



(802) 247-6455

Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733

selectboard@goshenvt.org

goshenvt.org

## SELECTBOARD

### Selectboard Meeting 10/9/23

#### Unofficial Meeting Minutes

**Selectboard members present:** Thomasina Magoon, Tammy Walsh, Bill Mathis

**Members of the public:** Jeff Whiting, Vicki Whiting, Dave Sabatini, Chad Chamberlain, Elsie Sharrow, Tyler Davidson-Toman, Chief Tom Kilpeck

1. Mathis calls the meeting to order at 6:38pm
2. **Changes to agenda**
  1. Davidson-Toman reports that the Otter Creek Broadband Board expansion initiative is on track to be completed by 2025 and our area of Goshen will likely be ahead of that due to multiple access points. This will greatly improve internet access speeds for Goshen residents.
3. **Previous meeting minutes:** Magoon makes a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 9/25/23. Walsh seconds, meeting minutes are approved.
4. **Public comment:**
  1. **Financial Report:** Whiting states budget actuals for July 1 to present have the town equipment and purchased services budget vs actual is currently \$2,414 over the budget of \$10,000. This has been due to repair work for the town trucks. Walsh states that there will be additional costs to repair the drive shaft of the black truck. Walsh states that the town grader is also scheduled for work this winter as it is leaking oil. Whiting states that the road budget is doing well with no issues. Town will have a budgeting meeting for the town on November 13th and a budgeting meeting for the roads on November 27th.
  2. Magoon states that Charlotte Reider-Smith will be conducting the town report and will be collecting the reports and photos of Goshen. Magoon states that it is Reider-Smith's responsibility to collect the reports from the various parties.
5. **New business:**
  1. **Garbage Contact Renewal:** Magoon states that it is time to renew the garbage contract with Sabatini. Mathis states that a multi-year contract should be composed for 3 year periods to save the town money. There is currently not a contract beyond the hard-bid with Sabatini, Magoon reports that she will work on writing one up that includes and addresses the commercial properties in the town. V. Whiting states that Addison County Solid Waste Department (ACSWD) has fluctuating fees and that a 3 year contract may not be possible. Magoon calls for a clear and concise contract that allows for yearly reviewal to be done. Sabatini states that he spoke with the ACSWD and that they are coming out with new fees in the coming month. Sabatini states that no other trash company has a flat tipping fee cost, due to the market fluctuations in removal costs. Magoon states that she will complete a garbage contract within 30 days. Sabatini states that he has concerns discussing numbers in a public meeting and this should be discussed in executive session.



(802) 247-6455

Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733

selectboard@goshenvt.org

goshenvt.org

## SELECTBOARD

2. **CDL Requirements:** Magoon states that there needs to be a policy written up that addresses the actions taken when a town CDL driver has an accident occur, as testing is required. Magoon states that the person currently in charge as the liaison for the town between the CDL driver and the drug testing agency is Timmi Moffi. Discussion ensues. J. Whiting states that there was a policy that VLCT put together that pertains to this, Magoon states that she will look for this to inform the town policy.
3. **Brandon policing contract:** Mathis reached out to the Brandon Police Department but has not heard back. Walsh and Magoon state that they are currently not convinced that a policing contract would be needed for Goshen. Mathis states that there should be a law enforcement agency that can be called in for an incident. Mathis, Magoon, and Walsh agree that law enforcement patrolling is not needed for the town. Mathis states that he will reach out again to the Brandon police chief to inquire further.
6. **Buildings and Grounds:**
  1. Walsh reports that the donated Balsam tree has been planted in the town green. The handicap parking space and ballot drop box at the town offices have been painted to comply with the ADA guidance, as requested by the BCA. The town office steps have been repaired.
  2. Magoon states that she has sent out requests for quotes for the town logo to be put onto the town trucks and the old snow plow. The town sign will be replaced with a PVC sign that will be weatherproof and visually similar to the old sign. There are now new bulletin boards installed at the town office, town hall, and town garage. Magoon states that the ARPA funds can be used for building improvements to flooring, cabinets and countertops. There is also a need to create additional storage space in the town hall for voting materials that are currently stored where the future elevator will be installed.
  3. Fjeld states that he will call the company needed to inspect the fire extinguishers within town buildings. Sabatini requests that the town become compliant with smoke alarm requirements. Magoon states that this work should be delayed until after the MERP grant work is completed for efficiency measures on the town buildings. Kilpeck states that he can provide the policy on the Knox box that would allow the fire department to gain access to a building without damaging the property. Discussion ensues. View audio.
  4. No quotes have been gathered for a back-up generator to the town buildings.
  5. Toilet repair work for the town hall has not been contracted.
  6. Discussion on town green and gazebo. Mathis makes a request for the town to purchase a gazebo for the town green which is being sold by a local individual. Whiting asks where the cost to purchase a gazebo would come from as it is not within the budget. Magoon requests that more people should provide comment on such a purchase, providing transparency and the chance to engage and volunteer with such a project. Magoon would like any structure constructed to fit with the other town buildings. Sabatini asks whether Mathis is discussing donating such a gazebo, Mathis states that he is open to it. Discussion ensues regarding the gazebo and the creation of a social gathering place. J Whiting asks whether the town would create a policy for maintaining such a structure. Discussion continues. Magoon and Walsh state they like the idea of a gazebo but will need to see a more complete plan. Mathis requests that the minutes reflect that the gifting of the gazebo has been turned down this evening by



## SELECTBOARD

the selectboard. Sabatini responds that no one has turned down such a gift but have asked for more time.

### 7. Roads:

1. Walsh states that town hill road will be cold patched and taken care of by the end of the week, 10/14/23.
2. Walsh reports that the town garage safety posts have been painted red to match the building.
3. Walsh states that there are two metal panel doors that are rotting out on the salt shed building and recommends replacing with wood panels.
4. Walsh states that Cape Lookoff culvert installation will also be completed by the end of the week but needs equipment rented to complete. Magoon makes a motion to approve the rental of equipment and services from Goshen Mountain Landscaping at \$80/hr with assistance from a town employee to be used for the Cape Lookoff culvert installation and the Hathaway Rd completion of the connected water ways grant project. Discussion ensues regarding precedent for rental of equipment from private individuals. The motion passes.
5. Walsh reports that bulk salt has been purchased for the town and is on its way.
6. Ditching plan update: The work on Hathaway Rd will be completed. The loader is reported as being in working order.
7. Grant in Aid update: work has been completed.
8. Roadside and bridges clearing will be being performed on the following week. Additionally, brush clearing around the old school playground was completed.
9. Reider-Smith culvert installation: Walsh reports that she has responded to Reider-Smith inquiry regarding necessity of installation of culvert and has not heard back. Fjeld reports that he will find the access permit for the Reider-Smith property to determine if a culvert was required for their curb cut and deliver results to Walsh.

### 8. Old business:

1. **Constable Change to Rounds:** Letter signed and will be sent to constables.
2. **Driveway access update:** Walsh reports that Steady did not have a permit for a curb cut and is waiting to hear back.
3. **Charter revision November 4th at 4pm in the Town Hall:** Magoon states that the town of Goshen is not registered as a chartered town and therefor does not need to perform a charter change to make the proposed changes to elected positions, there is a requirement to post it on the warning for and have the proposed changes voted on by ballot. Magoon reports that she will request in writing from the State of Vermont whether the Town of Goshen is a chartered town. The revisions proposed are to allow the selectboard to appoint a treasurer, to eliminate the auditor positions, to hire an outside audit annually, to eliminate the role of constable, and to create an appointed Animal Control Officer role which would act as the town officer.
4. **Dog bite incident:** Magoon states that the town constable needs to check in on the Martin property that their dog is complying with the town order. Mathis states that he will call the town Constables to follow up with the Martin's that their fence work has been completed.
5. **Fire department contract:** Brandon Fire Department Chief Kilpeck reports the following:



(802) 247-6455

Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733

[selectboard@goshenvt.org](mailto:selectboard@goshenvt.org)

[goshenvt.org](http://goshenvt.org)

## SELECTBOARD

1. Kilpeck discusses how mutual aid agreements work for the local fire departments. Kilpeck reports that these are called in primarily due to lack of staff available for large calls such as structure fires, and that the discretion for that call is made by the dispatcher or officer on site. Discussion ensues.
2. Kilpeck informs that the BFD covers 87 square miles which encompasses 3 towns
3. Kilpeck states that the one year contract rates are reviewed by the department at renewal to adjust for inflation. The contract that has been presented to the town of Goshen is based off of the contract that the BFD has with Leicester.
4. Kilpeck offers the one year service contract at the rate of \$5,000 for the town of Goshen effective October 1, 2023 to the select board which have previously been voted and agreed upon is signed.
5. Kilpeck states that the volunteer fire department is always looking for new recruits and they meets every Wednesday at 7:00pm at the Brandon Fire Department.

Magoon makes a motion to adjourn at 8:15pm, motion passes.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Martin Fjeld  
Selectboard Clerk  
Town Clerk of Goshen