6201 and homestead is 1.4045. The Town has no control over the school tax rates. Goshen currently has 15 students enrolled.

Combined Tax rate includes Town, Road and School

2023 Non Homestead tax rate is 2.5007 down from 2.5617 in 2022

2023 Homestead tax rate is 2.2851 down from 2.3583 in 2022

Thomasina moves to approve the tax rates presented by Vickee, the Town Treasurer. The rates will be; Town set at .4866, Road set at .3940, School Non Homestead set at 1.6201 and School Homestead set at 1.4045. Bill seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Vickee plugs these numbers into the NEMRC program and the tax bills are generated. Tax payments will be due August 15, November 15 and January 18. On the back of the bill will be



information regarding the Common Level of Appraisal and also filing Homestead. Goshen's Common Level of Appraisal went down from 92 to 85.86

Tax Sale: Vickee states there is a tax sale for a property with unpaid property taxes set for 10am on Saturday July 22 at the Town Hall. Vickee will be present along with Town Attorney, Fritz Langrock. Vickee is requesting that a Selectboard member also be present. Bill will arrive at the Town Hall at 9:45. Vickee explains the tax sale process and there is further discussion on this subject.

Thomasina moves to approve the regular Selectboard meeting minutes from 6-26. Bill seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Emergency Management Plan: Thomasina commends Ethan West on the work he has been doing in his new role as Emergency Coordinator, including most recently reaching out regarding preparedness for current flooding situation. Thomasina states that a few revisions to our Management Plan have been requested from the State. Ethan has made these changes and is presenting the Plan to the Selectboard to approve. The changes are; removal of residents names from list of vulnerable individuals, addition of phone numbers for Brandon Lumber and Hannafords under resources and Purchasing Agent amount approved changed to No Limit. Bill expresses concerns about the no limit amount and if this will open the Town up to potential liability. Ethan states this recommendation comes from the State and the Purchasing Agent is the Selectboard. Bill would like more clarity on this issue. Ethan will reach out to the State to clarify this and report back to the Selectboard. Ethan states he has made the rounds through the town and so far Goshen is holding up well will the current flooding. The Selectboard thanks Ethan for his work.

Garbage Contract: Decision is made to meet with Dave Sabatini in Executive Session to address any issues with the garbage contract.

OCCUD (Otter Creek Communication Unified District): Tyler Davidson Toman has sent a Letter of Interest asking to be Goshen's appointed representative for OCCUD.

Thomasina moves to appoint Tyler to the OCCUD position. Bill seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Jeff asks if there is any updated news on a timeframe for improved internet connection. Thomasina states that she has been told that by Sept 2024 Goshen should have high speed installed.

Selectboard Initiatives: Thomasina speaks to the list of initiatives that the Selectboard had compiled last year to work on. Further discussion on the list and what tasks have been



accomplished to date. Thomasina will update the list and publish it for feedback. The Selectboard will continue to add to this list and accomplish the tasks.

Ruth Stone Letter: The Ruth Stone Foundation has used the letter of recommendation written by the Selectboard for a previous grant application, to apply for a Walter Cerf Grant as well.

Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP): Goshen has been approved to receive free technical assistance in applying for available Federal grant money. Thomasina reads the letter from the State describing the program and the need to have the Selectboard approve this assistance in order to participate. This money can be used to fund community assessments, opportunity assessments, funding application and permit assistance, project management and implementation and capacity building activities. Types of projects eligible include; water and sewer infrastructure, housing, community recovery, workforce development and business support, climate change mitigation and resilience as well as community and economic development.

Thomasina moves to accept the assistance for tapping into monies available. Bill seconds, all in favor, motion carries.

Personnel System: Bill speaks to the lack of contracts for contracted services as well as lack of personnel files for Town employees. Bill has spent time gathering info on how other towns are handling these systems. These processes need to be in place in order for the Town to conduct business properly. These systems will be finalized and implemented over the next couple months.

ROADS

2024 Transportation Planning Study Request Form: Thomasina reads a request to participate in a transportation planning study. This would be transportation or traffic related problems effecting the community. Jeff states this is typically for larger towns with traffic problems, bike paths, sidewalks etc. This isn't really geared towards small towns but enhancements to larger towns.

Grading: Grading was completed June 30 and is holding up well.

Grant in Aid 10K: This work needs to be completed by Sept 30. Thomasina states that if this work is going to be done with Town Road Crew then it makes fiscal sense to rent an excavator and do the other 3 culverts at the same time. This money has already been allocated for in the budget.

