

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
January 24, 2011

MINUTES

A Work Session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 24th day of January, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

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

Absent: Councilman George Lyons

Also Present:	Dennis Caplicki	Town Attorney
	Valma Eisma	Town Clerk

Supervisor Bloomfield opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEMS DISCUSSED:

1. REMINDER: ORANGE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS, VILLAGE & CITIES:

Supervisor Bloomfield asked how many Board Members planned to attend the meeting of the Orange County Association of Towns, Villages and Cities Meeting that will be held at Delancy's, at 7:00 p.m. on January 25, 2011? All four members present said they will attend.

2. REQUEST BY HOMETOWN, ONLINE, INC. TO TERMINATE CABLE FRANCHISE:

Virginia Quackenbush, representative of Hometown Online, joined the Board to address this matter. Supervisor Bloomfield referred to a letter from Rothfelder Stern, L.L.C and read two sections of it to the Board. "Unfortunately, Hometown's pursuit of the Cable business in Goshen has not been successful as it has only seven cable television customers in its Goshen franchise area." "Therefore, Hometown now seeks the consent of the Town of Goshen to terminate the franchise, effective June 30, 2011." Referring to another section of the letter "Hometown Online will be happy to asst its customers to move to another TV provider." "We anticipate that these seven customers would be able to continue to receive television service from other providers." Our customer notification letter to those customers will provide information on those other services. Those customers may also receive television via air broadcasts.

Supervisor Bloomfield asked for the Board's feeling on this matter? Councilman Cappella asked if the seven people affected by this had been advised of this, and if they have been told what providers could supply them with the service. Ms. Quackenbush assured the Board that the customers would be notified, and told of their options. After a brief discussion the Board decided they had no real problem with allowing the withdrawal. However, they would like the name and addresses of the seven families. Ms. Quackenbush assured the Board she would fax or mail the names and addresses to the Town Attorney. Attorney Caplicki will prepare a Motion for Thursday night's meeting.

3. INFORMATION: "MOTION TO COMPEL' PRESENTED AS PART OF CHALLENGE TO ORANGE & UTILITIES, INC. REQUESTED RATE INCREASE: Supervisor Bloomfield referred to an email from Daniel Duthie which stated "that O & R is going to launch a major offensive against us." He also stated that they will have to have a second round of fund raising to carry on the fight. He said he spoke to Supervisor Sweeton from Warwick who assured him that the plea for additional funds will not apply to Goshen. It is to try to obtain other municipalities to join in to protest the raise that O & R is proposing.

4. INFORMATION: THE ANNUAL EXTERNAL AUDIT OF TOWN FINANCES AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES BY NUGENT & HAEUSSLER, P.C. IS SCHEDULED TO BEGIN 2/28/2011. A REPORT WILL BE ISSUED 5/31/2011. Supervisor Bloomfield referred to the letter of January 17th from Nugent & Haeussler, and read a section of it to the Board. "Our responsibility, is to plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable, but not absolute, assurance that the financial statements are free of material misstatement." He said they expect to begin the audit on February 28, 2011 and will issue our report approximately May 31, 2011. The Supervisor said he is reviewing this tonight, as he wants the public to know that we do this independent audit every year, and he feels some municipalities do not do this, but this Board feels it should be done.

5. INFORMATION: REQUEST TO REDUCE SPEED LIMIT ON MAPLE AVENUE FROM 55 TO 45 MPH DENIED BY NEW YORK DOT: Supervisor Bloomfield reported that there was a request to change the speed limit on a section of Maple Avenue from 55 mph to 45 mph. He explained that the Board made the request, but has received a letter stating that the Department of Transportation has denied the request. He said it is seldom that these requests are granted.

6. FIRST QUARTER SALES TAX CHECK OF \$213,413.46 IS LESS THAN THE \$250,000, BUDGETED, AND \$26,012.54 LESS THAN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2010: Supervisor Bloomfield explained that this is very upsetting since this quarter included Christmas. He said if we annualize this, it leaves us about \$150,000 short. He stated that in 2010 the Town received \$240,000 for the first quarter. He said this is something we will have to watch very closely, and be as cost effective as we can.

Councilman Cappella asked that Supervisor Bloomfield speak to the public about this at Thursday's meeting, as he feels it is important information and the public needs to know.

Supervisor Bloomfield asked if there was any further business anyone would like to discuss. With no response Councilman Newbold made a Motion to adjourn the meeting, go into Executive Session, with intent not to return, to discuss the following:

1. Comptroller Communication regarding formation or extension of a water or sewer district
2. Village/Town arbitration status update
3. Heritage Estates sewer- status update
4. Personnel case arbitration request – status update
5. Town of Goshen code enforcement case review
- 6 Al Turi litigation – status update
7. Rettberg litigation – status update
8. Tax certiorari review

The Motion was seconded by Councilman Canterino. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Time: 7:53 p.m.

Valma Eisma, Town Clerk

