

**Town of Goshen
Town Board Meeting
January 11, 2024
7:00 pm**

Minutes

A meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 11th day of January 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
Philip Canterino Councilmember
George Lyons Councilmember

Absent: Richard Florio Councilmember

Also Present: Sean Hoffman Town Engineer
Mary Riso Town Clerk

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

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Public Hearings

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Canterino, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to open the Public Hearing for the Consolidation of the Four Water Districts. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

William Ryan, Jr., Esq., Tracey Ledder, Senior Scientist, and Mike Aiello, Jr., PE were present from Delaware Engineering, D.P.C.

Attorney Ryan reviewed the process, resolutions, summary of joint agreement and the engineering report by Delaware.

Tracey Ledder reviewed the steps and formula for the rates.

Councilmember Bloomfield commented that we started this process to be able to apply for State and Federal Grants.

Mr. Vansickle, Scotchtown, in summary, stated that Scotchtown had no debt, they keep our system up to par.

John VanDerMolen, in summary, the way it's set up keeps their own water great. Should we be paying for Arcadia Hill and Hambletonian Park? Arcadia Hill there is a sewer.

Town Supervisor responded that it's only for water system, not sewer.

Budget Officer, Christine Cavaliere, that Scotchtown Park last year had a net loss of \$33,000 and the fund balance is only \$20,000.

Mike Aiello, PE, Delaware Engineering, prepared the evaluation report. Scotchtown Park might not have a problem now, but the DOH preparation report is concerned about the condition of the water pressure tank. the building itself and the redundant well water supply The DOH is concerned about the condition of the Stonehedge water tank also.

Whereupon, there was a discussion of Young's Grove, 104 new homes, putting in a new tank that will service Stonehedge.

Melissa Gallo, Hambletonian Park, in summary, agreed with the consolidation and felt it would benefit everybody in the water districts.

Mr. Garcia, Heritage, in summary questioned the water bill before Heritage was built out, wanted to know where the surplus was.

Supervisor Betro responded it would go into the capital budget for the entire water district.

Noreen DePonte, Fran Rd., in summary, wanted to know whatever grants the Town gets, will it cover the \$700,00 water tank in Arcadia.

Response was that the grants applied for will be for future work, not work that already has been done.

Noreen DePonte, in summary, asked about another development going in and selling excess water. Would all proceeds go into a kitty?

Supervisor Betro responded that was a commercial district and eventually will become part of the water district and any proceeds from the sale to another municipality would benefit the entire water district.

Whereupon, there was a discussion on the wells located off 6 ½ Station Road.

Jean Krish, Stonehedge, wanted clarification that it was just administrative for looping the districts.

Supervisor Betro responded just administrative.

Roland Peacock, Yankee Maid Lane, asked if we are talking just water districts or sewer districts also?

Supervisor Betro responded just water districts, but ultimately probably will be looking at sewer next.

Donna Guarneiri, in summary, asked about the cellular meters being installed.

Supervisor Betro, responded that was to take care of billing issues.

Pepe Carretero, Hambletonian Park, in summary, stated they always had a problem with the water, questioned if we are selling water. Whereupon, there was a discussion on the fire hydrant hookup on Old Chester Rd, and where it connects. It was further noted that Heritage is an extension of the Hambletonian Park Water District.

Supervisor Betro stated he is looking into the past problems in Hambletonian Park and plans to install a green sand filter to fix the water quality issue.

Nick Gallo, Arcadia, in summary has lived in his house for 50 years. He inquired about a report that listed what was going to cost each district for improvements, felt this would be a benefit to the smaller water districts, and asked if a commercial district was formed how, it would impact the residential water districts.

Supervisor Betro stated that commercial water district would be paying commercial fees.

Noreen DePonte asked if the \$700,000 could be pulled out and Arcadia pay separately for the tank.

Supervisor Betro responded that it's impossible.

Councilmember Canterino, stated we are looking at an economy of scale. He gave an example of when Heritage jointed Hambletonian Park in Water District 1.

Kevin Ottochian, Heritage, asked how will future projects be determined by their priority?

Councilmember Bloomfield, responded if the tank sprung a leak that's a priority.

Supervisor Betro, clarified the priority of future projects.

Barbara Young, asked what was the thought process of introducing a commercial property with residential property if the consolidation happens.

Supervisor Betro, clarified they would be a water district, in the same way generating revenue.

Tracey Ledder, Delaware Engineering, would recommend a rate restructure, and if another district is formed, you go through another rate restructuring which would benefit everyone. Commercial property is creating something to sell so they are charged a little more according to benefit.

Ross Buck, Heritage, moved here last March from Fishkill and stated rates are four to five times higher. If the prices aren't coming down, why consider the consolidation.

Tracey Leder, Delaware Engineering, answered that this is a service that the Town is provides and it costs money to run it. Consolidation has benefits. The Town will be able to apply for grants that will help towards capital projects.

Brian Gallo, Hambletonian Park, can see where the Town is going with this project. However, every five years he has to replace his hot water heater due to the water issues as well as the osmosis system. The residents just want to be able to drink their water.

Supervisor Betro provided an update to the residents on the progress of installing green sand filters in Hambletonian Park and Heritage wells.

Melissa Gallo, Hambletonian Park, asked who would be writing the grants.

Supervisor Betro responded that Delaware Engineering will be handling the grants.

Tracey Ledder of Delaware Engineering, spoke on the capital fund. Noted there is a large amount of money available through federal funding for infrastructure the next four years.

Mike Aiello, Delaware Engineering, in summary, taking the grant out of the whole equation, the larger the district, the larger the tax base, less pressure on those contributing.

Wendy Morel, Heritage, too much to risk for us.

Supervisor Betro states in the long run it will benefit everyone.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Canterino, seconded by Councilmember Bloomfield, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to close the Public Hearing for the consolidation of the four water districts. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Items for Discussion/Action

Special Permit Approval Extension Request for New Leaf Energy, Inc. (a/k/a Owens Road Solar) 111 Owens Road, Goshen NY.

Whereupon, there was a discussion with Engineer Hoffman on the status of the project with the Planning Board.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Canterino, seconded by Councilmember Bloomfield, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve an extension for New Leaf Energy, 111 Owens Rd. to March 7, 2024. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Discuss Engineer Hoffman’s request for services.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Canterino, seconded by Councilmember Bloomfield, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve Engineer Hoffman’s request for rate increase as submitted. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Review and discuss preliminary estimated annual district taxpayer costs for proposed ambulance district.

Engineer Hoffman reviewed his report submitted to the Board.

Whereupon, there was a discussion on having a referendum, opposition to spending tax payer money, Assemblyman Maher being helpful, and the ambulance budget. It was noted that there is a Round Table discussion at the 911 center on January 23, 2024, at 9:00 am.

Review and discuss Quest quote for lead paint testing on Town Hall.

Engineer Hoffman reviewed the quote from Quest to test the paint on the exterior of Town Hall.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Canterino, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve the quote from Quest. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Schedule a Joint Public Hearing with the Planning Board on Thursday, February 1, 2024 at 7:30 regarding the SR94, NY, LLC/Lightstar Renewables Solar Farm Project.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Bloomfield, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to schedule a joint public hearing with the Planning Board on

February 1, 2024 at 7:30 pm. For SR94, NY, LLC/Lightstar Renewables Solar Farm Project. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Hughes Energy, LLC – Presentation.

Mark Millspaugh, P.E. , Sterling Environmental Engineering, was present for applicant.

Supervisor Betro stated he was abstaining from any voting on the project. Prior to being Supervisor he represented Hughes. He still sits as a municipal advisor on the Board and he doesn't get paid.

Engineer Millspaugh, in summary, Hughes plans to utilize the former landfill gas building adjacent to the closed Orange County landfill. They intend to occupy the presently unused 3,600 SF of the building for the purpose of conducting a limited duration research project pursuant to a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Research Permit.

Whereupon, there was a discussion on the code amendment needed, supply of water and steam, and use of recyclables. It would be a demonstration facility.

Engineer Hoffman explained that applicant needs a code modification, site plan approval and a special permit.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to authorize the Town Attorney to prepare Introductory Local Law 1 of 2024 modifying chapter 80-B "Solid Waste Management". Vote by Roll Call.

Supervisor Betro	Abstained	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Bloomfield, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to type this project a Type 1 Action. Vote by Roll Call.

Supervisor Betro	Abstained	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to declare their intent to be lead agency. Vote by Roll Call.

Supervisor Betro	Abstained	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Review and approve December 14, 2023 Minutes.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Bloomfield, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve the December 14, 2023, Minutes. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Review and approve January 2, 2024 Minutes.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Lyons, seconded by Councilmember Bloomfield, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve the January 2, 2024 Minutes. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Finance

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to authorize the Supervisor to pay accounts payable run for January 11, 2024 in the amount of \$700,204.25.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Canterino, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to authorize the Supervisor to pay manual A/P runs as of 11/30/23 in the amount of \$856,856.32.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Review and discuss use of ARPA money on expenses for 2023.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Bloomfield, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve a transfer of \$68,601.27 in ARPA funds for 2023 Police Department Expenses. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Canterino, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve a transfer of \$5,550 in legal fees for the water consolidation. Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye.

VOTE BY PROPER MOTION, made by Councilmember Canterino, seconded by Councilmember Lyons, the Town of Goshen Town Board moved to approve budget transfers as prepared by Budget Officer (see attached). Approved unanimously.

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Privilege of the Floor

Mr. Gallo inquired to a report that lists the improvements needed for each water district.

Mr. Howe, appreciated the public sharing their thoughts. He was in support of the consolidation. Whereupon, there was a discussion on the water tank and rate structure.

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

Supervisor Betro	Aye	Councilmember Bloomfield	Aye
Councilmember Canterino	Aye	Councilmember Lyons	Aye

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.
Submitted by: Mary Riso, Town Clerk