

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD MEETING

August 23, 2018

MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 23rd day of August, 2018 at the Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present: Douglas Bloomfield Supervisor
 George Lyons Councilmember
 Kenneth Newbold Councilmember
 Melissa Gallo Councilmember
 John Van Der Molen Councilmember

Also Present: Richard Golden, Esq. Attorney for the Town
 Kirsten Santangelo Deputy Town Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:35 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA

Supervisor Bloomfield indicated that he would address his comments at the end of the meeting.

C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (agenda items only)

D. REPORTS

Councilperson Gallo reported that the JRC did not meet in August. Camp at Craigville Park went very well this season. Still in talks about other things like Pickleball. Supervisor Bloomfield asked when camp finished and how many children were enrolled this year; Councilperson Gallo didn't have that number but will look into it for the next meeting. Trish and Lisa did a phenomenal job with the attendees.

Councilperson Lyons reported for the Highway Department, For the most part, the road mower and sweeper were out every day this month. Major patching was done on Fletcher Street in preparation of paving. Repair of shoulder and drainage work was done on August Road at the intersection of Reservoir Road. A large dead tree was removed along Reservoir Road in a joint effort between Highway and the local O&R tree contractor. Ditching work was conducted along Wisniewski Road. Asphalt patching was done in Stonehedge at the site of a previous water main break and one of the repaired catch basins. A deteriorated cross-over pipe was replaced and the road patched on Jessup Switch. Two (2) driveway pipes were replaced along Arcadia Road. Fletcher Street was paved. Paving was completed on Old Chester Road from the Orange and Rockland training facility to the Village line. Chip sealing was completed on Clark, Fort Hill, Conklingtown, and the newer paved sections of Arcadia and Reservoir Roads. Supervisor Bloomfield asked what the percentage of the paving of the roads was completed this season. Councilmember Van Der Molen noted that in a conversation with Superintendent Knoell that the rain this past July caused delays. Supervisor Bloomfield expressed that the paving job throughout the Town looks wonderful

Councilperson Newbold welcomed the Town Board back and wished Broderick Knoell, Highway Superintendent a speedy and complete recovery. He has been working on various grants for the Town – front doors here at Town Hall, back doors at the Senior Center, catch basin issues in the parking lot at Town Hall, paperwork from the State of New York regarding the grant from Assemblyman Skoufis arrived so Supervisor Bloomfield can sign it.

Councilperson Van Der Molen reported that on August 15th there was a Senior Citizen Commission meeting at the Senior Center. There will be a Senior Barbeque sponsored by James O'Donnell that will be catered by Pete Smith from Elsie's. On the upcoming calendar there will be classes called "Fab Abs" and "Happy Hips". A "Barn Dance" will be held on Saturday, September 29th at 4:00 PM – Catherine's will be catering the food. There will be a Flu Shot / Pneumonia Shot clinic on September 10th from 10 AM-Noon. The air conditioning system was down at the Senior Center. Astar Plumbing/Heating/HVAC was called to look at the system. They put in a temporary fix to the system but it was found that the system is over twenty (20) years old. Astar suggests that it should probably be replaced. Bonnie

Mayefsky got three (3) estimates for replacing the system and Astar came in the cheapest at \$16,800.00. The electrical system panel has to be moved because it's too close to the gas line and a violation of the building code. We are hoping the Village will go half with the Town on the new unit. The 2019 preliminary budget for the Senior Center was submitted to the Budget Director.

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that there was a water main break in Stonehedge over two weeks ago that was dealt with.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. UPDATE BOARD ON NYDEC REVIEW OF PLAN TO REDUCE I & I IN ARCADIA HILLS.

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that previous discussions regarding reports being sent to the DEC, based on an area of the line being cordoned off haven't been sent yet, as Sean Hoffman is awaiting the review of a camera results of the I & I. Sean is working with Joe Klopchin and TAM Enterprise on this. The discussion about this will resume on September 13th, 2018.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. REVIEW AND APPROVE A BID PROPOSAL FOR HAMBLETONIAN PARK SEWER LINE REHABILITATION.

Supervisor Bloomfield discussed that we received three (3) bids for this project – one very high, one in the middle and 1 was quite low. The one that is quite low, we don't know much about the company. Sean needs to research the company to find out more about their credibility and workmanship. Discussion will resume about the bid winner on September 13th.

2. DISCUSS AND APPROVE REQUEST BY THE BUILDING OFFICE TO HIRE MARY RISO AS ZBA AND ERB MINUTE RECORDER AT \$60.00 PER MEETING AND \$5.00 PER PAGE, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

Supervisor Bloomfield noted that in a resignation letter from the prior recorder, Ms. McPhee has a terminally ill parent who needs her attention at this time. Mary Riso was spoken to about the job and has agreed to taking on the responsibility.

Motion was made by Councilperson Newbold, seconded by Councilperson Gallo.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed.

5 AYES: Bloomfield, Gallo, Lyons, Newbold, Van Der Molen

0 NAYS

3. DISCUSS REQUEST FOR HOME OWNER AT 2 WEDGEWOOD DRIVE TO ADJUST HIS SEWER BILL INCREASE ASSOCIATED WITH A WATER LEAK. THE LEAKING WATER DID NOT FLOW INTO THE SEWER.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated that this is the type of letter that has been discussed in the past. As per a memo from Mary Riso, the homeowner sent a bill regarding this leak that totaled \$3,458.00 on July, 27, 2018. As in the past, if water doesn't flow into the sewer to the Village, we can forgive that part of the bill.

Motion was made to relieve the \$177.78 part of the bill to this homeowner by Councilperson Gallo, seconded by Councilperson Newbold.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed.

5 AYES: Bloomfield, Gallo, Lyons, Newbold, Van Der Molen

0 NAYS

4. DISCUSS REQUEST BY SEVERAL HOME OWNERS IN HERITAGE ESTATES TO ADJUST THEIR SEWER BILLS. THE BILLS WERE HIGHER THAN NORMAL, BECAUSE THE WATER WAS USED TO WATER SEEDED LAWN AREAS AT THE REQUEST OF THE SUBDIVISION DEVELOPER.

Supervisor Bloomfield read from a memo from Mary Riso about this situation. Heritage Estates seeded many of the properties. Then their project manager, Guy, advised the owners that they needed to water the grass seed. The residents were brand-new to the subdivision and followed his directions. Sixteen homes were affected. They paid for the water, which isn't part of this deal. All the water used didn't go into the sewer, although they were charged for the

sewer use. Discussion ensued about whether the project manager / Heritage Estates management should be made responsible for the relief of the bill. Councilperson Lyons noted that this probably wouldn't happen again and the need to be consistent in this type of relief for residents. Supervisor Bloomfield noted that this situation will never happen again and these residents are new to the water/sewer district.

Motion was made to relieve the \$3,134.88 sewer excess by Councilperson Lyons, seconded by Councilperson Newbold.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed.

5 AYES: Bloomfield, Gallo, Lyons, Newbold, Van Der Molen

0 NAYS

5. DISCUSS REQUEST BY HOME OWNER AT 3 ASPEN LANE TO ADJUST THE WATER AND SEWER BILL INCREASE ASSOCIATED WITH A LEAKING TOILET.

Supervisor Bloomfield discussed a letter from the homeowner that her water bill became excessively high during the months of May, June and July after discovering that she had a running toilet. The water that ran from the leaking toilet did run into the sewer. Mary Riso brought this item to the Board's attention but Supervisor Bloomfield doesn't feel that this bill can be forgiven. Councilperson Lyons noted that this appeared to be an incorrect bill belonging to another resident but the correct bill was attached to the letter and the address is 10 Beechwood Dr. There will be no relief granted to the owner at 10 Beechwood Dr.

6. DISCUSS REQUEST FROM THE OFFICE FOR THE AGING TO HONOR RSVP VOLUNTEERS. THE DONATION WILL HELP ENSURE THAT OUR VOLUNTEERS RECEIVE THE RECOGNITION THEY DESERVE. SEE ATTACHED LETTER.

Supervisor Bloomfield discussed the letter from AnnMarie Maglione, the Director of Orange County Office of the Aging. In Orange County there are over 540 RSVP (Retired Senior and Volunteer Program) volunteers age 55 and up who contribute their time and expertise to the community. They contributed more than 44,000 hours in the past 12 months for a value of \$1,185,681. On Thursday, October 4th 2018 at 11:00 AM at the Kuhl's Highland House in Middletown, a recognition luncheon is planned. The Office of the Aging would like the Town of Goshen to sponsor Gold, Silver or Bronze Level Sponsorship to help honor these volunteers and off-set the cost of having this luncheon. If the Town goes for the Gold level for \$150.00, it would give a free ticket to whoever will go to represent the Town. Supervisor Bloomfield has attended this event in the past and stated that it's a very nice event. He noted that our Budget Director, Christine Cavaliere's husband delivers Meal-On-Wheels, and used his own vehicle to deliver food to the homebound, as well as Councilperson Newbold volunteering with the program.

Motion was made to sponsor the Gold Level for \$150.00 to the RSVP Recognition Luncheon by Councilperson Van Der Molen, seconded by Councilperson Gallo.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed.

5 AYES: Bloomfield, Gallo, Lyons, Newbold, Van Der Molen

0 NAYS

Supervisor Bloomfield noted if anyone else would like to go it would cost \$27.00 person and that the Town should pay for the ticket.

7. INFORMATION: THE ORANGE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS IS CONSOLIDATING POLLING PLACES FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION. PLEASE SEE THE ATTACHED POLLING PLACE LIST.

G. FINANCE:

Councilperson Lyons made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay Accounts Payable check run for 8/9/2018 in the amount of \$116,156.28 and Accounts Payable check run for 8/28/2018 in the amount of \$205,004.17.

Councilperson Newbold seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed.

5 AYES: Bloomfield, Gallo, Lyons, Newbold, Van Der Molen

H. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: WORK SESSION OF JULY 23, 2018, AND REGULAR MEETINGS OF JULY 12, 2018 AND JULY 26, 2018.

Councilperson Van Der Molen made the motion to approve the work session minutes of July 23, 2018.

Councilperson Lyons seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed.

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

0 NAYS

1 ABSTAIN: Newbold

Councilperson Lyons made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 12, 2018.

Councilperson Newbold seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed.

3 AYES: Bloomfield, Lyons, Newbold

0 NAYS

2 ABSTAIN: Gallo, Van Der Molen

Councilperson Gallo made the motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 26, 2018.

Councilperson Van Der Molen seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed.

3 AYES: Bloomfield, Gallo, Van Der Molen

0 NAYS

2 ABSTAIN: Lyons, Newbold

I. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Susan Cleaver indicated that she sent the Town Board a letter in November 2017 and again a few weeks ago regarding a "room tax" that the Town of Woodbury instituted with the assistance of Assemblyperson Skoufis. She never heard back from the Board about it, other than from Councilperson Newbold and it hasn't been on any of the past agendas. Supervisor asked if this is in reference to Legoland. Ms. Cleaver said it is in reference to the two or three hotels that are before the Planning Board. Supervisor Bloomfield indicated that he has spoken amongst planners and others, and would like to get the hotels up and running before anything is done. The Town would have to go to the State Legislature to get this done. Ms. Cleaver stated that it's a very long process and believes that the hotels should know coming in and that there's a level playing field. She noted that she believes that Legoland is exempt from this and it won't affect them. She stated that she's a life-long Goshen resident and that it's getting really bad with all the garbage all over the roads. She believes that it's not good to put another payment on people who are already here and would like to see the new people paying the expenses, instead of putting it on the backs of established residents. She would like the Town Board to get it on the agenda, discuss it in public, get Skoufis to get the ball rolling and do it before the hotels come in. Supervisor Bloomfield responded that he will discuss it with the Board and our attorney. He thinks that idea is not gone but it wasn't the appropriate time to start. Councilperson Van Der Molen stated that he thinks it's a good idea; wherever he has traveled there's been a room tax of \$15 or \$20. Councilperson Gallo thinks it's a great idea as well. Attorney Golden advised Legoland is not exempt from the room tax; that if in fact there is a tax that half of that would have to be shared with Legoland, if it is permissible. If it's determined that it's not legal, there's no exemption whatsoever. Supervisor Bloomfield asked how long the process would take; Attorney Golden replied that it depends on when it's introduced and however long the Legislature takes. It could take the Legislature a couple of months or a couple of years. Woodbury went through the process where it took a while, went to a vote, was voted down the first time, went through the process the next legislative year and was agreed to then. Councilperson Gallo asked why it took so long for the process and Attorney Golden responded that there it takes many months for items to go through committee system and whether or not the process is at the end of the legislative year and not voted on, it's considered denied. The process would have to begin again for the next session. Supervisor Bloomfield indicated that we need more research on the topic; and asked how did places like Middletown and Wallkill with all the hotels, how did they do this? Ms. Cleaver responded that Woodbury was the first to do it. Attorney Golden doesn't think they were the

first to do it. Another municipality did and most towns in Orange County don't do this. He suggests a survey to find out who's doing it with the various Town Clerks and to contact the representatives from both the Senate and Assembly because it needs both sides to agree to it. He offered to do the survey of the Towns; Supervisor Bloomfield stated that the Clerk's office will take this up.

Supervisor Bloomfield noted that he and Councilperson Newbold will go through the budget line by line in the next week. The cursory look at the budget looks to be at zero or below. This will be the third year in a row. He is proud of the Board, both present and prior. He noted that in 2007 or 2008 there was a zero percent as well. He's proud of the Board for having the courage to work with department heads and consultants to go the right thing to keep costs in line. One of the goals in 2006 was to pay cash, no borrowing and reduce debt, which the Town still adheres to. Our fund balance for the end of this year will be pretty significant; that's with spending over \$1,000,000 in road construction compared to 2006, where \$231,000 was spent. We couldn't do this without thinking through the process. We learned in 2006 we had to focus on cost reduction and raising revenues. We just closed out the assessable base for our town; it is \$620,000,000. There's another \$620,000,000 in property that doesn't pay taxes because they're tax exempt. We had a change, an increase of \$10.5 million. Once all projects from planning to completion go through the process, if it all comes together it will be \$893,000,000, based on the \$620,000,000 of today. If this comes to pass, future boards need to take that money, work on cost reductions and return part of that money to the taxpayer. That's what we're all about.

Councilperson Newbold took this time to thank Highway Superintendent Knoell for coming out recently to a severe rain issue causing flooding at the Arcadia / Conklingtown Roads area.

K. Adjournment:

Councilperson Newbold made the motion to adjourn the meeting with the intent note to return.

Councilperson Lyons seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Time: 8:25 PM.

Kirsten Santangelo, Deputy Town Clerk