

**Town of Goshen  
Town Board Meeting  
July 8, 2021  
Minutes**

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2021, at the Goshen Senior Center, 100 Trotter Circle, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

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

Also Present:	Richard Golden, Esq.	Town Attorney
	Sean Hoffman	Town Engineer
	Mary Riso	Clerk to the Supervisor/Deputy Town Clerk

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Lyons, seconded by Councilperson Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to open the meeting at 7:30 pm. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

**Public Hearing**

**Town of Goshen Introductory Law 3 of 2021 Opting Out of Cannabis Licensing/Establishment of Both Retail Cannabis Dispensaries and on-site Cannabis Consumption Establishment. \***

**OR**

**Town of Goshen Introductory Law 4 of 2021 Opting Out of Licensing/Establishment of On-Site Cannabis Consumption Establishments within the Town of Goshen. \***

**\*When both of these local laws were discussed at the June 24, 2021, Town Board Meeting, the Board assumed lead agency for the SEQRA review and typed it a Type 1 action. Issuing of a negative declaration remains to be done.**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Florio, seconded by Councilperson Newbold, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to open the Public Hearing for Introductory Law 3 of 2021 and Introductory Law 4 of 2021. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

Attorney Golden explained the procedure of opting out. It has to be done by a certain date, December 31, 2021. This is the last night the Town must decide whether to opt out, so it can be put on a referendum in November. If the Town doesn't opt out this year, it won't be allowed after. It's allowed to opt in later.

Whereupon, there was a discussion on the tax revenue from the businesses and what other local municipalities are planning to do.

Jeremy Zweig, Abbe Road, in summary stated marijuana will be sold regardless of the law, delivery services will be operating, farmers in Goshen can apply for licenses, it will be lawful and permitted, and it will be here regardless. Should be looking for the best ways to support small businesses. Suggested the Town conduct more inquiries into this business that they don't know enough about, and to please vote no.

Matt Delgado, Robalene Dr., in summary, has lived in the Town for 20 years, been a patient and avid user, and is concerned about the effect of the ban on members of the community that can be treated by cannabis. The stigma of cannabis is going to break. He relayed two instances where cannabis would have helped people rather than opioids or alcohol. Asked what the big deal was over cannabis? Wants to change the stigma of cannabis and help the disabled. Open the Town to new industries and bringing jobs to the locality. This Town has revenue coming from places that damage our community. Let residents have access to cannabis. Town could be giving up mass revenue.

Stella Lemmon, retired attorney, thought Jeremy made good a point and an impassioned plea. Fentanyl is the big problem not marijuana. Doesn't seem the Town is looking at the situation and making a fair comparison from alcohol to marijuana.

Zack Constantine, 354 Sarah Wells Trail. In summary, felt the last thing the Town needs is a less than hospitable environment for new businesses and new business owners. Recreational has already happened. The regulation on recreational are more stringent than alcohol laws in the State. It will not change the people taking advantage of this law. The Village and Town should take advantage of this legislation to help our community. He saw it as a freedom issue. The law enforcement will be given guidelines from the State. Give our residents an opportunity to capitalize on this. Talking about less dangerous substance. Ask to seriously consider the benefits of this.

Gloria Bonnelli, Goshen. In summary, in 1976 smoked a blunt, and has around 3 glasses of wine a year. She believes in Goshen and the right to her opinion. Agreed with Jeremy and Matt's comments. As a cancer survivor, marijuana was not available. I personally didn't need it. I would have appreciated a more controlled and legal way of the use closer to home and available to me. Goshen needs to come out of the mist and into reality. The facts are totally and readily available to us. Felt the problem is opioids and not marijuana. Jobs, revenue, a great motivating factor.

Bob Smith, Brookside Drive. In summary wants to go with the restrictive ordinance, no retail and no smoke room. We are talking recreational not medical. In comparison to alcohol, he can have one beer because he's thirsty but the only reason to smoke a joint is to alter your state of mind. Jobs, how many jobs is this going to bring? And at what expense, should we go for red light districts? At some point you have to say it's not worth it. The Town would be at the low end of sharing this so called tax revenue. The State is going to take their share and the county, the Town will be left with a pittance.

Mark O'Hara, Oxford Road, Goshen. Thanked Bob for painting the other side. It's legal in New York State, no denying. Been a Goshen resident 40 years. Been a member of the Chamber of Commerce, and getting business in is hard. Doesn't want Goshen to become a ghost town. If we don't have a dispensary in Middletown, Warwick, Chester, economic perspective, we have to have it here. It's silly to opt out. The gambling business is happening like it or not. We need something for the next generation. For us to turn our back is a bad decision.

Councilman Newbold, asked why is everyone afraid of marijuana? Wouldn't you like to buy from a company that's regulated and the quality is better. There are 19 States where marijuana is legal. Feels like it's a fear factor, we are not going to die from marijuana. New York has the most stringent regulations on the record.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Newbold, seconded by Councilperson Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to close the public hearing. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

**Old Business**

Whereupon, there was a discussion on Introductory Law 3 and 4. In summary, discussed other municipalities opting out, the revenue received from the businesses, the effect on school age children, and not encouraging people to smoke marijuana in Goshen.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Newbold, seconded by Councilperson Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to issue a Negative Declaration under SEQRA. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

Whereupon, there was no motion made for Introductory Law 3 and Introductory Law 4. Therefore, both introductory laws were dropped.

**Discuss and finalize the proposed redlined Battery Energy Storage Local Law No. 1 of 2021 and overlay map. The Board assumed lead agency under SEQRA and typed the action as Type 1 at the January 14, 2021, Town Board Meeting. Issuing a negative declaration revision to be done. The local law will be voted on after a seven (7) day waiting period at our next Town Board Meeting, July 22, 2021.**

Attorney Golden reviewed the overlay map with the Board.

Mr. Hoffman reviewed his report with the Board.

Whereupon, there was a discussion on three additional requests to be added to the map. Discussed placing a maximum height and the number of containers on a site. Attorney Golden is going to update the law and the map to reflect the discussion held.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Lyons, seconded by Councilperson Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to issue a Negative Declaration and authorize the Supervisor to sign. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

**Information: All Town of Goshen meetings will be in person and on-site going forward starting July 1, 2021. Protocols to be followed are attached.**

**Review current status of the Hambletonian Park “Brown Water” analytical study.**

Mr. Hoffman reviewed his report with the Board. In summary, there were 7 samples, the majority were less than the State limit for iron and manganese. There were two samples that were very high and he was going to revisit them with JCO.

Supervisor Bloomfield noted there is going to be three flushings a year, and this study is not complete.

**Review current status of the Arcadia Hills water storage tank project.**

Mr. Hoffman reviewed the schedule from Statewide Aqua Store. It was noted that construction would begin July 22 and August 16 would start the tank work. The tank would be on line October 29.

**Discuss current status of VER Realty, LTD petition for a zone change for the Pascual property at 3302 Route 207.**

Attorney Golden reviewed the project with the Board. In addition, a map was provided showing the affected parcels by such a zone change.

Whereupon, there was a discussion on a letter received from Steven Esposito, RLA, dated July 8, 2021. It was noted the Board would continue the discussion in two weeks at the next meeting.

**Review and approve the minutes of the June 24, 2021 Town Board Meeting.**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Lyons, seconded by Councilperson Newbold, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve the June 24, 2021 minutes. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

**New Business**

**The Town of Goshen has been awarded \$906,144 from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act. Half of the proceeds will be paid this Summer and half in the Summer of 2022. A lengthy document of “Recipient Compliance and Reporting Guidance” has been provided as well.**

It was noted that Town would need to hire an accountant to go through the guidelines and help how to spend the money.

**Finance**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Newbold, seconded by Councilperson Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to authorize the Supervisor to pay accounts payable check run on July 8, 2021, in the amount of \$423,174.04. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Florio, seconded by Councilperson Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to authorize the Supervisor to pay Workman’s Comp Claims in the amount of \$1,446.86. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Newbold, seconded by Councilperson Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to authorize the Supervisor to pay Manual A/P run for May 1 thru May 31, 2021 in the amount of \$18,458.95. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Newbold, seconded by Councilperson Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve year-to-date budget transfers by the Budget Officer. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

Information: Christine Cavaliere conducted an accounts payable audit for May 27, 2021 and July 8, 2021. See attached.

**Privilege of the floor:**

Kay Hanlon and Ed Myruski, Brookfield Farm, in summary, spoke of their concern of a 20 foot buffer that was in place to protect their deed restricted, open space farm. There was signage marking it. It was their understanding in March of 2007 those areas would be left undisturbed. Woodland Estates, Lot 13 destroyed the buffer. Noted they contacted the Building Inspector and nothing was done. Noted that 7 Betsy Court removed the entire buffer this past weekend. Asking if this isn't given any order of priority this weekend somebody else can remove another 20 feet. Stated they needed some protection.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilperson Florio, seconded by Councilperson Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to close the meeting. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield	Aye	Councilperson Florio	Aye
Councilperson Lyons	Aye	Councilperson Newbold	Aye

Meeting adjourned at 10:33 pm.