

The meeting was called to order at 9:47 a.m., a quorum being present and 93 voters signed in. The meeting was held under a tent in the field behind town offices, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic. Chairs were spaced six feet apart and masks were required.

Moderator Keith Wright informed the group that the meeting was being recorded to aid the Town Clerk in taking minutes. He recognized the Goshen residents who passed away since the last annual town meeting:

Sylvia Richardson
Maralee Harry
Elinor Gagnon

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

Mr. Wright 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.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 2: 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 as established in the Town's personnel policies.

Passed Unanimously.

ARTICLE 3: 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.

Passed by requisite majority.

The motion was made and seconded to move Article 25 up so it could be discussed and voted on next.

Passed by requisite majority.

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

To see if the Town will vote to require the Select Board to:

- Immediately stop any further activity related to the East Street Pathway, a.k.a. East Street Pedestrian / Bicycle Accommodations (Phase 1),
- Quantify and post a listing of all the necessary land takings, easements, rights of entry, etc. as indicated in the DOT Tier 3 Project application (Exhibit C), dated September 26th 2019, to the town website,
- Hold an open meeting with taxpayers before October 1st 2020, to review the necessity and legality of the entire project.

Further, regarding any and all future Complete Streets projects, the Select Board shall:

- Solicit feedback in advance from the general public of Goshen on potential projects, to ensure that the perspectives of the community are considered, as adopted in the Complete Streets Policy and signed by the Goshen Select Board on August 20th 2018,
- Clearly identify budget request and specific land takings associated with potential projects, in budget recommendations presented to the voters of the Town of Goshen at future town meetings,
- Quantify expenditures related to the project whether incurred by the residents of the Town of Goshen or by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through other means – to be updated monthly and posted to the town website on its own page in the Capital Projects section.

Note: This article addresses both the East Street Pathway and Complete Streets projects.

With regards to the East Street Pathway, this article seeks to:

- Stop the current Complete Streets project, aka, the East Street Pathway,
 - Quantify the specific land taking required for this project,
 - Discuss the purpose and need of this project, to determine the next steps.
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Further, with regards to any and all future Complete Streets projects, this article seeks to:

- **Discuss the purpose and need of any new project ... before starting it,**
- **Clearly define all costs and land takings of any new project ... before starting it,**
- **Post a monthly accounting of activities of any new project ... during implementation.**

Discussion: Steve Calderone of West Shore Drive went into detail about the petition, as well as the handout that was put on everyone's chair. Jeff Blake, town attorney, brought up the point that a Citizen's Petition allows the debate to happen, but it does not force the select board to take action as a result. Todd Dewkett, highway superintendent, discussed that the Complete Streets committee meetings were public, properly posted, and anyone could have attended them. The committee had hoped to use the grant money toward improving the cross walk on Route 9 between town offices and the senior housing complex, but the money cannot be used for state highway improvements. Todd stated further that there are no plans for a sidewalk on East Street. The maximum grant total was \$400,000, and the town received approximately \$375,000. The plan is to repave East Street and make a bike lane, essentially a painted line along the side of the road, which would also create a safer place to walk.

Several motions were made throughout the meeting to move the question, end discussion, table the discussion, bring it back to the table, etc.

Eventually the motion was made and seconded to postpone the question indefinitely.

The motion to postpone the question indefinitely passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, an additional sum of money to defray the costs and expenses of the Town of Goshen for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020, all as set forth on the handout entitled, **"Finance Committee Report and Recommendations for the Annual Town Meeting on July 25, 2020 for Goshen Massachusetts"**, in the section entitled, **"FY 2021 Contingent Budget"**; provided, however, that the vote taken hereunder shall be expressly contingent upon approval by the voters at an election of a Proposition 2 ½, so called, override question permanently increasing the levy by the total amount shown in the handout.

Note: majority vote is required.

Note: A levy limit override increases the amount of property tax revenue a community may raise in the year specified in the override question and in future years. It increases the community's levy limit and becomes part of the base for calculating future years' levy limits. The result is a permanent increase in taxing authority. G.L. c. 59 § 21C(g). The purpose of the override is to provide funding for municipal expenses likely to recur or continue into the future, such as annual operating and fixed costs, although it may be used for any municipal spending purpose.

General Government:

Line 15: The select board's audit expense increase to \$13,000 compared to the FY20 cost of \$7,000 was questioned. It was explained that this is because the town is moving from biennial audits to yearly audits, as the state recommends it, and the town is about to do some large borrowing for Broadband.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$390,852 for General Government.

Passed by requisite majority.

Public Safety:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$231,836 for Public Safety.

Passed by requisite majority.

Public Works:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$441,525 for Public Works.

Passed by requisite majority.

Public Health & Sanitation:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$77,004 for Public Health & Sanitation.

Passed by requisite majority.

Community Services:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$79,055 for Community Services.

Passed by requisite majority.

Pensions and Insurance:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$185,027 for Pensions and Insurance.

Passed by requisite majority.

Capital Stabilization Fund:

Dawn Scaparotti, chair of Finance Committee, explained that the \$70K override is to reach the 3% recommended to put toward Capital Stabilization.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$92,000 for Capital Stabilization Fund.

Passed by requisite majority.

Education:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$1,599,718 for Education.

Passed by requisite majority.

Debt Service/ Debt Exclusion:

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$68,833 for Debt Service/ Debt Exclusion.

Passed by requisite majority.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate \$3,165,850 for sums of money, contingent on the passage of two override ballot questions at a special town election on September 1st, 2020, as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 5: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$200,000.00 to the highway/public safety project to be expended for the purpose of a feasibility study and pre-design to be developed and then brought forth to the town residents.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 6: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$16,813.89 to the Capital Stabilization Account.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: To fund the Capital Stabilization Account.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from Free Cash the sum of \$8,662.17 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2008 International single axle secondary plow/ dump truck.

International Truck	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2008	\$8,234.00	\$428.17	\$8,662.17

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is the 4th of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$7,095.16 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	\$816.26	\$7,095.16

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 1st of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

Passed by requisite 2/3rd majority.

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$26,510.00 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	\$4,510.00	\$26,510.00

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 1st of 10 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

Passed by requisite 2/3rd majority.

ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$9,477.00 for the payment of the principal and interest on the 2017 Police Ford Interceptor.

Police Ford Interceptor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2017	\$9,000.00	\$477.00	\$9,477.00

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

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

Passed by requisite 2/3rd majority.

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$12,080.94 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	\$1,389.84	\$12,080.94

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 1st of 5 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized signed borrowing.

Passed by requisite 2/3rd majority.

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$198.94 from Free Cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the purpose of payment of FY2019 bills from the following accounts: Board of Health, \$100.00, for United Site Services; the Library, \$98.94, for books.

Note: A 4/5ths vote is required for a bill of a prior year at an ATM.

Passed by requisite 4/5ths majority.

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to rescind the debt authorizations for the dates and unissued amounts below.

Original Article & Authority Date	Project or Purpose	Unissued Amount
STM 10/11/2016, Article 7	2008 International 7500 series dump/plow truck	\$8,830.00
ATM 5/20/2019, Article 15	2019 Police Ford K8A Interceptor Utility AWD	\$1,625.00
ATM 5/20/2019, Article 16	2019 Ford Super Duty F350 pickup truck	\$1,519.00

Note: A majority vote is required.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to rescind the debt authorization for the unissued amount of \$538,321.41 from Article 29 of the May 20, 2019 Annual Town Meeting for a roof replacement for the New Hingham School.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Total project costs for both Chesterfield and Goshen amounted to \$261,678.59 as approved by the New Hingham school committee. The total project borrowing authorization was for \$800,000.00. Goshen's share of the project cost is \$129,213.76.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 15: 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 2021, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Appropriations:

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$ 5,000

Passed by requisite majority.

Reserves:

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$16,000

Passed by requisite majority.

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$16,000

Passed by requisite majority.

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$16,000

Passed by requisite majority.

From FY 2021 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$74,000

Passed by requisite majority.

Note: Majority vote is required.

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

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded to see if the town will vote to close to the general fund, the remaining balance as of June 30, 2020 in the FRTA revolving account which was authorized at May 20, 2019 Annual Town Meeting , article 24.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 17: 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 2021 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows.

Program or Purpose	FY 2021 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 by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 18: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to change the composition of the Open Space Committee from 7 members to 5 members effective immediately.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This article acknowledges that we need to address the topic of beginning to reduce the membership numbers on certain boards and committees that cannot find enough interested and qualified individuals with enough time who are willing to serve.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 19: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to supplement each prior vote of the Town that authorizes the borrowing of money to pay costs of capital projects to provide that, in accordance with Chapter 44, Section 20 of the General Laws, the premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes thereunder, less any such premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bond or notes, may be applied to pay project costs and the amount authorized to be borrowed for each such project shall be reduced by the amount of any such premium so applied.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Adoption of this section of MGL would allow the Town to apply bond monies in excess of the authorization (bond premium) to a capital project, allowing the Town to reduce the amount that it actually borrows for that project, in this case for broadband. This change was allowed under the Municipal Modernization Act enacted in November 2016 and may be applied to any long term

bond borrowing.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 20: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. c. 64G, section 3A, and impose a local excise tax upon the transfer of occupancy of any room or rooms in a bed and breakfast establishment, hotel, lodging house, short term rental, or motel located within the Town at a rate of 6.00% , said excise tax to take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter commencing at least thirty days after such vote of the Town Meeting.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Adoption of this section of MGL would allow the Town to collect a local excise tax for all of the types short term rentals indicated above in the percentage specified.

Discussion: It was asked, "How does this work?" When an AirBnB does their filing, the town will receive 6%. The assessors have identified several AirBnBs in town. Kim Dresser asked what the definition of short term rental was; the answer is less than 30 days. The town estimates revenue of \$3K to \$5K a quarter.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 21: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108P concerning additional compensation for collectors or treasurers. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

Section 108P. In any city, town or district that accepts this section, a collector or a treasurer who has completed the necessary courses of study and training and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Collectors and Treasurers Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal collector or a certified Massachusetts municipal treasurer or a certified Massachusetts district treasurer, shall receive as compensation from such city, town or district, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such city, town or district for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year. A collector or treasurer who has been awarded both certificates referred to above shall receive such additional compensation for only one such certificate. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, a collector or treasurer shall submit to the mayor or the board of selectmen of such city or town, or the governing board of a district proof of the award of either or both such certificates. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12 month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of collector or treasurer for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall be discontinued when certification is discontinued or withdrawn.

Note: Majority vote is required

Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for Collectors & Treasurers.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 22: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 19K concerning additional compensation for town clerks. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

Section 19K: In any town, that accepts this section, a town clerk who has completed the necessary courses of study and training, and has been awarded a certificate by the Massachusetts Town Clerks' Association as a certified Massachusetts municipal clerk, shall receive as compensation from such town, in addition to the regular annual compensation paid by such town for services in such office, an amount equal to 10 per cent of such regular annual compensation, but not more than \$1,000 per year. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, a town clerk shall submit to the board of selectmen of such town proof of the award of such certificate. The additional compensation provided in this section shall be prorated for any 12 month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of town clerk for 12 consecutive months. Such additional compensation shall discontinue when certification is discontinued or withdrawn.

Note: Majority vote is required

Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for town clerks.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 23: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 59, Section 21A concerning additional compensation for Assessors & Assistant Assessors. Full text of the section is in the next paragraph.

Section 21A: In any city or town which accepts this section, an assessor or assistant assessor who has completed the necessary courses of study and training and has been awarded a certificate by the International Association of Assessing Officers as a certified assessment evaluator or who has been awarded a certificate by the Association of Massachusetts Assessors as a certified Massachusetts assessor shall receive as compensation from such city or town, in addition to the regular compensation paid by such city or town for services in such office, an amount equal to ten per cent of such regular compensation; provided, however, that in no event shall such additional compensation exceed one thousand dollars annually, if such assessor or assistant assessor is employed on a full-time basis, or five hundred dollars, if such assessor or assistant assessor is employed on a part-time basis. An assessor who has been awarded both certificates referred to above shall receive such additional compensation for only one of such certificates. In order to qualify for such additional compensation, an assessor or assistant assessor shall submit proof that he has been awarded either or both of the aforesaid certificates to the mayor or the board of selectmen of such city or town. The additional compensation herein provided shall be prorated for any twelve month period in which an eligible person does not hold the office of assessor or assistant assessor for twelve consecutive months.

Note: Majority vote is required

Note: This allows and specifies the amounts of additional compensation based upon the completion of certain training courses for Assessors & Assistant Assessors.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 24: Motion made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to amend its General By-laws pursuant to M.G.L. c.41, §106B, to establish a Capital Planning Committee that will replace any previous Capital Planning Committee.

The Capital Planning Committee shall be made up of five members, each appointed for three- (3) year staggered terms. All members shall be appointed by the Select Board, and initially, one member shall be appointed for (1) one year, two members for (2) two years and two members shall be appointed for (3) three years. Two members are to be appointed from amongst the Finance Committee by the Select Board. The remaining three committee members are appointed by the Select Board based upon the best available candidates with an appropriate background and knowledge to fulfill the needs and duties of the Committee. All appointments shall be based upon the beginning and ending of the fiscal year for the terms described above. Any vacancy for an unexpired term shall be filled in the same manner so as to complete the term of the original appointment.

Purpose and role of the Capital Planning Committee:

The fundamental purpose of the Capital Planning Committee shall be to enhance the Town's capacity to identify, prioritize, and understand the financial implications of capital projects with a useful life of at least five (5) years, and an aggregate cost of at least \$5,000. And, to develop a capital plan relative to the afore mentioned purpose. Further, the Capital Planning Committee will work with the Finance Committee to develop policies consistent with best practices.

► The Capital Planning Committee should solicit requests from each

municipal department that would have a capital request meeting the above criteria. The departmental requests should include a brief

statement of justification of the request including why it is needed; what is the useful life of the item, what is the estimated cost of the item and why it is necessary in the year for which it is being requested.

▶ The Capital Planning Committee shall gather information, review and prioritize recommendations regarding capital project needs and expenditures that will be funded by annual appropriations in accordance with the financial constraints of the Town.

▶ Develop and present a capital plan budget and multi-year capital program to the Finance Committee and Select Board with the recommendations of the Capital Planning Committee for what should and should not be included in any given year.

▶ In conjunction with the Finance Committee analyze the municipality's ability to afford major expenditures by examining recent and anticipated trends in revenues, expenditures and debt burden and propose a method of payment that will be supported by the ability of the Town to pay for it with current revenue; available reserves; debt or debt excluded and debt overrides from the limits of Proposition 2 ½.

▶ The funding strategy for the Capital Stabilization account should be consistent with best practices such as targeting 3% - 5% of the levy limit or 3% - 5% of the annual budget, prior to debt exclusions.

▶ The Capital Planning Committee, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, should recommend a method for financing each project.

Note: Majority vote is required

Note: This change would establish the Capital Planning Committee to conform to the current M.G.L. requirements.

Passed by requisite majority.

Sandy Papush from Open Space Committee encouraged residents to fill out the Open Space questionnaire and to attend their Zoom meeting in August.

Laura Barrus from the Board of Health told residents that fees at the transfer station will have to be raised soon as expenses continue to rise. Goshen currently has the cheapest transfer station fees in the Hilltowns.

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 1pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle
Town Clerk
