

TOWN OF GOSHEN  
**TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION**  
May 11, 2015  
M I N U T E S

A work session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 11th day of May, 2015 at the Town Hall located at 41 Webster Avenue, Village of Goshen, County of Orange, State of New York.

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

Also Present:	John Swift, Esq.	Special Counsel to Town Board
	Priscilla Gersbeck	Deputy Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:31 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. CYBER SECURITY – FRED LEWIS, FIRTHCLIFFE TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**

Fred Lewis of Firthcliffe Technologies, Inc reviewed the levels of cyber security the Town currently uses. The Town has a *firewall*, *untangle* (a proxy-server which prevents going onto risky sites), *anti-virus filters*, (malware/spyware) and an *offsite backup*. It's all about layers. The more layers, the better security. However, "there is no 100% guarantee, unless you cut the cord." stated Fred Lewis. He suggested that the Town create a cyber-security policy. There has been discussion to update our cyber security or obtain cyber insurance which can be expensive. The primary requirement for protecting confidential information is that access to it may be given only to people who have a need for information. The Town is concerned about hackers getting into our payroll or personnel records. Cyber security is designed to prevent/minimize unrestricted access. He also suggested adding another layer onto the email filter. Confidential information accessed through, or transmitted across the internet, must be protected by encryption technology preventing a hacker to intercept the information or by any number of individuals who administer external systems. In the meantime, changing one's password about every 90 days will help, also check with our vendors (ex: banks) as to what levels of security they use.

**2. JOHN CAPPELLA, ESQ., JACOBOWITZ & GUBITZ, LLP WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS A POTENTIAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY TO BE CONSIDERED FOR THE GURDA PROPERTY**

John Cappella Esq. introduced members of the Scientific Herbal Advancements Team. A power point presentation narrated by Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. (owner/operator of BBSI a NY licensed security firm.) explained the project. In summary; NYS passed in June of 2014 the "Compassionate Care Act". This law will allow patients with serious health conditions to benefit from medicinal cannabis. Scientific Herbal Advances is looking to locate its proposed laboratory growing facility at 873 Pulaski Highway utilizing existing structures on 9 acres. A grow, process and package production plant will ship the finished products to another site for sale. This facility is physician owned and operated: Dr. Ramesh Sawhney, M.D. specializing

in interventional medicine an ayurvedic medicine (pain management), and Dr. Nina Bhardwaj, M.D. Director of Immunotherapy at Mount Sinai. Scientific Herbal Advances is dedicated to applications of cannabinoids through careful research and testing. The medical marijuana has been proven to reduce seizures. There are many state regulated medical conditions eligible for medical marijuana usage. Additional research may lead to combat the advancement of Alzheimer's disease, Cancer, and PTSD etc. The facility proposes 45-50 employees including highly trained law enforcement personnel, bank personnel, and medical/pharmaceutical personnel. The first year site investment into the property will be up to \$3MM with an expansion of \$12MM over the next 5 years. Goshen was picked for the "Black Dirt" which may provide enhanced research opportunities in treating epilepsy and other neurological diseases. Goshen's accessibility to highways and proposed dispensaries makes it a desirable location. [Copy of the power point presentation is available in the Clerk's office.]

Some of the questions asked by the Board were: (1) Will an application be made for certain assessment exemptions? Ans: No, the plant is classified under "pharmaceutical" not agricultural. (2) Are there plans to go to the IDA? Ans: Not at this time. (3) Is the FDA involved? Ans: No, as long as the State quality control mandates/protocols are in place, the Federal government will not interfere. It takes approximately two years to develop medications of which are administered in the form of a vaporizer or pill. Not smoked. (4) When is the decision date for the plant to be up & running? Ans: The license/application is due around 5/28/2015. Hopefully, to be up & running by the fall. (5) As the business expands, what security measures are in place? Ans: the State has quality & control security regulations in place, cameras, searches etc.

There are unlimited possibilities with the prospects of developing medical solutions helping millions of people. Other places in Orange County are competing for the "medical marijuana" facility. The Town has the ideal rural setting with good access roads to main highways. Scientific Herbal Advances is asking the Town for support in this project. They will have their Attorney mail us a draft resolution to "pre-approve" this facility. The Board will also require a "Hold Harmless" agreement from this project & facility.

**3. DISCUSS AND APPROVE REQUEST TO WAIVE A BUILDING PERMIT FEE FOR A FIRE DAMAGED RESIDENCE AT 2 AVALON DRIVE**

Councilman Canterino made the motion to waive the building permit fee at the request of Eugene Hassen for 2 Avalon Drive. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion: This is consistent with what the Town has done in the past for residential properties suffering from catastrophic fire losses.

On A Voice Vote, the motion passed: 5 AYES Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold  
0 NAYS

**4. FINALIZE TOWN POSITION IN REGARDS TO ADC MAPLEWOOD DEVELOPERS AGREEMENT**

Attorney John Swift noted that the developer is going for a completion review of the DEIS and they expect a planning Board submission in 2-3 months. Therefore, the SEQRA process has not been completed. He prefers to discuss this issue in the Executive Session.

**5. DISCUSS REQUEST FROM THE GOSHEN HUMANE SOCIETY TO RENEW OUR AGREEMENT FOR \$10,000 FOR NEW CAT CAGES AND FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF CAT NEUTERING BY T.A.R.A**

Susan Bossley, Goshen Humane Society, Inc., mailed a letter to the Town to renew the agreement for \$10,000 for new cat cages and for financial support for cat neutering. The Animal Rights Alliance (T.A.R.A.) uses a voucher system to spay/neuter. They are able to spay/neuter and administer a rabies vaccine for close to nothing, taking a big burden off of the shelter. The estimated amount on a voucher system is around \$5,000 dollars. The expense would be shared \$2,500 with the Village \$2,500. Many of the feral cats are found wandering the Village or dropped off at the Humane Society.

The \$10,000 for new cat cages was approved by the Board last year.

Councilman Canterino made the motion to authorize Supervisor Bloomfield to work with the Village to pay 50% not to exceed \$2,500 for their half to the Humane Society to manage the T.A.R.A program. The Town will pay their portion not to exceed \$2,500. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

On A Voice Vote, the motion passed: 5 AYES Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold  
0 NAYS

**6. DISCUSS POTENTIAL JRC PLANS TO REFURBISH URBANSKI PARK ENTRANCE ROAD AND PARKING LOT**

Councilman Lyons reported that the JRC wishes to improve (blacktop) the parking at Myron Urbanski Park. Highway Superintendent, Broderick Knoell, recommended reclamation, because the condition of the lot is not suitable for blacktop. A quote from Reclamation, LLC covering 3,504 sq. yds. with a 5"- 8" depth will cost \$6,528.00. This cost does not include bringing in fill, the price of calcium chloride (one gallon per sq. yd.) and does not include the cost of blacktop. Those are separate bid contracts. The *estimated* calculated *total* amount is around \$80,000. The JRC can possibly contribute \$20,000, the Village possibly \$30,000 and the Town \$30,000 from the parkland fees. This will finalize the entire project.

Supervisor Bloomfield believes that once pavement is applied, then every 6-7 years the process repeats. Granted the blacktop would look "pristine".

The Village input is essential to go forward. Many questions need to be answered. Does this go out for bid process? Who will engineer the project? How much of the work will the Town & Village DPW be involved with? Contact the Comptroller Office if our plans are correct? Can we use a work-force account? Use County bid?

**7. DISCUSS AND APPROVE REQUEST BY CHIEF MCDOWELL TO HIRE THOMAS P. O'CONNELL AS AN ADDITIONAL PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER. MR. O'CONNELL IS A TRAINED, CERTIFIED AND EXPERIENCED POLICE OFFICER**

Recently, the Police Department has been left short-staffed with three officers out. The shortage of Officers compounded with vacation coverage will create added expenses to the Police Department's budget. An experienced, certified Police Officer, Thomas O'Connell is able to fill vacant shifts with limited training.

Councilman Canterino made the motion to hire Officer Thomas P. O'Connell to place him on our part-time Police Officer list according to our contract. Councilman Newbold seconded the motion

On A Voice Vote, the motion passed: 5 AYES Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Lyons, Newbold  
0 NAYS

**8. DORIS RUBINSKY, JEWISH FAMILY SERVICES, IS INTERESTED IN PURSUING AN INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN IN PROVIDING VOLUNTEER SERVICES FOR OUR CITIZENS**

Doris Rubinsky, Jewish Family Services, sent in a request asking if the Town of Goshen is willing to be part of an agreement to provide volunteers to assist seniors and other adults with disabilities in the Town. Her purposed annual budget is \$5,000. The Town sponsors the Dial-A-Bus and the Senior Center. The Town is not involved in the social services arena. There are many programs within the County which serve seniors and people with disabilities. Perhaps her organization can contact our Senior Center or partner with another volunteer organization.

**9. DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF MIDWAY ROAD BRIDGE CLOSURE AND REQUEST TO ROUTE TRAFFIC THRU TOWN OF GOSHEN**

The Town Engineer agrees that the Midway Road Bridge does need work. The metal repair work on the underside of the bridge does not require the closure of the bridge and the detour of traffic. The Town is in agreement to proceed with the necessary improvements. However, the work on the concrete deck will require the closure of the bridge and rerouting of traffic. The deck construction is not essential at this time and should be postponed until we can have further discussions. In other words, the Town is not in agreement when it comes to using our local roads.

**10. DISCUSS CURRENT STATUS OF PROCESSING A SCOPE CHANGE AND EXTENDING COMPLETION DATE FOR DURLAND AND COLEMAN CULVERTS**

Riddick Associates submitted on behalf of the Town, a letter to NYS Emergency Management requesting a change of scope and additional funding. The change of scope is necessary to extend the walls and footings vertically to provide sufficient protection from stream scour and frost heave at both the Coleman and Durland locations. The changes submitted are necessary to protect the culverts from undermining and settlement of the existing structures. The proposed scope of work modifications will return the site to near pre-disaster conditions. The project modifications changing the scope are anticipated to exceed the costs estimated by FEMA in July 2012. A time extension request has been submitted by the Town Highway Superintendent to correspond with this request. If the Town is unable to obtain a favorable decision on this scope change, it is likely the bids will be rejected and the re-bid price will exceed the apparent low bid.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Councilman Lyons made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following;

1. Review Turi Tax Certiorari Litigation Status Update
2. Review Request by Phil Dropkin Esq., Planning Board Member
3. Celery Avenue Flood Litigation Status Update
4. ADC Contract Negotiations Status Update
5. Medical Marijuana – Potential Business

with the intent not to return. The motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion Carried

**ADJOURNMENT:** 9:30PM

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Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk