

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
January 25, 2010
MINUTES

A work session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 25th day of January, 2010 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
	George Lyons	Councilman
	Kenneth Newbold	Councilman

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

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:32pm.

1. PROPERTY RE-EVALUATION PLAN UP- DATE

Jo Ann Soules, Town and Village Assessor, addressed the Town Board. Ms. Soules explained that the anticipated due date for the re-evaluation for the 2011 tax roll will not be ready until the 2012 tax roll. Some reasons for the delay are: (a) in the existing database, some of the sales are missing important information used to create an analysis table. (b) when the TSL data system was converted to RPSV4, only one year of sales information was transferred. A total of four years sales data is needed to create the analysis table. (c) the additional three years of information will be transferred by the County in February. Robert Hilbert recommended that Ms. Soules and the staff in her office receive additional training on the RPSV4 system to prepare for the re-evaluation program. Plans are being made to begin the photography needed for the re-evaluation download. The Board Members agreed that after March 1st and perhaps once a month thereafter, Ms. Soules should update the Board Members as to the scheduled progress of this project.

2. ORANGE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS, VILLAGES AND CITIES INVOICE

Supervisor Bloomfield referenced a letter and a voucher sent by the NYS Association of Towns. The letter stated that the conference will be held in February. To help defray the cost of the hospitality suite, an assessed fee of \$260.00 was listed along with the annual dues of \$100.00. Since the Board Members will not attend the conference they will not contribute to the hospitality suite. An agreement was to pay only for the dues.

3. RESERVATIONS FOR JANUARY MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS, VILLAGES AND CITIES

Supervisor Bloomfield and the Board Members will attend the Orange County Association of Towns, Village and Cities meeting on January 26, 2010.

4. TIMBER TRAIL LLC: RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL USE PERMIT TO BUILD A PAC

Supervisor Bloomfield read into the record, a statement from a memo submitted by Neal Halloran.

[The code requires a connection to an existing Town water and sewer districts or must be included in new water and sewer districts created by the Town. There is no provision for a privately owned system. Indeed the history within the town and elsewhere has not been statistically good for such privately owned systems. The question begs whether the town anticipated and/or wants to consider the formation of another isolated system to be run by town employees and/or subcontractors. If considered, the financial burden of such a system on the residents would need to be considered with the operation and maintenance budget properly including the costs of replacement in the future.]

Furthermore, Supervisor Bloomfield read into the record another statement submitted from Riddick Associates.

[There are no existing central water and sewer facilities for connection. This site would require new town water and sewer districts which would need to be supported by the limited population of the PAC. The Code requires they be Town owned districts. The Town has been attempting to link water and sewer districts rather than creating a proliferation of small water and sewer districts which have not generally fared well. Finally, there are technical challenges presented by the site's topography (flat by waterworks standards) which do not provide the opportunity for adequate elevated water storage meeting DOH recommended district pressures by gravity means requiring designs with higher maintenance and operational requirements.]

Supervisor Bloomfield noted that these two statements were specific to the Code. He doesn't want to see this PAC sewer district become a failure as others have in the Town.

Councilman Lyons read into the record a statement from Riddick Associates.

[..This site has limited access to public conveniences such as public transportation, hospital and medical services, shopping, banking, drug stores, religious, cultural and recreational facilities and personal services.]

Councilman Lyons agreed that this site doesn't lend itself to a senior group of people.

Councilman Canterino said that "we have a responsibility for good planning for the whole Town". Consensus of the Board Members was that this location would be too isolated for a senior citizen community. A resolution to reject this application will be presented in the near future.

5. ORIGINAL CONTRACT WITH GOSHEN HUMANE SOCIETY

Councilman Newbold is waiting to receive communication from the Humane Society regarding a 2010 contract. He is hopeful that by the next meeting there will be one for the Board to review.

6. REQUEST TO REMOVE OVER GROWN TREES FROM ABANDONED "CASE CEMETERY"

Attorney Caplicki noted that there has been no formal request/letter presented to the Board. Under State Law there are provisions we can establish for *voluntary* cemetery associations. If there are interested citizens we can pursue this.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated that Debra Corr has shown an interest in this parcel. Someone has cleaned it up. Her main concern was what to do with the large trees towering over the grave stones. Perhaps a voluntary organization can find someone who will take down the trees. Councilman Canterino did visit and photograph this site. He was amazed how clean and neat this cemetery was recently tended to. The Town does not engage, as a primary responsibility, to cleanup cemeteries.

7. MOTION TO CORRECT CHANGES IN JUSTICE OFFICE HIRING CARMAN LUGO VERSUS CHRISTOPHER SERINO

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that Christopher Serino was hired last week as a part-time court clerk. However, the Justices prefer to hire Carmen Lugo. She has more flexible hours, whereas Christopher Serino can only work two days a week, at certain times, where coverage is needed for five days.

Supervisor Bloomfield made the motion to rescind the motion to hire Christopher Serino, as it was done in error. 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 hire Carmen Lugo to be approved as part-time court clerk up to 1,040 hours per year at a rate of \$13.00 per hour by the Court Offices in the Town of Goshen. Councilman Cappella seconded the motion.

Discussion: There are no benefits and this is effective as of January 1, 2010.

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

8. JESSUP SWITCH ROAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT STATUS UPDATE

A meeting will take place at the Office of Community Development, on Wednesday January 27, 2010 in Middletown. Supervisor Bloomfield along with Councilman Cappella, our Engineer and Steve Andryshak of the Highway Dept. will attend. This is the 2010 Project Set-Up Meeting to initiate the Block Grant of \$286,000 for Jessup Switch Road.

9. OFFICIAL UNDERTAKING OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS

Attorney Caplicki explained that under State Law certain positions in a Town are required to post an Official Undertaking. In the past, Towns considered the sufficiency of their insurance policies as surety for municipal officers. However, sections of the Public Officers Law require that certain Municipal Officers execute an additional Official Undertaking. The Law provides that an undertaking be executed by the Supervisor, Town Clerk, Receiver of Taxes, Justices, Highway Superintendent and any other officer required by the Town Board. An undertaking is a promise to faithfully perform and discharge the duties of office and promptly account for and pay over all monies or property received as a Town Officer. The law also requires that individual sureties or an insurance company provide insurance coverage to indemnify the Town against losses through the failure of such officers to properly discharge their duties. This is essentially an added technicality for the elected officials. Other employees are covered with the Town Travelers Insurance. The "Official Undertaking of Municipal Officers" is on file in the Town Clerk's office. A Resolution will be presented at Thursday's meeting.

10. APPROVE GOSHEN ROTARY CLUB REQUEST TO HOLD ANNUAL ROAD RACES ON GREAT AMERICAN WEEKEND

Supervisor Bloomfield read a letter received from Robert Dickover, Race Director. On behalf of the Goshen Rotary Club, a formal request is presented to the Town pertaining to the annual Great American Weekend road races to be held on July 3, 2010. As detailed in the letter, permission is requested to use some of the Town roadways during the 5K and 10K course.

Councilman Canterino made the motion to approve the Rotary request as presented in the letter. Councilman Newbold seconded the motion

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

11. DPW REQUEST TO PURCHASE VEHICLES

Councilman Cappella reported on a memo to the Board from Stephen Andryshak, Highway Superintendent. The Highway Dept. received \$105,000 for equipment in the 2010 budget.

Mr. Andryshak is requesting to purchase two pick-up trucks and 1 medium duty truck with a crew cab and rack body. The Highway Dept. would trade in one of their pick-up trucks (truck #2 with no plow) and possibly sell the Dodge 4 X 4 pick-up truck with a plow to Water & Sewer Dept.

There was much discussion about not purchasing the two pick-up trucks and buying the one medium duty truck. Another possibility focused on the fact that if the requested purchases transpired, there would be limited funds left over for emergency replacement/repairs. Two very old *big* trucks, used for snow plowing, are flagged for replacement. Instead of buying used trucks, the Town would rather purchase a new, *big*, wing-plow truck which can cost up to \$150,000. After reviewing the options, there was a consensus of denying the purchase request. The Board Members feel that the Highway Dept. should save the equipment allowance to combine it with next year's allowance. This will enable them to purchase a brand new *big* dump truck with a wing plow.

12. RIDDICK ASSOCIATES, P.C. – 2010 CONTRACT

Supervisor Bloomfield spoke to Riddick Associates regarding their fee schedule for 2010 contract of engineering services. By comparison, their 2009 fee schedule was a lower rate. With this conversation, Riddick Associates decided not to raise their fees for engineering services in 2010 keeping them at the 2009 rate.

13. REDUCTION OF GOSHEN PROPERTIES, LLC LETTER OF CREDIT

Attorney Caplicki stated that the Planning Board Engineer has recommended that the Performance Bond for Goshen Properties, LLC be reduced by \$397,900. A significant amount of the public improvements required for approvals has been completed. Attorney Caplicki recommends that a resolution be adopted to reduce the bond by said request to the new amount to be retained of \$101,400.

General Discussion:

Supervisor Bloomfield spoke with a representative in Congressman Hall's office about the stimulus money. Only 16% of the federal stimulus money given to NYS has been spent, leaving 84% unspent... The Town has submitted requests for stimulus money and is ready to utilize what ever we receive. Why is there a delay in distribution of the stimulus money? No particular answer. *Perhaps* the blame can rest with the chaos in Albany.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Supervisor Bloomfield made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Tax Certiorari Review
2. Time Warner Franchise Negotiations
3. Sewer Negotiations With Village Update
4. Vehicle Towing

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

Time: 9:15PM

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk

