

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
April 20, 2009
M I N U T E S

A work session of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 20th day of April, 2009 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	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 7:37pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Public Hearing

Councilman Lyons made a motion to open the public hearing for public comment and suggestions regarding projects to be considered for funding under the Orange County Community Development Program. Councilman Canterino seconded the motion.

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

In 2010, the County expects to receive approximately \$1,700,000, under this Program, of which, approximately \$1,000,000 will be distributed to member municipalities.

Supervisor Bloomfield noted that once suggestions are received from the public, the Town Board will select one and make an application to the County. A seven member Advisory Committee will evaluate our application along with all of the others. Following the review, the seven officials will visit each of the proposed project sites.

Supervisor Bloomfield reviewed materials received from the Office of Community Development regarding the Housing Rehabilitation Program. For families whose total household income is less than the limits listed, 0% loans are available for home repairs and for barrier removal for the physically disabled. These loans (up to a maximum of \$20,000) are made available through the Orange County Office of Community Development. For example; a family size of one with an income limit up to \$44,800 up to a family size of eight with an income up to \$84,500 may qualify for

loans at a 0% interest rate. Furthermore, senior homeowners (age 62 and over), whose total household income is less than the limits listed, and up to \$20,000 is available for home repairs and for barrier removal for the physically handicapped. Again, following the same criteria as mentioned above. Eligible improvements include: heating systems, new roofs, barrier removal, windows, doors, structural repairs and general repairs etc. available from the County.

Supervisor Bloomfield called for requests from the audience to be considered for funding under the County Development Program. With no one responding, Supervisor Bloomfield referred to two requests the Town Board have received for consideration.

Last year the Town applied for a grant to repair Jessup Switch Road. Shawn T. Hoffman, Consulting Engineer from Riddick Associates compiled the information on behalf of the Town. The cost for the necessary repairs was estimated at \$321,400. If the Board elects to go with this again, we will need to update this figure. Recently, a few residents have requested that Jessup Switch Rd. be again considered for repairs.

Another request was received from the Board of Fire Commissioners of the Goshen Fire District. They are asking that monies be requested on behalf of the Goshen Fire District to help defray the cost of necessary renovations to the Minisink Fire Station. These renovations include the important project of the building being made handicapped accessible. The Goshen Fire District would defray any costs associated with the receipt of these funds. A Commissioner will be present at the April 20th meeting. Signed: Al Turi, Chair.

The second request is as follows:

This letter is in response for a request to be considered under the Orange County Community Development Program. My issues lie with the condition of Jessup Switch Road. As a school bus driver I am concerned with the safety of the students on my bus.

My morning route begins on Jessup Switch Road. In fact, I am the first school bus driver, of many to follow, on Jessup Switch Road. I drive the High School bus which consists of two round trips daily. The Elementary School bus also completes two round trips daily. There is a small bus of special needs children with two round trips daily. Furthermore, I return to Jessup Switch Rd. driving the late bus which is one round trip daily. All-in-all, school buses travel a total of 7 round trips daily, 5 days a week which totals 35 round trip bus routes per week traveling on Jessup Switch Rd.

There are many safety issues, I have encountered, that I feel need to be addressed. There are many deep potholes throughout the length of the road. The temporary patching doesn't help, because of the nature of the road, the patches shift with moisture which can result in a loss of safe steering.

My Jessup Switch route begins around 6:50am. During the winter season, it is predawn. The road can be slick from the drifting snow. The potholes are full of ice. As a point of reference; school buses are rear-wheel drive and inclement weather can contribute to a dangerous skidding condition.

Jessup Switch Rd. is very narrow. A lot of this is a result of the deep drainage ditches on both sides of the road. I estimate the side drops off to be a minimum of at least ten feet in certain areas. There are NO guard rails. There is NO room to pass an oncoming vehicle. There are limited shoulder runs and many times I have to pull off into a muddy field. Without guard rails, especially in the winter, one has to guess where the sides of the road are to safely control the bus on icy patches.

I also want to mention, that there are two blind curves in which you can not see on coming traffic. With the narrow nature of this road, it would be helpful to install mirrors of some sort on these blind curves.

Without a doubt, there are more times than less when I have advised the students to be prepared as the road conditions are hazardous ahead.

The responsibility of every bus driver is to guarantee the safety of the students on board and to guarantee safe transportation of the students to and from school. Jessup Switch Road, in my opinion, is unsafe, inadequate and is an accident waiting to happen. There are many hazardous road conditions in need of attention. I hope that The Town of Goshen will consider my request for funding under the Orange County Community Development Program. Signed: Philip Gersbeck

(With no further requests or comments from the audience)

Councilman Newbold motioned to close the public hearing for projects to be considered for funding under the Orange County Community Development Program. Councilman Lyons seconded the motion.

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

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. PRESENTATION BY HERITAGE ESTATES PROFESSIONALS AS INPUT FOR DEVELOPMENT OF A WATER/SEWER DISTRICT

Heritage Estates is a subdivision consisting of the 150 acre Afton Farm and 100 acre Kolk Farm with 150 of those acres devoted to open space and has a preliminary approval for 63 lots. This is a follow up to a request made by James Sweeney, P.C. for the formation of a water and sewer district for the Heritage Estates project.

Steve Esposito from Esposito & Associates presented the Board Members with a Regional Map showing the existing Town of Goshen Sewer Districts, Proposed Sewer Districts and WWTP's (waste water treatment plants).

This subdivision has completed the SEQRA process and is one of the projects that were exempt from the changes to the Zoning Code. Mr. Esposito detailed several alternatives for sewer service. One was to go to the Village for sewer service where he was originally denied. Another was to approach the Transportation Corp. for sewer and a private water company. Third, to approach the

Town to form a sewer/water district. He pointed out on the map the sewer districts in relation to Hambletonian Park, Arcadia Hills, Heritage Estates, Lone Oak and Rieger Homes. The darkened squares represent the on-site sewer treatment plants.

Supervisor Bloomfield inquired: if in fact the Village has problems in accepting three new subdivisions – the map shows three individual on-site sewer plants ---what would you (Mr. Esposito) propose? Response; One suggestion is to build a regional sewer plant, probably on the Heritage subdivision or we can revisit our request with the Village. The public is *led to believe* that the Village Sewer Treatment plant can process up to 2 million gallons per day.

The public hearing set for May 14 is to establish the geographical water/sewer district. The “mechanics” will be addressed at another date. There was much discussion among the Board Members as to establishing a regional water/sewer district, if the current surrounding Town sewer districts could be included, and if additional expansion modules could be used as the district occupants grow.

Mike Walker noted that the public hearing will only cover the Heritage Estates project. He will research the maximum capacity of the stream. He stated that the site plants are built in sections (modules) and can be expanded.

Mr. Esposito, speaking for all three developers, said they are local and they want to do the right thing. This will benefit the existing residents of the Village and of the Town, plus future residents.

Supervisor Bloomfield asked others present if they wish to have the floor.

Jerry Boss questioned the environmental effects to the Otterkill River as an endangered stream. Also the Glenwood Association did a study on Purgatory Swamp and of all of the endangered species that live in that area – what are the environmental (if any) ramifications of sewerage aggregate and stream tolerance levels?

Supervisor Bloomfield suggested that the environmental concerns should be brought up at a public hearing.

2. GAS AND ELECTRIC BILL CONSULTING AND ANALYSIS:
- HUDSON ENERGY SERVICE
-COLUMBIA ENERGY SERVICE

Supervisor Bloomfield was contacted by a representative from Hudson Energy Services. They are cost efficiency experts trained to reduce expenses by identifying best alternatives at least cost. They identify billing errors and help to recover funds. By reducing costs and getting money back on overcharges, we can keep costs in line to invest in new services and systems. They analyze gas and electric bills etc.

A referral came in for Columbia Energy Service who may help us determine ways to cut expenses in our water/sewer district on energy consumption and bills. They look at areas of savings perhaps on hidden taxes. Supervisor Bloomfield will have more to report after he meets with a Columbia Energy Service representative.

3. PESH AUDIT:
- HALL RAILING
- RECORD STORAGE
- CARPET

- DESK PLACEMENT

Supervisor Bloomfield outlined some of the violations sighted by a representative from the New York State Department of Labor, PESH (Public Employees Safety and Health) audit in the Town Hall.

1. The back stairwell had four or more risers, which were more than 44 inches wide, but was equipped with only one handrail on the enclosed side. We need to install another handrail.
2. There were several areas where records are stored that should be removed to a proper location. Those storage areas are stacked too high and create an unsafe working environment. Today the Dept. heads spent all day removing the boxes.
3. Carpeting in some locations was uneven and rippled, which may create a tripping hazard. Even though this is a nonserious violation, we need to take care of it.
4. A couple of offices had serious violations of desk placement. There has to be an access width of at least 28 inches. This will be resolved by switching desks around.

Supervisor Bloomfield wanted to inform the Board Members of the above violations for we will have to start spending money to correct them.

4. BETTER SITE DESIGN (BSD) KICK OFF MEETING – INFORMATION LEARNED

Supervisor Bloomfield along with the Building Inspector, Neal Halloran attended a training session sponsored by the Orange County Planning Dept. on the Best Site Design. The Orange County Land Trust received a grant for this program. A few of the categories pertained to the preservation of natural features and conservation design, reduction of impervious cover and source control for stormwater management. Four towns participated in this; Goshen, Minisink, Wallkill and Warwick. The Orange County Planning representatives evaluated each Town based on their current code. Goshen's score, even though it was the highest score tested, showed that our development rules definitely are not environmentally friendly and could benefit from serious reform. One of the areas that need attention is: open space-what do you do with it, who takes it over? We need to get people involved in this who are familiar with the Best Site Design topics for improvement. For example; Ed Garling, Neal Halloran, one person from the Planning Board and maybe one from the ZBA. They could meet and come up with ideas to incorporate in our code.

5. P.D. INPUT ON FOLLOW UP TO HACIENDA RESTAURANT REQUEST FOR A SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT (CINCO DE MAYO FIESTA)

Councilman Canterino spoke to Chief Marsh who had a meeting with the owner of the Hacienda. It was stated that the Veterinary lot next door will be used for extra parking. The State Police have been contacted since the highway belongs to the State. Our P.D. puts out the safety cones. If necessary, our P.D. has DWI grant money that can be used for two Officers, without any cost to the Town, to patrol and to keep the Fiesta safe.

The owner is responsible and will try to control the drinking and number of people as much as possible. However, there are limits on all controls. The Town is concerned with people walking on the road. It's very dark and the vehicles travel around 55 mph. on a curve.

Councilman Canterino said that; "We, as a Town, are doing what we can, as best we can, to make it as safe as can be without canceling the event...."

Approval of the permit will be addressed at Thursday night's meeting.

6. SET PUBLIC HEARING FOR WATER/SEWER RATE REVIEW AND PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

We don't have the results back from the sewer audit. This will be taken up at Thursday's meeting. Consequently, the Status Review of Sewer Bill Audit is removed from the Executive Session.

Supervisor Bloomfield called for comments from the Board for discussion. Councilman Newbold received two emails from Chris in Pine Island a resident on Indiana Road. One regarding repairs to a culvert pipe on Indiana Road and maintenance to said road? The other questioning if there is any Federal money available to repair Indiana Road. Superintendent of Highways, Stephen Andryshak, is the person to contact on these matters.

Joel Markowitz inquired as to the status of the DOT- I86 upgrade. The last we heard this project has been postponed due to lack of funds.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

1. Land Donation Status
2. IWS Expansion Application Status
3. Status Review of Sewer Bill Audit (*removed*)

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

Supervisor Bloomfield made a motion to reopen the public hearing to vote on a project for submission to the Community Development Block Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Lyons. Motion carried.

Councilman Newbold made a motion to submit the Jessup Switch Road for the Community Development Block Grant Program. The motion was seconded by Councilman Canterino.

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

Supervisor Bloomfield made a motion to close the public hearing and enter into Executive Session to discuss the foregoing. The motion was seconded by Councilman Cappella. Motion carried.

Time: 9:13PM

Priscilla Gersbeck, Deputy Town Clerk