

TOWN OF GOSHEN  
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
November 5, 2007

M I N U T E S

A work session of the Town Council of the Town of Goshen was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2007 at 7:30pm at Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present:	Douglas Bloomfield	Supervisor
	Philip Canterino	Councilmember
	George Lyons	Councilmember

Absent:	Louis Cappella	Councilmember
	Kenneth Newbold	Councilmember

Also Present:	Dennis Caplicki	Town Attorney
	Susan Maysels	Deputy Town Clerk

1. Myruski Conservation Easement

Supervisor Bloomfield stated that the DRAFT Brookfields Farm Conservation Easement document was included in Council's meeting folders. Some changes will be made prior to finalization. Attorney Rick Golden is expected to have the final Easement document ready for review by November 8<sup>th</sup> and if so, it will be on the Council agenda that night.

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that there are four things the Town has to do regarding this transaction. First, Council has to accept the Conservation Easement. Second, a Negative Declaration for the purchase must be in hand. Third, a resolution authorizing the Supervisor to proceed with closing must be passed by the Town Council. Forth, the Supervisor must attend the County Legislature public hearing on the purchase of Brookfields. After completing these steps, the Town and the Myruskis can go to closing on the purchase of development rights.

According to Mrs. Kay Myruski (in the audience) and Supervisor Bloomfield, the Surveyor has already done the field work at the farm, so the finished survey should be submitted shortly.

As with all PDR properties, the Town's Building Inspector will photograph existing conditions of the property which will be the baseline condition documentation. Every year thereafter, the Building Inspector will inspect the property to insure compliance with the Easement. For the public's information, Supervisor Bloomfield stated that current farmers signing conservation easements are not a problem. According to experts, the second or third generation owners of these farms, who were not involved in the initial sale of the development rights, often feel that they do not have to comply. The annual inspection is to protect the intent of all parties – Town taxpayers, County taxpayers and the selling owners.

2. Request for Petty Cash Fund by Town Justice Department

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that Justice Cione and Justice VanHaaster have requested Council approval to establish a petty cash fund for the Town Court. The fund would be used to provide change for defendants who are paying fines in cash, but do not have the exact amount and need change provided. Currently, defendants needing change are sent down to the first floor, to the Town Clerk's Office for change. These transactions have not only served to irritate the defendants who are climbing up and down stairs several times, but have also placed an additional burden on the Town Clerk's Office. The Court petty cash fund is strictly for providing change to defendants and will not be used for the purpose of reimbursing expenses. We request the fund total of \$100.

Supervisor Bloomfield said he will be recommending approval of this at the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Councilmembers Canterino suggested they vote on it now.

Councilmember Canterino made a motion to authorize the Town Justices to establish a petty cash fund of \$100 so business can be conducted with defendants. Councilmember Lyons seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Motion passed unanimously on the vote of 3 – 0.

3. Proposed Changes to Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals Fees and Escrows

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that the memo on this item from Neal Halloran was received late today and has not yet been read by him, Councilmembers or attorneys. The purpose of the changes is to adjust fees so they cover Town expenses. Council will need some time to review the issue, the Town Attorney will need to prepare a resolution for passage by Council, and a Local Law may have to be prepared depending upon final recommendations, so the item will be held until a future worksession – probably in December.

4. Cold War Veterans Property Tax Reduction

Supervisor Bloomfield explained the program, which has been approved by the NYS Legislature. Veterans serving active duty between September 2, 1945 and December 26, 1991 could be offered a 10% - 15% reduction in their assessed property value depending upon their level of involvement in conflicts. Before the Town of Goshen can offer this to its residents, this program must be approved by the County.

Town Attorney Caplicki advised that, although he has not reviewed the material yet, a Local Law will probably be necessary to enact this tax reduction. In order for it to be in place for the 2009 tax year, the Town Council should place it on their agenda in January 2008 assuming the County has approved it by then. A public hearing could be held in February so that the new Local Law could take effect by March 1. Otherwise, the reduction could not be applied until the 2010 tax year.

5. Temporary Suspension of Services by Goshen Humane Society

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that Rick Bosley, President of the Goshen Humane Society contacted him with the information that four kittens were lost to some disease, which they suspect to be distemper. Again, they believe it was brought into the shelter by feral kittens. The shelter closed last Friday and will contact the Supervisor once they have positive information on the cause. The reason for the closing will be posted on the shelter door so residents understand that these precautions are necessary due to disease.

ADDED ITEM:

Supervisor's Report on Council's Pending Tasks.

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that he and the Council have quite a list of items to get done and he would like to do so in the next three to five months.

1. Close the public hearing on Local Law #2 and #3, process all the information provided and decide how to proceed.
2. Prepare the EIS for Local Law #2 and #3.
3. Address Interstate Waste's request to increase the transfer station volume and give the Town tipping fees.
4. Evaluate Arden Engineering's request to create a homeowners association to operate their sewer system for an 8-lot subdivision, since the Town rejected their previous request for the Town to operate a sewer district there.
5. An extension to the end of 2007 was granted for Council's decision on the acceptance/ rejection of the \$250,000 grant from NYS Dept of Parks, Environmental Protection Fund. In order to make this decision, meetings with the Library reps and Village Trustees will be necessary. Decisions regarding the school building and the rear acreage must be made.
6. Negotiations with BOCES regarding the School Resource Officer.
7. Negotiations with CSEA union begin in this month.
8. Binding arbitration with the Police Benevolent Association has been scheduled for February.
9. Meetings with State Senator Larkin and State Assemblywoman Rabbitt to push for grants.

Councilmember Canterino added that the opening of Salesian Park is priority for the JRC and the Town. Councilmember Lyons noted that the Humane Society's annual financial statement is a very good, comprehensive report. He also noted that \$18,000 was spent on veterinarian fees in 2006 and asked if that full amount went to spaying/neutering animals. Supervisor Bloomfield stated that he believes it was used in large part for that, but some general medical fees may be included too.

Supervisor Bloomfield invited Doris Bialas to distribute to Councilmembers, photos of a large mound of tree stumps being burned by Sussex Sod Farms on their property line very close to the Bialas' barns. Ms. Bialas will contact the DEC regarding this problem and let the Supervisor know if the DEC does not resolve it for her.

6. Executive Session

Councilmember Lyons made a motion to enter Executive Session, without intent to return to public meeting, to discuss MTBE litigation, Salesian insurance, SRO status, and Sullivan litigation. Councilmember Canterino seconded the motion. There was no discussion.

Motion passed on a vote of 3 – 0.

Council entered Executive Session at 8:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Susan Maysels, Deputy Town Clerk