

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD MEETING

AUGUST 24, 2017

Minutes

A meeting of the Town Board of the was held on the 24th day of August, 2017 at the 911 Emergency Center, 22 Wells Farm Road, Town of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present:	Douglas Bloomfield	Supervisor
	George Lyons	Councilmember
	Kenneth Newbold	Councilmember
	John VanDerMolen	Councilmember
Absent:	Melissa Gallo	Councilmember
Also Present:	Richard Golden, Esq.	Attorney for the Town
	Kirsten Santangelo	Deputy Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

None

C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (agenda item only)

None

D. REPORTS

Councilperson Lyons: Reporting on the activities of the Highway Department during the month of August, 2017. Roadway mowing continues as time and project demands allow. Kevin Biondi, Working Leader, retired from the Highway Department on July 26, 2017. We thank Kevin for his many years of service to the Town of Goshen. The most time consuming work performed this month has been the continued efforts to repair some of the worst catch basins in several developments. Catch basins were rehabilitated on Northgate, Summit View, Breezeway, Sawyers Peak, and Sunset Court. Many yards of fill was trucked to the end of McNamara Lane to complete the addition of an extended turn-around area. McNamara is a dead end road and it was difficult for plow trucks to turn around in the tight space during snow events. This expanded area should provide a much safer way to maneuver equipment. Patching was done where many of the catch basin repairs and culvert near the Stonehedge Drive which causes road damage and icing conditions in the winter. A day was spent with a crew to remove several trees on Reservoir, Big Island, and Gate Schoolhouse Roads. The loaner sweeper spent about four (4) days sweeping the roads that were going to be chip sealed. This followed crews trimming grass and weeds that grew between the road and the curbs. Chip sealing was completed on High Meadow Way, Farmcross, Woodcrest, Ridgeview Terrace, Candlewood, Wynthrop Manor, Cara Court, and Coach House Lane. We are pleased with the results of this work.

Councilperson Newbold: No issues in water & sewer this summer. Reporting that the last residential water meter has been installed in the town.

Councilperson Van Der Molen: Stated that the Police Chief is very pleased with the new hire to the Department. He discussed the Senior Citizen Budget for fiscal year 2018; total budget is projected at \$68,600, \$21,000 allotted for personnel expenses, \$47,300 for contractual expenses (activities for the seniors such as yoga, line dancing and arts and crafts) and the rest for office supplies and telephone services.

Supervisor Bloomfield: stated that a possible issue in the Arcadia sewer district was averted; visited the Heritage development where 30 homes of the 70 have been completed; awaiting sewer and water hookups.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. REVIEW THE SCHEDULE FOR PROCESSING THE TOWN OF GOSHEN 2018 BUDGET

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that all department heads have met with the Budget Officer to discuss the budget process for 2018. Councilperson Newbold and Supervisor Bloomfield will be heading up the budget process. He gave the following timeline for the 2018 process: w/o 9/4/17: Working first draft –review with the Supervisor and Comm. Of Finance, w/o 9/18/17: Working first draft-review with the Town Board, 9/29/17: Tentative Budget filed with Town Clerk, 10/10/17: Town Clerk presents Tentative Budget to Town Board, 10/12/17: Town Board reviews Tentative Budget and makes any changes. When review is concluded, Board must approve the Tentative Budget and any changes made by Resolution. The Budget is now preliminary. No Changes can be made to the Preliminary Budget until the Board holds a Public Hearing. 10/26/17 & 11/2/17: Notices of Public Hearing & Elected Officials' salaries to appear in paper (5 days prior to Public Hearing). 11/07/17: Election Day 11/09/17: Public Hearing (Must be held by Thurs. following Election Day, or if adjourned, by 11/15/17. Before Adoption: File Tax Cap report to NYS. 11/09/17; Adopt Final Budget. Allowable Tax Levy Growth (Inflation) factor is 1.84%; Tax Base Growth Factor: 0.79%, Carryover from 2017 budget: \$80,976, **Allowable Levy Increase for 2018: \$216,399** * (* Estimated PILOT figures may change this amount).

2. REVIEW STATUS UPDATES ON THE AMY'S KITCHEN / SCIENCE OF THE SOUL

Supervisor Bloomfield spoke about the following points: The temporary bridge over the Wallkill River has been installed; it's called a "Bailey Bridge" and was developed by the Army Corps of Engineers during World War II to transport tanks and heavy equipment over rivers. Archaeological activities continue on the site; arrowheads and axes have been found but no big items have been retrieved. Plans are to work the 17M turning lane and to have it paved by the time local asphalt plants close for the winter. Signalization will be installed in the spring 2018. Grading of the two sites is currently underway. Excavation is being performed by Boyce Excavating and the crew is moving huge amounts of earth.

F. NEW BUSINESS

None at this time

G. FINANCE: AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO PAY ACCOUNTS PAYABLE CHECK RUN FOR 8/24/17 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$305,868.33.

Motion to approve was made by Councilperson Van Der Molen and seconded by Councilperson Lyons.

On a Voice Vote, motion passed:

4 AYES: Bloomfield, Lyons, Newbold, Van Der Molen

0 NAYS

1 ABSENT

H. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Opinioned: Issue with the FEIS in relationship with the wells on the Legoland parcels. Certain phrasing in the deed isn't accurate about conditions on such as parkland or open-space. Attorney Golden explained that Legoland will grant wellhead protection and property easement. Question was asked if Merlin can build on the easement. The town engineer has to answer that question. Question: can the Town sell any of the land that is town-owned parcels? Attorney Golden answered he never stated that the town will never sell the property where the wells site, and the land that sits outside.

Opinioned: Thinks the Town is only concerned about the dollars and not keeping Goshen green. The recent water slide in Goshen ran for eight hours; the following week, the village had a water main break. Infrastructure of the pipes not able to contain the water Legoland will use. Recent fire at the Historic track – aerial hoses were flat from not having enough water pressure. Asked where water is coming from for houses on Coleman Road. Stated that 300 houses being built next to South Street – where is water coming from. Disaster in Goshen- say no to Legoland.

Opinioned: Asked how many more meetings for people to sound their displeasure with the Legoland project? (September 14th) Doesn't approve of the changing impression of the area; fireworks, cutting trees. Not happy with the terrain changing in the area; should try to keep the area green like it is in the Sugar Loaf area. Displeased with the Goshen Independent and their running a letter that is pro-Legoland and their approval of Legoland. Feels people had no power in the process.

Opinioned: Would like to see the results of the cost benefit analysis that the Town has employed Ernst & Young to perform regarding Legoland. Spoke about a book called Once Upon A Small Town, described what happened in a town in Nebraska once businesses left the area after World War II and in other municipalities in recent years. Planning has to consider people, not just numbers. Opinioned: the dog park at Salesian needs adequate benches; there is no place to rest, big dogs are mixing with small dogs. Supervisor Bloomfield suggested that the Joint Recreation Commission will be notified and the bench situation will be looked into. Salesian building is a disgrace with windows knocked out. Supervisor Bloomfield interjected that a structural engineer reviewed the building site years ago and deemed it too expensive to take down, calling it an "attractive nuisance".

Opinioned: A lot of "questions" – can we ask question and get answers? Five people deciding the fate of 15,000 people. Moral right versus legal right. Legoland comes up as an amusement park – what was the reason years ago that Goshen wrote a law banning amusement parks? Need for transparency in the process and asked why Legoland came to Goshen in the first place? Stated that Legoland is not a "cultural center; it's neither cultural nor recreational. Stated that feelings were hurt that when reading about the recent Planning Board meeting that Supervisor Bloomfield "jumped up on the stage to congratulate the Planning Board on their vote. Supervisor Bloomfield explained that he thanked the Planning Board for their work, not their vote. Questions if any other archaeological sites have been on the property, the Salesian 2000 project was asked to Councilperson Lyons (answered no, he wasn't involved in it after 1999).

Opinioned: Make the Salesian property comparable to Victoria Islands in Vancouver, British Columbia with equine trails and gardens. Will there be enough water in the area, especially if we have a fire? You represent us, not Legoland. Opinioned: 75% of taxes are for schools; nothing will be done by bringing in these companies. Your job is to take care of us, not the schools and teachers. Supervisor Bloomfield interjected that villages, towns and cities can bring in companies but schools cannot. We didn't seek out Legoland, they sought us.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Councilperson Van Der Molen made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. POTENTIAL LITIGATION – GOSHEN HUMANE SOCIETY.

with the intent not to return. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Lyons. Motion carried.

J. ADJOURNMENT: 8:50 P.M.

Kirsten Santangelo, Deputy Clerk