

This situation is economically unsustainable and thus, the following changes are being proposed:

<u>Fare Proposed</u>	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
Seniors/Handicapped	\$0.50	\$2.00
Standard Fare	\$1.00	\$4.00

Service Hours: 120 hours-6 days per week 68 hours-6 days per week

Supervisor Bloomfield called for comments from the Public.

Many seniors have voiced opinions that “the jump from .50 to \$2.00 is quite-a-bit” stated **Carmen Wooley**, of the Senior Commission. Understandably times are tough, but this will be tougher on the seniors. This will definitely be a hardship on the seniors. Some even have a hard time walking to the bus stop by the Post Office.

Jill Fox occasionally takes the bus. She is asking that the fare not to be raised to the full extent. “There’s no wiggle room in a senior fixed income.” Their rent and utilities are a fixed rate. The fare comes out of their food money. Perhaps a more reasonable compromise rate could be considered. She appreciates the fact that Goshen/Chester does not want to drop the service. If the service were dropped completely, “it would be impossible to live in Orange County and be a senior citizen that didn’t drive.”

Councilman Cappella pointed out that months of countless hours has been spent trying to reduce the fare. Comparing the fares of the Dial-A-Bus to a cab; a fare from the Village of Goshen to Chester Shoprite is \$11.00 one way (\$22.00 round trip) and a cab from the Village of Goshen to Crystal Run Healthcare is \$7.00 (\$14.00 round trip). *[Acknowledging the entrance of Supervisor Steven Neuhaus-Town of Chester]* The people in Chester would face the same cab fares, but reversed: a cab from Chester to Crystal Run Healthcare is \$11.00 one way and a cab from the Village of Chester to Shoprite is \$7.00 one way. “Our goal always-always was that we do not want to do away with this valuable program for our community.” We are trying to make it affordable to everyone. Pertaining to the service, the second bus was added when Hamptonburgh was involved. We will still have one bus full time. Considering that Tuesdays and Thursdays are more active days, an additional bus for four hours will be added.

Marilyn Allen believes that Shoprite is the only store that doesn’t give seniors discounts. Perhaps someone can speak to Shoprite and see if they will help the seniors by subsidizing the bus service.

Supervisor Bloomfield mentioned that he had a conversation with Supervisor Neuhaus about approaching Crystal Run Healthcare and Shoprite to financially contribute to the Dial-A-Bus service. No answers/promises have yet been received.

Supervisor Neuhaus (Town of Chester) stated that he has spoken to Thomas Urtz, Director of Community Relations for Shoprite. Mr. Urtz indicated that consideration is being given to some kind of a discount for the Dial-A-Bus riders. However, he didn’t elaborate.

One of the hardest things that **Shirley Grammas** ever had to do was to give up her car. She frequently uses the Dial-A-Bus service. "I get very good service from them." She questioned whether the added bus on Tuesday and Thursday will be able to go to a variety of places.

Michele Radakovits answered: years ago the Tuesday and Thursday afternoon bus was a fixed run for Northgate and Hearthstone to go to Shoprite. The added four hours on the Tuesday and Thursday bus will still accommodate those fixed runs and will be open for other trips.

Councilman Cappella pointed out that in 2006; over ten-thousand passengers used the Dial-A-Bus service with *one* bus. Therefore, the proposed hours should be no problem.

Supervisor Neuhaus (Town of Chester) thanked the Town of Goshen for handling the administrative workings of the Dial-A-Bus service. There are many other Towns and Villages canceling their bus service. We have made it our number one priority not to cancel this service. It's not an easy decision to raise the rates and make some changes, but we're hoping that we'll get some help from Shoprite and the other big users like Crystal Run Healthcare.

Supervisor Bloomfield acknowledged that the proposed rates are necessary with the rise in fuel costs. The rates will help to offset the operating expenses in order to keep the Dial-A-Bus service running. He thanked the CSEA Union for working with us with the understanding that one of their employees will be affected by the proposed cut in service.

Shelia Kennan inquired whether with the cut in service, would there be a long wait to be picked up from a medical appointment. Michele answered: that it is hard to judge Doctor's appointments. As always we have tried to pick up people as close as possible to the time they request. "The riders are still the most important thing and their safety and their convenience".

Supervisor Bloomfield thanked those who have spent countless hours trying many ways to continue and maintain the Goshen/Chester Dial-A-Bus service; Broderick Knoell, Michele Radakovits, Councilman Cappella and Chester Supervisor Neuhaus.

For the record, one letter of correspondence is on file pertaining to this proposal: Frances A. Sweeney. *[Clerk's addition: Letter received 3/6/2012: Joseph Trischitta]*

Councilman Cappella made the motion to close the Public Hearing on the Goshen-Chester Dial-A-Bus regarding the proposed schedule changes and fare increases. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed: 5 AYES Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold
0 NAYS

Councilman Newbold made the motion to approve the proposed schedule changes and fare increases as presented before the Town Board. Councilman Cappella seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor, Douglas Bloomfield	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, Philip Canterino	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, Louis Cappella	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, Kenneth Newbold	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, George Lyons	<u>AYE</u>		

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 5 to 0__.

It was further decided that the new fare increases and schedule changes will go into effect on April 9, 2012. This will be noticed in the Chronicle newspaper and the Goshen Independent newspaper.

1. SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2012, FOR THE ANNUAL WATER/SEWER MEETING WITH RESIDENTS OF THE TOWN WATER/SEWER DISTRICTS.

Supervisor Bloomfield originally intended that the Public Hearing be on March 28. However, the Budget Officer isn't sure if he will have the year-end balances of the accounts ready. *Historically*, the public hearing for this topic has always been held on a Wednesday so as not to conflict with the array of meetings held on the other nights.

Councilman Canterino made the motion to set a Public Hearing for Wednesday, April 11, 2012 to be held at 41 Webster Ave. at 7:30PM or soon thereafter, for the annual water/sewer meeting with the residents of the Town water/sewer districts to include any potential rate increases/decreases and activities planned for the next twelve months. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed: 5 AYES Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold
0 NAYS

2. REVIEW STATUS OF EXPANDING HAMBLETONIAN PARK WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT, DEDICATION OF LAND AND ASSOCIATED CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (Parcels A & B)

Attorney Caplicki is reviewing the documents. It was made known to him, that the project will break ground this spring. The schedule remains the same, beginning off of South Street with seventeen houses and going straight through to Heritage. The documents should be ready for the next Board meeting.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE GOSHEN CORP. TAX CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT PROPOSAL

Attorney Caplicki stated that of the eight parcels, two are withdrawn and six are settled. We are waiting for the paper work from their Attorney.

4. DISCUSS YOUNG'S GROVE (REIGER HOMES) WATER AND SEWER DISTRICTS

Supervisor Bloomfield informed the Board that in the Young's Grove DEIS presentation to the Planning Board there was a change to the subdivision plans. The plans show more open space. Perhaps it would be in the best interest of the community to combine the Stone Hedge water district with the Young's Grove water district. The storage tanks are relatively close to each other. Further consideration to this will be taken up by the Planning Board.

5. REVIEW A PROPOSAL TO HIRE PART-TIME ASSISTANCE FOR ANSWERING CITIZEN QUESTIONS REGARDING THE PROPERTY RE-VAL PROGRAM AND TO AUTHORIZE THE ASSESSOR TO PROCEED WITH THE SAME

The Assessor submitted the informal hearing schedule for the 2012 re-val. Included in the schedule are the four hearing officers with salary, training class session and the dates/times for the informal assessment hearings. The schedule will enable citizens, who have questions regarding their re-val, the opportunity to be heard.

Councilman Cappella made the motion to hire the four listed hearing officers at \$25.00 per hour for their designated sessions of the 2012 re-val informal assessment hearings. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Councilman Canterino inquired if the presented schedule will satisfy the amount of people expected to attend the hearings.

Attorney Caplicki met with the Assessor who is anticipating between 600-800 people who will question their re-val assessment. The scheduled sessions should be able to accommodate those people. If this is done correctly, many of the SCARS can be eliminated. All of the 5,600 parcels in the roll are completed reflecting changes either up or down.

Supervisor Bloomfield believes that 1/3 will be higher, 1/3 will be lower and 1/3 will remain the same. For those whose total tax will increase over \$3,000 will be reviewed before they are mailed. The Assessor, with the consultant, will take another look at the parcels with \$3,000 plus increase.

Councilman Newbold inquired if the Assessor's office staff, who will be working at the informal hearings, be contracted? Answer: no, the office staff may get overtime if the circumstances merit so. He also inquired what step will follow the informal hearings. Answer: if the issue is not resolved, then the property owner can meet with the Assessor's staff or file a SCAR.

Councilman Lyons asked for clarification as to the assessment of new homes versus the assessment of older homes. This would have to be answered by the Assessor. However, the properties that have a substantial increase will be reviewed before the mailing goes out.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed: 5 AYES Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold
0 NAYS

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

1. Tax Certiorari Update
 - Jewish Lubavitch
 - Leblanc
2. Retired Chief Status Update
3. CSEA Negotiation Status Update
4. Review Potential MOA

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

ADJOURNMENT: 8:27 PM

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk