

**TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD MEETING
November 9, 2006**

The Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 9th day of November, 2006 at 7:30 pm in the 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: Howard Protter Attorney

A. Call to Order

Supervisor Bloomfield called the regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen to order at 7:30 pm. Mr. Andrews led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA - None

C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (agenda items only)

Mr. Jasper Fields suggested that the Town Board consider preparing a simple one page summary of the budget to explain the highpoints for distribution to the public prior to the Public Hearing instead of the complete document. Supervisor Bloomfield stated he felt the TB would not receive adequate dialog with the public with this plan, but he would consider it.

Mr. Jerry Boss asked what Ms. Maysels salary would be when she assumes the Deputy Clerk position. He also asked for the previous Assessor's salary in comparison to the newly appointed Assessor. The previous Assessor made \$50,300 and the Ms. Soules will be making \$57,000, however Ms. Soules is a retiree and will not receive additional benefits. The Supervisor stated that on balance this appointment will be a benefit to the Town. Ms. Soules has had a great deal of experience and has worked in Ramapo, which is a much larger township. Mr. Boss asked if this position could have been filled from in-house. There was one individual in the department who wanted the job, but she had not completed the requirements. One of the goals for this department in the future will be to train the current staff so that they can advance. Ms. Bialas asked if the new Assessor has knowledge of farms and their needs. Ms. Soules has worked in other areas of the states and is from Catskill, NY and does have experience with farm land.

Mr. Keith Roddey attended the Orange Environmental Awards Program where Warwick received an award. They obtained a grant for solar panels and they are currently using used cooking oils from the school cafeteria and Burger King to help keep fuel costs down. The Supervisor will look into this prospect. He noted that they do plan to look for more grant money in the coming year.

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that Councilman Cappella is recovering from knee surgery and Clerk Val Eisma is recuperating from hip surgery. Both are doing well and hope to be back to work soon.

D. OLD BUSINESS

1. Procurement of Front End Loader

Councilman Canterino explained that the old front end loader was too costly to repair. They were able to obtain a new one off of the state bid for \$123,000. Twenty-five thousand dollars was allowed as a trade in. In order to completely pay for the loader, they arranged to rent it for \$5,000/mo. for November and December. The \$10,000 in rent will be applied to the purchase and as this amount is on the budget line for 2007 the Town can pay the cash amount of \$88,362.50 after January 2007. This is a major step in adopting the “pay as you go” philosophy advocated by this Board.

TOWN OF GOSHEN
County of Orange, State of New York
RESOLUTION
AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A
FRONT END LOADER FOR THE
TOWN HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Introduced by: Supervisor Bloomfield
Seconded by: Councilman Newbold
Date of Adoption: November 9, 2006

WHEREAS, the Town Highway Department has requested the purchase of a front end loader; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to its posted New York State Bid, Pine Bush Equipment Co., Inc. located in Pine Bush, New York, has provided a price quote (a copy of which is annexed) for a front end loader with bucket for the sum of \$123,362.50, which will be reduced by \$25,000. for the Highway Department’s trade-in and by the Town’s rental fee of \$5,000. per month for the months of November and December; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board determines it would be in its best interest of the Town Highway Department to rent and then purchase the front end loader.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Town Board authorizes the Town Highway Department to rent the subject Front End Loader for the months of November and December 2006 at a monthly rental fee of \$5,000.00 per month, with the total rental to be applied to the purchase price; and
2. Authorizes the prompt payment of the balance of the purchase price of the Front End Loader in the total amount of \$88,362.50 after January 1, 2007.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilman Newbold	Aye
Councilman Lyons	Aye	Councilman Canterino	Aye
Councilman Cappella	Absent		

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 4 to 0 .

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Accept Resignation of John Smith

Councilman Lyons stated that Officer Smith was with our department for approximately 2 years and now has a job opportunity in Rockland County for significantly more money. The Board accepts his resignation with regret and wishes him well.

