

TOWN OF GOSHEN  
TOWN COUNCIL WORK SESSION  
January 7, 2008

MINUTES

A work session of the Town Council of the Town of Goshen was held on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2008 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
	Philip Canterino	Councilmember
	Louis Cappella	Councilmember
	Kenneth Newbold	Councilmember

Absent:	George Lyons	Councilmember
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Also Present:	Dennis Caplicki	Town Attorney
	Susan Maysels	Deputy Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:30pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**1. Workers' Compensation Insurance Proposals**

Supervisor Bloomfield announced that two workers' compensation companies providing administration services would be giving presentations to Council. He stated that the Town hopes to withdraw from participation in the Orange County Workers' Compensation Fund by February 1, 2008. The Supervisor, along with Councilmember Canterino, have been researching, studying and comparing options for some time. There are four available options to the Town: (1) State Insurance Fund Safety Group #497, (2) Public Employer Risk Management Association, Inc., aka PERMA, (3) New York State Municipal Workers' Compensation Alliance aka Comp Alliance, and (4) Orange County Workers' Compensation Fund with Triad as claim administrator. The Town will withdraw from the Orange County option because the County notified the Town that it can expect a 20% annual increase for the next five years, and claim management has not been satisfactory. In addition, Orange County has requested that Towns and Villages in its self-insurance pool withdraw, and will permit Towns to take their open claims with them without buy-out. In leaving the County program, the Town will take all its open workers' compensation cases and transfer them to the new administrator selected this month. Of the remaining three options, the two being considered are PERMA and Comp Alliance.

For PERMA, the presentation was done by Mario Viniello of Marshall & Sterling Insurance broker, Mariella Frush, PERMA Senior Account Executive, and Karen Leffler-Braman, VP Marketing & Membership for PERMA.

For Comp Alliance, the presentation was done by Scott Liebert of CLG Financial Insurance broker and Loren Pratt, Marketing Manager for Comp Alliance. Comp Alliance is a not-for-profit company, sponsored by the NY Association of Towns.

After each presentation, the insurance representatives were questioned extensively by Council regarding the annual fees for new and transferred open claims, anticipated increases for the next few years, increase history, basis of information used to determine fees, levels of service and investigation of cases, frequency of accident prevention-safety classes, and other municipalities served.

Supervisor Bloomfield said that he expected Council to vote on a selection at the next meeting after he reviewed the proposals with the Town Insurance Commissioner George Lyons.

**2. Request by Florida School District for Town Tax Collection Services**

Supervisor Bloomfield informed Council that Howard Cohen of the Florida School District called him asking if the Town of Goshen would once again collect Florida school taxes for residents who live in the Town of Goshen but are in the Florida school district. Councilmember Newbold noted that this request has been made many times and rejected many times. Town Attorney Caplicki said that there would be liability exposure to the Town if it agreed to provide this service. Supervisor Bloomfield felt the liability would preclude the Town from agreeing to this. He will talk to Valma Eisma, the former Tax Receiver and current Town Clerk to get an understanding of why the Town performed this service in the past, and why it discontinued it.

**3. Retirement of Thomas J. Grippe as MEO for the Highway Dept. effective January 31, 2008.**

Supervisor Bloomfield announced Mr. Grippe's retirement, and stated that a resolution acknowledging it will be on the next agenda.

**4. Association of Towns Hospitality Suite**

The assessment for the hospitality suite for Association of Town's annual training event is \$325. Although no one from Goshen intends to go, this is a valuable organization that provides a wealth of information available with just a phone call. Supervisor Bloomfield would like to show support for all the Association does by contributing the Town's share.

Supervisor Bloomfield made a motion to pay the Town of Goshen's assessment for the hospitality suite at the NYC annual training by the NYS Association of Towns in the amount of \$325. Councilmember Canterino seconded the motion.

ADOPTED:                    4 AYES                    Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Newbold  
   0 NAYS

**ADDED.                    January Meeting of Orange County Association of Towns, Villages and Cities**

Supervisor Bloomfield informed Council that Goshen was asked to host the January meeting of the OC Association of Towns and he has agreed to do so since it is Goshen's turn. It will be at Lemoncello's on January 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. The cost is \$25 which includes dinner. He encouraged all Councilmembers to go if possible, and will arrange payment by the Town.

**5. Orzak Road**

Supervisor Bloomfield stated that some time ago, the NYS DOT approved a grant to the Town for the improvement of Orzak Road. The grant was written by Fusco Engineering for the Town, and comprised of a project to straighten and widen the road which involves swapping and purchasing farm land on both sides for an estimated total of \$400,000. The grant is for 80% or \$320,000. To date \$7300 has been spent by Fusco to survey the road to determine how much, and whose property would be needed to widen the road.

Due to resistance by the property owners along Orzak Road, Supervisor Bloomfield and Councilmember Cappella contacted Fusco Engineering to explore revising the project scope. Instead of the widening project, they have asked Fusco to meet with NYS DOT to ask if the grant application can be amended to cover installing guard rails, paving, and providing a turn-around at the end that is large enough to accommodate school buses and snow plows. Supervisor Bloomfield will report back on this item after the parties have met.

**6. Goshen Volunteer Ambulance Corp Service Agreement**

Supervisor Bloomfield said that the last contract between the Town and GOVAC expired December 2004. The new contract before the Council tonight is identical to former contracts. It provides for a \$30,000 contribution to GOVAC to provide ambulance services to Town residents.

Councilmember Canterino made a motion to authorize the Supervisor to execute this contract with GOVAC, including the \$30,000 contribution for the term of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008. Councilmember Cappella seconded the motion.

ADOPTED:                4 AYES                Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Newbold  
                                 0 NAYS

**7. Status of "Deer Crossing" signs on 6½ Station Road**

Councilmember Cappella reported that the signs have been delivered and will be installed by tomorrow.

**ADDED. Speed Limit Reduction on Cross Road**

Supervisor Bloomfield informed Council that the current speed limit on Cross Road is 55 mph, not 40 or 45 mph as many thought. Residents have requested that it be reduced to 40 mph from the intersection with Maple Avenue to the Pulaski Highway intersection.

Councilmember Newbold made a motion to send a request to the County of Orange to reduce the speed limit on Cross Road (Cty Rd #42) from 55 mph to 40 mph, and ask the County to forward the request to NYS DOT with their signature in support. Councilmember Cappella seconded the motion.

ADOPTED:                4 AYES                Bloomfield, Canterino, Cappella, Newbold  
                                 0 NAYS

**8. Hometown Online, Inc Franchise Agreement for Cable Services**

Supervisor Bloomfield stated that a resolution will be on the next agenda authorizing the Supervisor to enter into the franchise agreement with Hometown Online, Inc. The public hearings have been held, so Councilmembers should review the agreement in their folders so they are prepared to vote on it Thursday.

**9. Congressman John Hall at Hambletonian Park January 9, 2008**

Supervisor Bloomfield announced that there will be a press conference this Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at Ganley Park in the Hambletonian Park subdivision at 10:30am. US Congressman John Hall will present to the Town the check for \$393,760 to be used to pay down the cost of the newly replaced Hambletonian water main. A great thanks is due to Congressman Hall for securing this large contribution that relieves residents of a substantial portion of the project burden. The Congressman delivered, we're proud of him and he deserves recognition.

**ADDED. Request of the Goshen Animal Welfare League to use Town Hall**

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that it has always been Council policy to limit use of Town Hall to Town governmental bodies because of the staffing that would be needed to open and close the building for other groups, the liability exposure to the Town, and the limited dates space is available each month. Also no one wants to be in the position of booking one or two groups, then rejecting all others because there are no open dates. The Supervisor asked Deputy Town Clerk Maysels to contact the League and inform them of this Council policy.

**ADDED. Goshen Volunteer Ambulance Corps's Annual Banquet**

Supervisor Bloomfield informed Council that GOVAC's annual banquet will be held 7pm January 19<sup>th</sup> at the Otterkill Country Club. Supervisor Bloomfield will attend because he will be presenting awards. Any Councilmember wishing to attend should let the Supervisor know so that he can arrange Town payment for them. Spouses are welcome, but of course, the Town does not pay for their dinner.

**10. Executive Session to Discuss On-going Negotiations & Litigation**

Councilmember Cappella made a motion that Council enter Executive Session, without intent to return to public meeting, to discuss IWS Transfer negotiations, JRC personnel litigation, Sullivan litigation and Sederevic litigation. Councilmember Newbold seconded the motion.

ADOPTED:                    4 AYES                    Bloomfield, Cappella, Canterino, Newbold  
                                     0 NAYS

Council entered Executive Session at 9:30 pm.  
No action was taken in Executive Session.

Respectfully submitted by:

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Susan Maysels, Deputy Town Clerk