

TOWN OF GOSHEN  
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION  
**August 22, 2011**  
 MINUTES

A work session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 22nd day of August, 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  
 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 7:31pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. CHIEF MARSH – DISCUSS PLAN DETAILS TO BE AT BUDGET BY YEAR – END**

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that our Budget Officer has calculated the police personnel to be currently about \$34,000 over budget. If this trend continues, it could be as high as \$97,000 by the end of the year. He is concerned that the Town will be held to a 2% increase or CPI (presently at 1.6%) for 2012. Next year, the Supervisor wants the Fund balances where they should be. In fact, the Fund A balance is already compromised, because of the tax certiorari settlements. The Police Dept. lists under Fund B. Supervisor Bloomfield addressed the Chief: "As Chief of Police, would you please address the situation immediately and take action necessary to be at budget by year end and to partially offset the 3% raises and corresponding increases and benefit costs for 2012." "What I am really interested in, is between now and by the end of the year, how are we going to gain ground back."

Police Chief Marsh presented the Board Members with his projected 2012 budget for the Town Police Department. Responding to the Supervisor's concerns; the Chief reviewed his budgeted lines for 1/1/2011 through 8/14/2011. Currently he is working with minimum level staffing and the overtime is kept to a minimum. His overage is due to shift coverages, shift coverage is \$23,573 and shift overrun is \$2,770.

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Shift Coverage	\$ 23,573.44
Shift Overrun	\$ 2,770.43
Training	\$ 6,782.46
Court	\$ 1,694.72
GTSC Grants – STEP/BUNY	\$ 20,574.00
STOP DWI	\$ 6,856.18
<u>Special Details – 10K Race &amp; Cinco de Mayo</u>	<u>\$ 649.32</u>
Total	\$ 62,900.55
<b><u>REIMBURSABLES</u></b>	
GTSC Grants – STEP/BUNY	\$ (20,574.00)
STOP DWI	\$ (6,856.18)
<u>Special Details – 10K Race &amp; Cinco de Mayo</u>	<u>\$ (649.32)</u>
Total	\$ 34,821.05

Chief Marsh noted that another reason for the overrun was that a full time police officer left our Police Dept. to another. His *contractual* accumulated sick time and vacation time payout was around \$30,000. Supervisor Bloomfield wondered how employees/expenses will be covered next year if various departments spend beyond their budget.

Chief Marsh is more than willing to cooperate to resolve his departmental overruns. He suggested several options including: changing shift schedules, cutting services, no shift back filling and/or eliminating a shift. He has been proactive in receiving grants for vehicles/equipment. Some of the vehicles have 82,000. The vehicles are used to the fullest, even when trying to limit the "good" ones for winter travel use. Many of the grants generate money while keeping the streets safe such as DWI and Traffic Safety.

Councilman Canterino questioned the night shift mileage. Could patrol distances be shortened due to the rising cost of fuel. Perhaps house checks could be curtailed. He isn't sure how cutting expenses will provide adequate security. However, all options need to be explored.

Supervisor Bloomfield feels that the major savings will come from labor. Perhaps a meeting with the union reps. can offer other suggestions. Chief Marsh pointed out that the yearly NYS mandatory training for his Officers is around \$26,600. He has no control over this mandate.

Councilman Cappella feels that a meeting with the Police Officers will clarify the issues pertinent to this budget. From past experiences, meeting with other departments, were very productive. However, the Union would have to be present.

Councilman Newbold inquired if the \$30,000 given to the full-time Officer who left was calculated in the budget? Perhaps a separate budget line should be labeled in anticipation for this type of expenditure. The Chief has not back filled this position.

The Chief is willing to have a meeting with his Police Officers, the Town Board Members and the Union Rep(s) to clarify/resolve budget issues. Councilman Canterino agreed as long as every one is on the same page.

Supervisor Bloomfield is requesting immediate action to resolve the budget issues within the Police Department.

**2. DISCUSS EXPANDING HAMBLETONIAN PARK WATER DISTRICT BY 75 ADDITIONAL HOMES**

Attorney Caplicki spoke with Steve Esposito who mentioned that the applicant has an application in with the Dept. of Health regarding water and the DEC regarding sewer to amend/change the application to expand the district. There was some confusion as to when the agreement will be signed. The Board Members were under the impression that the water district would be created first. Now it appears that the applicant wants to combine the water & sewer district at the same time. The Town is ready to create the water district *now*. We are waiting to finalize the hook-ups for the sewer district. The applicant should come in to clarify this situation.

**3. DISCUSS ACCEPTING NEW YORK FARMS, LLC (AKA HERITAGE ESTATES) CONSERVATION EASEMENT, PARCEL A AND PROPERTY TRANSFER WITH CONSERVATION EASEMENT PARCEL B**

The applicant has not submitted the documents.

**4. REVIEW AND APPROVE PROPOSED TAX CERTIORARI SETTLEMENT FOR EASTGATE PROPERTIES.**

The Attorney for the petitioner hasn't submitted the completed consent judgment. Hopefully it will be ready for Thursday's meeting.

**5. DISCUSS TOWN OF GOSHEN RESPONSIBILITIES REGARDING STRUCTURE FIRE MANAGEMENT**

Councilman Canterino was on call on the evening of the fire. He gave a detailed account of what transpired.

Approximately 8:30pm he received a call from Councilman Cappella (who lives in the area of the fire) that there was an extremely large fire at 82 Knoell Road. Councilman Cappella was going to take a look at it. Around 8:45pm he called back Councilman Canterino stating that the Town Highway Superintendent (Broderick Knoell) was at the scene. Broderick was called out by 911 on an official capacity. The fire company had requested the Building Inspector to come out. The fire company also asked Broderick to authorize an excavator to come out, as there was a dangerous situation with this huge barn totally engulfed in flames and some of the logs needed to be turned over. The fire company could not call in the excavator. It would have to be with Town approval. Councilman Canterino spoke to Chief Cohen who requested the excavator (for safety reasons) to aide in putting out the fire. Councilman Canterino asked Chief Cohen if this was part of the protocol. We haven't heard of this being done, but the Chief replied that it was recently done at a fire in the Village. Furthermore, who pays for this? Is it in the homeowner's claim to the insurance company? The taxpayers should not be responsible for the bill. Nevertheless, Councilman Canterino did a quick assessment of the blazing barn and not only for safety reasons, but to help the fire companies put out the fire, he authorized the excavator. Chet's garage was called. They have an excavator outfitted especially for on-call fires.

The next day, Councilman Canterino spoke to the Chief of Police and Broderick Knoell. He sent the Building Inspector (Neal Halloran) out to the scene. He wasn't going to send him out that night for it was around 9:30pm and Neal was on the way back from attending a training session in Albany. He also called the Town insurance carrier (Marshall & Sterling) to inform them of what had happened. According to our insurance carrier, there are Town Laws that cover dangerous situations. The homeowner submits a claim to its insurance company for payment along with a letter from the Town Attorney in regards to ordering the excavator to alleviate a dangerous situation.

Supervisor Bloomfield summarized what has been done in the past. First of all, safety is always a priority. After the fire (not during a fire) Neal would go out and evaluate the structure. It is either condemned or roped off to rebuild/repair the damage. In this case, the barn burned to the ground. There were two chimneys left standing. One has to come down and the other was roped off for repair.

Supervisor Bloomfield would like authorization to contact an official within the fire company as to the protocol for issues at a fire. The firemen are trained to evaluate safety issues at different types of fires. Who takes charge at the scene of a fire?

The Board Members unanimously agreed that Councilman Canterino acted appropriately while facing a raging fire and considering safety issues.

**6. REVIEW AND APPROVE REQUEST BY THE HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENT TO PURCHASE A 1994 INTERNATIONAL, SINGLE AXEL, DUMP TRUCK WITH PLOW FOR \$10,000**

This request is for a dump truck to be purchased from Bloomingburg N.Y. with 42,000 miles on it. Broderick Knoell has looked at it and with a little work, he feels that this is a good deal.

Councilman Newbold made the motion to authorize the Highway Superintendent to purchase a 1994 International, single axel, dump truck with a plow for \$10,000. Councilman Canterino seconded the motion.

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

## **7. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

Jerry Boss inquired if the County Fire Investigators were at the fire? Response: The investigators were there the next day. The cause is undetermined.

Mr. Boss brought up an interesting point. Even though this is undetermined, chemicals in treated lumber will alert investigative dogs as to a possible arson with the use of an accelerant. There is a specific aroma from the treated wood

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

1. Review Status Of Village/Town Sewer Arbitration
2. Review Status Of Following Tax Certioraris
  - A. Goshen Corporation
  - B. RIYA
  - C. Matrock Equities
3. P.D. Personnel/Chief Of Police
4. Review Status Of CSEA Negotiations
5. Cable Contract Renewal & Check Status

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

Time: 8:50PM

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Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk