

**TOWN OF GOSHEN**  
**TOWN BOARD MEETING**

FEBRUARY 23, 2012

M I N U T E S

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 23rd day of February, 2012 at 7:30pm at Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

Present:	Douglas Bloomfield	Supervisor
	Louis Cappella	Councilman
	George Lyons	Councilman
	Kenneth Newbold	Councilman

Absent:	Philip Canterino	Councilman
---------	------------------	------------

Also Present:	Dennis Caplicki	Attorney for the Town
	Priscilla Gersbeck	Deputy Town Clerk

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:34 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA**

Under New Business, Item #2 is removed as the document is incomplete.

**C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (agenda items only)**

None at this time

**D. REPORTS**

**Councilman George Lyons** gave the Board a status update on the Towns' insurance coverage. He met with Aaron Redner from Comp Alliance concerning Tail claims. Tail claims are injuries that have occurred in the past on which we still have liability. The Town had twelve cases in 2007 and is down to eight which are in the process of being mitigated. On March 20<sup>th</sup> he will meet with Howard Bittner to review all of the claims, especially the Tail claims.

Reporting about the JRC: the JRC has secured a grant from, the Orange County Arts Council, in the sum of \$3,500 to organize a summer concert series. The office is seeking music groups to perform. The JRC is taking applications for a summer camp director and a health director. As of this date, no one has applied for the health director. Zumba continues to be a popular program. The cost is \$35.00 for town residents and \$40.00 for out of town residents. A fire suppression system was installed in the kitchen area at the Craigville Park. The spring egg hunt is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 with a rain date on April 1. Finally, the JRC is in the early stages of contemplating "Tobacco Free Parks". This issue will be scrutinized as to the effect of individuals smoking as opposed to smoking in the vicinity of youth activities.

**Councilman Kenneth Newbold** stated that he attended a recent meeting pertaining to issues relating to the Wallkill River. It was an interesting presentation. He also attended a meeting as to the future of the Orange County Government Center, which was also interesting. He referenced a letter that the Town had received from Attorney Dickover requesting police coverage for the 10K and 5K race in the Village. Mr. Howard Weiss, who was present in the audience, phoned Mr. Dickover inquiring if the Fire Police could handle this request. He had no definite response.

**Councilman Louis Cappella** reported for the Senior Center. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, from 4pm to 7pm, the Goshen High School will be sponsoring a free dinner for the seniors. After the dinner the students will present a play "The Wizard Of Oz" for the seniors. A status update of the electric line that was damaged to the senior center: it was successfully repaired before more damage could occur. It was a major project, because it involved the main line coming in through Suresky's property. The bill was \$6,500. The insurance company covered all of the expense except for the \$1,000 deductible.

Reporting for the Highway Dept., on March 5<sup>th</sup> there will be a public hearing in the Town Hall regarding proposed increases in the Dial-A-Bus fares and proposed decreases in service. He is urging those with concerns to please attend the public hearing. With the exceptional mild winter, the Town is saving money on salt & sand. However, a contract was signed on a state bid, guaranteeing to take 75% of the purchase. Accommodations will be made to store the excess salt & sand for next winter. Finally, early this morning there was a water main brake in the Stonehedge development. This was repaired in a few hours.

**Supervisor Douglas Bloomfield** reported that he will be meeting with our Engineer, Dennis Lindsay, to develop a plan to reduce the inflow and infiltration in the Town's two subdivisions. Once a test is developed, Councilman Newbold will oversee the project.

He noted that Councilman Lyons, Commissioner of Insurance, is responsible for the significant reduction in our insurance premiums. For the last three years he has devoted a great deal of time meeting with insurance representatives. His hard work is greatly appreciated.

For information: the Town received a Community Block grant for \$4,500 to support the Ecumenical food pantry.

Supervisor Bloomfield informed the Board that Attorney Caplicki recently attended the Associations of Towns and Village meeting in NYC. Attorney Caplicki had a chance meeting with a reporter from the New York Post newspaper. (The reporter had been to a presentation by NYS Comptroller, Thomas Dinapoli.) A discussion evolved about the local police dept. As a result of this meeting, the reporter phoned Supervisor Bloomfield for an interview. One of the key items in this interview was the cost of the NYS police pension. He explained that our pension cost for the police went up 70% for 2012. With ten officers it went up \$86,000. This is excluded from the 2% tax cap levy. He told the reporter that he is angry with the people in Albany for sending the Town this bill four days before our budget passed. For everyone else, it went up 40%. "It is definitely a problem in the State Of New York". Just for public information, when a police officer retires with a disability, instead of getting 50% of their salary they receive 75%. The 75% is State and Federal tax free. This is hindering the NYS pension system. "The State Legislator needs to do something to help us out."

**E. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. STATUS OF THE REAL PROPERTY RE-VALUATION, ASSESSOR'S SCHEDULE OF INFORMAL ASSESSMENT HEARINGS**

Everyone will receive a notice in the mail of their new tentative assessment. The assessment is based on the market value of one's property as derived from recent selling prices of similar properties within the Town. This new assessment will be used for the first time to determine for September 2012 School taxes and January 2013 for County and Town taxes. The estimated tax was derived using current budgets, the 2011 school and 2012 town and county budgets. In summary, about 1/3 of the properties will go up, about 1/3 will go down and about 1/3 will stay the same. If the property owner is satisfied with the new assessment on the property, no further action is needed. If the property owner has questions, then he/she may schedule an appointment to speak with a representative from the Assessor's Office. The assessment disclosure meetings will be held by appointment *only* from March 19 thru March 30, 2012. If the property owner still disagrees with the assessment, he/she may file a formal grievance form with the Town for the Grievance Day. The Grievance Day hearings are on May 22, 2012. The re-valuation will be on a computer data base instead of manual. The particulars about one's property will be on a computer system. A person can look up information pertaining to his/her own property or anyone else's property.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None at this time.

**G. FINANCES:**

Councilman Lyons made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay Manual A/P runs as of 02/15/12 amounting to \$622,187.36, Manual A/P runs as of 01/05/12 amounting to \$3,139.54 and Accounts Payable Check run of 02/23/12 amounting to \$134,603.14. Councilman Newbold seconded the motion.

On a Voice Vote, the motion passed: 4 AYES      Bloomfield, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold  
0 NAYS

**H. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

**Jerry Boss** inquired about the 211 retirement waivers from the reporter for the NY Post. Answer: never touched on 211. He also asked questions pertaining to the re-valuation and the market value of one's property. The fair market value of homes will be adjusted. What people need to understand is that when an assessment is established the only data that comes to the assessment office, other than an inspection, is the purchase price of the lot, construction costs and purchase price. The re-valuation is to level out and bring current everyone's 2012 evaluations. The goal is to get out of the equalization rate and to base the values of homes on what the fair market value is.

**Joel Markowitz** asked if the new tentative assessments will be immediately put on line. People will need them for the current comparables. (inaudible) He also inquired if O & R was liable for the electric line to the

Senior Center. Answer: they are not. It is our responsibility from the pole to the building. The Village was also notified of the repair work. Mr. Markowitz asked for a status update of the Maplewood subdivision. Answer: There was a stipulation that outlined the footprint of the project. The footprint detailed how the project would be serviced. Recently the applicant and the Planning Board discovered that some of the stipulations were not adhered to. The changes were not *formally* addressed. Consequently a line-by-line review of the project is under way. Nothing has been modified, it is simply being reviewed.

**I. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Newbold made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following,

1. Tax Certiorari Update
2. Police Department Injuries - 2

with the intent not to return. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cappella. Motion carried.

**J. ADJOURNMENT**

The public meeting concluded at 8:30PM

---

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk