

TOWN BOARD MEETING

April 11, 2013

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 11th day of April, 2013 at the Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

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

Also Present: Dennis Caplicki Attorney for the Town
Priscilla Gersbeck Deputy Town Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:34 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (agenda items only)

At this time, Supervisor Bloomfield called for a moment of silence for the passing of the husband (Joseph) of our Town Historian: Michelle Figliomeni.

D. PUBLIC HEARING

Councilman Cappella made a motion to open the Public Hearing on Water/Sewer Information and Rate Adjustments. Councilman Canterino seconded the motion.

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

Supervisor Bloomfield addressed the public by reviewing an informational packet on the water/sewer districts in the Town. [Packet is available in the Town Clerk's office] Supervisor Bloomfield was proud to announce that this is the first time in 8+ years that all of the water & sewer districts are in the black, because of the improvements to the infrastructure. Much of this is a result of the hard work of the "Water/Sewer Team". They are: **The Present Members of the Town Board,**

Broderick Knoell M.E.-Dept. Head,

Joe Klopchin-Water/Sewer Operator
Sokolofsky & Bill Standish-Administrative Support,
Mark Warren Jr. & David Doty-Water/Sewer Maintenance
Technicians,
Doug Bloomfield & Ken Newbold-Water/Sewer Co-
commissioners.

Supervisor Bloomfield reviewed the past eight years of situations that were managed to put the water/sewer districts in the black. (1) In 2006 a chronically leaking water line (10 leaks in a 12 month period costing \$77,000 to repair) in Section A, Hambletonian Park needed repair (2) The Town was asked to take over Scotchtown Water District after abandonment by the owner (3) There were high rates of groundwater inflow and infiltration (I&I) into Hambletonian Park and Arcadia Hills sanitary sewer lines (4) There were excessive and unsubstantiated sewer charges levied by the Village of Goshen following the building and start-up of a new sewer plant. This was resolved through arbitration. (5) There was little to no strategic planning in place for infrastructure improvements (6) Environmental issues were not defined or considered in regard to future needs and (7) There was no focus on “continuous cost reduction”.

Following are the actions taken to resolve water/sewer issues: (1) Replaced the water line in 2007, Section A, Hambletonian Park with \$400,000 of federal grant money (2) Rebuilt Scotchtown Water facilities (2006-2012) at a cost of \$127,186. The savings of \$322,814 was less than 25% of the original engineering quoted in 2005 of \$450,000. (3) Implemented plans to reduce inflow and infiltration (4) The Town Board challenged the Village regarding sewer charges which was resolved in three years and developed a new five year IMA (2011-2015) (5) Implemented an on-going cost reduction plan, *detailed in the packet*, resulting in \$143,500 savings in 2012 and (6) Implemented an on-going environmental plan.

Supervisor Bloomfield outlined the 2012 accomplishments for Hambletonian Park and Arcadia Hills sewer districts. He also outlined the 2012 accomplishments for Stonehedge and Scotchtown water districts. In addition, he outlined the 2013 planned actions and capital projects for each of the districts. As a result of all that has been addressed, here is a summary of the proposed rate adjustments.

Hambletonian Park Water District (165 homes)

Net average decrease per household per qtr: \$ (0.64)
Net average percentage decrease: -0.50%

Hambletonian Park Sewer District (166 homes)

Net average decrease per household per qtr: \$ (36.08)
Net average percentage decrease: -9.03%

Arcadia Hills Water District (263 homes)

Net average decrease per household per qtr: \$ (12.19)
Net average percentage decrease: -10.11%

Arcadia Hills Sewer District (256 homes)

Net average decrease per household per qtr: \$ (32.05)
Net average percentage decrease: -10.03%

Stonehedge Water District (42 homes)

Net average decrease per household per qtr: \$ (25.00)
Net average percentage decrease: -10.00%

Scotchtown Water District (45 homes)

Net average decrease per household per qtr: \$ (17.85)
Net average percentage decrease: -10.24%

The new rate will be reflected in the Augusts' bill.

Supervisor Bloomfield called for comments from the public.

Bob Farfalla, Scotchtown Park, noted that his water is much cleaner and the filtering system has shown a decrease in particles trapped. He also wanted to know when the Town discovered the second well. Answer: in 2006 while clearing brush.

John Graesser, Hambletonian Park, asked about the sewer rates. Answer: The savings is on the I&I not on the gallon usage rate. The charge will be \$36.08 less per qtr. for the I&I, because that is where the

improvement has been made. The system is taking on the same amount of sewage, but not the same amount of water. He asked for a listed detailed comparison between the current flat rate and the new flat rate.

Pepe Carretero, Hambletonian Park, worked for SITA Construction replacing the Hambletonian Park water main in 2007. He questioned how NY Farms LLC is going to hook-up to Hambletonian Park? Answer: According to our engineer, NY Farms LLC has more well water than they will need. Therefore, a second storage tank will be put up creating a water loop. This will give both developments twice the amount of water for fire protection. The new homes will have a new infrastructure, and will broaden the base for older subdivision repairs.

Joe Papisidero, Scotchtown Park, commended the Board Members for their civic and financial responsibilities who "fixed what needed to be fixed".

Kevin Loughran, Hambletonian Park, for future packets he would like to see how much money is taken in and where it is spent. Response: anyone can come into the Town Hall to receive that information. Mr. Loughran mentioned that years ago the lines in Hambletonian Park were smoked to locate the worst places. Why not repair those first? Answer: We need to first work on repairing the manholes. They leak more and are less expensive to repair. Once that is completed, other areas will be looked into.

Gilsa Frias-Martinez, Arcadia Hills, in comparing other water districts to hers, she feels that she is paying too much for the amount of gallons she uses. Response: The rates are established on the number of homes in the subdivision. The cost of getting the water to you is the cost of the lower rates. The cost is fixed (i.e.: running the pumps etc.) whether you use 5 gallons or more. Perhaps one day we will find a way to reduce the cost.

Supervisor Bloomfield thanked everyone for coming and the public hearing remained open.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Canterino made the motion to approve the work session minutes of March 11th and March 25, 2013 and the regular meetings of March 14, and March 28, 2013. Councilman Cappella seconded the motion.

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

F. FINANCE:

Councilman Newbold made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay Manual A/P runs as of 4/9/13 amounting to \$9,811.38, and Accounts Payable check run for 04/04/2013 amounting to \$179,243.72. Councilman Cappella seconded the motion.

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

G. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Patricia Hartley, Hampton Rd., Lives across from a horse farm that suspiciously burned down last year. The debris from the collapsed structures is blowing across the road onto her property. She has observed people bringing more garbage to the debris pile, and has observed storage containers being brought to this site. There is also an issue with the fence for the animals. She is questioning the legality of activities on this property. Response: The Town will have the Building Inspector go out to the site.

Sharon Quackenbush, Hampton Rd., Lives across from the aforementioned horse farm. She voiced her disappointment with the response of the Town authorities to her repeated requests to resolve the hazardous conditions to this property. She feels that there is asbestos in the debris that various agencies refuse to address. She questioned the legality of the rail/shipping containers lined up along the front of the property. She also inquired as to what can be done about the large garbage pile and visual hardship caused to her and her neighbors. There maybe someone living illegally on this site.

Supervisor Bloomfield suggested a joint meeting between Town officials and home owners to resolve and clarify the issues and what options are available.

H. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilman Newbold made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following

1. Police Department Personnel Case Update
2. Andrews Tax Certiorari Litigation

with the intent not to return. The motion was seconded by Councilman Canterino. Motion Carried

ADJOURNMENT: 8:55 PM

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk