

**TOWN OF GOSHEN  
JOHN JAMES MEMORIAL HALL**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
Saturday, May 18, 2024**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m., a quorum being present, and 58 voters signed in.

Moderator Keith Wright recognized the Goshen residents who passed away since the last annual town meeting and asked for a moment of silence:

- Esther Korowski
- Ronald Rehor
- James LeBeau
- Patricia Perrault
- Pearl Woodward
- Gregory Linscott
- John Kroll
- Rose Clark
- Douglas Gagnon

The moderator noted that the warrant was duly posted and returned. Moderator Wright also noted that Town Counsel advised the Town that, due to changes to Chapter 77 of the Acts of 2023, Articles 1, 2, 3, 4, and 24 need only pass by a majority, rather than the 2/3 vote stated in the town warrant. The moderator then dispensed with the formal reading of the warrant and moved to Article 1.

**ARTICLE 1:** Motion made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$6,442.15 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Ford Super Duty F350 ¾ ton pickup truck.

Ford Super Duty F350 pickup truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$6,278.90	\$163.25	\$6,442.15

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is the 5th of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

**Passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 2:** Motion made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$10,969.07 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD.

Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$10,691.10	\$277.97	\$10,969.07

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is the 5<sup>th</sup> of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.

**Passed unanimously.**

**ARTICLE 3:** Motion made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$28,225 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2019 Mack single axle primary plow/dump truck.

Mack Primary Plow/Dump Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2019	\$22,000.00	\$6,225.00	\$28,225.00

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is the 5th of 10 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$9,321.68 for the payment of the principal and interest on the Yanmar YT235 tractor.

Yanmar YT235 Tractor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2021	\$8,720.00	\$601.68	\$9,321.68

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is the 3rd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized borrowing & signed borrowing.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 5: Motion made and seconded to transfer from MLP Certified Retained Earnings an amount equal to the full balance in retained earnings of \$193,651 to reduce the principal owed by that amount on the original \$1.2 million dollars borrowed for Broadband.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: These funds represent MLP High Speed Internet revenues available from the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of operation which will be used to pay down the debt owed. As a result of this action, future taxes to be raised for Broadband debt, including interest, will be lower as the overall principal to be repaid will be lower.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 6: Motion made and seconded to transfer the sum of \$367.13 from Free Cash to the account known as “Bills of Prior Years” for the payment of an FY 2023 bill for the Public Health Waste.

Note: A 4/5<sup>ths</sup> vote is required at an ATM.

Note: This bill was received too late to be processed in FY23.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded to transfer, from Free Cash, the sum of \$10,000 for the purpose of repairing the damaged stones in the Cemetery that require repair and to authorize the Select Board to expend such monies for this purpose.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The last time this was done was in 2010.

**Passed unanimously.**

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ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded to transfer from free cash, the sum of \$10,000 to be used to repair the landfill cap which is damaged by this year's 100-year storms.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The Department of Environment Protection has indicated this is an ongoing process and we can expect some level of maintenance every year based on weather events.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$9,000 to the Cell Tower Stabilization Account.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This represents the amount of cell tower rental income received annually and will help to offset future cell tower related costs, together with any funds received for participating communities using out tower and equipment.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$5,000, to the OPEB Liability Trust Fund for the purpose of covering Other Post-Employment Benefits. And, to authorize the Treasurer (The OPEB trustee) to expend such monies for this purpose.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The OPEB Liability Trust Fund was approved by vote at the Annual Town Meeting of June 12, 2021, article 23. The liability is actuarially calculated, and is a standard governmental accounting best practice for recording unfunded future liabilities.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded to transfer, from Free Cash, the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of hiring a consultant to work with the appropriate committees and/or boards, to create a comprehensive book of General By-Laws, and to authorize the Select Board to expend such monies for this.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The General By-laws exist in various places, such as the Town Meeting Minutes and Town Clerk's office. There is no central collection of the Town's By-laws.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$10,000, for the purpose of tree removal. And, to authorize the Select Board to expend such monies for this purpose.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is to proactively remove trees jeopardizing the Town's right of way and to alleviate the frequency of utility & internet service interruptions. The work will be planned and overseen by the Tree Warden in coordination with the Highway Supervisor and MLP Manager.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$8,000 for the purpose of purchasing Fire Department Turnout Gear to meet state compliance guidelines, and, to authorize the Fire Chief to expend such monies from a turnout gear project account for this purpose.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Turnout gear is required to be replaced every 10 years and includes jackets, pants, boots, helmets, hoods and gloves. Funds for a standard replacement of 2 full sets per year have been in the Fire Dept. budget. More gear is required to bring all current.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded to transfer, from Free Cash, the sum of \$338,152.87 to the Capital Stabilization Account.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 15: Motion made and seconded to transfer the sum of \$5,000 in the Restructure Chart of Accounts expense code to the Capital Stabilization Account.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This Chart of Accounts conversion payment to Eric Kinshurf, CPA is being funded as part of the \$86,047 Community Compact Cabinet IT grant received for the Integrated Financial System Software Project undertaken in FY 2024. This amount was originally set aside from Free Cash in Article 11 at the June 12, 2021 ATM.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded to transfer \$60,000 from the account known as Assessors Overlay Surplus to reduce the FY 2025 tax rate.

