

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD MEETING

July 23, 2015
MINUTES

A regular meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 23rd day of July, 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

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

C. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (agenda items only)

D. REPORTS

Councilman Cappella: Reported that Dial-A-Bus is promoting “Special Trip Mondays” for the month of August. The trip listing is as follows: August 10th Soons Orchard, August 17th Amore’s Italian Restaurant, August 24th Trailside Treats, and August 31st Steve’s Deli. Normal bus fares will apply. However, on Monday, August 3rd the Chamber of Commerce will pay the fares sponsoring a trip to Federico’s Pizza.

Reporting for the Senior Center, Councilman Cappella asked if the Senior Center had to go out for bid to purchase a new refrigerator. Answer: With room in the Centers’ budget, just submit the invoice for payment. In addition, a new grounds-keeper (mulching & trimming) was hired. This person also saved the Center \$300 - \$400 dollars in power washing the building. All of his work is commendable.

Councilman Newbold: Attends meetings with the Town water department and Joe Klopchin in order to keep up with repairs in the different water districts. To eliminate complaints of people parking in the handicap spaces, the Town will re-paint/stripe the handicap parking spaces very soon.

Councilman Lyons: Speaking for the JRC: the summer mini camps: *Princess Play Camp and Super Hero Training Camp*, have come to an end. The Recreational Day Camp is in its fifth week running until August 7th. Youth Basketball Camp is in its 2nd week at the Erie Street Park. The Youth Co-Ed Tennis Program offered at the Goshen Middle School, beginning knitting and the Chess Program held at the Senior Center are free to Goshen residents. The Parks & Recreation website: www.goshenrecreation.com lists the days and times. Zumba summer session continues on Tuesdays & Thursdays at the Senior Center.

The Goshen Little League and Soccer Club are utilizing Myron Urbanski Park for practices/games. The Youth Football Club has begun training for the fall season at the Erie Street Park. Tonight, a music concert is taking place at the Salesian Park. Another concert will be held in August.

Councilman Canterino: had a meeting with the Police Chief informing him that recently, when he travels along the “back roads” (Owens Rd. /Phillipsburg Rd.) to Middletown there are overweight trucks using these weight restricted roads as a short-cut. The police will patrol the roads to identify the trucks that are in violation. Councilman Canterino doesn’t want to see a pattern developing. The Town repaired those roads last year.

Supervisor Bloomfield: reported a steady increase in applicants for the Carter/Hauler license. Chapter 80-B, Article VI requires that any individual and/or entity conducting hauling activities in the Town of Goshen must first obtain a license at \$100 per vehicle. In 2010 the total amount of licenses sold was \$15,849.94. In 2015 the current total amount of licenses sold is \$18,100.00. Tuesday, July 14, 2015 two Goshen High School students lost their lives in a horrific car crash. A third student passed away on July 16, 2015. The three students were passengers in the back seat of a driver education car which was struck by Freightliner truck. The driver along with the driver education instructor survived the crash with minor injuries. Supervisor Bloomfield attended two of the three funerals. Tragically, this crash occurred at a busy four-way intersection with a blinking light in the Hamlet of Edenville. This intersection is notorious for accidents. The Town of Warwick Supervisor has repeatedly asked the State for a red light only to be turned down. This unfortunate loss of young lives has prompted Supervisor Bloomfield to reexamine the traffic study paid for by the Town of Goshen in 2008. He along with the Police Chief, Code Enforcer and Superintendent of Highways will review changes in our infrastructure. Some of the issues that will be closely looked at involve build-out of residential, commercial and industrial locations. They will question the need for turning lanes, new directional signage etc., on roads that have shown an increase in accidents. How many accidents were serious/fatal and what improvements can be made for safer passage. If the roadways belong to the State or County, information/suggestions will be forwarded.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. DISCUSS AND APPROVE THE BALANCE OF THE 2015 TOWN OF GOSHEN ROAD PROGRAM

Superintendent of Highways, Broderick Knoell, distributed the 2015 Road Improvement Summary list (available in the Clerk’s Office) to the Board. The line items shaded in tan were approved May 28, 2015 amounting to \$182,000.00. The line item shaded in blue was approved June 25, 2015 amounting to \$30,000.00. The balance of the road program are the items unshaded amounting to \$426,800.00. He explained the road work to be done. The details covered reclamation, fiber-mat sealing, chip sealing, paving/true leveling, and post paving work/other. In summary, there has been an yearly increase in road improvements (resurfacing & sealing) as follows: 2011 – 2 miles, 2012 – 4.25 miles, 2013 – 6.8 miles, 2014 – 8.1 miles and in 2015 – 12.2 miles.

Councilman Cappella made the motion to authorize the Highway Superintendent to spend the remaining balance of the 2015 road improvement program as presented to the Board in this plan. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

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

2. DISCUSS AND APPROVE JRC PROPOSAL TO REHAB AND PAVE THE PARKING LOT IN FRONT OF THE PAVILION AT URBANSKI PARK

Councilman Lyons explained the work proposed for Urbanski Park. The first entrance and the parking lot is to be paved all the way to the pavilion area. The quotes for reclamation, paving and equipment/grading are in order. Quotes for the fill and stabilization work are needed by at least two vendors.

Councilman Lyons made the motion to expend Parkland fees for work to be done, as stated, from the first entrance to the pavilion area in the amount of +/- \$96,000. Minus the Village of Goshen portion and the \$20,000 from JRC.

Discussion: To clarify the motion, additional paving added \$8,000 to the original approval. The distribution as follows: the Town will pay +/- \$38,000 the Village will pay +/- \$38,000 and the JRC will remain at \$20,000.

Supervisor Bloomfield made the motion to authorize payment (the Town share) to the JRC for improvements to Urbanski Park not to exceed \$40,000. Councilman Cappella seconded the motion

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

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. DISCUSS RENEWAL OF THE MVP HEALTH INSURANCE CONTRACT FOR PERIOD OF 9/1/2015 THRU 8/31/2016 AND AUTHORIZE THE SUPERVISOR TO SIGN THE SAME

As part of the renewal process, several questions were asked of our insurance carrier regarding MVP. (1) Can MVP assign a "Patient Advocate" for assistance with difficult situations that arise such as approval for certain tests, miss-information, help after hours or on weekends. Answer: MVP doesn't have a Patient Advocate to employer groups. However, they will designate/assign our insurance carrier (Marshall & Sterling) with a patient advocate for contact.

(2) What is the turn-around time frame for MVP's internal process from when a provider claim is received, adjudicated, sent to HRA (Health Reserves Account) and actual payment goes to the provider? Answer: This may take up to a week for review & approval then sent to the MVP HRA dept. Which can take up to two weeks for the payment to be sent out.

(3) Can the enrollment be broken down into three departments? Answer: Yes – the membership will be broken down as follows, A, B, and DB for their enrollments, both HRAs and their billing invoice as of 9/1/15. Supervisor Bloomfield reviewed a premium chart listing MVP rates, HRA availability and NYSHIP (Police Dept. insurance coverage) rates. For example, currently MVP premium for a monthly family plan is \$1,163.06, next year's monthly family plan rate will be \$1,326.19, up about 14%. In summary: the total of all the current premiums offered is \$292,600.68. The renewal total will be \$333,641.52 for premiums. Add on the HRA renewal total of \$209,550.00 bringing the total renewal MVP cost to \$543,191.52. On the other hand, NYSHIP current premiums are \$588,575.88 and the projected renewal premiums will be \$633,170.64. Supervisor Bloomfield thanked Councilman Lyons and Councilman Canterino for negotiating of our insurance premiums.

Councilman Lyons made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to sign the contract for renewal of MVP health insurance for the period of 9/1/2015 thru 8/31/2016. Councilman Cappella seconded the motion.

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

2. REVIEW AND APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR THE VILLAGE OF GOSHEN TO SECURE A GRANT FROM EMPIRE STATE DEVELOPMENT FOR A PROSPECT RESERVOIR WATER TREATMENT FACILITY PROJECT

Supervisor Bloomfield received a letter from Village Mayor, Kyle Roddey asking for support in obtaining a grant through the Empire State Development office. The Village is hoping to secure an Infrastructure Investment Grant to fund their Prospect Reservoir Water Treatment Facility project. The project would construct a new microfiltration system for the treatment of 1.3 Million Gallons per Day (MGD).

Councilman Newbold made the motion to authorize Supervisor Bloomfield to sign a letter in support of the Village of Goshen Prospect Reservoir Water Treatment Facility Project per the 2015 Empire State Development grant. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilman Lyons noted that when he was affiliated with the Village Board, an Economic Development Grant in the amount of \$600,000 was received to construct the existing plant which has now out-grown its usefulness.

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

3. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO PURCHASE A NEW POLICE VEHICLE. FUNDING FOR THIS WAS INCLUDED IN THE 2015 BUDGET

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that the vehicle used by the Building Dept. is no longer operable. There is money in the budget to purchase a used vehicle. Meanwhile, the Police Chief is in the process of purchasing a new *unmarked* vehicle to replace the 2006 Dodge Durango. Therefore, the Durango is available to be given to the Building Dept. Attached is an invoice for the purchase of a 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo E 4x4.

Councilman Canterino made the motion to authorize the Police Chief to purchase a 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee Laredo under the State Bid #PC66385. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilman Newbold asked for clarification as to the options offered under the preferred package. The luxury items are included as part of the package.

