

**TOWN OF GOSHEN**  
Hambletonian/Heritage Water & Sewer Rate Proposal  
Public Information Meeting/Public Hearing  
December 5, 2018  
Minutes

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 5th day of December, 2018 at the 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 Van Der Molen     Councilmember

Also Present:    Christine Cavaliere      Budget Officer  
                         Broderick Knoell        Superintendent Highway, Water & Sewer  
                         Joe Klopchin             Water/Sewer Operator  
                         Mary Riso                 Supervisor Clerk  
                         Priscilla Gersbeck      Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:01 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. WATER / SEWER OPERATIONS OF DISTRICT 1.**

Supervisor Bloomfield introduced Broderick Knoell, Joe Klopchin, Mary Riso, Christine Cavaliere and Councilperson Ken Newbold who is the Commissioner of Water & Sewer.

Supervisor Bloomfield opened with the history of how water and sewer districts developed in the nation and in the Town of Goshen. Detail was given as to how Heritage Estates Water & Sewer district evolved and the possibility of a future development named ADC Maplewood.

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to open the public information meeting/public hearing regarding the Hambletonian/Heritage Water & Sewer Rate Proposal for District 1. Councilperson Lyons seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**Christine Cavaliere** presented her analysis to determine the following proposal. To begin with, all the water and sewer districts are independent entities and must be self-sufficient. The costs to operate the water districts are mostly fixed costs which do not change with volume. The Village of Goshen charges approximately \$4.00 to \$5.00 per thousand gallons of sewage treatment and the other costs are mostly fixed. The first step in her analysis was to determine what the proper level of usage should be as the minimum. Several complaints were made that the minimum was too low. Hambletonian Park's minimum usage is 5,000 gallons per quarter. The industry average is 10,000 gallons per quarter, and the average usage in 2017 was approximately 10,000 gallons. The current minimum charge for 5,000 gallons is \$291.75. The actual cost of operations using a 3-year average for 2015 to 2017 showed an average annual cost for sewer is \$930 per home and the annual minimum sewer charge is \$789. The average annual cost for water is \$791 per home and the annual minimum water charge is only \$378. Therefore, the minimum water charge is too low. In conclusion, the proposal is to increase the quarterly minimum water charge by \$35, and decrease the quarterly minimum sewer charge by \$15, for a total increase of \$20 per quarter. With the increased number of homes, the average annual cost for sewer is \$714 per

home, and the new annual minimum sewer charge is \$729. The average annual cost for water is \$608 and the new annual minimum water charge is \$518. The results of these changes would be a decrease in annual sewer revenues of approximately \$11,000 which the Sewer Fund balance can support; and an increase in annual water revenue of approximately \$24,000, which is needed to increase the negative Water Fund balance.

The following proposal was presented.

**PROPOSAL**

- Increase minimum usage volume to 10,000 gallons per quarter
- Increase minimum charge to \$311.80 per quarter
- Three -tier rate structure

<b>Usage</b>	<b>Water Rates *</b>	<b>Water Capital</b>	<b>Sewer Rates *</b>	<b>Sewer Capital</b>
MINIMUM	10.05	\$29.00	\$8.83	\$94.00
10,001-20,000	\$12.75		\$19.24	
20,001-->	\$13.32		\$19.79	

\* Rate per 1,000 gallons.

<b><u>Quarterly Usage</u></b>	<b><u>Current Charge</u></b>	<b><u>Proposed Charge</u></b>	<b><u>Quarterly Change</u></b>
0-5,000	\$291.75	\$311.80	+20.05
7,500	\$368.65	\$311.80	-\$56.85
10,000	\$445.55	\$311.80	-\$133.75
12,500	\$525.53	\$391.78	-\$133.75
15,000	\$605.50	\$471.75	-\$133.75
20,000	\$771.05	\$631.70	-\$139.35
25,000	\$942.25	\$797.25	-\$145.00

Supervisor Bloomfield asked for public input.

In summary comments were concerned with:

- >water usage using a water softener
- >possibility of senior discounts using less water
- >repairing & flushing lines
- >cost of patching lines – material used
- >the possibility of rate increases in the April review
- >Hambletonian Park water supply was low, where did all of this water come from?  
Answer: Heritage Estates drilled three wells for sharing.
- >water tank specifications
- >Effect of Legoland water consumption of Village supply. Answer: No effect.

- >Unbuilt homes are not taken into account.
- >When will the new rates go into effect? New rates are in effect for usage beginning Nov. 1, 2018, which will be billed February 1, 2019.

Supervisor Bloomfield asked for comments from the Board.

Councilperson Gallo thanked all of the people who worked on this project. She remembered when Hambletonian Park would run out of water. With all of the improvements they have never run out of water. She agreed with the proposal.

Councilperson Lyons thanked everyone for coming out tonight. Informed the public that every April, the Town holds a special meeting on all of the water & sewer districts. Every detail is scrutinized giving the residents the opportunity to speak up. He also agrees with the proposal.

Councilperson Newbold thanked those who worked on this proposal. In the past nothing was done to improve the water & sewer districts until Supervisor Bloomfield took office, working with this Board. He agrees with the proposal.

Councilperson Van Der Molen agreed with raising the minimum water usage to 10,000 gallons. Hopefully, in the future when Legoland comes on line and starts to use the Village sewer plant, perhaps the sewer rates will go down.

Supervisor Bloomfield also agreed with the proposal. Thanked everyone for coming and their input.

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to close the public information meeting/public hearing regarding the Hambletonian/Heritage Water & Sewer Rate Proposal for District 1. Councilperson Van Der Molen seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to approve the rate changes as presented by Christine Cavaliere. Councilperson Van Der Molen seconded the motion.

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

## ADJOURNMENT

Time: 8:10PM

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Priscilla Gersbeck, Town Clerk