Note: Majority vote is required .

Note: The Overlay Surplus account is required by the DOR to reserve for tax exemptions, abatements, and uncollected taxes. In that the Tax Collector has collected a lot of outstanding taxes the Board of Assessors is allowed to reduce the amount in this overlay account.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 17: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$3,819,596.38 to fund the FY 2025 budget and defray the charges from July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025, for the maintenance and operation of the Town as shown in the Finance Committee Report and Budget Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 18: Motion made and seconded to approve the Goshen MLP Enterprise Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 of \$464,475.02 as shown in the Finance Committee Report and Budget Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: The MLP budget is funded from MLP subscriber fees.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 19: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to set the compensation of Town employees and appointed officials as established in the Town’s personnel policies.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 20: Motion made and seconded to fix the salaries and hourly rates of all compensated elected officers of the Town for Fiscal Year 2025 as indicated by M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108.

ELECTED POSITION	COMPENSATION
Moderator	\$ 206.00
Board of Assessors, each of the 3 members	\$ 2,595.60
Select Board, Clerk	\$ 3,605.00
Select Board, Vice-Chair	\$ 5,665.00
Select Board, Chair	\$ 6,695.00
Town Clerk	\$ 19,673.00

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 21: Motion made and seconded to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation Act annual revenues, for community preservation projects, and other expenses, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee as follows, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations From FY 2025 estimated revenues:  
\$8,500 for Committee Administrative Expenses

Reserves From FY 2025 Estimated Revenues:  
\$ 17,000 for Historic Resources Reserve  
\$ 17,000 for Community Housing Reserve  
\$ 17,000 for Open Space Reserve  
\$110,000 for CPA Budget Reserve

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: These figures are based on the estimated FY2025 real estate tax Community Preservation Act surcharge commitments plus a 100% match from the state, allocated by a minimum of 10% percent to Historic Resources, 10% to Open Space, 10% to Community Housing, and a maximum of 5% to Administrative Expenses and the remainder to Budgeted Reserve (65%).

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 22: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2025 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows.

Program or Purpose	FY 2025 Spending Limit
Highland Ambulance Fuel Reimbursement Account	\$12,000
Animal Control Revolving Fund	\$7,500
Board of Appeals Revolving Fund	\$6,000
Electrical Inspector Revolving Fund	\$5,000

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 23: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.268A, §21A to authorize the Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Finance Committee, Planning Board, Select Board, and the Tilton Town Supervisors, Recreation Commission, Conservation Commission, and Council on Aging to appoint their own members to positions under their respective jurisdictions and supervision as shall be established by Town Meeting.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Due to the continuing need to find and fill roles with qualified and available individuals in small towns, this article allows these Boards or Committees to appoint their own members to subordinate positions, if necessary.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 24: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to expend out of the Capital Stabilization Account \$30,000 to resurface the driveway at the Town Fire.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is regular maintenance for the Fire Department parking lot.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 25: Motion made and seconded to accept as a public way the roadway known as Sugar Maple Lane, as heretofore laid out by the Select Board and shown on a plan of land entitled “Street Acceptance Plan, Sugar Maple Lane, Located in Goshen, Massachusetts”, dated April 25, 2024 prepared by Northeast Survey Consultants, PC, and on file with the Town Clerk, and authorize the Select Board to acquire, by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain, the fee to and/or easements in Sugar Maple Lane for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Goshen and any drainage, access, utility and/or other easements related thereto.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: In 2006 a subdivision was approved in a location off East Street. The subdivision road became known as Sugar Maple Lane. The road has been inspected and found to meet the specifications of the Street Acceptance Plan.

**Passed unanimously.**

Several Goshen residents made announcements about upcoming community events.

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:50am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle  
Town Clerk