**Town of Goshen
County of Orange, State of New York
RESOLUTION
ACCEPTING RESIGNATION OF
POLICE OFFICER JOHN N. SMITH**

Introduced by: Councilman Lyons
 Seconded by: Councilman Canterino
 Date of Adoption: November 9, 2006

WHEREAS, the Town has received a letter from Town of Goshen Police Officer John N. Smith resigning from his position as police officer in the Town of Goshen Police Department.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Goshen Town Board hereby regretfully accepts Officer Smith’s resignation effective November 1, 2006.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Bloomfield:	Aye	Councilman Newbold	Aye
Councilman Lyons	Aye	Councilman Canterino	Aye
Councilperson Cappella	Absent		

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 4 to 0.

**2. Appoint Susan Maysels as Temporary
Deputy Town Clerk**

Ms Maysels has been appointed to serve as Deputy Town Clerk to take the place of the current Deputy, Linda Doolittle, who is retiring. Ms. Maysels will be appointed as Temporary Deputy Clerk for the remainder of this year as Ms. Doolittle will still be on the books until that time. The Town Clerk is still out on sick leave, and Ms. Doolittle will be leaving as of 11/17 causing the department to be very short staffed. This interim step is necessary to meet County requirements.

**Town of Goshen
County of Orange, State of New York
RESOLUTION
APPOINTING TEMPORARY DEPUTY TOWN CLERK**

Introduced by:	Supervisor Bloomfield
Seconded by:	Councilman Canterino
Date of Adoption:	November 9, 2006

WHEREAS, the full time Deputy Town Clerk of the Town of Goshen has tendered her resignation and will officially retire from her position at the end of the calendar year; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk is currently temporarily out on medical leave.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town hereby appoints Susan Maysels as Temporary Deputy Town Clerk effective November 20, 2006.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Bloomfield:	Aye	Councilman Newbold	Aye
Councilman Lyons	Aye	Councilman Canterino	Aye
Councilperson Cappella	Absent		

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 4 to 0.

F. PUBLIC HEARING - 2007 BUDGET

VOTE By Proper MOTION, made by Supervisor Bloomfield, seconded by Councilman Lyons, the Public Hearing for the Town of Goshen 2007 Budget is opened at 8:15 pm. Passed unanimously.

A summary document was passed to the members of the public as well as a chart of accounts prepared by the Budget Officer. Councilman Canterino began the discussion by explaining the steps taken over the past 8 months to create the 5-year plan. It is not entirely completed yet, but rather is a work in progress. All cities in the State are required to have 5-year plans and the State Comptroller strongly suggested that that this be done here. He praised Mr. Standish and his assistant Mr. McMillin for the incredible amount of data they collected over the past 8 months. He hopes it will serve as a template going forward. They collected 3 years of back data to establish average expenses and income. They then made projections to 2011.

Some of the departments run along without much overall change. The larger Departments, i.e., highway and police were asked to project what they felt they would really need over 5 years. This was not meant to be a "wish list". The major purpose behind this project is to provide a means to begin to "pay as we go". This Board is committed to reducing the Town's debt as much as possible.

Supervisor Bloomfield reviewed the summary document. (See attached) The Town's major sources of income were reviewed. Home sales are down throughout the County, therefore mortgage tax income will be down. The Sales Tax revenue is expected to increase somewhat. Court revenues will likely be down due to recent legislation. The Board will put more emphasis on obtaining grants, but it is difficult to rely on this source.

It was also explained that our accessible base will only increase by 1.85%. Part of this slowdown is due to the slowing of the real estate market. There was also a moratorium in 03-04 and the new developments are just coming thru the Planning Board process. This generally takes 2-3 years. There has been little change in the population growth in the past year. It is also noted that there are many expenses that are out of our control, i.e., fuel and insurance costs.

