

**Town of Goshen  
Town Board Meeting  
February 22, 2024  
7:00 pm**

**Minutes**

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2024 at Goshen Town Hall, 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present:        Joseph Betro                    Town Supervisor  
                 Douglas Bloomfield        Councilmember  
                 George Lyons                Councilmember  
                 Richard Florio              Councilmember

Absent:         Philip Canterino            Councilmember

Also Present:   Rory Brady                    Town Attorney  
                 Kathleen Collett            Deputy Town Clerk

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to open the meeting at 7:00 pm. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Public Hearings**

**Introductory Local Law No. 11 of 2023** amending Chapter 97 (“Zoning”) Section 10, Subsection C amended to add additional language.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to open the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law No. 11 of 2023 amending Chapter 97 (“Zoning”) Section 10, Subsection C amended to add additional language. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Anne Wood of Maple Avenue, in summary, questioned how is this going to impact water from her well.

Brad Barnhorst of Maple Avenue, in summary, requests the law not be passed, would like the special permit to come from the Planning Board not the Town Board, concerns on his wells sustainability and does not want the Town to enter into contracts to sell water.

Linda Zaccheo of Maple Avenue, in summary, feels if the Local Law is passed it will open pandoras box with requests for water, enabling for areas outside our community with water as a limited resource and stated concern for impact of water with the warehouses inside the Town and Village.

Neal Halloran, in summary, the water sheds are near or at capacity, their ability to survive, concern for water in residential and commercial areas.

Mike Torelli, in summary, looks at water as a piece of infrastructure, and if we are in excess of water, the ability to sell water in the future to be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Mark Boczowsk of Rolling Ridge, in summary, spoke of a recent article in the New York Times titled “East Coast is Sinking” regarding ground water and the over pumping of ground water. Also, stated he doesn’t believe the Town should be selling water.

John Harrigan of Everett Road, in summary, discussed the water issues in the town, that we have had wet weather recently and not tested the water.

Ramona Harrigan of Everett Road, in summary, spoke of her concerns for water and the taste of dirt in water, noted the reservoirs are running dry. Also, that water needs to be kept for residents only.

Linda Zaccheo, had a question on how will the water be transported if the law goes ahead.

Town Supervisor, Joseph Betro responded, water will come from the pipeline in Middletown to the Town.

Brad Barnhorst, in summary, spoke of the intent to resell the water.

Kenny Newbold, in summary, stated his concern on the costs, the Lipoff wells and that the costs should be in front of the public.

Faith Adams Frishberg, in summary, questioned the way the local law is written, why we are buying water from Middletown and concerns of expensive filtration systems.

Steve Bettencourt, in summary, wants the Town to be cautious with water.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to close the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law No. 11 of 2023. amending Chapter 97 (“Zoning”) Section 10, Subsection C amended to add additional language. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to declare itself lead agency on Introductory Local Law 11 of 2023, amending Chapter 97 (“Zoning”) Section 10, Subsection C amended to add additional language.

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Nay
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Councilmember Florio                      Aye                      Councilmember Lyons                      Aye

**VOTE CARRIES 3-1**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Florio, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to list the action as a Type One Action on Introductory Local Law 11 of 2023.

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Betro                      Aye                      Councilmember Bloomfield                      Aye  
Councilmember Florio                      Aye                      Councilmember Lyons                      Aye

**VOTE CARRIES 4-0**

**Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2024** amending Chapter 80-B (“Solid Waste Management”) and Chapter 97 (“Zoning”) to add additional language.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to open the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2024, amending Chapter 80-B (“Solid Waste Management”) and Chapter 97 (“Zoning”) to add additional language. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro                      Aye                      Councilmember Bloomfield                      Aye  
Councilmember Florio                      Aye                      Councilmember Lyons                      Aye

Anne Wood of Maple Avenue, in summary, questioned if each applicant would have to apply for a special use permit and if the Local Law is not approved would it do anything in inhibit solid waste in the town.

Brad Barnhorst of Maple Avenue, in summary, requested the board not to pass the law and asked for clarification to the Local Law.

June Evers, in summary, reminded everyone of the history of Maple Avenue, stated not wanting another landfill.

Priscilla Gersbeck, in summary, is concerned about law from 1980 banning landfills from expanding, need more time to review documents, that changing our laws to benefit applicants sets a precedent for the future of Goshen.

Neal Halloran, in summary, talked about the history of landfills and compost facilities.

Ramona Harrigan, in summary, stated she is not for this “dump”, doesn’t want to see the character of the Town change, and the need for transparency.

Mike Torelli of Maplewood Terrace, in summary, states the Local Law gives options, this isn't a local law about landfills, the potential to bring tax rates down and the Town Board will make the right decision.

Sue Cleaver of Coleman Road, in summary, she does not care for this law, questioned the 80B permit law for Hughes Energy, spoke to the responsibilities of the Town Board, that we are a DAC community, provided a handout regarding the Orange County Landfill and spoke on that. Lastly, spoke about a previous traffic study and to the current traffic issues on 17M.

