

TOWN BOARD WORKSESSION
JULY 24, 2006

PRESENT:

Douglas Bloomfield	Supervisor	Louis Cappella	Councilman
Kenneth Newbold	Councilman	Philip Canterino	Councilman
George Lyons	Councilman		

Also Present: Attorneys John Cappello and Rick Golden

Items on agenda:

1. Al Mulrad: A business person in the Town of Goshen came forward and provided the Board with a packet showing them the assessment problem he has with the Town of Goshen. Mr. Mulrad said he has had “two go rounds” with the Town in reference to the assessment on his business. He said it has cost him \$37,000.00 on lawyers, \$15,000.00 on appraisals to finally convince the Tax Assessor that she was wrong in the assessment of our property. He said we pay close to \$300,000.00 in taxes, this is school, town, etc., we get zero services. Mr. Mulrad said “we are not a burden on the community whatsoever and I do not understand why every five or six years I have to go through this exercise.” He said he really does not want to go through this again and why should he stay here with his business, when he has other choices. Mr. Mulrad said he has been a member of this community for the last 30 some odd years and this is very aggravating and this does not count what you have to spend on your assessor and your lawyer.

Supervisor Bloomfield replied this is one thing the Board is looking at. He said the assessor Mr. Mulrad is speaking of has retired. Mr. Mulrad said he realizes the Assessor is appointed and is its own office, but “the Board has to be somewhat business minded.” He said I can see her making a mistake once, but twice? He said it is ridiculous for me to have to pay \$160,000.00 more than I should have and get only \$ 110,000.00 back because the lawyer took the rest. Mr. Mulrad said “you are chasing business away”. Supervisor Bloomfield said he and Councilman Canterino are looking into the number of tax certs the Town has and looking for a way to handle this.

Councilman Canterino stated the Town gets a small amount of the total tax package, and yet the Town is left to defend these tax certiorari, with the Town paying the entire bill. The Board discussed at length the process of how the assessment is done and how the tax certs are handled in court. Supervisor Bloomfield said the Town will be hiring a new assessor and will try to see what the problem is here. The Town does not want to discourage business.

Attorney Cappello said he would be on vacation for the next work session and perhaps the Board should make arrangements for John Thomas, who represents us in the tax certs, to come to a meeting and answer the Board's questions.

Mr. Mulrad thanked the Board for allowing him to appear. He said this has been bothering him for years now and "you have a bit of a problem here that I think you should look at." Councilman Lyons assured Mr. Mulrad that there is no one on the Board that does not want to attract ratables. The Board thanked Mr. Mulrad for calling this to their attention. The Board agrees this is a problem they will have to examine carefully.

2. Riccardulli Easement Request: Attorney Rick Golden presented the Board with a map of the Riccardulli property. He said when the home was built and originally approved, it was thought the frontage was on a public road, Magic Circle Terrace. He said it was not, it was fronting on land owned by the Hambletonian Group. The Riccardullis are asking the Board to grant them an easement to cross the easement the Town has that leads to the water tower. Attorney Golden and Mr. Riccardulli explained the entire proposal to the Board. The Board had no objection and would like to help the Riccardullis. Supervisor Bloomfield said "you are part of the Town, this is your Town, and I think this is something where we can do something." The entire Board agreed. A Resolution will be prepared for Thursday's meeting. The Riccardullis thanked the Board.

3. Budget Process: Timeline – Supervisor Bloomfield presented the Board with a schedule and how the process will be handled. The Board discussed the many ways they hope to curtail the spending and the debt. There was a lengthy discussion on the existing debt and the many costly projects that money has been borrowed for and the interest being paid on that debt. The Board discussed the fact that real estate is slowing and the mortgage tax income may be decreasing.

4. Due Diligence Status: Supervisor Bloomfield reported to the Board he has contacted the Personnel Department for the list of those passing the Police Chief Category A Test. He said the Town Clerk is posting the position in the Times Herald Record and with the New York State Department of Labor. Councilman Lyons reported there is no Civil Service list for A or B. As many questions were raised Attorney Cappella suggested it be taken into Executive Session.

5. Status: Supervisor Bloomfield reported he had met with a member of the DEC, Highway Superintendent Steve Andryshak, Joe Klopchin, Ron Gainer and Mark Warren. He said the Board has to get back to the DEC by August 24th with our plan as to finding out where the MTBEs are coming from. The Supervisor said borings will have to be done, an engineering problem so he is talking to the engineer. He also said he has consulted with Attorneys Cappello and Protter and their advise is to hook up to the Village water as soon as possible. Supervisor Bloomfield said he had instructed the Highway Superintendent to start digging the ditch that will be necessary for the pipeline.

He reported there are two more homes now plus the Police/Highway and the Humane Society. He said the DEC representative told him he thought it was our well that was migrating to the County, but he read a report that when we were having our problems our reading was 6.6 parts per billion and the County was 110,000 parts per billion. He said now he feels the problem is migrating from the County to us. Therefore, the Supervisor said the County will have to take steps also and he is trying to get in touch with them. Attorney Cappello explained the Town's liability under various circumstances.

Supervisor Bloomfield reported he has spoken with the Mayor and he assured him the Town could hook up to the Village. At this time the Supervisor was not aware that two homes are now involved. Therefore, he wrote to the Mayor explaining the DEC wants additional information now and he would keep the Mayor abreast of the results and the fact that we may need water for more than our own facilities.

6. Software – Budget Officer- The Budget Officer has inspected the software and found it satisfactory. Will be placed on Thursday's agenda.

7. Special Franchise Assessment Procedure: The Board discussed the law suit New York Gas & Electric vs. New York State. Attorney Cappella explained the State will defend the suit, however, the Town may have to share expenses if the State should lose.

8. Any Other Matter of Interest to the Board:

Councilman Cappella reported a problem on the Dial – A – Bus concerning a woman and her three children. The woman has a small child and two older. The mother placed the two younger ones in one seat and sat with the older child who has a disability. The driver felt she should have sat with the smaller child. The Board discussed the fact it may be a judgement call. Attorney Cappello suggested contacting the County to see if they have a set of procedures a driver could go by.

Councilman Cappella also reported the Highway Superintendent and his men worked at the Salesian property and took out the stump, took the dock out of the pond, etc. He said they saved the taxpayer at least \$10,000.00 by doing it themselves. There appears to be a drainage problem, but Steve and Joe Henry talked to the County and they feel they can solve the problem when Steve finishes Coleman Road.

Supervisor Bloomfield made a Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss possible pending litigation and personnel with no intent to return. Motion seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 9:20 p.m.

Valma Eisma, Town Clerk