The 5-year plan process showed that the debt increased significantly beginning in 2004 and much of the debt was used to finance operations in order to moderate the tax levy. This Board feels it is not advisable to borrow money for operating expenses, i.e., to pave roads and buy police cars. It is also important that the reserve funds be enhanced in order to successfully moderate the tax levy. The Supervisor feels that by taking this approach, while it will be difficult for this

coming year, it will make it possible to lessen the spikes in the budget and eventually lessen the tax burden.

Supervisor Bloomfield noted that the Town debt has increased 300% since 05. He expects that with this plan the debt can be reduced by a half million in 07. It is also noted that if the tax rate is reduced any further, it would be necessary to reduce services. The Supervisor stated they cannot do this without a mandate from the citizens of the Town. He also is reluctant to take more risky steps to reduce the rate. The Supervisor praised his fellow members for the work they have done on this difficult task.

The Supervisor asked for comments from the public. Mr. Keith Roddey asked what the final budget will be. Mr. Standish responded that it will be \$6.7 million. – it was \$5.8 million in 2006. Mr. Jasper Fields suggested that the Town consider using the benchmarking method for budget projection. The Supervisor felt that this method of comparison with other municipalities could work with the larger departments and he will look into this concept.

Mr. Fields asked how much of the budget is focused on salaries. The salary component accounts for 32.8% of the budget. The most costly aspect is retirement and healthcare. The supervisor noted that they will be looking at this in the future. Mr. Fields asked if it would be possible to have a cap on many of these expenses mandated by the state. The Supervisor stated that he is surprised that the redundancy of services has not been commented on sooner. Other municipalities have much higher debt than we do and it is necessary to look at all the budgets that affect our residents, i.e., school and village taxes. The whole community needs to be involved. The Town is only 13% of the total tax bill. The Board feels that they need a mandate from the residents to take stronger steps in cutting spending. More residents should attend these meetings and express their concerns.

Mr. Roddey asked if the TB has met with the Village Board on the question of redundancy of services. There is some joint effort, with Salesian and Joint Recreation, however the Village does not appear to be receptive to talk of combining fire, police and highway services. Mr. Fields noted that at one time, the State was trying to make it difficult to have these various services stay separate. Supervisor Bloomfield noted that there are grants available to study this possibility of consolidation, which they will look into. He feels that when the situation becomes desperate enough, the public will want to see this consolidation.

Mr. Bill Johnson noted that when a farmer finds he is in financial difficulty he cuts spending. Supervisor Bloomfield emphasized that they have tried hard not to cut services. Mr. Johnson also expressed concern about the funding of the Humane Society. Why is the Town continuing the funding when they refuse to report to the Board? Mr. Andrews also questioned the funding for this group. The Supervisor noted that taking away the funding would only hurt the animals. The Board needs to review this issue more closely. Mr. Fields suggested that the animal shelter be run by the County. There are so many local shelters and they all are in financial trouble. He also asked why there are so many different layers of police protection, i.e., State, County, Village and Town. Mr. Johnson is also very concerned about the PDR process and the related cost. The Supervisor stated that this concept of open space was approved in 2004.

Mr. Nick Petraglia asked what the plans are for Salesian if there is to be no more spending. The Supervisor replied that they will maintain what has been done so far. They will mow the grass, finish the planting, fence off the old mansion and add safety guards to the fence, but they will not go on to Phases 2,3 and 4. The Park will be open to the public once the safety measures are in place.

Mr. Boss noted that when the Police Department was created it was ill-conceived. The Supervisor at the time felt it would have little or no cost. The cost has increased greatly since its conception. The Village PD has also experienced large growth. Mr. Andrews asked if they have authorized 2 new part-time police position. Councilman Lyons noted that they have added 1 full time. It has been very difficult to get part time people and to keep them, so it was necessary to hire a full time person. It is difficult to fill in the schedule when the part timers cannot be relied upon. Councilman Lyons also stated that they have hired 1 part-time person, who will likely never be full time as he is a trained radiologist full time and works in the area.

