



(802) 247-6455

Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733

selectboard@goshenvt.org

goshenvt.org

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

9/25/23

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

Selectboard Members Present: Tammy Walsh, Bill Mathis, Thomasina Magoon
Members of the public: Ben Lawton, Jeff Whiting, Vicki Whiting, Chad Chamberlain, Will Mathis, Elsie Sharrow, David Sabatini, Madine Reed, Kathy Mathis

Meeting called to order at 6:38pm

Changes to the agenda: Whiting to discuss trash ticket dispersal to Dave Sabatini

Previous meeting minutes 9/11/23. Magoon requests to add the 9/21/23 dog hearing minutes. Walsh makes a motion to approve the minutes, Mathis seconds, minutes are approved.

Public Comment - Fjeld reports that BCA to meet 10/4/23 @ 7pm at the Town Hall to review the voter checklist. Madine Reed requests a community potluck on December 9th, Magoon makes a motion to approve, Mathis seconds, motion is approved.

New Business: Magoon makes a motion to hire Martin Fjeld as the selectboard clerk at \$17.50/hr effective 9/25/23, Walsh seconds, the motion passes.

Roads:

- Grading update:** Walsh reports Goshen Ripton Road has been graded to the Breen residence. Magoon states that the entire town is on track to be graded by end of fall, Walsh confirms.
- Ditching plan update:** Walsh states Goshen Ripton Road is ditched to Blueberry Hill Inn, and Hathaway Rd is ditched to Cape Look Off.
- Grant in Aid Hathaway update:** Whiting requests a copy of the agreement for the excavator from G Stone for the Treasurer, Walsh will provide the agreement paperwork. Walsh states that the culvert installs are completed along with significant ditching to the town roads. Walsh reports that the curb cut at Ben Lawton's property requires attention as it was grandfathered in with an existing culvert, but the culvert that Lawton purchased to replace the old culvert does not meet the minimum spec's, an 18" culvert, to be compliant with the grant. Jeff Whiting states that the Orange Book Road Standards that curb cut culverts being installed are required to be 15" in diameter, not just grants. Discussion ensues. Whiting points out that curb cut costs are the responsibility of the homeowner. Lawton believes that at previous discussion a 12" culvert was okayed and that a 18" culvert is not needed for the property. Discussion ensues. Magoon states that the town cannot set a precedent of paying the cost of curb cut culvert replacement. Lawton reports that he had purchased the 12" culvert under the town account with the intention to reimburse the cost to the town. Walsh makes the reminder that town residents cannot purchase items on the town account. Walsh



requests that the town pay for half of the price of the 18" culvert and that Lawton covers the other half of the cost. Lawton agrees and will return the 12" culvert. Walsh states that the pricing for culverts at Ferguson is much more affordable than at Paris Farms, and the 18" culvert for Lawton should be purchased from Ferguson. Magoon makes a motion that the town of Goshen will pay for half of the cost of an 18" culvert, purchased at Fergusons under the town account, and that Ben Lawton will reimburse the town for the other half of the cost for access onto his field and to comply with grant requirements and Orange book standards. Walsh seconds, the motion passes.

4. **New mechanic:** Walsh states that everything was up and running, but the drive shaft of the black truck snapped in half and is in the shop now. The loader is next on the list for mechanical work. Each vehicle has a clipboard of all work and parts that have been done to each vehicle, with dates, time, amount of hours worked, etc. Magoon requests that these files be copied and saved digitally and physically. Magoon requests that the town garage wifi equipment be stored in the locked area of the garage. Whiting requests that equipment be stored within a locked area within the garage building, Walsh confirms that such a locked area is already in place and being used for such equipment.
5. **Roadside and bridges clearing:** Walsh states that this work has not been completed, brush clearing was performed on Hathaway Rd and Cemetery Hill Rd.
6. **Playground area clearing:** Walsh states that the old playground by the stream needs to be cleared and proposes clearing that area. Chamberlain states that the old playground equipment is not up to code, if any work is done moving forward the research into liability must be done. Discussion ensues. Fjeld states that he will work on researching the liability and insurance costs of the swing set. Walsh states that the brush still needs to be cut back regardless of decisions with the swings. Magoon agrees and requests that the brush cutting be performed by the town. Further discussion tabled until research has been performed regarding insurance and liability.
7. **Winter plowing:** Walsh states that she would like to hire Jim McKeaghan for winter plowing for the town as he is experienced, has his CDL, knows the Goshen roads well, and he is available for hire as a seasonal winter employee.
 1. Walsh makes a motion to hire Jim McKeaghan for a seasonal winter plowing position with the town of Goshen at the rate of \$25/hr. Magoon seconds, the motion passes.
 2. Walsh makes a motion for the town of Goshen to pay for physical visits required by CDL licensure for town employees. Mathis seconds, the motion passes.
 3. Whiting requests for McKeaghan to report to her for hiring paperwork, Walsh will notify.

