

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
June 22, 2015
M I N U T E S

A work session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 22nd day of June, 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 7:36 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. DISCUSS REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE: NATHANAEL SPENCE, SAFETY MANAGEMENT QUALITY BUS SERVICE, LLC REGARDING SERIOUS TRAFFIC SAFETY CONCERNS AT THE INTERSECTION OF HIGHWAY 17M & CANNON HILL DRIVE

Nathanael Spence, Safety Manager for Quality Bus Service LLC sent a letter to the Town. Quality Bus LLC provides transportation to school students, with 250 employees. He is concerned with the safety of the employees entering and exiting Cannon Hill Drive onto Route 17M. Attached to the letter are photos of a recent accident at the end of Cannon Hill Drive. Mr. Spence stated that "I have contacted our local state DOT offices several times with the same result "5 year accident review does not warrant any change to this intersection".

Supervisor Bloomfield phoned the owner of Quality Bus LLC requesting a *number* of all the employees, customer trips, etc. going in and out of Cannon Hill Rd. in a day. When the requested information is provided the Town will draft a letter to our political representatives. Supervisor Bloomfield is concerned about other businesses (current & pending) located along Route 17M that have similar traffic problems.

2. DISCUSS AND PASS MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE DPW SUPERINTENDENT TO BID 2015 WATER/SEWER CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS, IF REQUIRED, PER THOSE OUTLINED IN THE SUPERVISOR'S REVIEW APRIL 9, 2015, PLUS TWO ADDITIONS

According to the Office of the State Comptroller; "Generally, local governments and school districts are required to advertise for competitive bids when procurements exceed certain dollar thresholds. Purchase contracts involving expenditures in excess of \$20,000 and contracts for public work involving expenditures in excess of \$35,000 are generally subject to competitive bidding under the law."

There are items in the 2015 Capital Projects Summary for the water/sewer districts that will need to go out for competitive bids. [A copy of the 2015 Capital Projects Summary is in the Clerk's Office for viewing.]

Councilman Newbold made the motion to authorize the DPW Superintendent to bid 2015 water/sewer capital improvement projects, if required. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

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

3. INFORMATION; THERE WERE NO BIDS TO RESTORE THE TOWN HALL CUPOLA. THE BID PROCESS WILL HAVE TO BE DONE AGAIN

As stated for information only. Three packets were picked up, but there were no bidders.

4. REMINDER: THE GOSHEN FIRE DEPARTMENT IS SOLICITING FLOATS FOR THE TRIENNIAL FIRE PARADE, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

As stated, if anyone/group/organization is interested in participating for this event.

5. HEAR PRESENTATION FROM TOMMY WATSON, COORDINATOR OF ORANGE COUNTY DRUG TASK FORCE, REGARDING DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT IN OUR COUNTY

The Orange Co. Sheriff office along with the District Attorney, David Hoovler, created the Orange County Drug Task Force. The task force is run under the supervision of a Senior Criminal Investigator from the District Attorney's Office and a Lieutenant from the Orange County Sheriff's Office. In addition to the sheriff's office, the task force is composed of police officers from other Orange County police departments. Currently the Town of Crawford Police Dept., the Village of Goshen Police Dept., the Town of Wallkill Police Dept., Village of Washingtonville Police Dept., and the Village of Chester Police Dept., have police officers to work on the task force. The Town of Monroe is pending MOU signatures. The officers are both part-time and full time, it varies from case to case.

Two Members of the Drug Task Force: Sergeant Paul Arteta, Narcotics Supervisor and Tommy Watson, Senior Investigator with District Attorney Office gave a presentation explaining how this task force assists other agencies in conducting narcotics investigations, including undercover investigations, in the county. Earlier this year the task force conducted a countywide narcotics sweep in which 25 defendants were charged with trafficking heroin, cocaine, and marijuana throughout Orange County. The task force is currently involved with 75 cases throughout the county dealing in prostitution, guns, drugs, welfare fraud, Medicaid fraud etc. Besides the specialized training of the officers, they are in trained in different aspects of technology. A new technology is called geo-fencing which is a feature in a software program that uses the global positioning system (GPS) or radio frequency identification (RFID) to define geographical boundaries. A geo-fence is a virtual barrier. Programs using geo-fencing allow an officer to set triggers so when a device enters (or exits) the boundaries defined by a key word like: gun or shoot, a text message or email alert is sent. Many geo-fencing applications incorporate Google Earth to define boundaries of a specific area. To

better track their movements, the geo-fencing technology is currently being used around the social network of rival gangs in the Town of Wallkill.

Supervisor Bloomfield inquired as to surveillance procedures, especially for a case in Goshen. Answer: "Unfortunately the public image of what we do is different from what we actually can do" stated Sergeant Arteta. There are various investigative techniques used in watching a location in order to develop a case.

Councilman Canterino asked who is responsible for the training of a police officer. Answer: qualified experienced leaders supervise specialized training. In addition, the officers go to NYC for high intensity drug training (HIDTA) and for undercover drug training. The State Police also hold a yearly narcotics undercover school training session. There are many classes where officers go together as a team. Once training is over, the officer will be placed with a senior investigator until he is advanced enough to do cases on his own.

Councilman Canterino also questioned who is responsible for the liability of an officer? Answer: the MOU developed by the District Attorney delineates some of the liability and the municipality insures each police officer, if injured, working for the task force.

Supervisor Bloomfield inquired as to the percentage of the various cases investigated by the task force.

Answer: 90% of the cases deal with drugs and narcotics. Then it breaks down into prostitution, welfare fraud etc.

In summary, the success of a narcotics sweeps involves a unified effort of the different police agencies, along with the municipality which allows their police officers to serve with the County-wide Drug Task Force as well as vigilant community residents.