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

G. FINANCE

Councilman Canterino made the motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay accounts payable check run for July 23, 2015 amounting to \$238,141.09. Councilman Newbold seconded the motion.

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

H. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Bill Johnson, complimented the Board for doing a *“tremendous job on the budget by holding the line.”*

On the other hand, he voiced dissatisfaction of the Board for the way in which they treat the agricultural community. He praised a family owned business, located in Pellets Island known as the Minkus Farm, the main reason he is addressing the Board. He asked the Board, *“How many of you have gone out and talked to Mr. Minkus, looked at his operation, discussed it with him one-on-one?”* (The response was negative.) *“I suggest you get off your duffs and go out and look at his operation. This is a good thing for the black dirt (farmers). A tremendous asset and it’s an asset for the Town of Goshen.”* Minkus Farm operates 1,400+/- acres and is expanding the business to include a substantial processing/packaging plant. Bill Johnson pointed out that that the Town should work with the agri-community, to work together. *“Do what you can do to help. That’s what we are short on in Goshen.”* echoed Bill. He repeated his praise for this business owned by a *“hard working family”* as a clean operation. He believes the Town should bend a little and do everything it can to encourage this type of business.

Supervisor Bloomfield mentioned a problem which arose for this operation in complying with the NYS fire code. On behalf of Mr. Minkus, the Town submitted a request to NYS to interpret the firewall vs sprinkler system code specific to his facility. We are waiting for an answer. Supervisor Bloomfield stated, *“There’s no question. He’s the kind of entrepreneur that we want here.”* In summary, Bill Johnson requested for the Board to *“go out and look, make a date with him and go out and look, and then you’ll find out what the real world is.”*

Dan Matteo, presented himself as an advocate for a group of people (handicap & seniors) who he believes are being treated unfairly at Urbanski Park. The first parking area that leads to the pavilion parking lot has barricades in front of the utility shed across the lot. This prevents anyone from parking close to the pavilion, eliminating parking in the designated handicap parking spaces. Handicap people have to walk 200ft – 300ft to access the pavilion. What if a senior wants to take their children to the park? He spoke to the people at JRC about this matter. He believed this was resolved. The following day, the barricade was back up. There was a *little sign* on the benches that says, if you’re handicap, beep your horn and someone will come over to your car.

Dan Matteo wasn’t satisfied with this. The writing on the sign is hard to see and who will hear the horn? *“I don’t think it’s a solution to give the handicap people back their park.”*

Councilman Lyons stated that now there is a large orange sign there. This has been in effect for the past two weeks, because a *suspicious* person was seen speaking to children in the park. This person was from out-of-town and had no reason to be in the park. The police advised the JRC to close off the second entrance and to screen park visitors at the first entrance. Hence the barricades are up from 9:45am until 2:00pm. This is added safety for children crossing fields back and forth to the pavilion lot. A park employee has been directed to greet each visitor during this time. As of this date, no one has actually entered the area beeping their horn to park. The summer programs vary from week to week, perhaps 100+ children are enrolled plus the camp counselors. Usually summer camps are held in the schools. This year construction is being done to all of the cafeterias, putting the programs in the park.

There was discussion as to the perception of an “over reacting” parent who observed a questionable conversation and the age of the children involved. The JRC tries to minimize problems associated with soft targets by providing an extra layer of security. Dan Matteo asked *“does the JRC have legal authority to close certain areas of the park?”* Answer: our Attorney will look into this.

Jerry Boss, recapped his thoughts of the meeting. Regarding Bill Johnson, *“He truly is a gem of history in Orange County.”* Referring to the Minkus Produce Farm, *“I don’t know whether you realize it or not, his products are brought to some of the most expensive restaurants in Manhattan.”*

Pertaining to the situation Dan Matteo spoke about, “I’m sure the Police were contacted” and proper steps were taken to investigate the person. *“I don’t have a problem with the parent that reported this. It’s pro-active and in the times we live in today, you better be pro-active”.*

His final thought is about the traffic study. Years ago the County did a traffic study intended to reconfigure the road system in and around the Town and Village. As of this date, that study hasn't been implemented. The Town of Goshen paid for a traffic study, as part of the new master plan, in 2009. This study was to get a "true picture" of the roads classified as A, B, C, D, E, F levels. Jerry Boss gave credit to Councilman Ken Newbold who was solely instrumental in getting the red light installed at Arcadia and 17M. He inquired as to who will be on this new traffic study committee? Supervisor Bloomfield answered Chief of Police, Superintendent of Highways, Building Inspector and himself. However, anyone is invited to participate in the committee.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Canterino made the motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss the following:

1. Discuss Current Status of Al Turi Landfill Tax Certiorari
2. Discuss New Law Suit

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

ADJOURNMENT: 9:00PM

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk