

**TOWN OF GOSHEN**  
**TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION**  
**September 6, 2011**

**MINUTES**

A Work Session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2011 at Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present:	Douglas Bloomfield	Supervisor
	Philip Canterino	Councilman
	Louis Cappella	Councilman
	Kenneth Newbold	Councilman
	George Lyons	Councilman
Also Present:	Dennis Caplicki	Town Attorney
	Valma Eisma	Town Clerk

Supervisor Bloomfield called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:**

**1. HEAR REQUEST BY JAMES DILLIN FOR REZONING POTENTIAL PURCHASE/DEVELOPMENT OF KERR PROPERTY ON HARTLEY ROAD**

Mr. James Dillin, Professional Land Surveyor, representing Darlene Kerr, approached the Board, and presented them with an owner's endorsement from Mrs Kerr, allowing him to represent her. Mrs. Kerr is the owner of a 31.18 acre parcel located on Harley Road, adjacent to the Orange Pathways-Heritage Trail. Mrs. Kerr is asking for a zone change on her parcel as it was originally zoned (I) Industrial. The latest amended Zoning splits the parcel into two zones. The larger portion, approximately 60%, along Harley Road is in the RU (Rural) Zone, and the remaining portion is Zoned (CO) Commercial/Office Mixed Use.

Mr. Dillin explained that the property has been on the market for several years as a residential property, but it is adjacent to the Al Turi Landfill, Orange County jail, and the newly proposed Orange & Rockland Substation. Mrs. Kerr's husband is deceased and she is asking to change the property back to the original (I) Industrial Zone in order to make a reasonable use of the property. Mr. Dillin presented maps of the property showing the Board the adjacent properties, explained that if the zoning can be changed to Industrial there are prospective buyers for the property.

Mr. Roger Ver Hage and his father Richard Ver Hage explained to the Board that they would like to purchase the property to conduct a composting business. They explained that they have a business in New Jersey, but need a larger parcel for their composting, wood chip business. The Board asked various questions about the noise, smell, etc. that would be associated with the business. Both Roger and Richard Ver Hage assured the Board that the business in Jersey is surrounded by residential properties and they have never had any complaints about noise or smells, although he said at times there is a slight odor. Roger and Richard Ver Hage answered various other questions the Board was concerned about.

Councilman Newbold asked if the business would use all the property, or if they might be thinking of subdividing it in the future. Mr. Dillin replied they would be using the entire parcel for the business. The Board asked where they would be accessing the property, and the reply was off of Hartley Road, and there would be tractor trailers making approximately nine trips a day.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated he felt that with the surrounding zoning, he felt changing the zoning on this parcel to Industrial would be a good use of the property. He asked the rest of the Board for their feelings, and they all agreed.

The Supervisor then asked Attorney Caplicki what the procedure would be from here. Mr. Caplicki replied a formal petition for a zone change will have to be submitted to the Town Board, a decision by the Board that it approves of you going forward, a required Public Hearing would be held, and there would be those comments from the public, input from the Planning Board, etc.

**2. REVIEW FIRST-PASS OF 2012 BUDGET:** Budget Officer William Standish joined the Board to discuss the preliminary figures of the 2012 Budget. Supervisor Bloomfield stated they were getting an early start on the budget due to the current state of the economy, with a possible second recession, and this two percent cap. The Supervisor stated that the Budget Officer had consulted with all the Department Heads, and these were the preliminary figures.

Mr. Standish went over the "A" Fund Revenues, the "A" Fund Expenses, giving the 2011 budget figures and the projected 2012 Budget and the Net Change. He answered questions from the Board, and stated that the Fund Balance Available was \$125,600

Mr. Standish proceeded to do the same with Funds "B" Revenues and "B" Expenses giving a Fund Balance Available of \$312,000. The report ended with a preliminary tax Rate Increase of "A" 32.8%, "DA" 0.83%, "B" 23.3%, "DB" 10.6%. Using these figures, the increase per home for the "A" Fund would be \$96. per year, \$8.00 per month. The increase per home for the "B" fund, would be \$288.00 per year, \$19.00 per month. Leaving a total Tax Increase of 18.45%.

Mr. Standish stated Fund "A" is Town Hall administration, Human, Ambulance, Highway administration, and garage. "DA" is the Highway part that covers Town and Village, which covers the snow removal, brush and weeds, and vehicles. The "B" and "DB" relates to Town Residents only, "B" is the Police, Building & Zoning, the Senior Center. Joint Recreation. and "DB" is our Highway Road Improvement Program. He said that there will be little change in these figures at this point.

Mr. Standish said his concerns are with the decreases in revenue and for the increases in expenses that we anticipate happening. Justice fees are down, Mortgage Taxes are down and Parkland Fees cannot be counted on, unless we have offset operational costs relative to Parkland, a serial bond does qualify, so we can keep the \$85,000.00.

Mr. Standish said two concerns are the Hospitalization and Legal fees which are large expenses in both "A" and "B" Funds, also Workers Comp and Tail Claims. He said the Legal Fees are mostly from the defending of the Tax Certioraris.

Mr. Standish stated that the increase per home in "A" and "B" Funds is based on a home's market value and the figures given are based on a \$400,000 home, therefore a lower priced home would be less, and a higher priced home more.

The County Sales Tax was discussed, but these figures are not yet available. Mr. Standish said the Town Budgeted \$1,000,000.00, for 2012 dropped to \$800,000.00 due to the state of the economy. The Budget Officer said he hopes to know more after the State of the County, which is scheduled for October.

The Board will review the figures presented by Mr. Standish, and he and the Supervisor will go back to see how the numbers can be crunched.

### **3. RECAP DAMAGE CAUSED BY HURRICANE IRENE AND DISCUSS REMAINING**

**ISSUES:** Supervisor Bloomfield reported when he came into the Town Hall after the storm the building had no phone service. He said he spent the following week at the Police Department taking part in the various conference calls with all the other municipalities. He reported the following Town of Goshen damage:

1. Town Hall without telephone service several days and basement records room flooded.
2. Twelve roads closed due to erosion caused by flooding some for one day, some for two days and some for one.
3. Four roads damaged, but passable
4. Hambletonian Park sewer pump station could not keep up with volume of sewage/I & I and overflowed. DEC report filed and spill number issued.
5. Arcadia Hill's sewer pump station could not keep up with volume of sewage/I & I and overflowed. DEC report filed and spill number issues.
6. Arcadia Hills's well house number 21,22, and 23 overcome by flood water causing damage to the electric control system and the building.
7. Both Arcadia Hill's access roads and security fences seriously damaged.
8. Several homes damaged in flooded areas: Meadowbrook Lane, Gumwood Drive, Celery Avenue, Indiana Road, and 182 South Street.
9. Several home basements flooded and needed to be pumped out.

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that many of the municipalities in the County received even more damage in various areas. He read parts of an email from Sandy Leonard, from Monroe to Joel Kleiman, Commissioner of Finance with Orange County. Her email stated that she had already emailed the Comptroller and told his office that both they and the Governor's Office should address this issue in light of what we are all facing in the wake of Hurricane Irene. She also said she had spoken to Annie Rabbitt, who said Orange County has been approved by FEMA.

Supervisor Bloomfield said he felt that this help would be for homeowners and not for municipalities. Councilman Lyons stated that he was told the municipalities would be receiving help also, and Councilman Newbold said he had heard that too.

Councilman Newbold stated that he did not know how Supervisor Bloomfield had done it through the storm. He said that every time he came to Town Hall he was there, taking part in all the conference calls, and trying to help the residents in trouble. He said he was proud of the way the Supervisor handled the whole situation. Councilman Canterino stated that the Supervisor's basement was flooded too.

Supervisor Bloomfield said he would like to give credit to Broderick Knoell, Highway Superintendent. He said every time he was on the phone at 6:00 a.m. or 7:00 a.m. or any other time of day, Broderick was on the phone. He said the Highway Superintendent was out there with his men, in the rain, they kept those roads open with only ten people, two of them from

Water & Sewer. Supervisor Bloomfield said the Police Department was out there to, doing a terrific job.

**4. INFORMATION – EAST BOUND RT. 17 WILL BE REPAIRED AND PAVED FROM MILE MARKER 1110 THRU 1131 BEGINNING ON OR ABOUT SEPTEMBER 15<sup>th</sup>:**

Supervisor Bloomfield stated this was just for public information, and he did not exactly know where the markers are, but not long ago they did a part of the road going west bound, and perhaps they are now going to do the other side.

**5. REVIEW REQUEST FORM PBA ATTORNEY TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS ON BACKFILLING Officer Harden:**

Supervisor Bloomfield referred to a letter from John K. Grant, an attorney for the New York State Union Police Association, Inc. and the Town of Goshen Police Benevolent Association. He read a section of the letter regarding the Town of Goshen Impact of Reduction in Police Staffing. "The PBA hereby demands that the employer meet and negotiate regarding the impact of such shortages and vacancies."

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that we had two SRO officers, which the County took over, we kept those officers. One of these officers left some time ago, and Officer Harden is now gone. The Board feels these two officers were excess, since they were no longer needed as SRO officers. He said he will be working with our representative in the near future to address this letter.

Councilman Canterino said he felt they could have asked, instead of demanding a meeting.

**6. REVIEW AND APPROVE RESOLUTION TO SETTLE THE EASTGATE TAX CERTIORARI:**

Supervisor Bloomfield asked Attorney Caplicki if he had any thing on this. Attorney Caplicki answered no, and he did not feel it would be ready for Thursday.

**7. RE-APPOINTMENT OF KATE SCHMIDT TO COMMISSIONER OF JOINT RECREATION COMMISSION. TERM TO BEGIN JUNE 30, 2011, AND EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2014:**

Councilman Lyons made a Motion to re-appoint Kate Schmidt to be a Commissioner on the Joint Recreation Commission, term to begin June 30, 2011 to June 30, 2014. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion carried unanimously. Everyone agreed that Ms. Schmidt has always done a good job.

Supervisor Bloomfield asked if any of the Board Members had anything they would like to discuss, and Councilman Lyons said he would like to address the insurance quote he had presented to the Councilman some time in the past. He said it was for the two underground tanks. Supervisor Bloomfield said they are double lined tanks with a sensor in between that sends a signal to the Highway Superintendent's Office if it senses any hydro carbon in between the layers of the tank, and sounds an alarm. The Board discussed the costs involved, premiums, deductibles, and whether the Board should think of self insuring the tanks.

It was decided the clerk would put a copy of the quote in Councilman Lyons box, and the Supervisor and the Board will address this after they have obtained more information.

With no further business, Councilman Newbold made a Motion to go into Executive Session, with intent not to return, to discuss and review the status of the following:

1. Time Warner Cable Franchise Renewal
2. CSEA Negotiations
3. Upcoming Tax Certiorari
4. Sewer Arbitration
5. The Village/Town IMA Negotiations.

The Motion was seconded by Councilman Lyons. Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 9:00 p.m.

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Valma Eisma, Town Clerk

