

Town of Goshen
BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday March 27, 2024

CALL to ORDER: Vice Chairperson Ned Bixler called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Attendance: Vice Chairperson Ned Bixler, Paul Collins, Scott Tillmann, Robert Valentine, Russell Murdock (alternate) and First Selectman Todd Carusillo. Excused: Chairman Allan Walker and Jim Korner

Bob Valentine made a motion to seat Russell Murdock; it was seconded by Scott Tillmann and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Others: William Gelormino, President of the Fire Company. Fire Chief Barry Hall

APPROVAL of MINUTES: A motion was made by Bob Valentine, seconded by Scott Tillmann, and voted unanimously to receive the minutes of February 28, 2024, with amendments as follows: Tax collector last paragraph - *Squash* pipes rather than *wash* pipes. **The motion was unanimously adopted.**

Thank you to Barbara Breor for a very complete and quick reply to the Board of Finance questions regarding town clerk fees.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: The board received and reviewed Financial Reports from Debbie Franklin dated 02/29/2024.

TAX COLLECTORS REPORT: The board received and reviewed the Tax Collector's report dated 02/29/2024. Bob Valentine motioned to receive the report, Paul Collins seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET PROJECTION REVIEW:

The following budgets were presented for review and receipt by the Board of Finance. Wages will be adjusted later.

BUILDING OFFICIAL - DEPARTMENT 05

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$ 81,101.00 Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$ 71,746.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Scott Tillmann seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Capital Expenditures request 2024-2025 \$ 42,880.00

Telephone Servies (CEN) \$ 7,380.00 to be removed from capital expenditures and included in operating expense.

Revised capital budget to be submitted.

ANIMAL CONTROL FUND BUDGET- DEPARTMENT 18

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$ 13,000.00 Proposed budget 2024/2025 \$14,000.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Scott Tillmann seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

BOARD OF FINANCE - DEPARTMENT 10

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$16,812.00 Proposed budget 2024/2025 \$16,812.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Scott Tillmann seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

CEMETERIES - DEPARTMENT 56

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$ 8,475.00 Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$ 6,775.00

Taxpayer Liability 2023/2024 \$4,072.00 Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$ 2,672.00

Scott Tillmann motioned to receive the budget, Russel Murdock seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Todd Carusillo to investigate why the costs are reduced.

FIRE PROTECTION - DEPARTMENT 26

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$ 109,691.00 Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$ 108,605.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Russell Murdock seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Fire fighter apparel in operation is day to day purchase for repairs and replacements. Turn out gear under capital is to accumulate funds for larger purchases.

Capital Expenditures request 2024-2025 \$ 373,000.00.

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Scott Tillmann seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Boiler replacement \$30,000 as quoted by L&L for a 7-section boiler. The Town Hall boiler was recently replaced at \$13,000 for a 5-section boiler, in comparison, the quote seems high. More quotes will be obtained.

Performing a needs assessment with an independent outside service is expected to cost \$20,000 -\$40,000. The Board of Finance recommended to Todd Carusillo that the Board of Selectman create an independent town committee with volunteers to perform the needs assessment for both Public Work and the Fire Company. The Board of Finance highly recommends taking the time to do a thorough job and improving communications to the town.

Fire Truck Replacement of \$ 150,000.00 is a continuous appropriation for the replacement of vehicles on a rotating schedule. The projected cost of the next new fire truck, required nine years from now, would be about one million, five hundred thousand dollars. The town will need to replace an ambulance in two years and the expected cost is about \$350,000.

FISCAL OFFICE - DEPARTMENT 04

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$ \$ 66,024.00 Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$70,094.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Bob Valentine seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Accounting Consultant, King and King, is \$35,683.00. Todd Carusillo to investigate having some work done internally to reduce these costs. This budget is tabled until next month.

INSURANCE

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$ 119,630.00 Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$ 118,728.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Scott Tillmann seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

LIBRARY - DEPARTMENT 21

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$ 164,804.00 Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$ 155,037.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Bob Valentine seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Capital Expenditures request 2024-2025 \$1800

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Bob Valentine seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted. .

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES - DEPARTMENT 07

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$24,850.00 Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$ 35,423.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Bob Valentine seconded, and the motion passed unanimously.

Engineering services increased to \$9450.00 as an evaluation of the roads is required to rate the roads, creating a priority list for repairs and replacements. This data goes into the ten year plan and is done every few years.

Town Counsel & Legal Fees \$10,00 due to new boards and commissions members

RESCUE-DEPARTMENT 28

Current Budget 2023/2024 \$ 35,680.00, Proposed Budget 2024/2025 \$ 35,680.00

Paul Collins motioned to receive the budget, Bob Valentine seconded, and the motion was unanimously adopted.

Call numbers have increased due to aging demographic. EMT & EMR refresher courses are being done in house.

SELECTMAN'S REPORT: See Report attached.

MIRA new tipping fee of \$131.00 will start July 1st, 2024. The town is projecting 1725 tons for this past Fiscal Year 2023/2024 which is \$225,975.00. The increase was included in the Recycling budget for the fiscal year of 2024/2025.

Litchfield Chore Services merger with Salisbury Chore are requesting \$2500, up from \$525.00. They are currently servicing three people in Goshen.

Grant money will pay for the costs of the early voting test run.

PUBLIC COMMENT: (2 minutes limit. Names and addresses of the public will be held private and are not part of the published record.)

The Residents who spoke fully support the needs assessment and recommended more communication with the public.

Resident expressed gratitude for the Board of Finance for working closely with other departments and boards. Chore service is an example where a part-time social service person in Goshen could educate residents of the services available and help coordinate services.

Scott Olsen, Selectman, noted that the Fire Company never fully spends their allocations so have earned the right to be trusted.

Bob Valentine stated that the tax burdens falls to the public and budgets must be set as necessary.

The Fire Company was thanked for their continued good work and thoroughness in their budgeting.

CORRESPONDENCE: Correspondence was received and was distributed to the Board of Finance.

Feb 29, 2024, Land Records System

Jan 23, 2024, Torrington Area Health district

March 18, 2024, Sinnamon & Associates auditor appointment

November 28, 2023, Dept of Public Works Needs Assessment Equipment Storage Space Review

March 19-27, 2024, nineteen letters from residents have been recorded in the minutes as an attachment.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURN: Paul Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting Bob Valentine seconded it. The motion was unanimously adopted, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Submitted by



Lee M. Kennedy - Board of Finance Clerk

Received March 29, 2024 11:11 AM

Attest 
Asst. Goshen Town Clerk

March 19th, 2024

Dear Board of Finance,

I am writing first to thank you for your work on the board, for your attention to detail in upholding fiscal responsibility, and ultimately for your role in the protection of taxpayer dollars.

I am writing to request that the Board of Finance consider denial of any request from the First Selectman and Public Works Department for funding of a new Public Works building, until such time that it can be determined, through a non-biased approach, that additional infrastructure is needed and that adequate and substantial public involvement, including meetings and site visits have taken place.

I have been advised at the 20 February 2024 Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting, that a new building proposal will be presented for the land on RT 4, 190 Sharon Turnpike at the next BOS and Planning and Zoning meetings on 27 February 2024. I have also confirmed with the Selectmen that as of 22 February 2024, no needs assessment for public works has been conducted. How can another proposal be put forth, if we have not even determined that new infrastructure is needed?

As a taxpayer of this town, I remain extremely concerned about the lack of effective strategic planning and the lack of transparency in public expenditures held by the First Selectmen in relation to public infrastructure. How much of a tax increase will the taxpayers of Goshen be burdened with because of another building and its associated long-term maintenance?

I am equally concerned with the First Selectman's proposals for excessive expenditures, not only on the proposal for a public works facility and its associated long-term maintenance, but also committing the town to a particular match amount for a STEAP grant related to the public works proposal. The amount of the match was far above what was required, and far above what other comparable municipalities have committed to for similar projects. All without adequate transparency with the town boards, or the taxpayers of this town.

The following is a list of additional concerns:

- Initially, a piece of equipment was borrowed from the Council of Governments (COG), that was too big to fit in the existing public works building – that was reportedly where the idea for a facility initiated. Poor planning is not a justification for spending hard-earned taxpayer dollars and committing the town to a development it does not want, at a location it wants protected. Is the First Selectman seriously considering new permanent infrastructure to house equipment that is not even owned by the town? Such a proposal will waste substantial taxpayer dollars.

- The population in Goshen is stable and has not shown significant growth over many decades. From 2000-2021, Goshen had an annual population growth rate of 0.81% - Neilberg.com Spending taxpayer dollars on an additional public works building based on the assumption that the population of Goshen “might one day” increase dramatically, is not justifiable.
- It is permissible to store many pieces of equipment outside & it is questionable whether a building is needed.
- Developing on undeveloped land is more costly than locating a development in existing footprints, such as the existing public works site. On page 25 of the existing Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD), it states the following: “It appears there is considerable satisfaction with the current town facilities and services” ... The Plan of Conservation and Development further states: “Accordingly, any decision to change or improve a municipal service or facility will involve considerable public discussion prior to a formal proposal.” There has been a consistent lack of transparency from the First Selectman regarding the public works proposals, which is in direct conflict with the recommendations of the POCD.

Additionally, page 28 of the POCD states the following for both Public Works and Fire Department existing locations: “Room for expansion is available”, and “The property has area available for additional expansion if necessary.” Purchasing and proposing infrastructure at 190 Sharon Turnpike was and is in direct conflict with the recommendations of the approved POCD.

I further respectfully request that you use extra caution and scrutiny with any further requests made to this committee, given the circumstances under which the public works situation has been handled.

Please enter this letter into public record.

Respectfully submitted,

Marissa L. Wright
226 Sharon Turnpike
Goshen, CT 06756

March 26, 2024

Lawrence Berger
85 Shelbourne Drive
Goshen, CT 06756

Dear Board of Finance,

I am writing about the funds being requested to build a new storage facility on Route 4, at 190 Sharon Turnpike.

