

TOWN OF GOSHEN  
TOWN BOARD MEETING  
November 9, 2017  
MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 9th day of November, 2017 at Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present: Douglas Bloomfield Supervisor  
Melissa Gallo Councilmember  
George Lyons Councilmember  
Kenneth Newbold Councilmember  
John VanDerMolen Councilmember

Also Present: Richard Golden, Esq. Attorney for the Town  
Priscilla Gersbeck Town Clerk

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:31pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

Addition to Old Business: update Stonehedge water district.  
Agenda item 2 under New Business has been postponed.

**C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (agenda items only)**

Nick Gallo asked for the date of the next Park & Recreation meeting. Ans: Nov. 14 at Village Hall, 7PM.

**D. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. PUBLIC HEARING: 2018 TOWN OF GOSHEN BUDGET**

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to open the public hearing as published in the Independent Republican for the Town of Goshen 2018 budget along with the proposed fiscal 2018 salaries of the elected Town of Goshen Officers. Councilperson Gallo seconded the motion.

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

Following is a summary of the approaches in budgeting for 2018.

**Town of Goshen Financial Planning Goals:** Maintain fund balances, financial stability-live within our means, protect jobs, protect services and achieve the NYS 2% tax levy cap or annual inflation rate (1.84%), whichever is lower.

**Budget Planning Strategies:** Utilize a 5 year strategic plan: buy used equipment, pay cash – no borrowing, develop and improve functioning capability of organization, focus on continued cost reduction, increase effort to resolve tax certiorari [Al Turi Landfill tax certiorari \$123,545], increase funding for road construction, grow assessable base and utilize grant opportunities [road & culvert rehabilitation \$759,000].

**Strategy 2:** Pay cash – No borrowing – reduce debt.

	<u>12/31/2006</u>		<u>12/31/2017</u>
Total Debt	\$4,588,922		\$2,025,001
Reduction		-\$2,563,921 or -56%	
Debt Payment	\$677,492		\$206,988
Reduction		-\$470,504 or -69%	

**Strategy 4:** Focus on continued cost reduction. New Reductions 2017 are as follows:

(1) Pension Costs -\$38,808 (2) Orange County Assessing Contract -\$124,355. The total savings for 2017 is -\$163,163. The carry-over reduction from 2006 to 2016 is -\$1,771,217.

**Strategy 5:** Increase effort to resolve tax certiorari. The number of certiorari cases for 2006 was 300. The number for 2018 was 22.

**Strategy 6:** Increase Funding for Road Construction: Asphalt and the application used in road construction has increased from the amount spent in 2006, \$231,223 and projected figures for 2017, \$759,000 and projected figures for 2018, \$794,000.

**Strategy 7:** Grow Assessable Base; for 2012 the assessable base total was \$567,124,658 and for 2018 the assessable base total is \$629,317,640. Therefore the growth total in assessable base is \$62,192,982 or 11.0%.

**Strategy 8:** Grants; monies received are as follows: (1) Cupola Grant-Town Hall \$50,000 [completed] (2) Parking Lot Rehabilitation Grant –Town Hall \$70,000 [2018] (3) Handicap assessable Doors-Town Hall \$50,000 [2018] (4) Town Hall Roof Restoration \$50,000 [2018] (5) Salt Shed \$50,000 [2018] and Durland and Coleman Road Culverts \$527,000 [completed]. The total of grant monies to be received from the government amounts to \$797,000.

**2018 Budgeted Revenues**

	<u>2017 Budget (\$M)</u>	<u>Actual (\$M)*</u>	<u>2018 Budget (\$M)</u>
Mortgage Tax	\$ 260	\$ 360	\$ 270
Justice Court Revenue	\$ 200	\$ 350	\$ 240
Sales Tax	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,200
Franchise Fees	\$ 100	\$ 105	\$ 100

\*estimated

**Cost Increase Summary for 2018**

(1) Al Turi Certiorari, +\$123,545 (2) Healthcare, +\$51,000 (3) Labor Contracts, PBA TBD/ CSEA, +\$14,237 (4) Road Improvements, +\$35,000 (5) Sand, Salt & Plowing, +\$250 (5) Town Hall Parking Lot & Handicap Accessible Doors, +\$10,000 and (7) Miscellaneous (Police PR Coverage), +\$121,000.

**Cost Of Employee Benefits**

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2017</u>
<b>Police:</b> Average Salary	\$62,122	\$68,588	\$77,221
Total With Benefits	51.05%	63.83%	69.30%
<b>Other Employees:</b> Average Salary	\$42,260	\$46,659	\$53,045
Total With Benefits	59.91%	72.25%	78.30%

**Tax Rate Changes**

Town-wide	-01%	Village Only	-.80%
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**Tax levy change for home with \$300,000 Fair Market Value:**

	<u>2017*</u>	<u>2018*</u>	<u>Δ</u>
Town Resident Bill	\$ 1,366.79	\$1,366.70	-\$0.09
Village Resident Bill	\$ 484.46	\$ 480.56	-\$3.90

\*Assessed Value is 65% of Fair Market Value.

The Town Standard & Poors Bond Rating is AA which is high.

Supervisor Bloomfield called for comments from the public.

**Bob Smith** voiced his dissatisfaction with business transactions depending on grants. He opined that the people should be able to decide what (\$) we want to spend and when we want to spend it and on what is needed.

**Nick Gallo** asked the Budget Officer to explain how contingency monies are distributed. Ans: inaudible

**Colleen Davies** inquired as to the employment procedures/policies of those hired in the Town Hall.

Supervisor Bloomfield explained the elected, appointed and civil service positions and the qualifications for their rate of pay.

**Reynell Andrews** The two million recently deposited in the bank is not new money, it's a transfer from one bank to another for higher rates replied the Budget Officer to Mr. Andrews question.

**Debbie Corr** didn't see incorporated into the budget monies allocated to encompass additional subdivisions of residents relative to taxes falling short of supporting the high cost of educating a child or added police/fire protection predicted for Legoland, etc. Supervisor Bloomfield explained that there are different taxing authorities: the school, library, and fire dept. The Town budget is for the Town only; snow removal/police etc.

Councilperson Lyons made the motion to close the public hearing for the Town of Goshen 2018 budget.

Councilperson Van Der Molen seconded the motion.

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

**E. OLD BUSINESS:**

**1. DISCUSS AND PASS RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE BUDGET AS PRESENTED AND/OR MODIFIED.**

Councilperson Gallo made the motion to adopt the Town of Goshen 2018 budget as presented.  
Councilperson Van Der Molen seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor, Douglas Bloomfield	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, John Van Der Molen	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, Melissa Gallo	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, Kenneth Newbold	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, George Lyons	<u>AYE</u>		

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote 5 to 0

**2. INFORMATION: STATUS OF A CHLORINE DISINFECTION SYSTEM INSTALLED IN THE STONEHEDGE WATER DISTRICT.**

Supervisor Bloomfield noted that the coliform contamination that was detected in the Stonehedge water district has been cleared-up as of 4:00pm today. Reviewing all of the water samples, the Dept. of Health has allowed us to remove the boil water notice.

**F. NEW BUSINESS:**

**1. REVIEW SPECIAL USE PERMIT FOR DAVIS SOLAR, LLC. 2 MW SOLAR ENERGY FACILITY AND SITE PLAN APPLICATION, SET A JOINT PUBLIC HEARING WITH THE PLANNING BOARD FOR DECEMBER 7, 2017.**

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to set special meeting to conduct a joint public hearing with the Planning Board on the special use permit and site plan application of Davis Solar, LLC at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2017 at Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Goshen, New York 10924. Councilperson Lyons seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor, Douglas Bloomfield	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, John Van Der Molen	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, Melissa Gallo	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, Kenneth Newbold	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, George Lyons	<u>AYE</u>		

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote 5 to 0

**2. DISCUSS PLAN FOR TOWN OF GOSHEN TAX RECEIVER OF TAXES TO ACCEPT ONLINE PAYMENTS AND AUTHORIZE THE BUDGET OFFICER TO FILE NECESSARY ADMINISTRATIVE PAPERS.**

Postponed

**G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to accept the minutes of work sessions October 10, 2017 and October 23, 2017. Regular Meetings of October 12, 2017 and October 26, 2017. Councilperson Lyons seconded the motion.

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

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to accept the minutes of Special meeting of October 17, 2017. Councilperson Lyons seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed: 4 AYES Bloomfield, Gallo, Lyons, Newbold  
0 NAYS

**H. FINANCE:**

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay Manual A/P check runs as of 10-31-2017 amounting to \$12,410.00 and to pay Accounts Payable check run for 11-8-2017 amounting to \$67,424.88. Councilperson Gallo seconded the motion.

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

**I. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR**

**Councilperson Newbold** acknowledged the retirement of David Myruski (11-12-17) who worked in the Highway Department for thirty years. We wish him good luck.

**Several people** spoke about the petition for the referendum regarding the sale of certain lands owned by the Town to Merlin Entertainments. The denial, due to technicalities, *opinioned* not representative of the majority of the people. *Opinioned* the people continue to have their voice suppressed. "Let the people speak".

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

Councilperson Gallo made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilperson Van Der Molen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Adjournment: 8:40PM

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Priscilla Gersbeck, Town Clerk