

**TOWN OF GOSHEN
FIELD BEHIND TOWN OFFICES**

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
Saturday, May 21, 2022**

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m., a quorum being present and 38 voters signed in. The meeting was held under a tent in the field behind town offices, due to ongoing Covid-19 pandemic precautions.

Moderator Keith Wright recognized the Goshen residents who passed away since the last annual town meeting:

- Margaret Papineau
- Margaret Waggoner
- James Russell Sr.
- John Somes
- Chet Lulek
- DiAnne Mimitz
- Lawrence Packard
- Gary Constantilos

Margaret Waggoner, Chet Lulek and Lawrence Packard collectively gave decades of service to our town. 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 authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$6,768.65 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	\$489.75	\$6,768.65

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 2/3rds vote.

ARTICLE 2: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$22,674.00 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	\$674.00	\$22,674.00

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is the 3rd of 10 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 \$11,525.01 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	\$833.91	\$11,525.01

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 unanimously.

ARTICLE 4: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Treasurer to expend from the Capital Stabilization Account the sum of \$9,853.60 for the payment of the principal and interest on the Yanmar YT235 tractor.

Yanmar YT235 Tractor	Principal	Interest	Total Payment
2021	\$8,720.00	\$1,133.60	\$9,853.60

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 unanimously.

ARTICLE 5: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$332,223.13 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 by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 6: Motion made and seconded to authorize the Select Board to acquire by purchase, gift, or eminent domain, a fee simple interest in a portion of property as shown on a plan entitled “approval not required plan of land” prepared by Holmberg & Howe, Inc, dated May 2022 and located at assessor’s map 5, lot 97 and described in a deed recorded with the Hampshire Registry of Deeds in book 5514, page 50, on such terms and conditions as the Select Board deems appropriate, with the care, custody and control of said property to be held by the Select Board for general municipal purposes including for Highway Department Building purposes. And, as funding for said acquisition, to transfer from free cash, a sum of \$15,000 to acquire the property described herein. And further, to authorize the Select Board to enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments on behalf of the Town as may be necessary or appropriate to effectuate said acquisition.

Note: 2/3rds vote is required.

Note: This is a one time expense to purchase land for the Highway Department.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 7: Motion made and seconded to transfer from Free Cash, the sum of \$12,000.00, 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 to alleviate the frequency of utility & internet service interruptions. The work would be planned, overseen, and executed by the Tree Warden.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 8: Motion made and seconded 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 (The OPEB trustee) 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. The OPEB Liability Trust Fund was approved by vote at the Annual Town Meeting of June 12, 2021, article 23.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 9: Motion made and seconded to transfer the sum of \$734.87 from Free Cash to the account known as "Bills of Prior Years" for the purpose of payment of FY2021 bills from the following accounts.

Purpose	Amount
Community Eco Power for the disposal of Municipal Solid Waste from the Transfer Station	\$644.00
Ingram books 4 invoices	\$90.87

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

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 10: Motion made and seconded to rescind the debt authorizations for the dates and unissued amounts below.

Original Article & Authority Date	Project or Purpose	Unissued Amount
STM 09/17/2018, Article 1	To fund the landfill cap repair	\$39,664.00
ATM 5/20/2019, Article 16	2019 Ford Super Duty F350 pickup truck	\$6.00
ATM 6/03/2021, Article 6	2021 Highway Department Yanmar Tractor	\$6,400.00

Note: A majority vote is required.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 11: Motion made and seconded to raise and appropriate such sums of money as may be necessary to defray the charges from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023 for the maintenance and operation of the Town.

Note: Majority vote is required.

General Government

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$478,880.00 for General Government

Passed unanimously.

Public Safety

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$237,622.00 for Public Safety.

Passed unanimously.

Public Works

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$482,778.00 for Public Works.

Passed unanimously.

Public Health & Sanitation

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$88,870.00 for Public Health & Sanitation.

Passed unanimously.

Community Services

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$100,321.00 for Community Services.

Passed unanimously.

Pensions and Insurance

The motion was made and seconded to raise \$191,231.00 for Pensions and Insurance

Passed unanimously.

Education

The motion was made and seconded to raise **\$1,670,583.00** for Education.

Passed by requisite majority.

Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund

The motion was made and seconded to raise **\$115,000.00** for the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund.

Passed by requisite majority.

Total Debt Exclusion

The motion was made and seconded to raise **\$57,511.00** for Total Debt Exclusion.

Passed by requisite majority.

The motion was made and seconded to raise and appropriate **\$3,422,796.00** for sums of money as may be necessary to defray the Town charges from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023, and to vote to set all Town budgets.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 12: Motion made and seconded to accept the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, Section 53F½ to establish the Goshen MLP High Speed Internet Operations as an enterprise fund for fiscal year 2023, effective July 1, 2022.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: Enterprise Fund is the recommended accounting methodology for Municipal Light Plants (MLPs) by the Massachusetts Department of revenue and the Massachusetts Division of Local Services.

Passed by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 13: Motion made and seconded to approve the Goshen MLP High Speed Internet Operations Fund budget for fiscal year 2023. The MLP budget is to be funded from MLP subscriber fees and \$26,100 from CAFII federal grant funds.

Note: Majority vote is required.

Discussion: Town Counsel provided additional wording for this motion and it was read and appended to the original article wording as follows: “I move to appropriate \$375,466 for the Goshen MLP High Speed Internet Operations Fund budget for fiscal year 2023 and to fund said enterprise appropriate \$26,100 from CAFII Federal Grant Funds and the remainder from MLP subscriber fees.”

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 14: Motion made and seconded to 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 by requisite majority.

ARTICLE 15 Motion made and seconded to fix the salaries and hourly rates of all compensated elected officers of the Town for fiscal year 2023 as indicated by M.G.L. Chapter 41, Section 108.

ELECTED POSITION	COMPENSATION
Board of Assessors	\$2,438.67
Moderator	\$182.00
Select Board, Chair	\$5,150.00
Select Board, Vice Chair	\$4,120.00
Select Board, Clerk	\$3,090.00
Town Clerk	\$17,680.00

Note: Majority vote is required.

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 16: Motion made and seconded 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 2023, with each item to be considered a separate appropriation:

Note: Majority vote is required.

Note: These figures are based on the estimated FY2023 real estate tax Community Preservation Act surcharge commitments plus a 100% match from the state, allocated by a prescribed formula of 5% to Administrative expenses, 10% percent to Historic Resources, 10% to Open Space, 10% to Community Housing, and 65% to Budgeted Reserve.

Appropriations:

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Committee Administrative Expenses \$8,500.00

Passed unanimously.

Reserves:

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Historic Resources Reserve \$17,000.00

Passed unanimously.

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Community Housing Reserve \$17,000.00

Passed unanimously.

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Open Space Reserve \$17,000.00

Passed unanimously.

From FY 2023 estimated revenues for Budgeted Reserve \$110,000.00

Passed unanimously.

ARTICLE 17: Motion made and seconded that the Town vote pursuant to M.G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to set Fiscal Year 2023 spending limits for the Revolving Funds as follows.

Program or Purpose	FY 2023 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 18: Motion made and seconded 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 by requisite majority.

Annual Town Election candidates were invited to briefly introduce themselves and tell the assembled crowd a bit about who they are.

Lorraine Brisson from the Open Space Committee talked about the committee’s “Reimagine Goshen Center” initiative, and invited everyone to a forum on July 20th at the town hall.

Evelyn Kellogg-Culver invited everyone to attend the 100^{year} celebration of the Women's Club on May 22nd.

There being no other business to come before the Town, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn at 10:45am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen M. Estelle
Town Clerk