

TOWN OF GOSHEN  
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION  
FEBRUARY 21, 2012  
M I N U T E S

A work session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 21st day of February, 2012 at Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present:        Douglas Bloomfield     Supervisor  
                 Louis Cappella        Councilman  
                 George Lyons            Councilman  
                 Kenneth Newbold        Councilman

Absent:         Philip Canterino         Councilman  
                 Dennis Caplicki         Attorney for the Town

Also Present:   Matthew Caplicki        Assistant, Attorney for the Town  
                 Priscilla Gersbeck       Deputy Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:30pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1.        PROPERTY RE-VAL PROJECT STATUS REVIEW TO INCLUDE SCHEDULE OF REMAINING ITEMS TO BE COMPLETED**

Assessor, JoAnn Soules presented her Revaluation Report for 2012 to the Board. According to the schedule, Ms. Soules stated that “we are right on target for February”. In March the full disclosure notices will be mailed to each property owner. The full disclosure notice shows the 2011 assessment with the taxes paid on the property and the new assessment with the taxes using the 2011/2012 budget showing what you would have paid if one was assessed at full market value. The taxpayers will have the opportunity to respond to the notice if they have questions about their assessment. Ms. Soules will schedule informal hearings. If needed, the County Office of Real Property Tax Service has offered to provide assistance.

In April, changes will be updated into the computer. These will include the final value maintenance, new construction, data corrections along with value changes as a result of the informal hearings/add senior, vets, agriculture and all new exemptions. The tentative roll will be produced May 1 followed by Grievance Day which will be on May 22. Ms. Soules has submitted a bill (\$6,648.00) to the Co. Real Property Tax Service for the RPSV4 Program photographs taken of properties to complete the revaluation.

In conclusion, Ms. Soules attached a copy of Lisa Chutka’s Certificate of Achievement from the NYS Dept. of Taxation and Finance Office of Real Property Tax Services. She has successfully completed the required courses with a passing score of 96 on her final examination. Mrs. Chutka is now qualified as a State certified candidate for Assessor. Congratulations to Lisa on her achievement. Ms. Soules also commended Francine Niesolowski and Lisa Chutka for their dedicated hard work and assistance in the re-valuation project. Being short staffed, they proved to be a valuable asset to the office.

**2. INFORMATION: THREE (3) POTENTIAL FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECTS HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED TO ORANGE COUNTY GENERAL SERVICES FOR FEMA FUNDING:**

- WALLKILL RIVER (PELLETS ISLAND TO ROUTE 17M)
- STREAM BEHIND MEADOW BROOK LANE
- TWO CULVERTS

Supervisor Bloomfield received a letter from Thomas Pahucki, Or. Co. Legislator, urging the Town Of Goshen to apply to the County for funding to remove the trees from the Walkill River to alleviate flooding in the black dirt area. Each municipality can submit up to three (3) flood mitigation projects. Goshen's first priority is the stream (Otterkill Tributary 12) that runs parallel to the Hambletonian Park development off Craigville Road. This has the highest priority due to the importance of trying to alleviate the flooding to seven (7) homes that are close to this stream. Priority two is to fund a preliminary engineering study to determine if the cutting of trees along the Walkill River might have a deleterious impact to downstream properties and municipalities. Priority three involves inlet and outlet culverts at the intersection of Cedar Swamp Rd. and McKnight Creek. Flooding has eroded the supporting road structure on both sides of the road.

**3. INFORMATION: LEGISLATION IS IN THE NYS ASSEMBLY TO ALLOW MUNICIPALITIES TO ESTABLISH SPEED LIMITS**

Under current law, there are 852 towns in New York State which are prohibited from addressing speed limits issues in their jurisdiction without petitioning the State DOT. This usually takes a long time and often results in a denial. This proposed bill is to amend the vehicle and traffic law, in relation to establishing speed limits in towns. The bill was passed in the NYS Senate on 02/07/2012 and has been delivered to the Assembly. If it is passed, Towns will be able to set speed limits on all local roads in order to ensure public safety.

**4. INFORMATION: STANDARD & POORS LOWERED THE TOWN'S CREDIT RATING FROM AA- TO A+ DUE TO LOW FUND BALANCES**

This particularly applies to Fund A which is the Highway Dept. and the Town Hall. It has nothing to do with procedures or our debt, but strictly by how much money we have in the checking account.

**5. INFORMATION: THE TOWN OF GOSHEN HAS BEEN SELECTED FROM A FEDERALLY FUNDED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT BY ORANGE COUNTY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,500 FOR FY-2012 TO SUPPORT THE GOSHEN ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY, INC.**

Supervisor Bloomfield noted that this is the only one the Town has put in for this year. The Town put in for \$5,000. However, the Community Block grant was reduced by 11%. Therefore, we received \$4,500. In the past we have worked with the Village and received money. This is the first one that we put in for alone and received money.

**6. YEAR END AUDITORS AT THE TOWN HALL THIS PAST WEEK**

Every year we have a year-end audit done of the funds in the Town Hall. In a couple of months we should have the report of each fund balance at the conclusion of this past year. In addition, the courts are being audited. The final audit of the Police Department should be completed by the end of the week.

**7. THE GOSHEN ROTARY CLUB IS REQUESTING APPROVAL TO HOLD 5K AND 10K RACES, JUNE 30, 2012, AS PART OF THE GREAT AMERICAN WEEKEND. THE REQUEST ALSO INCLUDES TWO POLICE OFFICERS TO BE PAID BY THE ROTARY CLUB**

The race will begin on Green Street in the Village of Goshen and follow the traditional race course(s) leaving the Village on Old Chester Road to Goose Pond Road and back for the 5K course, and departing out Craigville Road to knoll Road, and returning on Old Chester, for the 10K course. The race ends in front of the Surrogate Court. It is anticipated that two additional police officers will be requested to assist with traffic control.

Councilman Newbold made the motion to provide two additional police officers to be paid for by the Goshen Rotary Club per last year's arrangement to assist with traffic control. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion: There are many times that the Fire Police are available which might save the Rotary money. Councilman Canterino will work through the details.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed: 4 AYES Bloomfield, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold  
0 NAYS

**8. DISCUSS THE "BUS OPERATOR'S CONTRACT' WITH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE AND AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE SAME**

The Bus Operator contract for 2012 covers the current insurance certificates for liability, workers' compensation and disability. The County of Orange will be listed as a certificate holder and an additional insured on the liability certificate. This contract mirrors last year's contract.

Councilman Newbold made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the Bus Operator annual contract. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilman Cappella inquired as to the contents of the contract. This has nothing to do with the financial aspects of Dial-A-Bus. It pertains to the legalities of the relationship.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed: 4 AYES Bloomfield, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold  
0 NAYS

## **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

None at this time.

**Supervisor Bloomfield** noted that Neal Halloran, Code Enforcement Officer, received a letter today from the Orange County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board. When representatives from different agencies walked along the Walkill River in 2011 they saw debris lining certain areas of the river banks. The letter is requesting that the Town of Goshen inspect this situation and act to enforce any activity in violation of the Town Code. Apparently, the consensus of observation is that the debris is compromising the flood plain and river channel and increasing the potential for stormwater and flood damage to the bordering lands. Mr. Halloran will investigate this situation.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Lyons made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. CSEA Negotiation Status Update
2. Al Turi Litigation Appellate Review
3. Tax Certiorari Status Update
4. Notice Of Claim: Robin Placido VS Towns Of Goshen Dial-A-Bus And Chester Dial-A-Bus
5. Maplewood Stipulation VS DEIS Proposal

with the intent not to return. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cappella. Motion carried.

Time: 8:58PM

---

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk