

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 12th of October 2006, at 8:00 pm in the Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present:

Douglas Bloomfield	Supervisor	Louis Cappella	Councilmember
George Lyons	Councilmember	Kenneth New bold	Councilmember
Philip Canterino	Councilmember		

Also Present: Howard Protter, Town Attorney

A. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Bloomfield opened the meeting at 8:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Bloomfield introduced Susan Maysels, Acting Town Clerk for the meeting, and announced that Ms. Maysels is in training to fill the Deputy Town Clerk position being vacated by Linda Doolittle in November.

B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

None.

C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (agenda items only)

No response.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. 2007 Budget: Set Public Hearing

**PERLIMINARY BUDGET
RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC NOTICE AND HEARING**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Preliminary Budget for 2007 of the Town of Goshen for the fiscal year beginning 2007, has been completed and filed in the office of the Town Clerk of the Town of Goshen, 41 Webster Avenue, Goshen, New York 10924, where it is available for inspection by any interested person during office hours, and

BE IT RESOLVED the Town Board of the Town of Goshen hold a public hearing on said preliminary budget on November 9, 2006 at 7:30pm, at the Goshen Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Goshen, New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the Town of Goshen of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto.

On a motion by Councilmember Canterino, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the resolution was adopted on a vote of 5 Ayes, 0 Nays.

The Supervisor declared this resolution adopted.

Dated: October 12, 2006

2. Special Budget Review Meeting

Supervisor Bloomfield announced that a Special Budget Review Meeting will be held Tuesday, October 17, 2006 at 6:00 pm at Goshen Town Hall, 41 Webster Avenue, Goshen, New York. The intent of this meeting is for the Council to take a last line item-by-line item look at the budget for final cuts before the public hearing scheduled for November 9, 2006.

E. NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Resolution: Authorize Re-Appointment of Kate Schmidt to the Goshen Joint Recreation Commission.**

TOWN OF GOSHEN
County of Orange, State of New York

RESOLUTION

**AUTHORIZING RE-APPOINTMENT OF KATE SCHMIDT
TO THE TOWN OF GOSHEN JOINT RECREATION COMMISSION**

Introduced by: Council Member Phil Canterino
Seconded by: Council Member George Lyons
Date of Adoption: October 12, 2006

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to re-appoint Kate Schmidt to continue to serve on the Town of Goshen Joint Recreation Commission,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approves the re-appointment of Kate Schmidt to serve on the Town of Goshen Joint Recreation Commission, for a term to expire on June 20, 2009.

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays.

- 2. Resolution: Authorize Appointment of Patricia Sherlock Rea as Commissioner-At-Large to the Goshen Joint Recreation Commission.**

TOWN OF GOSHEN
County of Orange, State of New York

RESOLUTION

**AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF PATRICIA SHERLOCK REA AS
COMMISSIONER-AT LARGE TO THE TOWN OF GOSHEN JOINT RECREATION
COMMISSION**

Introduced by: Council Member Phil Canterino
Seconded by: Council Member George Lyons
Date of Adoption: October 12, 2006

WHEREAS, the Town wishes to appoint Patricia Sherlock Rea as Commissioner-At-Large to the Town of Goshen Joint Recreation Commission to fill Bonnie Mayefsky's term expiring September 30, 2007,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board approved the appointment of Patricia Sherlock Rea as Commissioner-At-Large to serve on the Town of Goshen Joint Recreation Commission for a term expiring September, 2007.

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays.

- 3. Resolution: Accept the Resignation of Linda P. Doolittle, Deputy Town Clerk.**

TOWN OF GOSHEN
County of Orange, State of New York

RESOLUTION

ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF LINDA P. DOOLITTLE, DEPUTY TOWN CLERK

Introduced by: Council Member George Lyons
Seconded by: Council Member Louis Cappella
Date of Adoption: October 12, 2006

WHEREAS, the Town has been advised that the Deputy Town Clerk, Linda P. Doolittle, plans to retire from her position on December 29, 2006,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Goshen Town Board hereby regrettfully accepts the resignation of Linda P. Doolittle and commends her for her years of service to the Town.

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 5 Ayes to 0 Nays.

F. FINANCE

Council Member Canterino made a Motion to authorize Supervisor Bloomfield to pay Voucher #2006-2164 to Voucher #2006-2325 amounting to \$254,384.15. Council Member Louis Cappella seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

G. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Nick Petraglia attended the Traffic Study presentation on Tuesday, and asked about the next steps in this process. Supervisor Bloomfield explained that the purpose of the Tuesday meeting was for the Council to get a progress report from the consultant. Another meeting will be held in November, perhaps the second meeting, during which the public can comment. Mr. Petraglia would like to do an article on the study in order to give the public a preview before the public is asked to comment. Mr. Petraglia asked what jurisdictions would be involved in the traffic solutions. Council Member Cappella stated that cooperation from several jurisdictions would be necessary because Town traffic is impacted by Village, County and State roads flowing into or across Town roads. Supervisor Bloomfield stated that the Town Council can do what it wants to do regarding Town roads if it has the money. The Town would request cooperation from the other jurisdictions to fund the improvements to their roads. The Supervisor said he was optimistic that much will be learned from this study, and believes it will be useful in regards to subdivisions – it is a work in progress.

Chris Wildfoerester asked if the Traffic Study will effect the Master Plan. Supervisor Bloomfield said the Master Plan shows how the Town should look when finished, but in the Council's opinion, one piece of the Master Plan that was insufficiently examined was the traffic. This Study will be an integral part to use in going back to look at, modify, or tighten up the Master Plan. It will go through public review. The reason the Study was commenced was because the Council was not satisfied with the way things were looking and needed to take some action. Chris Wildfoerester commended the Council for doing this Study now. Council Member Canterino stated that there was a traffic protocol, but is not adequate. Currently, Developers have to provide info for the protocol, but the Council wants to insure that they understand independently and objectively what is really going on. Supervisor Bloomfield thanked him for his comment and stated that the cost of the Study is \$60,000, which we really didn't have but it was that important to the Council to get an unbiased view, by a professional engineer, of the Town wide traffic situation. Council Member Canterino stated that there is a small window of opportunity here for Goshen, and that if it isn't taken now, all 14,000 residents of Goshen who have invested here could be jeopardized. Supervisor Bloomfield noted that at present, there are 3,500 units before

the Planning Board. Not all will be built, but it's incumbent upon the Council to insure that it's done in a quality fashion. Copies of the Study will be available at the public hearing.

Kevin Loughran asked the Council if the Traffic Study looked at including connector roads between Craigville Road and Old Chester Road. Supervisor Bloomfield stated that there was no mention of that so far, but the Study was not that far along. The Supervisor said he knew this was an issue with Hambletonian Park residents, but the Council has not discussed it. What Supervisor Bloomfield likes about these reports, this possibility thinking, is that there may be a better way than the ones that have been proposed up to now.

Kevin Loughran asked how far along the Town was with the sewer-water project in Hambletonian Park. Supervisor Bloomfield explained that the County Board of Health approved the design, bids have been issued, pre-bid meeting planned for this week with Engineer and bidders, bids due in shortly, a bidder will be selected, then that bidder will order the materials and get on with it.

Matthew Geraldi, who lives in Hambletonian Park, asked how long the water main construction will take. Supervisor Bloomfield stated that it will be done this year, but it depends on how long it takes to get the pipe. Town plan is for it to proceed ASAP, and once done, the road will be patched for the Winter so the soil can settle, and in the Spring new asphalt will be laid.

Nick Petraglia asked if Traffic Study could look at reducing traffic. Council Member Cappella responded that this was being done by adding turning lanes, etc to divert traffic. Supervisor Bloomfield felt that reducing traffic in Orange County where no substantial public transportation system exists would be difficult. He said that the County was looking at it, but a critical mass of ridership is needed for a mass transit system to work. The Town just added another Dial-a-Bus. Council Member Lyons thought that the task was to manage or mitigate traffic. He felt it was unrealistic to reduce the number of cars because if you can't drive around here, there's a real problem even getting milk.

Supervisor Bloomfield informed those present that both the School District and County Planners were invited to the initial Traffic Study presentation because the Town is not an island. He also announced that Council Member Lyon is the Council's Liaison to the School's Growth Committee. Council Member Lyons explained that the Committee is made up of parents, an architect, school officials and himself. On October 16th the Growth Committee will be giving a presentation to the School Board with its recommendations. The Growth Committee is considering recommending expansion/additions to existing school buildings, which would mean a bond referendum in an amount between \$50M-\$80M for the work. Council Member Lyons said he was not convinced that all additions had to be done all at once, but others on the Growth Committee felt differently.

Council Member Canterino elaborated on the traffic situation by saying that he recognized in March that the Master Plan provided for an incredible number of increased density housing, so he pressed for a meeting with Planners asking that the Master Plan be viewed as a living document. There are so many loopholes and density bonus areas allowed that we're going to be overwhelmed. The Town is having a difficult time dealing with the traffic we have, what will we do with what is coming? That is why this Study was commissioned, and why I advocate that the Master Plan has to be looked at and changes made that will protect the integrity of the community.

Kevin Loughran asked if any new properties were being considered under the Farm Preservation Fund. Supervisor Bloomfield explained that around November 15, the Town would be closing on the purchase of development rights on Rhodes Farm on Conklingtown Road. The next farm the Town will be closing on is Knoell Farm. There are two additional farms being reviewed now by the County for matching funds along with those from other towns. The Council doesn't know if one, both or neither will be chosen. Funds to purchase the Rhodes Farm will be borrowed this year (2006) and paid for in calendar year 2007 – approximately \$750,000. The Knoell Farm will be purchased in January 2007 with the first payment not until 2008. The Council will be working

with the Assessor to have PDR payments listed as a separate line item so that it can be identified, because it's an item voters specifically wanted the Town to do. The Council is excited about these two properties. It took a long time to negotiate.

Kieth Roddy asked about the purchase details. Until closing, Supervisor Bloomfield prefers not to reveal the details of the deal, but will say that citizens and the farmer will be pleased.

Kevin Loughran stated that Craigville Park was packed, a madhouse on weekends, and asked if land under the Open Space program could be used for parks. Supervisor Bloomfield stated no. The Town was purchasing development rights only, and farmers would still farm the land and pay taxes on the land. Supervisor Bloomfield explained that a long-range plan for parks was developed, reviewed by the Town Council, and given to the Planning Board to secure new parklands by negotiating with developers. Councilmember Canterino and former JRC Chairperson Susan Maysels as members of the JRC have walked many proposed properties and currently have one or two good possibilities. That's how the Town is going to get new parks, and the Council would like one at the other end of town so they are not all in one place, especially since many houses are being built out that way. Councilmember Cappella stated that he has been talking about that for two years, and it is one way to divert traffic.

Councilmember Canterino noted that in the Master Plan there is a provision where the Town does not have to strictly buy development rights, but can purchase land for recreation uses. The cost of Rights would be less per acre, than outright purchase. Councilmember Canterino stated that he was a proponent of using Open Space funds to purchase land for recreation. Nick Petraglia questioned Town ability to use bond issue funds for this. Councilmember Canterino said the bond issue was strictly to go out and bond \$5M for the purchase of development rights, lease land or buy land. It was an approval for the money, not what is done with that money.

Kevin Loughran felt that for the amount of taxes paid in Goshen, you get a great Police and Fire Department, great roads, great quality of life, but when it comes to recreation, not a lot of money goes to kids. The kids have Craigville Park and a few smaller parks, but no pool or anything to keep them busy once baseball and soccer season end. Mr. Loughran stated that, as everyone knows, we have to keep kids busy, or they get into other things. What can be done to build upon recreation? Supervisor Bloomfield stated that the Town has one of the highest Parkland Fees in the County, and as units are built, those funds will start coming in. In addition, he explained that he and former JRC Chairperson Susan Maysels believed revenue streams should be created, so that the tax burden for recreation was lessened. Ingenuity and qualified people will help us through this.

Councilmember George Lyons asked Councilmember Cappella to inform attendees of the breakdown of taxes. Councilmember Cappella said 68%-70% of your tax bill goes to schools, 15.7% to the County, 13.5% to the Town and now, 5.5% to Fire. Councilmember Lyons said that the actual dollars that come to the town is not that much. Supervisor Bloomfield said that things are going to be different going forward – the Town is going to pay-as-it-goes or it doesn't go. The Council does not want to borrow any more money beyond that needed for the PDRs. At the November budget hearing, Supervisor Bloomfield said he would have information on debt load and ratios in the past, today and projected. At present, the Town's debt equates to \$1,499 per household, which is reasonable but the Council does not want it to grow beyond the Town's tax income.

Kieth Roddy asked why the Town was waiting until next year to borrow the funds for the Knoell Road PDR. Supervisor Bloomfield stated that the farmer wanted to wait until 2007 to receive the proceeds for tax reasons. Mr. Roddy asked how that would affect taxpayers if the interest rate increased between now and the purchase next year. Supervisor Bloomfield stated that that is not going to be an issue. In addition, this is the owner of the property rights the Town wants and it has received matching funds from the County to purchase.

Councilmember Canterino clarified that under cluster housing, one can only use 50% of the property. The balance of the property can be deeded to the Town for its use or there is a conservation easement. This leaves a lot of open space when cluster development is used, and the Town does not have to pay for it. The Planning Board is doing a great job with this. As long as they don't issue density bonuses where they aren't warranted, which they haven't done. Councilmember Canterino said he understood if people wanted to go out for another bond issue to buy more open space, but believes the goals can be accomplished through zoning and planning. Keith Roddy said it was a good idea as long as the land was usable, not wetlands, etc.

H. ADJOURNMENT

Supervisor Bloomfield made a Motion to adjourn. Councilmember Lyons seconded the Motion. The Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Time: 9:15pm

Respectfully submitted by:

Susan Maysels, Acting Deputy Town Clerk