Old Business:

Magoon states that the letter which details the changes to the constable position needs to be reprinted due to poor quality printing, and she will do so.

Charter revisions: Magoon states that according to research compiled by Fjeld, with help through the Vermont League of Cities and Towns, since the town of Goshen lacks a charter the changes from elected to appointed positions, or the dissolving of positions such as auditors or constables, can be warned with town meeting. Magoon requests an informational meeting be scheduled well in advance of elections to discuss with the community the dissolution of constable and auditor elected positions, moving to an annual audit by an outside firm, and



(802) 247-6455

Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733

selectboard@goshenvt.org

goshenvt.org

changing the elected treasurer position, and possibly the town clerk, to an appointed position so as to expand the hiring pool beyond the current requirement of needing to be a town resident. Magoon makes a motion to have an informational meeting to discuss revisions to town positions with desserts and coffee for November 4th, 2023 at 4pm at the Town Hall. Walsh seconds, motion passes. Mathis tables the issue for later.

Dog bite incident review - Magoon states that the hearing was held on 9/21/23 and parameters were put into place to ensure that future incidents would not occur.

Fire services - Thomasina reports that the Brandon Fire Department (BFD) put forward a \$5,000 contract for one year agreement. The only time that Goshen would be required to pay beyond this contract is when other towns are called in for an incident. Magoon makes a motion to approve the Brandon Fire Department contract at \$5,000/year starting on October 1st - September 30th of every year beginning Oct. 1, 2023. Walsh seconds. Magoon states that this will work well for accounting purposes as the town already has an allocated \$5,000 in the budget for incidental fire services. Discussion ensues. Mathis states that he would like to see a capped rate for incidents when other town fire departments are called in, which is not covered in the contract. Magoon states that she trusts the decisions of the fire department when they feel the need to call in other towns for a large fire incident. Magoon states that this is the same type of contract as the town of Leicester has with the BFD. Magoon recommends that a policy should be put in place, following the agreement of the contract with the BFD, that any additional town fire departments that are called in beyond Brandon Fire Department send their bill of service to the property owner of the incident. Walsh asks how many incidents have occurred of late that required more than one fire department on site. Chamberlain states that the fire at his property back in 2008 was one. Magoon states that in an incident when a homeowner does not pay their bill for fire department service the town of Goshen will be billed, this has happened several times in the last year. Walsh responds that this has cost the town \$3000-4,000 in the last year. Whiting requests the contract with the BFD be read. Magoon reads the entirety of the contract put forward. Magoon states that the fire department has the discretion and experience to decide whether another town's fire department is required for an incident and that she does not want the select board to set policy that would compromise their ability to act in the way they see fit. Bill Mathis states that he believes they should have that authority as well. Discussion ensues regarding bills from multiple fire departments. Magoon moves the motion to approve the contract with the Brandon Fire Department, Walsh seconds. Discussion ensues regarding mutual aid clause. Mathis requests that a meeting to discuss the mutual aid clause and setting a rate cap for additional fire departments be had with the BFD. Jeff Whiting states that cost negotiation at the time of an emergency is unrealistic, if there is an unreasonable bill that should be pushed back on and go to arbitration. Whiting states that a contract is needed now that would put us in a better position than we are in now. Mathis states that a conversation with Kilpeck regarding such an arbitration clause should be had prior to signing the contract agreement. The motion is called to vote and passes two to one.

Added business:

Trash tickets: Vickie Whiting states that the trash tickets that the town sells to residents is not a part of Dave Sabatini's trash contract, and that Sabatini is paying for the excess trash weight without a policy to be payed back by the town for tickets that the town sold to residents. Magoon makes a motion to pay Dave Sabatini for the collected trash tickets at \$3/ticket. Mathis seconds, the motion passes.



(802) 247-6455

Town of Goshen

50 Carlisle Hill Road | Goshen, Vermont 05733

selectboard@goshenvt.org

goshenvt.org

The Goshen Historical Society is looking to hold a community holiday potluck gathering on December 9th at the Town Hall. Magoon makes a motion to approve that date, Mathis seconds, motion passes. The historical society is looking into historical signage to educate about the Goshen town hall and the old Goshen school house, they would like to know if the RNESU Goshen fund money can be used for these installations which can dovetail with the Pomeroy grant that will match the funding. Mathis states that he will look into whether the funding can be used in this manner.

Magoon makes a motion to adjourn, meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Martin Fjeld
Town Clerk of Goshen
Selectboard Clerk