John Harrigan of Everett Road, in summary, is opposed to any changes in the law to enable anymore waste disposal in Goshen, concerns about the waste going into the air, questioned how good the biofuel will be.

Faith Adams Frishberg, in summary, stated the Town shouldn't add to Hartley Road before 17M is cleared up, the current traffic hazards, the damage trucks already due to the roads, and does not want the Town to go forward with the law.

Councilmember Bloomfield stated opinions are good from the public and thanked the audience.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to close the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law No. 1 of 2024 amending Chapter 80-B ("Solid Waste Management") and Chapter 97 ("Zoning") to add additional language.

**BY ROLL CALL VOTE:**

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**VOTE CARRIES 4-0**

**Introductory Local Law No. 2 of 2024** Authorizing Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers active and residing in the Town of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York as authorized by New York State Real Property Tax Law §466-a.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to open the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law No. 2 of 2024, Authorizing Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers active and residing in the Town of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York as authorized by New York State Real Property Tax Law §466-a. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Anne Wood, in summary, raised her concern if you waive their taxes does it qualify as income for them, is this considered a monetary benefit and if would they be considered employees.

Supervisor Betro, stated this is an incentive for fire workers, and that the law came from New York State.

Brad Barnhorst, in summary, stated Ms. Wood had valid points and requests that the Town Board pass this law.

Neal Halloran, in summary, is in full support of this law, thanks all for volunteering, inquired on how would the retired firefighters prove their primary residence.

Richard Pearson the Commissioner of the Fire District and Chief of the Department, in summary, to his knowledge it is not considered income, New York State came up with this law to help with recruitment.

Mike Torelli, in summary, thank you for the law and was in support of the law, a small break is needed, to help those who help us every day.

Linda Zaccheo, in summary, told a story of how her son approached them to become a volunteer fireman and how it brought meaning and leadership to sons' life, volunteerism is down, and how she is for this Local Law.

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to close the Public Hearing for Introductory Local Law No. 2 of 2024, Authorizing Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers active and residing in the Town of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York as authorized by New York State Real Property Tax Law §466-a. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to accept and adopt Local Law 2 of 2024 Authorizing Property Tax Exemption to Volunteer Firefighters and Volunteer Ambulance Workers active and residing in the Town of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York as authorized by New York State Real Property Tax Law §466-a. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Items for Discussion/Action**

Assemblyman Brian Maher discussed the formation of an ambulance tax district. In summary, recapped his presentation from the last meeting, that creating a district would maximize tax payer's money, provided different scenarios for the tax district, what the Map Plan report showed, and that every county and municipality will eventually have to do this.

Also present was Kristen Eagleson.

Whereupon, in summary, there was a discussion on who would oversee this, if the County be involved, that the Town and Village are designated to have an EMS, establishing rules for Town and Village, budget approval, the amount of ALS and ELS calls GOVAC receives, and that the goal is after creating and establishing an ambulance district is to create the revenue.

**Review and approve the request from 2669 Route 17M (a/k/a EZ Develop, Inc.) to return the stormwater construction completion guarantee of \$96,800 plus interest.**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve the request from 2669 Route 17M (a/k/a EZ Develop, Inc.) to return the stormwater construction completion guarantee of \$96,800 plus interest. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Review and approve the updated Safety Program Plan for Dial-A-Bus. The current update includes name changes in part-time driver and mechanic, as well as name changes in the Town Board.**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve the updated Safety Program Plan for Dial-A-Bus. The current update includes name changes in part-time driver and mechanic, as well as name changes in the Town Board. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Review and approve the updated Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy for Dial-A-Bus. The changes reflect USDOT's amended/updated version of 49 CFR Part 40 on May 2, 2023. The mandated changes include definitions and listing FTA as the testing authority.**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve the updated Safety Program Plan for Dial-A-Bus. The current update includes name changes in part-time driver and mechanic, as well as name changes in the Town Board. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Review and approve Town Board Minutes from February 8, 2024.**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve the Town Board Minutes from February 8, 2024. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Review and approve a one-year extension of the Broadlea Road Solar Special Use Permit.**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve a six month extension to August 22, 2024, of the Broadlea Road Solar Special Use Permit. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Review and approve a one-year extension of the Chester Road Solar I, LLC (Vivian Lane Solar) of the Special Use Permit.**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve a six month extension to August 22, 2024, of the Chester Road Solar I, LLC (Vivian Lane Solar) of the Special Use Permit. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Finance**

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to authorize the Supervisor to pay accounts payable run for February 22, 2024 in the amount of \$295,687.53. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**VOTE BY PROPER MOTION**, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Florio, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to authorize the Supervisor to pay manual A/P run as of 12/31/2023 in the amount of \$17,668.28. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

**Information:** Budget Officer Christine Cavaliere performed an account payable review for February 8, 2024.

**Information:** Budget Officer Christine Cavaliere submitted a monthly financial report for November 2023.

**Privilege of the Floor**

No comments.

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

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Florio	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.