Grant for Class 2 Roads: Thomasina and Jeff will meet to go over Town Hill Rd specs and plan. That plan will be brought back to the Selectboard for funding and approval. The stretch of Town Hill Rd from the bridge to route 73 is .6 miles and the previous bid came back at 600K+. There are 4 failing culverts and 2 more should be added. Additionally an engineer is needed due to the road running alongside the river. The bid needs to go out this year to multiple contractors. Jeff



thinks this project should be phased in over a couple years in order to offset town taxpayer money with additional State grant money. Further discussion on this subject.

Machinery Update: The green truck has been inspected. Up next will be the black truck, loader and grader which also need significant repairs. Small equipment and tools have been purchased for the Town and include chainsaws, torches, air compressor, circular saw, pressure washer, tools etc. This equipment will be housed in the locked cage in the locked Town Garage. This equipment will be inventoried on an Excel document along with photos taken to prove the Town owns these items.

Bridge Clearing: Now that the Town has equipment for this project the Road Crew can move forward on taking care of this task.

Gravel Application: A mix of both gravel and sure pack are being used on the roads in front of people's houses in an added attempt to cut some of the dust.

Bill would like to have Tammy start formulating a long term plan for fixing/replacing the town trucks before winter. Thomasina would like to see the trucks back up and running in town before any decisions are made.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

MERP Grant: Maddison Shropshire from ACRPC has sent the link to the grant application. Thomasina would like a working session to fill out the application and get the assessment scheduled. Vickee and Bob will be working on getting the energy bills for the past 3 years. The date is set for the working meeting on Wednesday August 9 at 6:30 at the Town Hall. Vickee has submitted the invoice for the \$4000 mini grant and this money needs to be allocated. This allocation will take place at the working meeting.

Technology Update: The new server and security cameras were funded with ARPA money. 3 cameras have been installed; one on the garage, one on the office and another inside the office. The signs have been posted outside notifying people that they are on camera and the sign for the inside notification arrived today and will also be posted. Thomasina is finalizing the policy and procedure for viewing camera footage if necessary. Thomasina states that the footage is on a 30 day loop and can only be viewed at the Town Office. Chris Morse will be coming July 11 to get Marty set up as Town Clerk. The Town Clerk emails were erased but fortunately they were able to be restored. Thomasina states the emails are Town property and should never have been erased. Bill adds that the emails are public documents as well. Thomasina states that different town computer folders, such as Treasurer, are set up so that only authorized persons can access the folders they need. Thomasina would like to examine how the digitized land records will be accessed, such as having an online link. These records were digitized using ARPA money.

ARPA Funds: There is approximately \$24K left of ARPA funds. Thomasina states that some of this money should be invested into a gas stove and fan for the Town Hall Kitchen. Luci makes the suggestion to also invest in a dishwasher. Thomasina will rebid the refinishing of the floors in the Town Office.



Back up Power for Town Hall and Office: Thomasina states that the Town Hall and Town Office should be combined to use the same electric meter. This will enable a single generator to be used as backup for both buildings. Thomasina will contact GMP regarding this.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Informational Meeting: Thomasina speaks to the Charter Revision, what that would look like and why the Selectboard is considering going in this direction. Any Charter revision voted on by the Town would also need to be approved by the State Legislature. Many towns are going in the same direction. An informational meeting has been scheduled for Thursday November 30 and more info will become available closer to that date. The Selectboard is still working on gathering research for this. Some changes being examined are eliminating the elected Auditor positions in favor of having an external, independent auditor provide a statistical audit on an annual basis. Also the Town Clerk and Treasurer would change from elected to appointed. This would enable a wider pool of potential employees, as the appointed person does not need to be a town resident. These positions would still select their own Assistants. Another change being considered would change the elected Constables to Animal Control Officer. Listers and Cemetery Commissioners would stay as elected. Further discussion on this subject.

Kathy inquires if the article regarding Goshen politics published in the Brandon Reporter will be addressed. Thomasina states that the Selectboard will not be addressing it but states that there were numerous calls and emails to Selectboard members from town residents expressing their appreciation and gratitude towards the current members and the tasks they have thus far accomplished. Galena states that she has written a Letter to the Editor. Further discussion on this subject. Thomasina takes the opportunity to again welcome and thank Marty and Vickee to their positions of Town Clerk and Treasurer.

Emergency Fire Dept Services: Chief Kilpeck is providing some contract options that the Selectboard will be considering at a future meeting. The Town currently has one unpaid bill for Emergency Services rendered to a resident. Payment for this bill is being pursued.

Fire Warden Appointment: The Selectboard signs off on the paperwork for their appointment of Shawn Martin as Fire Warden that took place at the Selectboard meeting on June 26.

Board goes into Executive Session to discuss Garbage contract at 8:45

Board exits Executive Session at 9:06 no action taken

Meeting is Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Timmi Moffi, Selectboard Clerk



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Town of Goshen

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