

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m., a quorum being present and 89 voters signed in.

Moderator Wright introduced himself as it was his first town meeting in his new role. He informed the group that the meeting was being recorded to aid the Town Clerk in taking minutes. He told them the ballots they were handed when they walked in were to help name the Senior Housing Project.

Moderator Wright recognized several Goshen residents who have passed away in the last year.

Diana Lashway, wife of Daniel  
Linda LeBeau, wife of Robert  
Raymond Sarafin, husband of Phyllis  
Norman Arnold, partner of Liz Loven  
George Monaghan Jr., husband of Martha  
Kenny Roberts, husband of Kathleen  
George St. Amand, husband of Beverly

The moderator asked for a moment of silence in memory of those we lost.

The moderator noted that the warrant was duly posted and returned and then dispensed with the formal reading of the warrant and moved to Article 1.

ARTICLE 1: Motion made and seconded to choose all necessary officers to serve for the ensuing year, or take any other action relative thereto.  
**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to act on the reports of the town officers, or take any other action relative thereto.  
**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 3: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to permit the Select Board to set the compensation of Town employees and appointed officials, in accordance with the Town Employee Handbook as established in the Town's personnel policies, or take any other action relative thereto.  
**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019, and to vote to set all Town budgets, or take any other action relative thereto.

General Government:

Line 3. Select board Stipend. Steve Estelle asked why the stipend was still being budgeted for, if the hiring of a town administrator was imminent. Dawn Scaparotti from the Finance Committee responded that the line item will be adjusted when that happens. Norene Roberts asked if Roland Chaffee, our town accountant, has passed away. Angela Otis, chair of the select board, replied that he had. The Moderator asked for a moment of silence in his memory.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$356,541.24 for General Government.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Public Safety:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$207,487.14 for Public Safety.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Public Works:

Line 7. Winter Highway Snow Removal. Bob Labrie asked about the breakdown in plowing, and what percentage of the roads plowed are in Hammond Acres. Todd Dewkett, highway superintendent, said the town plows approximately 25 miles of road, and that it costs \$21.41 a mile for public roads, and \$36.73 a mile for private roads. There was much discussion about why private roads are more expensive to plow.

Line 14. WiredWest Assessment. Bob says Wired West is waiting for each town to build their own networks. Joe Roberts asked if we were totally committed to Wired West, and Wayne Glaser, vice chair of the select board, responded that the town is a long way from picking a network operator. Don Boisvert asked about Westfield Gas & Electric. Wayne responded that they are doing the design and they would like to be the operator. Don asked when we would be able to connect to broadband internet, and Wayne said end of 2019, maybe into 2020.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$422,310.52 for Public Works.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Public Health & Sanitation:

Line 3. Public Health Committee Salary. Elizabeth Bell-Perkins from the Board of Health spoke about why she believes that BOH members should continue to receive a stipend. Dawn Scaparotti read the letter that the Finance Committee sent to the BOH. She spoke about how the Health Agent performs tasks that the BOH used to perform. She mentioned she would like to pay all of our volunteers, but the town cannot afford it. Steve Estelle made a motion to increase the BOH committee salary to \$3,390. It was seconded. There was much discussion about how the line could be funded, keeping a balanced budget and volunteering without expectation of pay. The motion failed.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$61,522.06 for Public Health & Sanitation.

**Passed with a majority vote.**

Community Services:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$63,112.00 for Community Services.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Pensions and Insurance:

Line 4. Workers Compensation. Bob Goss asked why the cost was so high. Dawn explained that our incident rating went up, so it will take a few years to bring it back down.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$178,967.14 for Pension and Insurance.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Education:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,486,834.00 for Education.

**Passed Unanimously.**

Debt Service

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$27,740.00 for Debt Service.

**Passed Unanimously.**

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$2,804,514.00 for sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019.

**Passed Unanimously**

ARTICLE 5: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the chief elected officials to apply for Massachusetts Small Cities Programs, or other Federal, or any State monies, and to expend any monies as received as set forth in the appropriate application, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 6: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will authorize the treasurer, with the approval of the Select board, to borrow a sum of \$250,000.00 for a period of up to Fifteen (15) years or less, in accordance with the capital plan, to fund the purchase of a Single Axle Secondary Plow/Dump fully outfitted for the Highway Department, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

**Note: This is to replace a failing 2005 truck used for plowing, sanding and hauling.**

Discussion: Alison Bowen asked what year the new truck is, to which Todd Dewkett replied that it was a 2018. Jess Judd asked what the issue was with the 2005 truck. Todd replied that the town got it used from VT, and it has an issue that mechanics are unable to solve. Jess asked why we needed to replace it with a brand new truck, and Todd replied that the longevity of the truck will be worth it.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$38,183.90 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Mack Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2014	\$37,435.20	\$748.70	\$38,183.90

**Note: A majority vote is required.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$38,183.90 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2014 Mack Dump Truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

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

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$8,142.06 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

Police Ford Expedition	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2013	\$7,928.00	\$214.06	\$8,142.06

**Note: A majority vote is required.**

Discussion: Alison Bowen asked what the current fleet of police vehicles was. Chief Hewes responded that we have three vehicles: a 2010 Ford Crown Victoria, a 2013 Ford Expedition, and a 2017 Ford Police Inceptor.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the treasurer to expend from the capital stabilization fund, the sum of \$8,142.06 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2013 Police Ford Expedition, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: 2/3's 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 11: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$9,090.34 from Free Cash to the Capital Stabilization Fund, or take any other action relative thereto.

International Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2008	\$8,234.00	\$856.34	\$9,090.34

**Note: A majority vote is required.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$9,090.34 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2008 International single axle secondary plow/ dump Truck, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 2nd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Fund the sum of \$9,954.090 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2017 Police Ford Interceptor, or take any other action relative thereto.

Police Ford Interceptor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2017	\$9,000.00	\$954.00	\$9,954.00

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

**Note: This is the 2nd of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.**

Discussion: Bob Labrie asked if the amount in the warrant question should be the same number listed in the table: \$9,954.00. Angela Otis replied that yes, that is the correct number. Bob made a motion that was seconded to amend the amount listed in the warrant question to \$9,954.00.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to appropriate or reserve from the Community Preservation annual revenues, in the amounts recommended by the Community Preservation Committee, for community preservation projects, and other expenses in fiscal year 2019, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2019 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 5,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

**Reserves:**

From FY 2019 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$16,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

From FY 2019 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$16,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

From FY 2019 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$16,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

From FY 2019 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$70,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: Total appropriation reflects 90% of the expected 100% state match.**

ARTICLE 15: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §54E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2019 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows. Or take any other action relative thereto.

<b>Program or Purpose</b>	<b>FY 2019 Spending Limit</b>
FRTA	\$20,000
Highland Ambulance Fuel Reimbursement Account	\$12,000
Animal Control Revolving Fund	\$2,500
Board of Appeals Revolving Fund	\$6,000
Electrical Inspector Revolving Fund	\$5,000

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Assessors to employ themselves in the performance of their work and for such work to be paid from appropriations under budget line Assistant Assessor Salary, and therefore do not need to meet the requirements of Chapter 268A, Section 21A, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note:** Chapter 268A, Section 21A is the section of Mass General Law that deals with ethics for Municipal Employees. This warrant article indicates that the town is aware that the proposed arrangement is a violation of the Ethics Laws as the assistant assessor, who is also an assessor, would report to the Board of Assessors in violation of this law unless first approved at an Annual Town Meeting. This article, if passed, would provide that "the provisions of this section shall not apply to a member of a town commission or board." This article was last voted and approved at the Annual Town Meeting of May 2015.

Discussion: Multiple people asked: "What does this mean?" Gina Papineau explained the history. In 2010, the Board of Assessors realized the conflict, and when they talked to town attorney, they were advised to include this on the annual town meeting warrant every time the assistant assessor is re-appointed. It has been approved at ATM three other times. Four other towns nearby are doing the same thing.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 17: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from General Stabilization to Capital Stabilization and to authorize expenditure of such funds for the repair of the Landfill Cap or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note:** This note applies to this article and the next two articles concerning the landfill cap repair. The Board of Assessors, Finance Committee, Capital Planning Committee, and Select Board support this article. This article is necessary to be in compliance with the MassDEP letter of April 2018 (310 CMR 19.142 & 19.143) which indicates that the Town, by June 15, 2018 must submit an engineering plan to the DEP for repair of erosion damage on the landfill cap. Additionally, by August 15, 2018, the repair on the cap shall commence, and shall be performed in accordance with MassDEP's approval of the engineering plan.

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

Discussion: Bob Goss asked if the landfill was not capped properly the first time. James Heroux, select board clerk, stated that, at the time, the design met all the standards. When the town originally voted to have it capped, they were given two options, and the town voted on the least expensive and least effective one. Alison Bowen asked if there were any guarantees that this wouldn't need to be fixed again, to which James stated that there weren't any guarantees. Wayne Glaser informed the group that the town may be fined if we don't give DEP a plan by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 18: Motion made and seconded to see if the town will vote to transfer the sum of \$100,000.00 from Overlay Surplus to Capital Stabilization and to authorize the expenditure of such funds for the repair of the Landfill cap as required by MassDEP, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: A majority vote is required.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 19: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow a sum of \$300,000.00 for a period of Fifteen (15) years or less and to authorize the expenditure of such funds to fund the landfill cap repair, so long as plans relating to the project have been approved by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, and provided that this borrowing shall be contingent upon passage of a Proposition 2 ½ debt exclusion ballot question, authorizing the Town to raise this additional amount outside limits imposed by Proposition 2 ½, all in accordance with G.L. c. 59, S21C(g) or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

Discussion: David Pesuit asked what the total was for the project. Dawn Scaparotti replied that it was \$645,000.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 20: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the transfer of \$11,000.00 from Free Cash to the West Street Resurfacing Project for construction, engineering and related costs, or take any action relative thereto.

**Note: This expenditure is a contractual obligation in support of the construction and roadway safety improvement of the West Street Resurfacing Project.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 21: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$10,000 from the Highway Salary account to the Highway Road Improvement account for road repair, or take any action relative thereto.

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 22: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$85,000.00 from Free Cash to Capital Stabilization, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: To fund the Capital Stabilization account for FY2019 Capital Plan.**

**Note: Majority vote is required.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 23: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$5,000.00 from General Stabilization to Capital Stabilization, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: To fund the Capital Stabilization account for FY2019 Capital Plan.**

**Note: 2/3's vote is required.**

**Passed Unanimously.**

ARTICLE 24: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$3,000.00 from Free Cash to the Emergency Management Expense account, for the procurement of emergency management and safety equipment and signage, or take any other action relative thereto.

**Note: This is part of an overall estimated \$5,400 expenditure to populate the emergency management trailer with equipment and signage. The remaining approximately \$2,500 will be funded by an Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG).**

Discussion: Norene Roberts asked what equipment and signage was being bought. Sue Labrie, fire chief, answered that it was evident during the February 2017 tornado that the town did not have enough signage for detours, etc. Angela Otis said the equipment will be shared by all public safety entities.

**Passed Unanimously.**

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**Note pertaining to all Citizen petitions below: Citizen petitions, after certification, are required to be placed on the warrant exactly as they are provided. If the petition is illegal, nonsensical or poorly worded they still must appear on the warrant as received. Citizen petitions do not override the legal or statutory authority that is granted to the various municipal bodies.**

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ARTICLE 25: This is a citizen's petition submitted and certified by three Registrars of voters of the Town of Goshen.

Motion made and seconded to see if the Town Goshen will vote to adopt the following resolution:

We call on the United States to lead a global effort to prevent nuclear war by:

- Renouncing the option of using nuclear weapons first
- Ending the President's sole, unchecked authority to launch a nuclear attack
- Taking US nuclear weapons off hair-trigger alert
- Cancelling the plan to replace its entire arsenal with enhanced weapons
- Actively pursuing a verifiable agreement among nuclear armed states to eliminate their nuclear arsenals

The Town Clerk is directed to send copies of this resolution to the two Massachusetts U.S. Senators and the U.S. Representative for this district, and to

the President and Secretary of State of the United States. Or to do or act anything in relation thereto.

Discussion: Elaine Ulman, who submitted the petition, explained that this is a resolution that has been going around different states. Alison Bowen expressed that she thought it was important to make a statement as a town.

**Passed with a majority vote.**

ARTICLE 26: This is a citizen's petition submitted and certified by three Registrars of voters of the Town of Goshen.

Motion made and seconded to see if all town of Goshen, MA employees, members of town boards and committees, shall assume these obligations and commitments.

- Be well informed concerning the local and state duties of a board/committee member whenever applicable
- Remember that they represents the Town of Goshen at all times
- Accept their position as a means of unselfish public service , not to benefit personally, professionally or financially from his/her board/committee position
- Treat all members of the board/committee and other persons present with respect despite differences of opinion; keeping in mind that professional respect does not preclude honest differences of opinion but requires respect within those differences
- Recognize that the chief function of local government at all times is to serve the best interests of all of the people
- Honor confidential information, seek no favor and believe that personal aggrandizement or profit secured by holding these positions is dishonest
- Conduct themselves so as to maintain public confidence in their local government and in their performance of the public trust
- Conduct official business in such a manner as to give the clear impression that they cannot be improperly influenced in the performance of their official duties
- Unless specifically exempted (e.g. Executive Session), conduct the business of the public in a manner that promotes open and transparent government and maintain full compliance with the Open Meeting Law (MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B)

Upon voter approval of this policy, text of this code of conduct will be posted on the town website and the Town Office building, distributed to all current and future employees, members of town boards and committees.

Discussion: Elizabeth Bell-Perkins explained that it was she who submitted the petition, and that she had many interesting conversations with townsfolk regarding the contents. Wayne Glaser stated that there were several issues with the wording. For one, folks learn their duties as they go along. Secondly, employees do benefit professionally and financially. Thirdly, employees and members of committees serve in the best interest of the town, which is not always in the best interest of all the people. He also reminded everyone, that according to town counsel, citizen petitions cannot set policies. Joe Roberts stated that he thinks the current oath taken by employees and committee members is fine. Wayne encouraged the writers of the petition to meet with the select board to come up with a policy that would work.

**Motion made and seconded to table the article.**

**Motion passed with a majority vote.**

ARTICLE 27: This is a citizen's petition submitted and certified by three Registrars of voters of the Town of Goshen.

Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to continue providing winter road maintenance, limited to plowing and sanding, on all passable roads within the Hammond Acres Association, consistent with the town's practice since 1959, or take any other action thereto.

**Note: A vote to accept the provisions of Section 6C of Chapter 40 of the Massachusetts General Laws, which authorizes the Town to appropriate money for the removal of snow and ice from any private ways therein open to the public use, was passed at the Annual Town Meeting on February 21, 1959 by a vote of Yes 84, No 17 and Blanks 12. (Book 5, Town Records, Page 192)"**



Discussion: Bob Labrie, who submitted the petition, explained that the residents of Hammond Acres were notified in early November 2017 that they would not be plowed anymore. Two of his daughters were involved in a car accident after the first storm. The annual budget of Hammond Acres is \$44,000. Of that \$44,000, \$12,000 of it goes to real estate taxes to the town. Bob said that, on average, the 31 full-time residents of Hammond Acres pay \$626.00 more than the average single family home in Goshen, and that a little under 20% of the entire town's tax money comes from them. Kim Dresser talked about how when he was on the select board, town counsel advised the town to continue to plow Hammond Acre roads, as there was a 40 year precedent, and there could be potential lawsuits if a fire truck or ambulance were unable to access the home from which the call was made. Jan Ellis informed the group that the 1959 vote was taken when there were only three people living full-time at Hammond Acres. Wayne Glaser said a town vote in 1992 denied plowing of all private roads. He said it's clear from Section 6C of Chapter 40 that it is up to the select board to decide whether or not to allocate money to plow private roads. Wayne also indicates, according to town counsel, it's up to the select board to decide what conditions must be met in order to authorize a private road to be plowed. He said the path forward is to let the select board do their job, and that, if the town were to continue plowing the Hammond Acre roads, it would add approximately \$8,000 to the budget. There was much discussion about whether Hammond Acre roads were private or not.

**Motion passed with a majority vote.**

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle  
Town Clerk