[Town of Wallkill Supervisor, Daniel Depew acknowledged the previous speakers. He noted that the Town of Wallkill has been working with the Drug Task Force for about 8 months. "It has been extremely fruitful for us, primarily in narcotics fighting and has been worth every penny of it." His comments reflected a positive working relationship between his Police Dept. and the task force.]

6. DISCUSS CLOSURE OF THE MIDWAY ROAD BRIDGE IN THE TOWN OF WALLKILL AND THE REQUEST TO DETOUR TRAFFIC THROUGH THE TOWN OF GOSHEN

Supervisor Bloomfield announced that in his absence, this project will be coordinated by Councilman Phil Canterino, Commissioner of Public Safety and Police.

Town of Wallkill Supervisor Daniel Depew addressed the Board. He explained that there are 5 large bridges in the Town of Wallkill. Wallkill's engineering firm, KC Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C. (KC) of Circleville, has evaluated all of the bridges and found Midway Road Bridge to be of serious concern. The bearings are locked-up and there is substantial structural damage from the vibration from the locked bearings. To just re-deck the bridge would not work, because the bearings would crack it again. If we just fixed the bearings, then the deck would need repair. It was decided to do a complete bridge rehab.

Supervisor Depew stated that "we are very much concerned with our neighbors." "Our goal is to minimize the amount of time that the bridge is actually closed and close the bridge in the time only when we'll need to resurface/do the deck, do some of the work that you have to shut the bridge down for, curing times and all that." His focus is to minimize the time needed to work on the bridge and to minimize the impacts on the Town of Goshen. Supervisor Depew is aware that one of Goshen's concerns is with impacts of the added traffic from the Tetz asphalt plant onto town roads. According to Supervisor Depew, there is no choice. The bridge has to be closed down for a full rehab, because that is what the bonding allows. They are ready to go to bid and are looking for the best way to work with the Town of Goshen.

On behalf of the Town of Wallkill, Jason Pitingaro, P.E. of KC Engineering, presented two detour plans: Work Zone Traffic Control Plan Midway Road Bridge – Option 1 and Option 2 based on what the

roads are marked. The first plan (option 1) shows the “permitted” route. However, this first route makes the most use of local roads causing the most disturbance to local traffic. This option shows Old Minisink Trail and Phillipsburg Rd as detoured routes. Option 2 shows Cheechunk Rd and Owens Rd, being the least disruptive to local traffic, but are posted roads and not permitted by local regulations. Option 2 is favored, because the impact is minimized to residents.

Councilman Cappella mentioned that Phillipsburg Road was rehabbed in 2014. Now the Tetz trucks will be traveling this posted 5 ton limit road with 40 ton trucks. He is concerned that Phillipsburg Road is not designed to handle large truck traffic.

Supervisor Depew said that they do not plan on shutting down for a long period of time and certainly don’t plan on doing this project during Tetz’s “busy” construction season. It is possible that the down time will include holiday/spring break minimizing school traffic.

Supervisor Depew stated “let’s get the shortest, quickest way that affects the least amount of people and gets them out on highways as soon as possible. That would be my goal.” He wants to work together with the town as “a team”. He suggested posting signs every so many feet, printing map courses to be given to the Tetz drivers to use certain roads, and “to do whatever we need to do to help you guys with issues in that regard.” The plan is to begin work in the fall to winter – shutting down the bridge in April for around 4-6 weeks.

Councilman Canterino is amazed at the amount of planning needed to satisfy *one* commercial customer who is destructive to the life of the roads. He isn’t sure as to how much damage our roads and culverts will be able to handle. He mentioned that there are other issues besides using the roads, such as: the safety of the school buses/children crossing the road and a major narrow turn coming down a hill. Many vehicles use this route as a short-cut to go to the hospital/mall. He asked if there is a way to check the Tetz log manifest as to the average number of trucks/trips per day, in April and May, travel round-trip on Midway Road Bridge. Also, the 4-6 weeks shut down will allow for the concrete to cure and during that time Tetz will curtail “other” business traffic allowing only for asphalt deliveries.

Discussion covered ways to provide safe travel along the detoured route such as: flashing speed signs to slow down traffic, the volume and fixed times buses are carrying students for a possible escort.

Town Police Chief, James McDowell, suggested that putting a police car in a strategic location may slow down traffic.

Town Engineer Dennis Lindsay P.E. (Riddick Associates) recommended inspecting the culverts, if they are soft it could be a problem. Where necessary, we may need to cover them with steel plates. He also suggested the use of a message board or something to post “road closing”. To determine the impact the detour will have on the residents, he requested the number of school buses and number of Tetz trucks traversing said routes per day.

Supervisor Bloomfield repeatedly stated that his main concern is not about the roads. The Town’s issue is public safety of the families/home owners along the route and the safety of the general public using our roads. Most importantly is the safety of the children/students and safe passage for school buses.

Supervisor Depew asked the Board’s assistance in obtaining the necessary information pertaining to school children, bus stops, volume of buses traveling through etc. as soon as possible. School will be out for summer recess and the Town of Walkill is under a time frame to submit pertinent documents. He was assured that we will try to have this information available within the next two weeks.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

1. TURI LANDFILL CERTIORARI LITIGATION – STATUS
2. STEVEN & SHEILA FAITH, et al Vs TOWN OF GOSHEN - STATUS
3. P. D. PERSONNEL CASE (ARTICLE 72) – STATUS
4. P. B. A. NEGOTIATIONS – STATUS
5. MTBE LITIGATION - STATUS

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

ADJOURNMENT: 8:58PM

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk