

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
March 9, 2009
MINUTES

A work session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 9th day of March, 2009 at 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:	Dennis Caplicki	Attorney for the Town
	Priscilla Gersbeck	Deputy Town Clerk

The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Bloomfield at 7:38pm.

1. NEW HORIZONS SEPTIC SYSTEM PROPOSAL – MICHAEL MORGANTE, ARDEN CONSULTING

Michael Morgante, PE representing Arden Consulting from Monroe, NY distributed to the Board members information packets explaining VeriComm Monitoring System and sets of plans detailing the open space subdivision, lot layout and easements of New Horizons Subdivision located at the intersection of Philipsburg Road and Hampton Road in the Town of Goshen. He is proposing a central sanitary wastewater collection and disposal system for 8 lots having large estate sized houses on them. In the set of plans, sheet 2 of 7 shows the proposed grading and utility plan. Since the majority of the soils are of poor quality – the left hand bend coming onto Hampton Road has very good soils and is where the proposed sanitary system will be located. The central sewer collection system starts at the intersection of lots 1, 7 & 6. Mr. Morgante detailed the sanitary system layout with two septic tanks and a waste water treatment plant. He explained the technical workings of the layout resulting in zero solids going into the absorption fields. This will extend the life of the facility and in the event of a system failure, only clean water will surface. Mr. Morgante has reviewed the comments and suggestions given by Dennis Lindsay (Town Engineer) and has addressed them or illustrated the changes on the set of plans.

Supervisor Bloomfield recalled two criteria to be addressed. One is that this system has to be "robust". It is unacceptable to install an inferior system that would fall apart in 5 or 10 years. The other is that the Town didn't want to operate or be responsible for this sanitary system. It would have to be a homeowner's association operation.

Discussion:

Councilman Canterino wanted to be assured that the Town wouldn't have to take over this system in the future. Who would be responsible for the system? Mr. Morgante stated that this system would be operated through a Transportation Corporation (TC) to be formed specifically for the purpose of the home owners involved. In addition, the Orange County Dept. of Health requires that the TC be formed with its stringent guidelines.

Mr. Morgante detailed the fail-safe VeriComm monitoring system of this central septic system. The VeriComm telemetry and monitoring works off a control panel installed on the site. It communicates operating data such as; high and low liquid levels, stuck float switches, pump failure, pump lockout from brownout, clogged filter, leaking tank, failed contactor, chattering contactor, excessive pump cycles and makes recommendations for action. VeriComm monitoring system can make many system adjustments via the web, making for fewer service calls. VeriComm's virtual operation and monitoring is practically invisible to the property owner/resident operating on a daily bases. When a problem arises, the information will be directed to the homeowners (retained) local maintenance serviceman.

Councilman Canterino would like to see a bond posted in case the sanitary system fails or is abandoned by the homeowners as a safe guard for the Town. In the past, the Town has taken over two water districts that were abandoned and run into the ground. To bring the two water districts up to standard was costly for the Town. Mr. Morgante pointed out that this system will only serve 8 lots with no further expansion. It isn't serving hundreds of different tax lots, it is contained, specific, limited and is overseen by the State.

Councilman Cappella asked if there are any other systems like this one around here. Mr. Morgante stated that this system may be in Greenwood Lake and will look for others in the tri-state area. Councilman Cappella would like to see examples of this system in operation. He feels that with anything that involves this type of technology, the key to operations is a good service department.

Councilman Bloomfield inquired if the solids ever need to be pumped? Response was that the septic tanks would probably need to be pumped on yearly basis. This is part of the routine operations and maintenance. There are two over sized septic tanks with over a 9,000 gallons capacity.

Councilman Newbold asked what would happen if only two of the eight houses are built? Would this plant still run efficiently? Response: the collection data would record the flow ratio and either stage up or stage down depending on service usage. The floats will track back and look at the historical data of the pumping cycles for a period of time and adjust itself to the average cycle. If the float is broken, an adjustment will automatically occur.

Attorney Caplicki stated that Dennis Lindsay (Town Engineer) is waiting to receive the current information to give his final report to the Town.

Councilman Lyons wanted to know the cost per unit to each house to put this system in. Response; it is at the expense to the developer. At this point, the cost to construct the sanitary system is around \$230,000 which is at least \$120,000 more than the average septic system for a subdivision like this.

2. SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

Supervisor Bloomfield read from a letter the Town received regarding the Summer Youth Employment Program. "The Orange County Employment & Training Administration (OCETA) operates a countywide Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP) for disadvantaged youth between the ages of 14 and 24. We are looking for various agencies to serve as worksites this summer. Eligible entities include school districts, community based organization, municipalities and other not for profits." "The SYEP provides youth with 6 weeks of employment, up to 30 hours per week, at minimum wage and worker compensation benefits."

Councilman Lyons responded as he is familiar with this program. It is for low income families and for youth's who have a handicap condition/special education. The success of the placed youth depends on the Supervisor. The Supervisor should be on the job at all times, responsible for correct application of the job description. The funding comes solely from the County. Each individual has their own responsibility to provide transportation to the job site.

After discussion, Supervisor Bloomfield suggested that the JRC and the DPW be asked if they can benefit from this program. Perhaps there might be a need for a helping hand in one of the Town's offices. He will explore the possibilities.

3. OC SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION MEETING

A memo was sent out to the Towns which are contracted with the County in the Wallkill Valley Drainage Improvement District. The County maintains the Wallkill River and charges each Town accordingly. Now it's time to meet with the representing legislators to review the current contract and maintenance agreement. Supervisor Bloomfield will attend the meeting in April and report back to the Board.

4. RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE VILLAGE OF GOSHEN BICENTENNIAL

Supervisor Bloomfield asked the Town Historian, Michelle Figliomeni, to detail some basic facts for a resolution to support the Village Bicentennial. This will be ready for the Thursday meeting.

5. TIME WARNER FRANCHISE RENEWAL

Attorney Caplicki stated that the Temporary Operating Authority contract under which Time Warner-Orange County had expired in February 2009. Currently the Town gets 5% from the franchise. Supervisor Bloomfield asked Attorney Caplicki to report back his findings in the negotiation process.

6. WALLKILL RIVER WATERSHED – BETTER DESIGN MEETING

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that the Orange County Land Trust along with the Orange County Planning Department invited the Town of Goshen to participate in the Wallkill River Watershed Better Site Design Roundtable. The goal of the Roundtable process is to endorse development techniques that have a reduced impact on streams and river systems, are economically viable and specific to each town. Some of the techniques focus on reducing stormwater runoff and enhancing watershed protection by reducing the amount of impervious cover, using pervious areas for more effective stormwater treatment and increasing the amount of natural lands set aside for conservation. If there is a need to change codes and/or ordinances, the Orange County Land Trust will compensate the Town with \$2,000 toward the expense. Supervisor Bloomfield along with Neal Halloran will attend a roundtable session.

7. BUILDING AND ZONING REQUEST FOR TRAINING

Supervisor Bloomfield read a memo submitted from Neal Halloran, Building and Zoning, stating that New York State mandates 24 hours of continuing education annually for all code enforcement officials. In his department there are three people currently qualified who are required to take the training. John Terry, Kathleen Krutki and Neal Halloran have a choice of three conferences in Poughkeepsie, Pomona and Middletown. The registration is approximately \$275-\$300 per person. Neal Halloran suggested that John Terry attend the Hudson Valley Conference in Poughkeepsie, Likewise, Kathleen Krutki will attend the Tri-County session in Middletown after she takes her Building Inspection test. Neal Halloran will attend the Rockland County session in Pomona. The Town Board will consider this request at the next meeting.

8. JOINT RECREATION – BY LAWS OF FRIENDS OF GOSHEN PARKS

Councilman Lyons summarized that Friends of Goshen Parks is an off shoot of the JRC. Its general purpose is to receive and administer funds for charitable and other exempt purposes within the meaning of 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. This is an attempt to get the JRC to be a self sustaining organization. The legal work is being handled by Thomas Cione pro-bono.

Attorney Caplicki questioned the wording of “charitable purposes” in the bylaws. His concerns are with the legal technicality that a municipality or a youth program is not considered *charitable*. Attorney Caplicki is working with the Village Attorney to devise terminology to comply within the IRS regulations for this worthy cause. The 501(c)(3) status gives them deductibility on the contributions and that is the part in question.

Councilman Newbold suggested what if the JRC separates itself from the Municipality then they can raise money independently. In turn at the JRC’s annual meeting they can donate \$X amount to the Village and Town. There are other organizations in Goshen which operate independently and are able to qualify for a 501(c)(3) using the acceptable IRS requirements. There are many issues that need to be worked out between the Attorney for the Town and the Attorney for the Village.

9. STATUS UP – DATE: AUDIT OF SEWER COSTS

Supervisor Bloomfield and Attorney Caplicki met with Stephen Brown, CPA who will be doing the audit. We are waiting for communication from the Village pertaining to this matter before Stephen Brown begins.

Supervisor Bloomfield called for any other comments from the Board. Councilman Newbold inquired if any one has followed up on the finials which were brought up at the last meeting. The Chronicle newspaper had a photo of them in last weeks' edition. Councilman Lyons did a visual inspection of the finials to see which ones needed immediate attention. Indeed there are many finials whose top layer is peeling off and the exposed surface is rough. It seems that there is no warranty. This is being investigated for confirmation. Bonnie Mayefsky from the JRC will take the lead to find ways to repair the finials. Supervisor Bloomfield would like to see (for safety reasons) someone from the DPW just check the finials that have sharp edges and perhaps scrape those edges off.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

1. Legal Review Of Tax Certs – Justin Cole, Esq. (was tabled until March 12)
2. Prospect Hill Status Up-date
3. Land Donation Status Up-date
4. IWS – 80B Status Up-date

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

Time: 8:40PM

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk