

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING
February 28, 2008

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Goshen was held on the 28th day of February, 2008 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
Louis Cappella Councilmember
George Lyons Councilmember
Kenneth Newbold Councilmember

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

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:30pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Supervisor Bloomfield added to OLD BUSINESS: Request from Catholic Charities

C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

No one made a request to be heard.

D. OLD BUSINESS

ADDED: Request from Catholic Charities

Councilmember Cappella made a motion to permit Catholic Charities Community Services of Orange County, to continue to designate Town Hall as the secondary evacuation site for approximately 55 students of its Early Learning Center located at 50 St. John Street in the Village of Goshen. Councilmember Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

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

1. Easement Correction – Healey Property Adjacent to Stonehedge Subdivision

Councilmember Canterino made a motion to authorize the Town Supervisor to execute a corrected legal description shifting the Town's easement to the rear of lots 3 and 4, and to execute the necessary recording material for the corrected easement description. Councilmember Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion: Supervisor Bloomfield explained that this issue was discussed at length at the Council Work Session on February 25, 2008. Attorney Caplicki told Council that he has examined the documents to be recorded and they are correct.

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

Councilmember Canterino made a motion to authorize the Supervisor and the Chief of Police to submit the application and execute the Agency Participation Agreement for the New York State Law Enforcement Accreditation Program. Councilmember Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion: None.

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

Councilmember Canterino also reported that inmates painted the Police Station, and they did a great job.

Councilmember Lyons, Commissioner of Parks and Recreation & Liaison to School Growth Committee

Councilmember Lyons reported that the Joint Recreation Commission (JRC) is working on the kitchen expansion and upgrade at Craigville Park. The JRC's *Free Family Film Fest* has been a great success. The final date for this series is March 14th at the Senior Center. The JRC is applying for the Orange County Municipal Parks Planning Program. The County has a total of \$500,000 to be allocated among qualifying municipalities. The submission deadline is April 10th and awards will be made for the acquisition, upgrade, or improvement of real property, facilities or equipment. It will be a joint Town and Village application because the JRC is a joint Commission. Another grant being sought by the JRC is the Orange Arts grant which the JRC hopes to use to provide free concerts at the Salesian property. The first concert is tentatively scheduled for June 8th, which is also the tentative date for the park's grand opening.

As Town Liaison to the School Growth Committee, Councilmember Lyons reported that the last meeting was January 30, 2008. He does not anticipate another meeting to be called for several months.

Councilmember Newbold, Commissioner of Water & Sewer, Town Hall Facility & Liaison to the Humane Society

Councilmember Newbold reported that the fire alarm system at Town Hall has been malfunctioning. He informed Council that he will be meeting consultants this weekend to take a look and hopes to get a solution to Council by Monday night. In Water & Sewer Dept. business, he notified Council that he is still trying to get 2008 rates from the Village, but as yet, no one has been willing to provide concrete information. Regarding the Humane Society, a special meeting will be held Tuesday night at 7pm at Village Hall. Councilmember Newbold suggested that neighbors call on any elderly neighbors during this winter of extreme cold temperatures.

Councilmember Cappella, Commissioner of Highways, Dial-a-Bus & Liaison to the Senior Commission

Councilmember Cappella announced that the Senior Commission invites all Goshen seniors to a St. Patrick's Day event March 17th at the Senior Center to share food and enjoy the movie "The Quiet Man". Regarding Dial-a-Bus, he thanked the County Legislature for approving the Town's purchase of the County's used van. The Highway Department has been doing cold patching pot holes two days per week when weather permits. Town bulk clean up weeks will be the last week of April and the first week of May. A correction must be made to the Times Herald Record article about the region's worse pot holes. A Town road was listed – Wedgewood Drive. Councilmember Cappella drove out there the morning the article was published and wants all to know that there were NO potholes anywhere on this road. Lastly, thanks to Highway Dept. employees for a job well done during a rough couple of weeks with ice, snow and flooding, which required them to be on call 24 hours a day.

Supervisor Bloomfield

Supervisor Bloomfield thanked the Orange County Executive and Rich Mayfield for expediting the used van purchase. It is a cost reduction for the Towns of Goshen, Chester and Hamptonburg in that a van will no longer be rented when the primary Dial-a-Bus vehicle is being repaired and maintained. He also thanked Councilmember Newbold, Deputy Supervisor, for filling in for him when he was out of Town for two days. Councilmember Newbold changed his regular work schedule to be available which shows his loyalty to the Town. Town Hall building problems are being addressed. The malfunctioning fire alarm system has been evaluated by three companies, resulting in three opinions, all expensive. The elevator flooded and will cost \$9,000 in parts plus labor costs, but it must be done to accommodate those who cannot manage the stairs. The roof or vent above the elevator needs repair or the elevator will flood once again. Roofers should soon be able to access

the roof safely. Both the elevator and roof repairs should be covered by insurance. In a meeting with School Superintendent Roy Reese regarding tax certioraris and small claims assessment reviews (SCARs), information was exchanged along with the intention to meet periodically to keep each other informed of the progress of cases so there are no surprises. Regarding annual Town audits, there will be a change. Instead of using Mr. Brown for internal auditing and advice as well as the annual Town audit, two separate auditors will be used as required by new State law. This is a positive change because you can never be too safe with public funds. A pump from an Arcadia Hills high-capacity well broke today and was replaced at the cost of \$5,500 – it was an old pump that was overdue for replacement. Supervisor Bloomfield said that he feels very good about the Town of Goshen's financial stability and solvency, that he really does constantly monitor all expenses and Council looks for cost reduction ideas. This does not mean that a surprise won't be around the corner that costs a lot of money, but right now the Town is in good shape. Lastly, Supervisor Bloomfield announced that the Council was aware of the arrests of Officers of the Goshen Humane Society, but feels it's up to the GHS to disclose the details to the public.

H. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

County Legislator Frank Fornario reported that he will meet with the County Attorney for an update on the MTBE matter and keep the Town Supervisor informed. The Legislature has been restructured. Legislator Fornario no longer chairs the Physical Services Committee, but is now on the Public Safety Committee, the Mental Health Committee and the Personal & Compensation Committee. The County web site provides great information on County services and departments including minutes of all meetings and by the end of 2008 may have the Legislature's meetings streamed live. Home heating assistance is available for eligible residents. They are urged to call 291-4000 for applications. The target opening for the new 911 center is June, a two month delay, but the good news is that it is under budget so far.

Comments regarding the hearing to be held March 5th at 10am by the OC Industrial Development Agency are encouraged. Supervisor Bloomfield informed Legislator Fornario that the Town of Goshen was opposed to any proposal for tax abatement or that shorts the Town on any tax revenue. The Supervisor also informed the Legislator that he and others feel the OC IDA should not hold important meetings during the day when the majority of residents cannot attend. In doing a quick analysis today, the Supervisor found that 47% of Town properties were tax exempt and 67% of Village properties. Legislator Fornario stated that he will be joining Town and Village Officials at the IDA meeting to speak against granting the applying Realtors the tax abatement they seek. Councilmember Canterino clarified Council's position by saying that the Town is not opposed to the IDA's purpose of encouraging new commercial enterprises to locate in Goshen and arranging payment-in-lieu-of-taxes, but the Town Council is opposed to tax abatement.

Legislator Fornario asked for Council support for AB5333 which reimburses the County for the purchase of Medicaid fraud detection software. New York State spends \$46.5 billion, with an estimated 10% of that being fraudulent (\$4.65 million), so this software is very important for cost reduction for tax payers. He will provide Council with a copy of the bill. Lastly, the Legislator reported that the County Executive advises the Town to budget the same amount for sales tax revenue; it should be a safe number.

Councilmembers asked the Legislator to follow up and report back on the following issues:

- a. MTBE status with the NYS DEC and Orange County
- b. Town access to County surplus vehicles and equipment
- c. County Jail hook up to Village of Goshen sewer plant

Legislator Fornario will research these issues and report back. He requested that the Town Clerk add him to the distribution list for all approved minutes so that he may keep abreast of Town issues.

Resident Doris Bialas, 74 Celery Avenue, New Hampton distributed a survey regarding Town-Village consolidation conducted by Chester, and stated that she would like to see Goshen Town and Village mail a similar survey to its residents. The Supervisor will review the survey. Ms. Bialas urged Council to send a representative to the US Fish & Wildlife meeting on March 6th at Warwick Town Hall regarding the eating away of the area's black dirt.

Resident Kieth Roddey, 107 Webster Avenue, Goshen told Legislator Fornario that there was a problem on the Heritage Trail with the sealing or paving the County did in the Fall on the area between South Street and Chester. The cheap material used causes ridges in the surface resulting in falls and an unsafe surface for skaters.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING:

1. PBA Contract Negotiation
2. Interstate Waste System Negotiation

Supervisor Bloomfield made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss (1) Police Benevolent Association contract negotiation and (2) Interstate Waste System negotiation, without intent to return to public meeting. Councilmember Newbold seconded the motion.

Motion PASSED: 5 Ayes Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold
 0 Nays

The public meeting concluded at 9:05pm.
No actions were taken in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Maysels, Deputy Town Clerk