Mr. Johnson also asked what has happened to the original Master Plan. He has a dense subdivision coming in next to his farm with 38 wells and septic systems. The Supervisor stated that none of us ever thought there would be 3500 homes before the Planning Board in such a short time. The TB has hired special counsel to help us tighten the zoning code while keeping us from losing law suits.

Mr. Roddey noted that the PDR expense is approximately 1.81% of the budget. If you do the calculations it costs approximately \$16 per household to save the open space, which will save much more on school tax. Mr. Andrews asked to see the comparison of principle and interest payments from 06 to 07. Mr. Standish stated that it would be an approximate increase of \$438,000. Mr. Andrews asked how they plan to reduce legal expenses. He questioned the total expense on the Serdarevic law suit. Mr. Standish will look into this issue.

Mr. Fields stated that he felt this was a good presentation and the board should exercise aggressive leadership.

In summary, the Board will consider the following in the next year: 1) publication of an executive summary prior to the meeting; 2) the concept of benchmarking; 3) review of part time benefits (the majority do not receive health benefits); 4) pursuit of the concept of a state mandated cap on spending; 5) continue reducing the debt.

VOTE By Proper MOTION, made by Supervisor Bloomfield, seconded by Councilman Canterino, the Town Board hereby closes the Public Hearing on the 2007 Budget. Passed by 4 ayes to 0 nays.

VOTE By Proper MOTION, made by Councilman Newbold, seconded by Councilman Lyons, the Town Board hereby adopts the 2007 Budget as presented. Passed unanimously by a vote of 4 to 0.

G. FINANCE

VOTE By Proper MOTION, made by Councilman Newbold, seconded by Councilman Lyons, the Town Board hereby authorizes the Supervisor to pay voucher 2006-2327 to voucher 2006-2343 and 2006-2172 amounting to \$ 132,188.82 and authorizes the Supervisor to pay voucher 2006-2580 to voucher 2006-2707 amounting to \$ 244,784.86. The Board also authorizes the following correction to the Abstract dated October 26, 2006 amounting to \$237.48. Passed unanimously 4 – 0.

H. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Mr. Petraglia asked what the actual cost is for legal fees. Mr. Standish replied that the cost was \$321,000 however, some of this was recovered. Ms. Myruski asked if some of this is paid by developers as they appear before PB. Yes, they put up escrow for their projects. The Supervisor stated that on occasion the developer will stop the project and leave bills coming in much later. These are not always covered by the amount in escrow. Mr. Andrews stated that the Engineers need to process their billing quickly and the Town needs to monitor this billing process more stringently.

Ms. Myruski noted that the Town should be more aware of companies that come in and separate their property into smaller parcels that do not require as much review. Ms. Myruski suggested that the group present tonight consider a petition drive to make the residents more aware of the issues. Mr. Johnson thanked the

Board for their efforts and asked that they keep cutting expenses so that they can afford to live here.

Ms. Bialas took this opportunity to thank Ms. Doolittle for her work for the Town and wished her a "good life". Councilman Newbold also commended Ms. Doolittle for her dedication to the Town.

Mr. Boss stated he had more information on the background of Frank E. Celli who is a principal involved with Interstate Waste Services. He asked that the TB look further into this individuals' background. Supervisor Bloomfield stated that the DEC took the lead on this and they granted the transfer of the permit.

Ms. Bialas asked for clarification regarding the transfer tax that passed in Warwick. Is Goshen considering this type of legislation? This involves a tax only on the sale of property and the monies collected would go into the General Fund. Supervisor Bloomfield stated that they have proposed it in the past, but the state legislators did not take it to the Assembly. Mr. Protter explained that this needs special legislation from the State. The Town would have to make application to our State Representatives to consider this plan.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

VOTE By Proper MOTION, made by Councilman Lyons, seconded by Councilman Newbold the Town Board voted to go into Executive Session to discuss matters of pending litigation. Passed unanimously.

Linda P. Doolittle
Deputy Town Clerk