

**TOWN OF GOSHEN  
FIELD BEHIND TOWN OFFICES**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING  
Saturday, June 12, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m., a quorum being present and 67 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 optional.

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:

- Clarence Rowley III
- James Kandrotas
- Mario Arrubla
- Evelyn Arnold

Anthony Thomas Jr., who was a selectman for 15 years, Town Moderator, and a member of numerous town boards and committees. He also volunteered for more than 20 years as an EMT on Goshen Ambulance, and was on Goshen, Chesterfield and Williamsburg Fire Departments. Tommy served our town with a dedication and spirit that will be missed by all.

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

Angela Otis, Chair of the Select Board, introduced State Representative Natalie Blais, who came up to the podium and presented Certificates of Recognition for the four soon-to-be retired town employees:

- Police Chief Jeffrey Hewes
- Police Officer Donna Hewes
- Fire Chief Susan Labrie
- Fire Captain Robert Labrie

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 authorize the chief elected officials to apply for Massachusetts Small Cities Programs, or other Federal, or any State monies, and to expend any monies received as set forth in the appropriate application.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

**ARTICLE 2:** Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$6,931.91 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	\$653.01	\$6,931.91

Note: 2/3rds 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 3:** Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$23,899.78 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	\$1,899.78	\$23,899.78

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 2nd of 10 payments. This expenditure is a contractual payment for previously authorized & signed borrowing.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$9,238.50 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	\$238.50	\$9,238.50

Note: 2/3rds 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 5: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$11,802.97 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	\$1,111.87	\$11,802.97

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

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

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 6: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow a sum of \$50,000.00 for a period of up to five (5) years or less, in accordance with the capital plan, to fund the purchase of a Kubota 3560 HSCT four wheel drive tractor, heated cab, six foot snow blower, seven foot road side mower and a bucket loader outfitted for the Highway Department.

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: The new tractor would replace both the existing 1973 & 1976 failing tractors.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to expend from the Capital Stabilization account, the sum of \$7,000.00 for the purchase of a replacement VOIP phone system.

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This will replace an aging and unsupported phone system that does not perform the required functions and cannot be maintained or upgraded.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the treasurer to expend from the Fire Department Vehicle Stabilization account, the sum of \$8,600.00 to purchase a used replacement for the 2002 Ford Rescue [56 Rescue 1]. The 2002 Ford Rescue vehicle is to be sold within six months of acquiring the replacement vehicle from HAEMS.

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This vehicle is scheduled, on the Capital Plan, to be replaced in FY2025. The current vehicle is in poor shape and requires in excess of \$10,000.00 in repairs to make it to FY 2025. This will allow us to delay the planned new vehicle replacement. Highland Ambulance has offered to sell their used vehicle for \$8,600.00 to the town.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Treasurer to expend from Free Cash the sum of \$8,448.09 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	\$214.09	\$8,448.09

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 10: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$100,000.00 to the Capital Stabilization Account.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: To fund the Capital Stabilization Account in accordance with the parameters in the bylaw passed at the Annual Town Meeting of July 2020.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$5,000.00 as a one-time expense to restructure our chart of accounts and to authorize the expenditure of these funds.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$70,000.00 to the MLP High Speed Internet account and to authorize the expenditure of such funds on operating expenses for the MLP High Speed Internet project.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This will allow the MLP to have operational expense monies with which to pay bills before there is sufficient revenue generated to cover expenditures.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$10,000.00 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 that are a danger to the functioning of the fiber optic network and to alleviate the frequency of electrical outages. The work would be planned, overseen, and executed by the Tree Warden.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer the sum of \$602.13 from Free Cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the purpose of payment of FY2020 bills from the following accounts, or take any other action relative thereto.

Purpose	Amount
Historical Commission expense reimbursement	\$65.46
One Way Screen Printing for Transfer Station disposal permit stickers	\$375.00

Admission tickets to the Mount, Edith Wharton's home, for the 2020 season, purchased by the Library	\$75.00
Select Board Expense for office supplies	\$79.03
Conservation Commission reimbursement for postage	\$7.64

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

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 15: Motion made and seconded that the Town raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and to vote to set all Town budgets.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**General Government**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$431,221.00 for General Government

**Passed unanimously.**

**Public Safety**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$229,137.00 for Public Safety.

**Passed unanimously.**

**Public Works**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$456,524.34 for Public Works.

**Passed unanimously.**

**Public Health & Sanitation**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$79,643.34 for Public Health & Sanitation.

**Passed unanimously.**

**Community Services**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$98,194.45 for Community Services.

**Passed unanimously.**

**Pensions and Insurance**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$194,668.00 for Pensions and Insurance

**Passed unanimously.**

**Education**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$1,644,546.00 for Education.

**Passed unanimously.**

**Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$94,300.00 for the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund.

**Passed unanimously.**

**Total Debt Exclusion**

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$74,872.00 for Total Debt Exclusion.

**Passed unanimously.**

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate **\$3,303,106.14** for sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022, and to vote to set all Town budgets.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded that the Town permit 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 17: Motion made and seconded that the Town fix the salaries and hourly rates of all compensated elected officers of the Town for fiscal year 2022 as indicated by M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108.

ELECTED POSITION	COMPENSATION
Board of Assessors	\$2,368.00
Moderator	\$176.00
Select Board, Chair	\$5,000.00
Select Board, Vice Chair	\$4,000.00
Select Board, Clerk	\$3,000.00
Town Clerk	\$14,000.00

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

ARTICLE 18: Motion made and seconded that the Town 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 2022, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Appropriations:**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$5,000.00

**Passed unanimously.**

**Reserves:**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$16,000.00

**Passed unanimously.**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$16,000.00

**Passed unanimously.**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$16,000.00

**Passed unanimously.**

From FY 2022 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$95,000.00

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 19: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2022 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows.

Program or Purpose	FY 2022 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 20: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer the sum of \$38,696.00, as appropriated under Article 21 at the Annual Town Meeting held on Monday, May 20, 2019, for the purposes of demolishing and removing a Town-owned uninhabitable structure located at 149 South Chesterfield Road, to the Capital Stabilization account. The total funds appropriated thereunder were not necessary for the purposes allocated and remain unused.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 21: Motion made and seconded that the Town transfer the sum of \$24,646.21, as appropriated under Article 8 at the Special Town Meeting held on Monday, September 17, 2018, for the purposes of tarping of the roof and the design of a new roof at New Hingham Regional School, to the Capital Stabilization account. The total funds appropriated thereunder were not necessary for the purposes allocated and remain unused.

Note: Majority vote is required.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 22: 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 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 elected Boards or Committees to appoint their own members to subordinate positions.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 23: Motion made and seconded that the Town adopt and accept the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 32B of the *Massachusetts General Laws*, as amended by Section 15 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, establishing an Other Post-Employment Benefits [OPEB] Liability Trust Fund;

To authorize the Treasurer to execute a declaration of trust creating an expendable trust for the purpose of holding monies appropriated to such fund;

To designate the Treasurer as the trustee of such trust;

That the Treasurer/Custodian, as Trustee, be authorized to employ investment consultant(s), as well as outside custodial service(s) to hold the monies in the Fund, and to pay for those services from the OPEB Fund;

To authorize the transfer of any and all monies currently held for the purpose of paying retiree health and life benefits to such trust; and to authorize the trustee to invest and reinvest the monies in such fund in accordance with the Prudent Investor Rule established under Chapter 203C of the *Massachusetts General Laws*.

And, to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$5,000.00, to the OPEB Liability Trust fund for the purpose of covering Other Post Employment Benefits. And, to authorize the Treasurer to expend such monies for this purpose.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Other post-employment benefits (OPEB) are benefits other than pension distributions, that employees may begin to receive from their employer once they retire. Other post-employment benefits can include life insurance, health insurance, and deferred compensation. This is a standard governmental accounting best practice for recording unfunded future liabilities. No funds will be expended until it is fully funded.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 24: Motion made and seconded that the Town amend its General By-laws as follows:  
To amend the date of the *Annual Town Caucus*, currently the third Monday in March to the second Monday of April;

To amend the date of the *Annual Town Meeting*, currently the third Monday in May to the third Saturday of May;

To amend the date of the *Annual Town Election*, currently held on the first Saturday in May to the first Saturday of June.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This is to adjust the date of the Annual Town Election to always follow the Annual Town Meeting so that the current experienced elected officials are in office during the entire preparation process leading up to the Annual Town Meeting. Moving the Annual Town Meeting to Saturday will also allow more voters to participate.

**Passed unanimously.**

ARTICLE 25: Motion made and seconded that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation in the form set forth below; and provided further that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court, and that the Board of Selectmen is authorized to approve amendments which shall be within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition.

An Act Relative to the Select Board of the Town of Goshen:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, the executive body of the town of Goshen, previously known as the Board of Selectmen, shall be known as the Select Board and shall have the powers and authority of a Board of Selectmen under any general or special law; provided, that the members of the Select Board, previously known as Selectmen, shall be known as Select Board members

SECTION 2. The General and Zoning By-laws of the Town of Goshen are hereby amended by striking out the words "Board of Selectmen", each time they appear, and inserting in place thereof, in each instance, the following words: Select Board.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: This article will remove gender-specific naming conventions related to the Town's governing body. Subsequent to passage at the Annual Town Meeting the article is to be forwarded to our State Senator and State Representative for sponsorship to pass in the state legislature. If successfully passed and signed into law the town will be notified.

**Passed by requisite majority.**

Robert Labrie talked about the upcoming auction of the Williams-Boltwood House, located at 2 Williams Drive, and urged residents to speak to him afterward if they were interested in hearing more about the historic property.

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 11:15am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle  
Town Clerk