



(802) 247-6455

Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733

www.goshenvt.org

REGULAR SELECTBOARD MEETING

Monday September 11, 2023 6:30pm

Meeting held at Goshen Town Hall

Unapproved minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tammy Walsh, Bill Mathis, and Martin Fjeld, Town Clerk

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomasina Magoon

OTHERS PRESENT: Vicki Whiting, Chad Chamberlain, Janice Gould, Bob West, Al Gionet, Jeff Whiting, Dave Sabatini, Will Mathis

Mathis calls the meeting to order at 6:37pm

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA:

Mathis announces there is a Town Report meeting held at 6:30pm on 9-12-23 at the Town Hall.

Police Considerations

113 Fay Rd Permit issue - brought to the attention of the town by David Sabatini that a cement pad was being poured without a permit. Tammy Walsh will visit property owner on 9/12/23 to discuss curb cut issue and address the concrete pad issue.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

David Sabatini compliments the new perennial flower bed and tree work that Tammy Walsh and company put in on the town property.

Motion made by Walsh to approve the minutes from the previous meeting 9-4-2023, seconded by Mathis, the motion carries.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Vickie Whiting reports that there is no financial report but a budget vs actual update that has been given to the selectboard. Whiting reports there are several late taxpayers that have been notified and will see the next payments Nov. 15. Whiting also reports that the state of Vermont has given an extra allocation this month, due to storm damage, in the amount of \$7,500.

DOG BITE INCIDENT:

Gould states that Shawn Martin's dog bit Nathan Clark, the second bite from Martin's dog. The dog was being cared for at the time by the neighbor, Jerry Fielder, who did not have control of the dog at the time of the incident. Fielder directed Clark to talk the dog down, which Clark did.



Clark was bitten when he turned away from the dog to get into his truck, a bad bite above the ankle that required medical care at the emergency room for antibiotics and stitches. Martin has been working with an electric collar to keep the dog under better control with a perimeter set, since the first dog bite incident. Gould reports that Martin states that the dog responds to the electric collar when it is being used properly. Additionally, Martin is having the dog spayed to attempt to reduce aggression. Walsh reports that she spoke with Martin as well and that the dog at the time of the incident was at the residence of Fielder and out of its element. Gould recommends speaking with Martin going forward to realize how dangerous the situation is and that the dog is dangerous. Walsh asked Sabatini his thoughts on the matter as he was previously bitten. Sabatini states that the dog should be contained. Mathis states that the dog hearing will be scheduled when Magoon returns from vacation. Gould notifies Fjeld to make copies of the dog incident report and send them on to Martin. Gould requests the meeting to be before the 23rd. Fjeld states that the dog bite incident paperwork will be delivered to Martin. Fjeld reads the Goshen Dog Ordinance. Mathis schedules the dog bite incident hearing on Monday, September 18, 2023 at 6:30pm. Mathis requests Fjeld to post the dog incident hearing, Fjeld confirms. Jeff Whiting states that he is familiar with electric collars and that they can be overcome by the dog and be insufficient in some instances. Fjeld asks if this is the second dog bite incident with Martin's dog, Walsh states that she has heard of another though there is not any on file. The dog in question has had past dog bite history, beyond the two recorded incidents.

EMERGENCY FIRE SERVICES:

Brandon Fire Department bid given at \$5,000 for a year contract. Magoon had emailed for a review meeting Wednesday, September 20th at the Goshen Town Hall to discuss the parameters for the agreement with the Brandon Fire Department. Whiting requests for the town attorney of the town Fritz-Langrock to look at the draft as well as Kinney-Pike to look at the draft. Mathis schedules the meeting on Wednesday, Sep. 20th 6pm.

POLICE CONSIDERATIONS:

Mathis believes that a police presence is needed within the town to enforce the law and be a known presence within the town, as Mathis states there have been several incidents that would benefit from having law enforcement on call as these incidents could have become dangerous. Chamberlain asks what incidents have occurred. Walsh states that the town hired a mechanic, Brad Nadeau who was harassed by an individual. A truck at high speed went right past Walsh at a dangerous distance of around 3" from Walsh's car. Walsh states that it was the same individual each time. Walsh would like to put up a No Trespassing signs at the town garage. Mathis suggests putting a restraining order against the individual. Mathis states that we can either employ a sheriff on call, or working with the state troopers is a prudent next step. Mathis will follow up with costs for sheriff as well as costs for state trooper presence. Discussion ensues regarding the actions of town members getting out of hand. Town member asks what exactly is being proposed for police presence by the selectboard, what criteria requires police presence to respond. Mathis responds that that is what a contract would cover. Sabatini asks for the constables to begin filing reports on the incidents that are occurring even if the constables are unable to act to enforce the law, so that the documentation can be made for each incident. Mathis states that monthly patrols by the constables are ineffective and moving their efforts towards incident based work and reporting is prudent. Walsh requests the first constable, Marci Hayes, to make contact and conduct a report on these incidents with the



individual from said incidents. Walsh states that she will reach out to Hayes on this matter. Jeff Whiting suggests reaching out to build a relationship with the local sheriff that occasionally patrols up around Silver Lake Rd, Mathis concurs and will reach out to the Addison County sheriff. Vickie Whiting states that the new speed limit signs are up but are not being followed.

SELECTBOARD CLERK:

Mathis states that the selectboard is looking at combining offices of the clerk and the treasurer. This will take two votes of the public and happen before the next cycle of elections. Mathis states that making this change is one way to make things for the town more efficient.

Mathis tables the issue of selectboard clerk transition until Magoon is present.

ROADS:

Grading occurred at Hathaway, Silver Lake Rd, Hayes Rd, part of Goshen-Ripton Rd. Grading will continue on Goshen-Ripton Rd, Flora White Rd, and South Hill Rd.

Ditching plan for mid-September:

Walsh states that the town will be renting an excavator on Sept. 25 to install culverts on Hathaway Rd, and once culverts are complete to perform ditching. The Hathaway culverts will be finished by 9/30/23 to comply with the grant in aid the town is receiving. Will Mathis and Jeremy will be running the excavator which the town will have for one week. As much ditching as possible will be performed after culverts have been installed. Excavator cost will be \$2500 for the week which the grant is covering.

The town has contracted a new diesel specialized mechanic, Brad Nadeau, who is performing maintenance and creating lists and clipboards for each vehicle of the work completed and needing to be completed. Multiple truck issues have been resolved in an expedient manner.

Roadside and bridges are being cleared of salt and sand over the next month. Whiting requests the stop sign at Carlisle Hill Rd to be straightened, Walsh concurs.

Winter plowing CDL hire for additional road crew member is being conducted and there are potential hires that Walsh is working on.

Mathis asks if there is any additional business to come before the board.

Ben Lawton brings up that the Otter Creek Insect Control District is having a dedication of their new building and invites the selectboard to attend on September 30, 9-11am Cresset Park in Brandon.

Motion to adjourn made by Mathis and seconded by Walsh, meeting adjourned at 7:34pm

Respectfully submitted,
Martin Fjeld, Town Clerk