

**GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD MEETING**

September 24, 2020

MINUTES

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 24th day of September, 2020 at the Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York via videoconference due to the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

Present:	Douglas Bloomfield	Supervisor
	Philip Canterino	Councilmember
	Richard Florio	Councilmember
	George Lyons	Councilmember
	Kenneth Newbold	Councilmember

Also Present:	Richard Golden Esq.	Attorney for the town
	Priscilla Gersbeck	Town Clerk
	Mary Riso	Clerk to the Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Councilperson Lyons motioned to open the meeting at 7:30pm and seconded by Councilperson Newbold. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Conduct Public Hearing of proposed Town of Goshen Introductory Local Law 2 of 2020, "a local law adopting a six-month moratorium on energy storage facilities".

Councilperson Canterino made the motion to open the public hearing on above said Introductory Local Law #2 of 2020. Councilperson Florio seconded the motion.

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

Attorney Golden gave a brief summary of the Local Law. This came about as a result of an applicant proposing an energy storage facility. Basically, "The moratorium will stop the processing of applications for, and the issuance of any permits, certificates of occupancy and approvals for energy storage facilities. The moratorium is for a period of six (6) months, allowing the Town Board to analyze and determine potential appropriate revisions and amendments to the Town of Goshen Zoning Code concerning this use."

Supervisor Bloomfield called for comments from the public.

Scott Connuck, Project Developer from East Point Energy represents the applicant referenced. East Point Energy is an energy storage company. They develop energy storage projects that make the electrical grid more affordable, reliable and resilient. They partner with utilities, independent power producers, landowners, and communities to deploy utility-scale storage projects to benefit the grid and our environment. They have invested a great deal of time and money in this project. There will be no environmental impacts to the Town and will be adequately screened. Though he is disappointed, he hopes this moratorium will be handled expeditiously.

Doug Warden, Attorney for Davis Solar submitted two (2) comments to Kelly Naughton Esq. for the record. He is requesting that (1) Not to include within the scope of the moratorium any energy storage facilities that store energy generated from solar farms and (2) Not to include anything that has been received as special use permit approval from the Town prior to April 1, 2020. Davis Solar has already received its approval. However, they still need a building permit. It will be up to the Town Board if they want to exempt any solar facilities that have been approved before the moratorium was adopted.

Supervisor Bloomfield called for comments from the Town Board.

The Councilmembers discussed if the moratorium will affect the approved solar farms. Traditionally prior approvals are grandfathered in. Therefore the moratorium will not pertain to prior approvals. Also the visual effect on the community - residential neighborhood. The solar facilities approved have small battery storage incidental to the solar farm. Not a large component (stand-alone) of the application.

(With no further comments)

Councilperson Newbold motioned to close the public hearing for Introductory Local Law #2 of 2020. Councilperson Lyons seconded the motion.

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

Councilperson Canterino made the motion to adopt Introductory Local Law #2 as Local Law #3 of 2020 as presented. Councilperson Florio seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor, Douglas Bloomfield	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, Richard Florio	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, Philip Canterino	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, Kenneth Newbold	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, George Lyons	<u>AYE</u>		

Vote: Motion carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

Attorney Golden noted that the Orange County Dept. of Planning has found no evidence that significant intermunicipal or countywide impacts would result from this approval.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Review and discuss a proposed Town of Goshen 2021 Tentative Budget. Following the discussion, the Town Board needs to approve a 2021 Preliminary Budget to be presented to the public on October 22nd.**

Following is a summary of the approaches in budgeting for 2021.

Town of Goshen Financial Planning Goals: Maintain fund balances, financial stability-live within our means, protect jobs, protect services, achieve the NYS 2% tax levy cap or annual inflation rate (2.00%), whichever is lower and use proceeds of the Merlin Host Community fees to lower property taxes.

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, increase funding for road construction, grow assessable base and utilize grant opportunities.

Debt Reduction: Pay cash – No borrowing – reduce debt.

	<u>12/31/2006</u>		<u>12/31/2020</u>
Total Debt	\$4,588,922		\$1,530,000
Reduction		-\$3,058,922 or -67%	
Debt Payment	\$677,492		\$212,100
Reduction		-\$465,392 or -69%	

Cost Reductions. Number of employees:

	<u>2006</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>Change</u>
Full-Time Employees	45	30	-33%
Part-Time Employees	45	50	11%

Funding for Road Construction: Asphalt and the application used in road construction has increased from the amount spent in 2006 was \$231,223, for 2018 was \$1,020,674, for 2020 was \$788,906 adjusted due to COVID and projected figures for 2021 is \$1,144,000.

Assessable Base: for 2012 the assessable base total was \$567,124,658 and for 2020 the assessable base total is \$636,702,326. Therefore the growth total in assessable base is \$69,577,668 or 12.3%, [2012 to 2020 total is 9.0%].

Budgeted Revenues:

	<u>2020 Budget (\$M)</u>	<u>Actual (\$M)*</u>	<u>2021 Budget (\$M)</u>
Mortgage Tax	\$ 330	\$ 330	\$ 330
Justice Court Revenue	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 125
Sales Tax	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100
Franchise Fees	\$ 120	\$ 120	\$ 120
(including Time Warner Cable)			
Merlin Host Community Fee	\$ 260	\$ 257	\$ 260
Totals	\$ 2,210	\$ 1,907	\$ 1,935

*estimated

Tax Rate Changes:

Town-wide	-1.06%	Village only	-0.52%
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Tax levy change for home with \$200,000 Assessed Value:

	<u>2020*</u>	<u>2021*</u>	<u>Δ</u>
Town Resident Bill	\$ 1,335.24	\$1,321.04	-\$14.20
Village Resident Bill	\$ 420.94	\$ 418.74	-\$2.20

*Assessed Value is 62% of Fair Market Value.

Councilperson Lyons made the motion to accept the Tentative Budget as presented and to approve the Tentative Budget as the Preliminary Budget for 2021. Councilperson Florio seconded the motion.

Supervisor Bloomfield called for discussion

Councilperson Newbold suggested the Town raise the salary of the Superintendent of Highways, Broderick Knoell who is also in charge of the Water & Sewer Department and should be compensated for that position. He answers the phone anytime, any day and will tend to water & sewer issues likewise.

Councilperson Canterino will take another look at the budget. He has no problem with the salary increase. Speaking with our Attorney, if there is a change it would have to be presented at the public hearing. Supervisor Bloomfield will ask Christine Cavaliere to do a calculation to see if a pay raise is doable.

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to accept the Tentative Budget *[looking into issues associated with the Highway Superintendent's salary increase]* as the Preliminary Budget for 2021, setting the date for the Public Hearing on October 22, 2020 at 7:30PM or soon thereafter at the Town Hall, 41 Webster Avenue. Councilperson Florio seconded the motion.

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

2. Information: NYSDOH is now requiring water districts to be tested for PFO's, PFOA's and 1, 4-Dioxane contamination beginning in January 2021.

Sampling will be required every quarter until at least 2 quarters of results for a ground treatment plant, or 4 quarters of results for a surface water treatment plant (included GWUDI), after time the sampling requirements may be reduced.

3. Information: The devastating west coast fires have destroyed 28 homes of employees working at the Amy's Kitchen Plant in Medford, Oregon.

Fortunately, everyone is safe. They (Amy's) have been working hard to support them during this difficult time. As stated, for information only.

4. Information: The water department will be flushing hydrants in the Hambletonian/Heritage District on September 29 and 30.

As stated, for information only.

5. Information: Town of Goshen fall cleanup will begin October 5, 2020.

In the future Bulk Clean Up will no longer be scheduled for Spring. It will be replaced with a yearly clean up only in the Fall.

OLD BUSINESS

1. Phil Canterino - Status update on Salesian project planning.

Salesian School Building:

Along with inspectors from Quest he entered the building. It has deteriorated to the point of being dangerous to inspect. They could not get into the basement or go up to the second or third floor because the roof has partially caved in with extensive water damage. There were exposed pipes with asbestos. Calculations are being made on (1) asbestos abatement – not cost effective because an engineer has to evaluate the condition of the present construction if any of it can be saved/recycled and (2) to condemn the entire building as contaminated for demolition. From here we are waiting for estimates/costs as to which way to go and what approach is the safest to follow.

Councilperson Lyons would like input from the Village.

Councilperson Newbold suggested to check with the Federal Government and EPA for guidelines/permits to take the building down. He agrees to bring the building down. If we have to borrow money to do it –then do it.

Salesian Park Fence:

Meeting with Trish, she mentioned there is a \$28,000 price tag to fix the fence *only* along Route 207. This has been two years in the making with parts on order. There is a \$14,000 deposit which we might be able to get back if we decide to do something else. This should be discussed with the Village. Many people he has talked to would like to see the fence down. It was originally put up for private property. Now it is a municipal park. It cost more to repair and maintain than to take down.

Councilperson Florio would like to keep the fence. Many of the JRC members he spoke to would like to keep the fence. He believes the Library wants the fence.

Supervisor Bloomfield wants to know what is more important and what is affordable at this time; taking down the Salesian School building or to repair the fence. How much money will the Village be able to contribute? We should not make a decision until we know what the cost will be for both projects.

Councilperson Canterino noted it would be cheaper to take down the fence than to repair it. The library's portion is in terrible shape and they should fix their own section. He would like direction as to what to do.

Councilperson Lyons believes the vast majority of the fence is solid. It looks worse than it actually is.

He has heard that Premiere Fence Co. will repair, replace and do whatever is needed to complete the entire fence project. He is in favor of keeping the fence.

Councilperson Newbold noted why discuss this if the JRC has already made the decision to repair the fence.

At this time it is unclear as to what is going on with the delivery of the fence repair order. Councilperson Florio will find out if there is a delivery coming in or is the order on hold.

2. Review and approve virtual meeting minutes for Town Board Meeting held on September 10, 2020.

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to approve the Town Board minutes of September 10, 2020.

Councilperson Lyons second the motion.

On a Voice Vote: 5 AYES

Supervisor Bloomfield Aye

Councilperson Canterino Aye

Councilperson Lyons Aye

Councilperson Newbold Aye

Motion Carried.

Councilperson Florio Aye

3. Information: The Town of Goshen has been served a "Notice of Claim" regarding a Chester citizen killed June 24, 2020 in a car/bicycle accident on Craigville Road. Marshall & Sterling Insurance Co. is pursuing the matter on the Town's behalf.

As stated, for information only.

4. The Hartley Road rehabilitation/paving project has been completed. Thank you, Broderick Knoell, Town of Goshen Highway Superintendent and your employees for a job well done!

As stated, for information only.

5. Review status update provided by Sean Hoffman, P.E. on the following projects:
- Arcadia Hills water storage tank installation
 - Arcadia Hills sewer pipe lining
 - Hambletonian Park sewer pipe lining

In a memo from Sean Hoffman, P.E. he noted technical comments from the Orange County Department of Health on our July 24, 2020 submission were receive. OCDOH requires several modifications to the technical specifications and construction plans prior to their approval. Currently modifications are being made for the water storage tank installation. Utilizing survey data received from Legoland, New York, his office was able to refine the scope of work within Arcadia Hills to be 1,080 linear feet of sanitary sewer to be lined. Within Hambletonian Park the scope of work consists of 680 linear feet of sanitary sewer to be lined. Going out for competitive bids on the projects next week.

6. Discuss the upcoming location for the November elections. (addenda item)

Supervisor Bloomfield does not want the upcoming Presidential election voting to be held in the Town Hall building. According to OSHA, he is responsible for the health and welfare of the Town Hall employees. With the Covid-19 restrictions, he believes he cannot guarantee the safety of the employees by allowing the public to vote in the Town Hall. If the Board of Elections insist on using the Town Hall, perhaps all of the building employees should get a paid day off not to come in. Also, the Board of Elections would be responsible for the professional cleanup after the election. He called for comments.

Councilperson Florio wants the entire location professionally cleaned.

Councilperson Canterino asked what entrance would be used. Ans: It would be in the back because of the available parking for the handicapped.

Councilperson Lyons asked what is happening with the other voting sites in Goshen? We have to protect the workers and the public.

Supervisor Bloomfield wants our Attorney to draw-up papers guaranteeing that the Board of Elections will be responsible for cleaning the building for us to open up the next day.

Councilperson Newbold feels it will hard to justify using the Town Hall. What about Valley View and the Main St. School Building – will they open up for voting?

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to authorize Attorney Golden to draft an agreement between the Supervisor and the County to guarantee professional cleaning in the Town Hall voting area. Councilperson Lyons seconded the motion.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor, Douglas Bloomfield	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, George Lyons	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, Philip Canterino	<u>AYE</u>	Councilperson, Kenneth Newbold	<u>AYE</u>
Councilperson, Richard Florio	<u>AYE</u>		

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 5 to 0

FINANCE:

1. Councilperson Canterino made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay Accounts Payable check run for September 24, 2020 in the amount of \$172,425.03. Councilperson Newbold seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote: 5 AYES Supervisor Bloomfield Aye
 Councilperson Canterino Aye
 Councilperson Lyons Aye
 Councilperson Newbold Aye
Motion Carried. Councilperson Florio Aye

2. Councilperson Lyons made the motion to approve year-to-date budget transfers as presented by the Budget Officer. Councilperson Florio seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote: 5 AYES Supervisor Bloomfield Aye
 Councilperson Canterino Aye
 Councilperson Lyons Aye
 Councilperson Newbold Aye
Motion Carried. Councilperson Florio Aye

ADJOURNMENT: Time 9:10pm

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to adjourn. Councilperson Florio seconded the motion.
Motion Carried.

Priscilla Gersbeck, Town Clerk