Specifically, I am writing to request that the Board of Finance **DENY** the Board of Selectman's request to fund a new building until it can be determined that additional infrastructure is needed, that no other location is viable, and that adequate public discussion has taken place.

As Town residents since 2008, we remain extremely concerned about this project. Despite a petition of over 200+ signatures from concerned citizens, objections raised at various official meetings, and many letters being written, our Selectmen continue to advance this project.

Questions and concern remain unaddressed. Here is a partial list:

- Questionable need: For both Public Works and the Fire Department, the POCD states that for existing locations "room for expansion is available", and "the property has area available for additional expansion if necessary." Proposing infrastructure at 190 Sharon Turnpike contradicts the recommendations of the approved POCD.
- Location/Expense: Building on undeveloped land is costlier than expanding existing footprints, such as the existing Public Works site. Why commit a town to match a STEAP grant which only offers short term benefit without considering the expense of a new building and its associated long-term maintenance?
- Environmental Impact: The impact on quality of life of neighbors, impact on adjacent wetlands, and need for preservation of open land have not been fully considered.
- Fiscal Prudence: The population of Goshen is stable and has not shown significance growth over many decades. From 2000-2021, Goshen had an annual population growth rate of less than 1%. Spending taxpayers' dollars on an additional Public Works building based on the assumption that the population of Goshen "might one day" increase dramatically, is not justifiable.

We thank you for your work on the Board, for your attention to detail in upholding fiscal responsibility, and ultimately for your role in the protection of taxpayers' dollars.

We respectfully request that you use extra caution and scrutiny, before committing the Town to this proposal. This is a development that the Town does not want, at a location that should be protected, to store equipment that can be housed elsewhere.

Thank you,
Lawrence Berger and Gena R Greher
85 Shelbourne Drive
Goshen, CT 06756

NOTE: Please enter this letter into the public record.



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

FW: Form submission from: Contact Us

1 message

Virginia Perry <adminassistant@goshenct.gov>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 4:41 PM

Please forward this to the BOF Board. Thank you.

From: Goshen CT via Goshen CT <cmsmailer@civicplus.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 3:47 PM
To: adminassistant <adminassistant@goshenct.gov>
Subject: Form submission from: Contact Us

Submitted on Monday, March 25, 2024 - 3:46pm
Submitted by anonymous user: 68.194.161.215
Submitted values are:

What does this comment regard: General Comments to The Town
Please include any questions or comments:
March 25th, 2024

Dear Board of Finance,

I am writing first to thank you for your work on the board, for your attention to detail in upholding fiscal responsibility, and for your role in the protection of taxpayer dollars.

I am writing to request that the Board of Finance consider denial of any request from the First Selectman and Public Works Department for funding of a new Public Works building or any other construction at 190 Sharon Turnpike. Can we look at other options, such as constructing any such Public Works building (if determined, through a non-biased approach, that additional infrastructure is needed) at the fairgrounds?

I would also like the parcel at 190 Sharon Turnpike donated or sold at Fair Market Value to the Goshen Land Trust or other conservancy group, so that they can then apply for state Open Space Watershed Acquisition (OSWA) grants.

Please enter this letter into public record.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer and Ricardo Ortiz
[71B Bartholomew Hill Road](#)
[Goshen, CT 06756](#)

==Please provide the following information==

Name: Jennifer Ortiz
Email Address: jenniferortiz@optonline.net
Address: [71B Bartholomew Hill Road](#)
City: Goshen
State: Connecticut
Zip: 06756
Phone: 8603099552
Organization:

The results of this submission may be viewed at:
<https://www.goshenct.gov/node/1980/submission/11311>



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Taxpayer Concerns re: Proposed Building on Rt 4

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:10 PM

I don't see your name on this email, but I may have missed it.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: rhonda hurwitz <rhondahurwitz1@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 5:57 PM

Subject: Taxpayer Concerns re: Proposed Building on Rt 4

To: <spindlebrookfarm@yahoo.com>, <ned@bixler411.com>, <goshengonzogazette@gmail.com>, <bvalentine221@gmail.com>, <jtkorner@me.com>, <scotthth@optonline.net>, <p2collins@gmail.com>

March 25, 2024

Dear Board of Finance,

I am writing about the funds being requested to build a new storage facility on RT 4, at 190 Sharon Turnpike.

Specifically, I am writing to request that the Board of Finance DENY the Board of Selectmen's request to fund a new building, until it can be determined that additional infrastructure is needed, that no other location is viable, and that adequate public discussion has taken place.

As a town resident, I remain extremely concerned about this project. Despite a petition of over 200+ signatures from concerned citizens, objections raised at various official meetings, and many letters being written, our Selectmen continue to advance this project.

Many questions and concerns remain unaddressed. Here is a partial list:

Questionable Need: For both Public Works and the Fire Department, the POCD states that for existing locations: "Room for expansion is available", and "The property has area available for additional expansion if necessary." Proposing infrastructure at 190 Sharon Turnpike contradicts the recommendations of the approved POCD.

Location/Expense: Building on undeveloped land is costlier than expanding existing footprints, such as the existing public works site. And, why commit the town to match a STEAP grant which only offers a short-term benefit, without considering the full expense of a new building and its associated long-term maintenance.

Environmental Impact: The impact on quality of life of neighbors, as well as impact on adjacent wetlands, and need for preservation of open space has not been fully considered.

Fiscal Prudence: The population in Goshen is stable and has not shown significant growth over many decades. From 2000-2021, Goshen had an annual population growth rate of less than 1%. Spending taxpayer dollars on an additional public works building based on the assumption that the population of Goshen "might one day" increase dramatically, is not justifiable.

Thank you for your work on the board, for your attention to detail in upholding fiscal responsibility, and ultimately for your role in the protection of taxpayer dollars.

I respectfully request that you use extra caution and scrutiny, before committing the town to this proposal. This is a development that the town does not want, at a location that should be protected, to store equipment that can be housed elsewhere. Thank you,

Rhonda Hurwitz

[125 Wellsford Drive](#)

Goshen, CT 06756

NOTE: Please enter this letter into the public record.

Rhonda Hurwitz

C: [914.645.8449](tel:914.645.8449)

E: rhondahurwitz1@gmail.com



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: 190 Sharon Turnpike

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 1:22 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: jmachoooper@optimum.net jmachoooper@optimum.net <jmachoooper@optimum.net>

Date: Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 10:09 AM

Subject: Fwd: 190 Sharon Turnpike

To: <p2collins@gmail.com>, <adwalkersr@gmail.com>, <spindlebrookfarm@yahoo.com>, <ned@bixler411.com>, <goshengonzogazette@gmail.com>, <bvalentine221@gmail.com>, <jtkorner@me.com>, <jmachoooper@optonline.net>

Friends:

It has come to my attention that the First Selectman is going to propose several items related to his request for a building on land at 190 Sharon Turnpike.

As many town Boards already know, the subject of this building and the process whereby the land and STEAP grant were obtained remains a little murky. It is my understanding that the concept of building on this plot was put on "pause" last November with the proviso that there be a thorough needs study as well as assessment as to the cost of this project. Since then, the Fire Department withdrew its interest in such a building. However, the Public Works Director with support from several Selectmen has decided to move forward in theory to protect the grant, but with an emphasis on getting the new building project implemented asap.

I would hope that any decision by the Board of Finance considers all of the factors before making a decision which will affect all of us. **It would be wise to actually delay any funding decision pending more information.**

Finally, any decision about the 190 Sharon Turnpike project should be presented and discussed and voted upon at a Town Meeting. Thank you.

Sincerely, Janet M, Hooper

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy A32 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: BOF Correspondence Regarding 190 Sharon Turnpike

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:22 PM

Please see below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Sarah Ruby** <sarahmeganruby@yahoo.com>

Date: Sun, Mar 24, 2024 at 5:02 PM

Subject: BOF Correspondence Regarding 190 Sharon Turnpike

To: adwalkers@gmail.com <adwalkers@gmail.com>, spindlebrookfarm@yahoo.com <spindlebrookfarm@yahoo.com>, ned@bixler411.com <ned@bixler411.com>, goshengonzogazette@gmail.com <goshengonzogazette@gmail.com>, bvalentine221@gmail.com <bvalentine221@gmail.com>, jtkorner@me.com <jtkorner@me.com>, scotthth@optonline.net <scotthth@optonline.net>, p2collins@gmail.com <p2collins@gmail.com>

March

24th, 2024

Dear Board of Finance Members,

I'm writing to express my concern regarding funding any projects at 190 Sharon Turnpike.

On May 9th, 2023, Todd proposed the appropriation of funds to purchase of 190 Sharon Turnpike. He presented the information to us all at special town meeting. During that meeting, Todd explained that this land would be for a storage building to benefit the fire company and public works. Todd asked the room of slightly over 100 people, 'what is a life worth?', when making his case. Pulling at the heartstrings of this community to vote in favor of the land purchase.

He assured us that the fire company needed more room in order to save us if we were in need. Concerns were raised at that meeting regarding the future building, how much it would cost, would there be solar panels, what would happen to the animal species on that parcel, were the needs of both the fire company and public works going to be met, how would the town handle the fluctuating wetlands moving forward? Not many of the questions were answered, but Todd led us to believe that YES, this purchase was a necessity. For us all not to worry about future costs, he would get a grant. The vote was 78 Yes, 38 No. The land would be bought.

If the fire company plans to build an addition on their own property as of this date, one could argue that the original purchase should be null and void. It was not a 'good buy' as Todd continues to state, but a purchase filled with deceit and lies from our first selectman. When the initial building drawings were presented to the building committee, they had zero stipulations for the fire company. That should have been a red flag for us all. It wasn't slated to be a cold storage facility; it would be the new public works facility - to plan for 100 years from now. What the towns people voted on, is NOT what is happening now. The disorganization, back and forth dealings, closed door meetings and mismanagement of grant money in the First Selectman's office, is disheartening to say the least.

Concerns have been raised for months regarding what the future holds at 190 Sharon Turnpike. Where are the needs assessments that were slated to be done? Todd has told us that the property will be 'conserved for the future' because of its central location, but within the same month, Garrett Harlow was OK'ed by the Board of Selectman to resubmit an application for a different building. Why is there such confusion?

I am passionate about this subject because 190 Sharon Turnpike will directly affect my family and property if a building is constructed there. Throughout my journey with this subject thus far, I have been told that 'this is going to happen' and 'we need to secure the grant.' I've been told 'you're making enemies in this town' and 'neighbors always complain'. I am simply writing to point out the following: 1. what the town voted FOR in May is NOT what is happening now 2. The STEAP grant has multiple mistakes and is riddled with incorrect and incomplete information, 3. the disorganization of this project as a whole is blatantly obvious for those who are paying attention and 4. The town's POCD is not being followed, since it clearly states there is room for expansion at the current public works property and the fire company.

This project should be paused indefinitely, without any further funding. We deserve better as taxpayers.

Thank you for your time, I do greatly appreciate you reading this letter.

Sincerely,

Sarah Leonard
[22 School Hill Road](#)
[Goshen CT 06756](#)



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: BOS proposal for building on Rt 4 Property

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:18 PM

Please see below.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joyce Mowrey** <joyce.mowrey@gmail.com>

Date: Sun, Mar 24, 2024 at 1:18 PM

Subject: BOS proposal for building on Rt 4 Property

To: <adwalkersr@gmail.com>, <spindlebrookfarm@yahoo.com>, <ned@bixler411.com>, <goshengonzogazette@gmail.com>, <bvalentine221@gmail.com>, <jtkorner@me.com>, <scotthth@optonline.net>, Paul Collins <p2collins@gmail.com>

Dear Goshen Board of Finance,
I request that you make this letter a part of the public record.

I understand that the Board of Selectmen are presenting to you a proposal for a building on the town's new route 4 property to store Public Works equipment. I oppose this proposal for the following reasons:

- The site for the proposed building is very close to a watershed. Any building/parking lot will negatively impact the watershed's ability to purify water due to runoff. We have a responsibility as Goshen residents to protect the purity of the water we have. All water runs downhill from Goshen so anything we do near our watersheds impacts us and the residents in the towns that surround us.
- Before a town takes on a new building there should be a Needs Assessment completed by an objective entity for the public to view in order to determine whether tax dollars should be spent. Where is the Needs Assessment for this proposal?
- Goshen isn't growing remarkably. Our population has maintained at or very near our current number for a long time. There is no information leading us to think it will grow. In fact, with a median age 11 years older than the state average Goshen is more likely to decrease in population in the coming years. Why do we need to expand our Public Works department to another site?
- Any building requires maintenance into the future. This project would add not just the cost of the building and required infrastructure, but parking lot, exterior and interior building maintenance into the future adding cost to our Public Works budget that seems needless.

I appreciate all the work the Board of Finance does for Goshen and trust you will make sound decisions for us and Goshen's future.

Sincerely,

Joyce Mowrey

54 Four Winds Road



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Funding for Development on Rt. 4

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 1:20 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Tarsa, Lisa NES Teacher - Guidance** <tarsal@newmilfordps.org>
Date: Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 10:57 AM
Subject: Funding for Development on Rt. 4
To: <ned@bixler411.com>

Mar 26, 2024

Dear Board of Finance Members,

I am writing to request that you deny funding for development on the RT 4, 190 Sharon Turnpike property. I am requesting that the development *not* be funded until taxpayers are informed of how the following concerns are being addressed:

The real need for a new building.

How the expense of the proposed building will impact our taxes.

Impact on neighbors and neighboring wetlands.

The need for preservation of open space.

The need for a transparent process.

Exploration of alternate locations or expansion of current facilities.

At various town meetings residents have expressed concerns, and more than 200 signatures have been added to a petition protesting this development. Please consider these voices of our community.

Please make this correspondence part of the Board's record.

Thank you,

Lisa Tarsa



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: FW: Communication to BoF

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:17 PM

To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Please see below...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Robin Christopher** <robinchristopher@hotmail.com>

Date: Sat, Mar 23, 2024 at 5:42 PM

Subject: FW: Communication to BoF

To: jtkorner@me.com <jtkorner@me.com>, bvalentine221@gmail.com <bvalentine221@gmail.com>, p2collins@gmail.com <p2collins@gmail.com>, spindbrookfarm@yahoo.com <spindbrookfarm@yahoo.com>, goshengonzogazette@gmail.com <goshengonzogazette@gmail.com>, scotthth@optonline.net <scotthth@optonline.net>, adwalkersr@gmail.com <adwalkersr@gmail.com>, ned@bixler411.com <ned@bixler411.com>

Good evening,

I am resending this email because I do not see a record of it on the BoF agenda/documentation for the upcoming meeting.

Respectfully, Robin Christopher

Sent from my Galaxy

----- Original message -----

From: Robin Christopher <robinchristopher@hotmail.com>

Date: 2/28/24 2:04 PM (GMT-05:00)

To: adwalkersr@gmail.com, spindbrookfarm@yahoo.com, ned@bixler411.com, goshengonzogazette@gmail.com, bvalentine221@gmail.com, jtkorner@me.com, scotthth@optonline.net, p2collins@gmail.com

Subject: Communication to BoF

February 28, 2024

Dear Board of Finance,

I am writing first to thank you for your work on the board, for your attention to detail in upholding fiscal responsibility, and ultimately for your role in the protection of taxpayer dollars. I am writing to request that the Board of Finance consider denial of any request from the First Selectman and the Department of Public Works for funding of a new Public Works building, until such time that it can be determined, through a non-biased approach, that additional infrastructure is needed.

At the February 27th Selectmen's meeting, I inquired as to the status of the needs assessment from Public Works and the Fire Departments. In addition, I inquired about the search for appropriate alternate locations and/or the site visits for both the Fire Department and Public Works, all were agreed upon in the Fall of 2023. At the same BoS meeting, though not on the publicly available agenda, preliminary information was shared regarding a modification to the building proposal for the land on RT 4, 190 Sharon Turnpike. I understand, per Scott Olson's explanation, that this is a "just a formality" as the STEAP Grant is time-sensitive. However, I wonder how and why money will be spent on a modified plan and another proposal be put forth, if we have not even determined that new infrastructure is needed?

As a taxpayer of this town, I remain extremely concerned about the lack of effective strategic planning, the lack of transparency and the cavalier approach to public expenditures held by the Selectmen in relation to

public infrastructure. How much of a tax increase will the taxpayers of Goshen be burdened with because of another building and its associated long-term maintenance?

I am equally concerned with the First Selectman's proposals for excessive expenditures, not only on the proposal for a public works facility and its associated long-term maintenance, but also committing the town to a particular match amount for a grant. The amount of the match was far above what was required, and far above what other comparable municipalities have committed to for similar projects. All without adequate transparency with the town boards, or the taxpayers of this town.

One of my regular concerns is that nothing is actually listed on the Agenda for the Selectmen's meetings. For each meeting, the template is repeated and no actual line items are included therefore, citizens cannot possibly know what is going to be addressed and if they need to make a special effort to attend or prepare comments.

I respectfully request that you use extra caution and scrutiny with any further requests made to this committee, given the circumstances under which the land purchase and public works situation has been handled.

Please enter this letter into public record.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Christopher
166 Sharon Turnpike
Goshen, CT 06756



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Helene Wright Letter to Board of Finance

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:11 PM

Another letter..

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Helene Wright** <hwright1253@yahoo.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 3:20 PM

Subject: Helene Wright Letter to Board of Finance

To: <adwalkersr@gmail.com>, <spindlebrookfarm@yahoo.com>, <ned@bixler411.com>,
<goshengonzogazette@gmail.com>, <bvalentine221@gmail.com>, <jtkorner@me.com>, <scotthth@optonline.net>,
<p2collins@gmail.com>

Good Afternoon,

Please find my letter opposing the funding for a building on Route 4.

Thank you for your time,

Sincerely,

Helene Wright
71 Bartholomew Hill Road
Goshen, CT**Helene Wright Letter to Board of Finance March 24rd 2024.docx**

14K



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Letter for up coming Finance meeting

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 6:12 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Susan Killmer** <skillmer@snet.net>

Date: Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 2:00 PM

Subject: Letter for up coming Finance meeting

To: <adwalkersr@gmail.com>, <spindlebrookfam@yahoo.com>, <ned@bixler411.com>

March 25, 2024

Dear Board of Finance,

We are writing to request that the Board of Finance consider denial of any request from the First Selectman and the Public Works Dept. for funding of a new Public Works building until such time that it can be determined through a non-biased approach that additional infrastructure is needed and that adequate and substantial public involvement, including meetings and site visits have taken place.

We have been advised that a new building proposal was presented for the land on Rt 4, 190 Sharon Tpke at the BOS and Planning and Zoning meeting on February 27, 2024. We also heard that it was confirmed with the Selectmen that as of February 22, 2024, no needs assessment for public works has been conducted. How can another proposal be put forth, if it is not even determined that new infrastructure is needed?

As taxpayers of this town, we remain extremely concerned about the lack of effective strategic planning and the lack of transparency in public expenditures held by the First Selectman in relation to public infrastructure. How much of an increase will the taxpayers of Goshen be burdened with because of another building and it's long-term maintenance? We are also concerned with the First Selectmen's proposals for excessive expenditures, not only on the proposal for Public Works Facility and it's associated long-term maintenance, but also for the STEAP grant related to the Public Works proposal. The amount of the match was far above what was required, and far above what other comparable towns have committed to for similar projects. All without adequate transparency with the town boards or the taxpayers.

We further request that you use extra caution with any further requests made to this committee, given the circumstances under which the Public Works situation has been handled.

Please enter into public record.

Lee & Susan Killmer
[182 Sharon Tpke](#)
Goshen, CT 06756



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Letter regarding potential RT 4 development

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 7:28 AM

Another letter.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Kristen Wright** <kmwright1018@icloud.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 9:23 PM

Subject: Letter regarding potential RT 4 development

To: <adwalkersr@gmail.com>, <spindlebrookfarm@yahoo.com>, <ned@bixler411.com>,
<goshengonzogazette@gmail.com>, <bvalentine221@gmail.com>, <jtkorner@me.com>, <scotthth@optonline.net>,
<p2collins@gmail.com>**Kristen Lanese Letter to Board of Finance March 23rd 2024.docx**

14K



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Public works

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 7:30 AM

For you..

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Joyce LaKamp** <joycedlakamp@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Mar 25, 2024 at 10:41 PM

Subject: Public works

To: <adwalkersr@gmail.com>, <spindlebrookfarm@yahoo.com>, <ned@bixler411.com>,
<goshengonzogazette@gmail.com>, <bvalentine221@gmail.com>, <jtkorner@me.com>, <scotthth@optonline.net>,
<p2collins@gma>

March 25, 2024

Dear Board of Finance,

This email is regarding the funds being requested to build a new storage facility on RT 4, at 190 Sharon Turnpike. Please DENY the Board of Selectman's request to fund a new building, until it can be determined that additional infrastructure is needed, that no other location is viable, and that adequate public discussion has taken place.

I am extremely concerned about this project. Despite a petition of over 200+ signatures from concerned citizens, objections raised at various official meetings, and many letters being written, our Selectmen continue to advance this project.

Questions and concerns remain unaddressed. Here is a partial list:

- Questionable Need: For both Public Works and the Fire Department, the POCD states that for existing locations: "Room for expansion is available", and "The property has area available for additional expansion if necessary." Proposing infrastructure at 190 Sharon Turnpike contradicts the recommendations of the approved POCD.
- Location/Expense: Building on undeveloped land is costlier than expanding existing footprints, such as the existing public works site. And, why commit the town to match a STEAP grant which only offers a short-term benefit, without considering the full expense of a new building and its associated long-term maintenance.
- Environmental Impact: The impact on quality of life of neighbors, impact on adjacent wetlands, and need for preservation of open space has not been fully considered.
- Fiscal Prudence: The population in Goshen is stable and has not shown significant growth over many decades. From 2000-2021, Goshen had an annual population growth rate of less than 1%. Spending taxpayer dollars on an additional public works building based on the assumption that the population of Goshen "might one day" increase dramatically, is not justifiable.

Thank you for your work on the board, for your attention to detail in upholding fiscal responsibility, and ultimately for your role in the protection of taxpayer dollars.

I respectfully request that you use extra caution and scrutiny, before committing the town to this proposal. This is a development that the town does not want, at a location that should be protected, to store equipment that can be housed elsewhere. Thank you

Joyce and Robert Lakamp

[541 East Hyerdale Drive](#)

[Goshen, Ct 06756](#)

NOTE: Please enter this letter into the public record.

JOYCE LAKAMP

917.838.3875

JoyceDlakamp@gmail.com



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: new New Public Works building proposal

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 9:38 PM

Another letter. Our packet is not yet complete.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Marlow D.J Shami** <marlowshami@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 4:48 PM
Subject: new New Public Works building proposal
To:

March 26, 2024

Dear Board of Finance,

I am writing to request that the Board of Finance consider denial of any request from the First Selectman and Public Works Department for funding of a new Public Works building until such time that it can be determined, through a non-biased approach, that additional infrastructure is needed and that adequate and substantial public involvement, including meetings and site visits has taken place.

As of 22 February 2024, no needs assessment for public works has been conducted. How can another proposal be put forth if we have not determined that new infrastructure is needed?

As a taxpayer of this town, I am concerned about the First Selectmen's lack of transparency in public expenditures on our public infrastructure.

Do you/we know how much of a tax increase the taxpayers of Goshen will finance because of another building and its associated long-term maintenance?

I have so many questions and few clear answers. Our community needs to understand the logic of such an ambitious undertaking with no documentation/studies backing it up. I hope the BOF crew is able to get the answers to the above questions and many more circulating within the community.

I am grateful for the hard work you do to help our town thrive. Thank you!

Please enter this letter into the public record.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlow Shami
97 Pie Hill Rd
Goshen, CT 06756



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Route 4 building project vote

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 8:05 AM

To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

For your records...

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Burton Welte** <burtwelte@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 7:05 AM

Subject: Route 4 building project vote

To: <ned@bixler411.com>

Hi - add my name to the list of those of us agree with the letter sent to you by Rhonda Hurwitz concerning the Route 4 building project. Protecting open space is critical if there are alternatives.
Burton Welte 74 East Hyerdale Drive



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Building Proposal at 190 Sharon Turnpike

1 message

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 4:48 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Wendy Costa** <wendyjcosta@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 2:48 PM
Subject: Building Proposal at 190 Sharon Turnpike
To:

Dear Board of Finance Member,

My name is Wendy Costa. I live at 26 Meadowcrest Dr South in Goshen. I live at 26 Meadowcrest Dr South in Goshen. I am alarmed by the storage building proposal at 190 Sharon Turnpike for the following reasons:

- The significance of wetland properties, needs of all wildlife dependent on it, and our ultimate dependence on our survival on that web of life. That wetland drains into Bantam Lake, which is used for drinking water, recreation, fish and wildlife habitat, and agricultural uses. With additional rainfall as we have been experiencing, the runoff from this development also has the potential to affect the groundwater of the neighboring residents.
- the quality of life of our fellow Goshen citizens when a large building with significant potential traffic is proposed adjacent to them.
- My family and I moved to Goshen for the peace and quiet and the open space, and so do many other people. The rural, unspoiled character of the town is one of the primary aspects that makes Goshen unique. Why is the town administration proposing such a large building on such a pristine site, so close to a wetland AND a Goshen Land Trust preserve? Surely there must be more suitable alternatives in areas that are already developed.
- The proposed building at 190 Sharon Turnpike is not necessary; the space needs of that building can certainly be fulfilled at the current Public Works building on Torrington Road.
- Developing a new site and erecting a new building would also significantly add to taxpayer expense.

- Goshen's population has been stable for many years, and is not projected to rise. Look at the population of the schools- it certainly has not risen and we have a merger with Litchfield coming in July. Why are we about to build an enormous storage building?
- There has been no needs assessment done prior to this proposal. Where is the transparency in this process?
- Some equipment can be stored outdoors with no negative effects.

I ask that you please enter my letter into the public record.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy Costa

26 Meadowcrest Drive South

Goshen, CT 06756

--

Wendy Costa

alternaterealityphotos.com

"Instructions for Living a Life:

Pay Attention.

Be Astonished.

Tell About It."

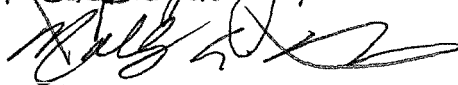
-Mary Oliver, 1935-2019

3/26/2024

Dear Board of Finance;

I am writing to express my opposition to the request by the First Selectman and Public Works Department for funding of a new Public Works Building. As a resident of this beautiful town, I don't feel the necessity of such building has been proven. The matter has been pushed through absent of transparency and consideration of the wishes of the Goshen residents. Especially the bordering land owners.

This is Goshen, "Land of Milk and Honey". The land given to Joseph by God in the Bible. Let's keep it that way.

Respectfully,

Molly A. ESTABROOK
18 SCHOOL HILL ROAD
GOSHEN, CT 06756

03/26/24

ATT: Board of Finance

To the people of the Town of Goshen.

Let us NOT burden ourselves by rushing into an adventure of selfish behavior, to ruin a nice parcel of land. In case nobody is observing the economy, lets have patience before we smother ourselves in Debt. Lets be patience to give this matter over to God with sincere prayer, meanwhile. Lets wait one year for another site suitable for the needs were looking for. The Goshen oil would be a very excellent site.

Sincerely,

Anthony Cocchiola
Anthony Cocchiola
18 School Hill Rd.
Goshen Ct. 06756



Board Of Finance Clerk <bofclerk@goshenct.gov>

Fwd: Storage facility on route 4

Edward Bixler <ned@bixler411.com>
To: Board Of Finance Clerk <BOFClerk@goshenct.gov>

Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 10:44 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Judi Armstrong** <judiarm14@gmail.com>
Date: Wed, Mar 27, 2024 at 10:25 AM
Subject: Storage facility on route 4
To: <ned@bixler411.com>

> To Members of the Board of Finance:

>

> I attended the initial town meeting in May 2023 that called for a vote to purchase land at 190 Sharon Turnpike to build a storage facility at this site.

> I voted NO.

> My concerns then are the same today:

- > * Lack of information regarding the need for a new building
- > * Lack of information regarding specific building specifications
- > * The impact on wetlands and the need for land preservation
- > * The impact on neighbors

>

> I still would vote NO today for the lack of the town to address these concerns

> Many others have devoted time to cite important facts and information at various town meetings that question this acquisition. The town selectmen have not offered adequate facts and information. Process is important!

>

> Our town POCD substantiates concerns about the need for a new building at this location. The POCD states that there is room for expansion at both the existing locations of the Public Works and Fire Departments.

>

> It is my belief that it would be a mistake to proceed any further with a plan to construct a building on this proposed site.

>

> Respectfully submitted,

> Judi Armstrong

> 30 Sherbrook Drive

> Goshen CT

>

>

> Sent from my iPad

>