

TOWN OF GOSHEN
TOWN BOARD MEETING
May 28, 2009
MINUTES

A Regular Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Goshen was held on the 28th day of May, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. 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
	George Lyons	Councilman
	Kenneth Newbold	Councilman
	Louis Cappella	Councilman

Also Present:	Dennis Caplicki	Town Attorney
	Valma Eisma	Town Clerk

A. CALL TO ORDER

Supervisor Bloomfield called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Councilman Newbold asked for a moment of silence for three dear friends of the Town and the Village of Goshen John (Jack) Cusack, Louis Neuburger and Dorthea Sayer. He extended the Boards condolences to all the families.

B. AMENDMENT TO THE AGENDA: None

Supervisor Bloomfield announced that this is a regularly scheduled Board Meeting, but the Board would be dispensing with the regular agenda, with the exception of Finance as this has to be approved so that the bills can be paid. He said this is being done so the meeting can be devoted to the Water/Sewer Review and Public Hearing, and everyone who would like to speak can be heard. Supervisor Bloomfield stated Councilman Newbold is his co-chair and together they manage the Water/Sewer Districts. He said they rely heavily on Councilman Canterino, Commissioner of Finance, who reviews the numbers on this and also the other Board members who reviewed the numbers you will see tonight at our Work Session Monday night.

He explained the Board has been having Water/Sewer Review meetings for some time and that they have proven to be very productive. He asked if everyone had a package as he will be going over it page by page.

C. PUBLIC HEARING:

ANNUAL WATER/SEWER REVIEW AND PUBLIC HEARING

Councilman Canterino made a Motion to open the Public Hearing. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold.

Supervisor Bloomfield welcomed Kyle Roddy, Village Trustee, who was asked to attend, to answer any questions regarding the Village sewer charges, and said he appreciated his coming. He also thanked Mayor John Higgins and Trustee Edward Char for being present.

Supervisor Bloomfield introduced Mark Warren, from the Water/Sewer Department; William Standish, Town Budget Officer; and Joel Klopchin, the Town's official Water/Sewer Operator who has all the credentials needed to run Water/Sewer plants, and has his own consulting company.

Supervisor Bloomfield said he would like to talk about three things tonight: "financials, projects and Grant applications we have made to supplement the monies we use to operate, in addition to what monies we collect in the billing process."

He stated the Town has four water districts and two sewer districts, and he would like to go through the water districts first. He said for the first time since he has been on the Board and possibly going back a decade, all four water districts are operating in the black, and all four water districts will not have a rate increase. He said that is because "we made these raises in rates when we needed to and we have done some things that have reduced our cost." The Supervisor said Mr. Klopchin will be telling the public about some of these later. Mr. Klopchin, just this afternoon, told the Supervisor "it has been a long time since we had to truck in water." Supervisor Bloomfield stated that this used to be an everyday occurrence in Hambletonian Park and Arcadia, and water is expensive when you truck it.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated there are forty five homes in Scotchtown Park and last year the Board said they had to start collecting in advance \$35,000 to replace the water tank. He said the water tank in Scotchtown Park is old and is half filled with rust and dirt, and is seeping out the bottom. He said the men can't remove the rust and dirt because it will blow the bottom of the tank out. He said it will cost \$35,000 to replace it, so last year the Board began to collect \$64.82 per quarter for a total of \$259.26 per year, per family. He said this was done so that the district could pay cash for the new tank, and that is what they intend to do. The Supervisor said at the end of 2008 the fund balance was \$18,000. He said he has been working with Anne Rabbit to obtain a grant for \$5,000.00, and she is working hard to obtain it for us. There will be another \$12,000. collected from the residents by the end of the year. If all of this becomes available we would have the \$35,000 this year. So hopefully the Town would replace the water tank at the end of 2009 and hopefully this will clear up the water problems that exist there.

Supervisor Bloomfield directed attention to Stonehedge Water District. He reported they have been told by the Orange County Department of Health for several years now that we are out of compliance, that we have one good well, but we need a back up well. Knowing this, the Board started collecting \$59.52 from each family per quarter or \$238.09 per year. The Board thought it would take two years to obtain the money for the back up well, but due to a lot of other things the Board has been doing, the fund balance at the end of December 2008 the District had \$53,000 in cash which is more than enough to put this well in. Supervisor Bloomfield said he has instructed Mr. Klopchin to schedule the drilling of the new well or do whatever has to be done to get this well in during the third quarter of this year.

Supervisor Bloomfield said the next project planned for Stonehedge is to install the remote read water meters. All of the other three districts already have these and there are significant savings. He said whatever money is left after putting the well in, will go toward this project, when the project will be done will be determined at the completion of the well.

Supervisor Bloomfield again addressed Hambletonian Park saying he went back in their records to 2005, when they were in the midst of all the water leaks. At that time there was a significant negative fund balance. Hambletonian Park was averaging ten or twelve water line breaks per year, with the average cost of repairs running approximately \$5,000 to \$10,000. He said the new water line was installed in 2007, and since that was done there has not been one water leak in the Park. Here again, a significant cost savings. Supervisor Bloomfield said there are no water projects planned for Hambletonian Park at this time. He said the Fund Balance, at the end of December 2008, was \$73,000.00.

Supervisor Bloomfield said it is the first time that he could remember that there was cash in the four water districts available to cover emergencies and/or project activity.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated in Arcadia Hills the Board has a planned project, but it is to be determined, and that is to refurbish the water tank. He said it was refurbished several years ago. To refurbish a tank it has to be taken out of service, empty it, go inside to inspect it, clean the inside, reinforce where needed, coat the inside with special sealant, clean the outside and paint it with another special paint. It is then refilled and put back on line, the cost is approximately \$40,000. Supervisor Bloomfield said later in his presentation he will explain that he is trying to obtain a grant to cover this cost. This project may not be done this year or even perhaps the next, but it is being watched carefully to see that it is done at the right time. He said at this time there is a fund balance of \$4,000.00 in the Arcadia Hills Water District.

Supervisor Bloomfield said at this time he would like to talk about the two sewer districts, Hambletonian Park and Arcadia Hills. He said in Hambletonian Park on December 31st, 2008 we had a negative \$153,000 fund balance. Back in 2008, for the sewer service we received from the Village the actual bill we were given was \$154,000. When we went to the Village to see what we needed to collect we were told to collect \$99,000. He said with the rates the Board created from that estimate last year, we failed to collect \$55,000. Supervisor Bloomfield said that either there was a mistake in the \$99,000 estimate we were told to collect or more money was spent than what was anticipated, and we are trying to understand that difference.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated the Village has asked for a 6% rate increase on top of the actual bill. Not on the projection we used, but 6% above the \$154,000. He said the dilemma for the Board is we are still trying to ascertain the correct amount, is it \$154,000 or \$99,000 or is it somewhere in between. What figure should we use for creating the 2009 rates? The Supervisor said there are two possible solutions we have discussed:

#1 Increase 2009 rates based on:

- 2008 actual billing \$154,000 + 6%
- to recover 2008 shortfall \$55,000

#2. Increase 2009 rates based on :

- 2008 projected costs \$99,000 + 6%

AND

- audit/reconcile 2008 charges
- process a "special assessment" later in 2009 as needed
- negotiate new service contract with Village to reflect reconciled charges.

Supervisor Bloomfield said the Board has elected to asked Auditor Steve Brown, and the Town Engineer Dennis Lindsey to work on this audit to find out the right number. Supervisor Bloomfield reviewed the following:

**Hambletonian Park
Sewer District**

RATE STRUCTURE

PROPOSED RATE INCREASE – SEWER

-- SOLUTION #1 –

RATE INCREASES EFFECTIVE 8/1/2009 & RECEIVABLE 11/1/2009

District Rate Increases	Gallon Usage	Current Rate	-- PER THOUSAND --	
			Proposed Rate	Net Change
Hambletonian Park Sewer (166 homes)	0-5,000 Gals.	\$ 20.50	\$ 26.50	\$ 6.00
Key Items:	5,001-10,000	\$ 21.75	\$ 33.50	\$ 11.75
\$25,000 Deficit Fund Balance	10,001-15,000	\$ 22.00	\$ 33.75	\$ 11.75
\$44,000 Village Sewer Increase	15,001-20,000	\$ 22.50	\$ 34.75	\$ 12.25
NET AVERAGE INCREASE PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR:		\$ 579.42		
NET AVERAGE INCREASE PER HOUSEHOLD PER QTR:		\$ 144.85		
NET AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE :		53.34%		

PROPOSED RATE INCREASE – SEWER

-- SOLUTION #2 –

RATE INCREASES EFFECTIVE 8/1/2009 & RECEIVABLE 11/1/2009

District Rate Increases	Gallon Usage	Current Rate	-- PER THOUSAND –	
			Proposed Rate	Net Change
Hambletonian Park Sewer (166 home)	0-5,000 Gals.	\$ 20.50	\$ 20.50	--
Key Items:	5,001-10,000	\$ 21.75	\$ 22.50	\$ 0.75
\$25,000 Deficit Fund Balance	10,001-15,000	\$ 22.00	\$ 23.50	\$ 1.50
\$44,000 Village Sewer Increase	15,001-20,000	\$ 22.25	\$ 23.75	\$ 1.50
	20,000 -----	\$ 22.50	\$ 24.00	\$ 1.50
NET AVERAGE INCREASE PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR:		\$ 64.63		
NET AVERAGE INCREASE PER HOUSEHOLD PER QTR:		\$ 16.16		
NET AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE:		6.00%		

Supervisor Bloomfield said the same would take place in Arcadia Hills and reviewed the following:

**Arcadia Hills
Sewer District**

Financial Background Information

12/31/2008 Fund Balance \$ (218,000)

2008 Village Charges:

Actual Bill	\$ 217,000
Projected to be Collected	<u>\$ 154,000</u>
Difference	\$ (63,000)

2009 Village Rate Increase= 6%

Dilemma:

What should be used as the base for calculating
2009 rates

Possible Solutions:

1. Increase 2009 rates based on:

- 2008 actual billing \$217,000 +6%
- to recover 2008 shortfall \$63,000
and potentially process a "special
assessment" later in 2009 as needed

2. Increase 2009 rates based on:

- 2008 projected costs \$154,000 +6%

AND

- audit/reconcile 2008 charges
- Process a "special assessment" later
in 2009 as needed
- negotiate new service contract with
Village to reflect reconciled charges

Supervisor Bloomfield said "if we have to collect the \$63,000, and the six percent, it will mean \$395.34 per house increase". He reviewed the following for Arcadia Hills Sewer District

**Arcadia Hills
Sewer District**

RATE STRUCTURE

PROPOSED RATE INCREASE – SEWER

- SOLUTION – 1

RATE INCREASES EFFECTIVE 8/1/2009 & RECEIVABLE 11/1/2009

--- Per Thousand ---

DISTRICT RATE INCREASES	GALLON USAGE	CURRENT RATE	PROPOSED RATE	NET CHANGE
Arcadia Hills Sewer (256 homes)	0 – 12,000 Gals.	\$ 20.50	\$ 21.00	\$ 0.50
Key Items:	12,001-17,000	\$ 22.50	\$ 29.00	\$ 7.00
\$100,000 Deficit Fund	17,001-22,000	\$ 22.75	\$ 30.75	\$ 8.00
Balance \$63,000 Village Sewer Increase	22,000-----	\$ 23.25	\$ 31.50	\$ 8.25
NET AVERAGE INCREASE PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR				\$ 395.34
NET AVERAGE INCREASE PER HOUSEHOLD PER QTR.				\$ 98.33
NET AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE				28.66%

**PROPOSED RATE INCREASE – SEWER
SOLUTION 2**

RATE INCREASES EFFECTIVE 8/1/2009 & RECEIVABLE 11/1/2009

--- PER THOUSAND ---

DISTRICT RATE INCREASES	GALLON USAGE	CURRENT RATE	PROPOSED RATE	NET CHANGE
<u>Arcadia Hills Sewer</u> <u>(256 homes)</u>	0-5,000 Gals.	\$ 20.50	\$ 20.50	--
<u>Key Items:</u>	5,000 – 10,000	\$ 22.00	\$ 23.75	\$ 1.75
\$1000,000 Deficit Fund Balance	10,001 – 15,000	\$ 22.75	\$ 24.50	\$ 1.75
\$63,000 Village Sewer Increase	15,001 – 20,000	\$ 23.25	\$ 24.75	\$ 1.50
NET AVERAGE INCREASE PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR				\$ 81.28
NET AVERAGE INCREASE PER HOUSEHOLD PER QTR.				\$ 20.32

NET AVERAGE PERCENTAGE INCREASE

6.00%

Supervisor Bloomfield reported that he and Councilman Newbold have made many requests for money from outside sources to help our Water/Sewer Districts. He listed the following:

GRANT REQUESTS

1/28/2009

ORANGE COUNTY PLANNING – STIMULUS FUNDS

Hambletonian Park	-Sewer Line Replacement	\$ 2,500,000
Arcadia Hills	-Sewer Line Replacement	\$ 2,000,000

2/24/2009

**N. Y. State Senator Larkin
N. Y. State Assemblywoman Rabbitt**

Scotchtown Water District – Tank Replacement	\$ 30,000
Stonehedge Water District – Drill Back-up well	\$ 20,000

5/13/2009

U. S. Congressman Hall

Hambletonian Park – Sewer Line Replacement	\$ 2,500,000
Hambletonian Park – Upgrade Sewer Pump Station	\$ 250,000
Arcadia Hills - Sewer Line Replacement	\$ 2,000,000
Arcadia Hills - Upgrade Sewer Pump Station	\$ 250,000
Arcadia Hills - Repair/paint Water Tank	\$ 45,000
Scotchtown Water District – Tank Replacement	\$ 30,000
Stonehedge Water District – Drill Back-up Well	\$ 20,000

Supervisor Bloomfield stated that the sewer lines in Hambletonian Park and Arcadia are in dire condition. He explained when there is a lot of rain, water leaks in the lines as they are not pressurized. He said during these times “we are shipping to the Village to be processed, water in addition to the sewer, and we are about doubling the amount of sewage during these wet periods.” Therefore, he said this is the first thing we need to address.

Supervisor Bloomfield turned the mike over to Joe Klopchin to report on what he and Mark, Kyle and Anthony have accomplished in these water districts. Mr. Klopchin reported for the last few years they have attacked the problems in the districts in three different areas, most importantly, the quality of water, security of the facilities and the safety of the facilities. He explained that Mark and Anthony do the day to day work and Kyle works on the weekend.

Mr. Klopchin addressed the water districts, starting with Scotchtown, which the Town took over approximately a year ago after the developer walked away. He explained at that time it was in really tough shape. He said the water was constantly dirty. He said they developed a plan whereby they would take care of the most significant problems first, mainly being able to deliver cleaner, pressurized water. He reported they have been able to accomplish a lot out there with the facility itself, which was in terrible shape. He said it now has a new roof, siding on it and painted inside and out, and all of this was done in house by Mark and his staff. Mr. Klopchin said in terms of the inside

components, there are dramatic differences. He explained how they changed the electrical and pump systems that were there and this has greatly improved the pressure provided to the residents, better than it has ever been in the past, and it is consistent. He said they have implemented a program in Scotchtown, as in the other districts, of regular flushings in April and in October. He said that in all water systems there is residue that collects in the pipes, if the pipes are not cleaned you can end up with that material in your home, clogging filters, etc. Mr. Klopchin said this is the only water they have to bring in now. He said the next thing they are planning on doing in Scotchtown is to replace the tank this fall. He said the tank there is so old, that if they were to clean it, in the normal way, it would collapse.

Mr. Klopchin said in Arcadia there was a tremendous problem with dirty water. He said to mitigate that, they have been flushing extensively, more than was ever done before. He said in addition to that they have attempted to bring on every well that we can, even wells that have been out of service for years, we put them back in good working order. He said there is more work to be done there as most of the pipe there is transite pipe, not cast iron or ductile iron. Dealing with the transite pipe is a problem when you are working on the lines, as it very often breaks when flushing, causing a water main break. Mr. Klopchin said their main goal in the future will be to replace the mains.

He said Mark and his crew have dramatically improved the buildings there. Here again he said they were in dismal condition. He said also for a safety feature they now have fences around all their facilities, not only the pump houses, but all the well heads as well.

Mr. Klopchin said in Hambletonian Park they have replaced all the offending water mains there. Before that there was one break after the other, and was extremely costly. Now the transite pipes have been replaced with steel lines, and there are no more water main breaks.

Mr. Klopchin stated that Stonehedge has only one well, but it is a very good one, and very dependable. However, since there is only one well, if anything happens to it there is no backup. The Health Department and the engineers have been asking the Town to put in another well for years. He said now it seems we may be in a position to do that.

Mr. Klopchin said in regard to the sewer systems, there are a number of things they have done to put them in good order. He stated that the pump stations in Hambletonian Park and Arcadia Hills are now duplex pump stations, meaning they have two pumps in each station. He said if one of these pipes is lost in the middle of the night, you have an emergency situation. He said there are relatively new pumps in the stations now, and also a back up pump and motor that sets in the shop and is available in an emergency. He said also they have initiated a flushing routine, more in some areas such as Gumwood Drive, which has a very flat, old pipe system. Mr. Klopchin said he was very concerned with I & I, inflow and infiltration. Inflow is that water that typically come in the top of the manhole. Infiltration is the seepage of water into the system from cracks in pipes, assembly of the manholes, etc. He said they have attempted to mitigate as much of that as possible. He said they have inserted a plastic insert that goes in under the manholes that prevents any surface water from getting into the system. He said he has had the meters tested to be sure they are working properly.

He said long term they are planning to replace the whole section of the line down the hill from Gumwood over to the pump station, as this section goes under water rapidly. Mr. Klopchin said they discovered beavers building dams on the other end by the tunnel, which was backing up the water. He had the beavers removed, with permission from the DEC, and the trapper that came to do the work pulled out sixteen beavers. They also discovered in the wet well, the pump station which was built years ago, had an overflow from the wet well. He said it was designed so that if the pump station failed, the water would overflow into the brook. However, Mr. Klopchin said in no way would

that be allowed today. Mark Warren discovered this and it has now been sealed off so that additional water cannot infiltrate the water and sewer that is transferred to the Village. Mr. Klopchin reported that all the pump stations now have alarms on them, so if they malfunction the Water/Sewer will know about it.

Mr. Klopchin said they have accomplished a lot, but they have a lot more to do in the future. He said the main thing to do is curtail the I & I.

Kyle Roddy, Sewer Commissioner for the Village of Goshen, introduced himself and thanked the Town Board for inviting him to come tonight. He stated he has been on the job approximately two months, as he was just elected in March. He said during the two months he has been a Trustee, he has done a lot of research, and learning about the complex issues facing the Village with regard to sewer.

Trustee Roddy explained that the Village does not bill the residents in the Town directly, the Village bills the Town. Therefore, he has decided to make himself available to the residents of the Village and the Town, and he will be setting up office hours as of June 22nd, at Village Hall from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. on every other Monday evenings when the regular Village Board meets, and he will be happy to answer questions about the sewer rates, the sewer plant and will welcome all residents from the Village and the Town.

He said he would like to explain the way the rates are calculated. He said there is a formula that has been in place with the contract since the 1960s. Trustee Roddy explained that each community is measured separately, taking the amount of flow that comes out of each of the communities, for example he said at the end of Hambletonian Park there is a meter at that pump which measures the flow coming from that community. This amount is divided by the total amount of flow going into the plant, so we know what percent of the flow comes from each community. This percentage is then multiplied by the total cost of the plant, which includes operation and maintenance, debt service and electric, all of which are in the contract that has been in place for decades and decades. The amount calculated is sent to the Town which has collected the money. He said this year Hambletonian Park would be billed based on average, \$ 230.00 quarterly. Arcadia, since it has more homes the average quarterly bill was a round \$200.00. Therefore, he said that is the part of your bill that is going to the village. He said there are additional fees, but they are applied by the Town. He said the bill is high, but the bill is accurate, and the auditor was given all the information he requested.

He said he knows the bills are high, and he speaks for himself, not the rest of the Board, he would like to add on more users of the plant to widen the base. He said the reason for the larger bills are that the new plant uses a lot more electric than the old one and of course the debt service is extremely high. He said the Village is thinking of letting septic haulers dump into the plant to help to reduce the cost of the plant. He also said the person who was being trained to run the plant has now obtained her certification and Mr. Klopchin, who was training her, and has done a wonderful job, will no longer be needed, this will save money there. He said he will continue to work to bring the cost down.

Supervisor Bloomfield opened the meeting to the public and the following people spoke:

Christine Fitzsimmons, said she is a 37 year resident of Arcadia Hills, and her question for this Board is "Why have I paid for one million nine hundred fifty six gallons of water and sewage that I have not used?" Supervisor Bloomfield asked her to repeat the question. She said the Town came up with this wonderful plan that everybody pays a minimum of 12,000 gallons. She said as an original owner she has paid for all the "do dads" through the years that were supposed to save her money, I would like to see where I am saving money?

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that there is a graduated minimum, and asked if this was what she

was referring to? Ms. Fitzsimmons said would not mind paying more for gallon, but she would like to pay for what she uses, not what she does not use. She said there is only her and her husband and just these last two bills she has paid \$1,570.00 more for something I did not use.

Ray Rooney said he would like to thank Joe Klopchin for his presentation which he found very knowledgeable and it showed how dedicated the Town employees are. He asked if anyone on the Board or Mr. Klopchin could tell him how much infiltration there is on those two sewer lines? Supervisor Bloomfield said we know, and Joe has those figures, but not before me, and it is significant. Mr. Rooney wanted to know a percent figure and Supervisor Bloomfield said it could be 100%, that is why we want to replace the lines. He said the previous speaker is getting billed over and above her water/sewer used to pay for this, is that correct? Supervisor Bloomfield said we take the total sewer charge from the Village, plus what other expenses the Town incurs, this is divided up based on a person's water consumption. Therefore, if there is infiltration it is split up among the homeowners. Mr. Rooney said that means that a resident can cut his water use in half and still have to pay for the infiltration he has nothing to do with?

A long discussion on infiltration ensued, with the Board explaining how water/sewer districts are charged and the fact that the water/sewer districts have to support themselves. The citizens that have wells and septics cannot be held responsible for the infrastructure in the water/sewer districts. The difference between how the people living in the districts are billed and the way the Village resident are billed was also discussed at length. (for full content refer to disc) Supervisor Bloomfield said they are well aware of the infiltration and the Town is doing what it can to stop it, we are here tonight to discuss the fact that we were told to collect one amount of money and the bill came in significantly more, and we are trying to ascertain the reason for this. Supervisor Bloomfield asked if this was a mistake in telling us what to collect, or was that money that the Village needed to run the plant or something.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated the Board had to get to the rest of the public to address their questions.

Carol Ferrelli said she was here to speak on behalf of her father, John Hughes, who lives on 17 Yankee Maid Lane. She explained that for three and a half weeks they had deaths in their family. She said her father's bill is \$3,600.00, he is a seventy eight year old man, and they said he uses ninety-five gallons of water. Supervisor Bloomfield said they are in the process of investigating this matter. Ms. Ferrelli said a worker came out to check the meter and could not find anything wrong with it. Supervisor Bloomfield assured her the Board was addressing it, and trying to find out why it was normal the month before and after the month that used the ninety-five gallons.

Dan Matteo a resident of Hambletonian Park, asked Joe Klopchin if 100% infiltration is an unusual amount? Mr. Klopchin replied you never want to see that. Mr. Klopchin says they have been addressing this with the inserts they are putting in the manholes. Again there was along discussion on how to cope with infiltration. Mr. Klopchin explained how they are planning to smoke test the lines for infiltration and explained how it was done. He said the ideal thing to do would be to replace all of the sewer lines, however, this is very expensive. Mr. Matteo said he would like to thank the Board for all the effort they have put into trying to get to the bottom of our sewer bills with the Village and "I commend you for contacting the Comptroller to do an audit on the waste water treatment plant and also thank Kyle Roddey for establishing office hours." He said he felt that this is a good first step toward opening the doors between the Village and Hambletonian Park and Arcadia Hills.

Dennis Harwell, resident of Arcadia Hills, said he lives on Tanglewood, but if you drive down Wedgewood and other streets you find the storm drains on the corners have cones on them and if someone tries to turn right they have to be careful or the tires will be completely under ground, as

they have sink holes all around the drains, and it has been that way for months. Mr. Harwell asked when these would be repaired? Supervisor Bloomfield said Councilman Cappella is the liaison to Highway, and he will look into the problem. Joe Klopchin stated that any problem with the storm drains will not add to infiltration, as they drain in a different way.

Thomas Larkin, an Arcadia Hills resident, asked if the total cost for the sewer district for Arcadia Hills was \$217,000? Supervisor Bloomfield said no, that was the Village bill. He explained that there are two parts of the sewer bill, there is the Village charge for processing the sewage, and we have a charge as well. He said there is Mark, his crew, all his equipment, etc. Mr. Larkin said then what we are looking at here is a \$63,000 deficit? He continued asking if the \$154,000 had been collected? Supervisor Bloomfield replied yes. Mr. Larkin asked if this figure was based on numbers provided by the Village? Supervisor Bloomfield replied correct. He asked for someone to explain to him how this whole thing happened?

Kyle Roddey, Water Commissioner for the Village explained that in August of every year the Village provides an estimated cost to the Town. He said he was not on the Board at that time, so he was not sure who said it to whom. He continued saying that at the end of the year the final bill is put out based on usage. Mr. Roddey said the contract between the Village and the Town states that it is an estimated cost.

Mr. Larkin said he is married and has three children, and he has a budget. He said first of all I think this whole water district is a sham. You tell me it is put together with pipes that are failing. Why was it built with failing pipes? I know that nobody on the Board was here then, but it's a sham. He said why is there a 6% increase? What is projected.

Kyle Roddey answered saying that is the estimated increase. Mr. Larkin asked if the residents come in under the estimate, where is that money? Mr. Roddey stated the bill is on actual usage. Mr. Larkin said on the actual usage, plus ten percent. Mr. Roddey said the 10% is for an out of district user and has been in the contract from the beginning. Mr. Roddey said the rationale for this, from other municipalities also, is that the out of district people do not pay Village Taxes. Mr. Roddey said the rationale for the 6%, he has been told, is due to the rising cost of electricity and salaries and benefits go up. Mr. Larkin said what you are saying then is that you can't tell me what it is going to cost me in the future. He said if I want to sell my house now and they ask me what my water/sewer costs, I have to say I don't know. Mr. Roddey answered you can give the prospective buyer the estimated rate we give the Town. Mr. Larkin said he could not fathom ending up with a \$63,000 error.

Scott Eisenbacher, Hambletonian Park resident, said he would just like to gain a perspective on where the rates are coming from and to make sure I am understanding the numbers. He said from what he understands "we use approximately 15% of the capacity of the Village Sewer Plant, is that correct?" Supervisor Bloomfield said that was a combination of Hambletonian Park and Arcadia Hills. Mr. Eisenbacher said then the rates are based on this usage, so that we can recoup those costs? He referred to the 0 – 12,000 gals for \$20.00, a graduated scale, he asked if this was correct? Supervisor Bloomfield replied this is the Village charge and the Town's charge. He explained that the Town has to collect the sewage in our pipes and pump it to the Village through a pump lift system, and we have all the infrastructure in these two subdivisions, and the people who operate it. The Supervisor stated these services are included in these figures. Mr. Eisenbacher asked if there was any way of knowing what the separation of those charges are? Mr. Eisenbacher wanted to know if these were the rates of the districts, what were the Village people paying to cover the other 85% of the costs. He asked why aren't they outraged?

Councilman Canterino stated "They are, we absolutely are, are you kidding?". Mr. Roddey explained that in the Village the residents pay on a graduated usage similar to the Town. However, he said what the Village residents have on top of that is a surcharge of \$80.00 per household quarterly.

Rubin Martinez, an Arcadia Hills resident, he said we are all here, we are not engineers, obviously there is a big problem. He said water/sewer should be about \$200.00 a quarter, not \$600.00 or more. He said the numbers do not add no matter how you put it. He said three years ago our water/sewer bill was \$165.00-\$175.00 a quarter, and in one instant it jumped to \$360.00 and next year it went to \$620.00, and this year, and he said he spoke to Barbara, \$1,020.00. He said no matter how much money people make they are not going to pay \$1,000.00 or more for water/sewer, people might have to move away. I have a pool for eight years and have not been able to open it. He stated there is no way these bills can go higher. He said I am young and can get a second job, older people cannot. He said he has a lot of friends who live in other places, and none of them pay any thing like \$1,000.00. He said can we as a family, come to a reasonable solution?

Supervisor Bloomfield said let me share with you what John Hall said. Mr. Hall said after the second world war, when the soldiers came home, they built all these subdivisions, and then in the 1950's President Eisenhower had all the roads and bridges built at the same time. Supervisor Bloomfield said Hambletonian Park was built in the 1950's. Mr. Hall said they are all wearing out at the same time. Supervisor Bloomfield said the problem is mammoth, the Village had to build a new sewer plant because the one they had was broken, and that was thirty two million dollars. We had to spend \$900,000.00 to replace a water line in Hambletonian Park. He said the pipe that was used for the sewer systems, forty or fifty years ago, is now wearing out. It needs to be replaced, and it will be millions of dollars for the Town and the Village as well. He said this is the infrastructure that is falling to pieces and we are in a catch twenty two.

Supervisor Bloomfield said this Board is trying to be as cost effective as we can be with your money, it does pain us that we were off by \$63,000. We are trying to ascertain what happened here. The Supervisor stated there is a new subdivision before the Planning Board that wants to put in it's own septic system, and my advise to them "was go talk to the Village". He said he would rather see them put money into the Village sewer pipes than build a new plant, but no one wants to hook up to a system that wants to raise the cost 6% a year. He said more people on the line would help to bring the cost down, and it would be better to fix what is wrong with this system than to build two or three new ones. Mr. Roddey said he would welcome new users.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated that there are approximately 800 new homes proposed and there is a lot of pressure building toward a regional sewer district, which the builders will be paying for. Councilman Canterino said the cost starts with the total cost of the sewer operation, and this is a fixed cost for years, you really can't reduce this cost unless you renegotiate the notes. He said so obviously we have to get more users or cut costs.

Mr. Martinez said the rates just go up and up and up, can't the government help in some way. Councilman Newbold stated the Town of Goshen does not operate this plant, the Village does. We are trying to get to the bottom of the cost.

Lonnie Olson said she looked at solution one for Hambletonian Park and solution number two. However, she said any one of us would go for solution number 2, but realistically speaking, if there was no mistake, solution number one is terrible. She asked if there could be a solution number three, so that we would not be hit so hard all at once. Supervisor Bloomfield said they had a third one, which was in between, but he took it off, so as not to confuse people too much. He said he really thinks when we finish these audits there will be some things we should be paying for and we are not and some things we are paying for that we shouldn't and some things in between that we

don't know about. Trustee Roddey said all that is speculation though, and all the information has been given by the Village.

Eric Olson, Hambletonian Park, said he understands from what he has heard that the bulk of the cost is the sewage. He said he is a project manager and he understands the money aspect and being an engineer he understands the engineering aspect, he said he has put in sewer plants. My question is how can you put in a multi million dollar sewer plant and not understand the cost impact to all the users here, not the Town, but the Village? The Village should have told you there would be an impact and it should have been filtered down to all the users. From what I understand, this was never done, so the real issue here is we have a huge cost due to the sewer plant itself and an aging Infrastructure that need to be repaired and you are addressing that, and I applaud you for doing that. He said my concern is the sewer plant itself, he said he understands it was a thirty million dollar plant. He said operating costs are one thing, but the cost of the construction of this plant. He said he would like to know who is responsible for approving the plant and letting that cost be passed on to all of us? Loud Applause.

Trustee Roddey responded saying back in 2006, the Mayor Scott Wohl went to the Town Board, the entire Board said that is not correct. Supervisor Bloomfield said we asked him, but he never came. Trustee Roddey said he has seen the physical minutes. He said he believes they are on the web site.

Mr. Olsen said the Village will not share the operational and the construction part of that plant and that is why this audit is being done, so my understanding is the Board is trying to understand why we are getting whacked with these costs. He said the Board is not the issue, the people operating the Town is not the issue, so it come down to the Village. Again he said I want to know who is responsible for approving this plan and letting that cost be passed on to all of us?

Trustee Roddey said he would answer this question and if not in agreement about the meeting with the Mayor we can look at the minutes together. Supervisor Bloomfield said the Board was all here, he never came. He said he wrote him a letter inviting him, he never came and never responded. Mr. Roddey said Scott went to the Board and told them there would be increases, the Board asked him to communicate that to their users, and Scott said he felt it was the Board's responsibility to do so. He said about the information, (was interrupted by someone not coming to the microphone) apparently he asked about the stockpile of contaminated soil.) Trustee Roddey replied we don't know how we are going to treat that yet, the DEC gave us some time to treat that, we have four months. He said going back to your original point, what ever information the Town has asked for has been provided. He said moving forward he is willing to have office hours to answer any questions anyone has.

Mr. Olson said the Town's employees doing things in house has saved us a lot of money, you have to applaud them for this. He said it's not about the leaking water, that is an on going problem, it is why they were allowed to put in a thirty two million dollar sewage plant and pass those cost to us. We should not be attacking the Town Board for attacking leaky infrastructure, it's old, we know that. He said we inherited it, it is ours, it's done. It should have gone to the public, we never had a say or were never told about the increase in cost until it was almost done. Joel Markowitz said there was no Public Hearing and no referendum since it was mandated by the State, and it was 60% built before the Village residents were told there would be a surcharge.

Mr. Olson asked how much bigger is this plant than what we need? Trustee Roddey said the capacity is the same as the old plant, that has not changed. Supervisor Bloomfield said the Board was auditing that. (Mr. Olson moved away from the microphone and there was an inaudible exchange among the public.) Supervisor Bloomfield said we do not know the answer to that question, the Board has foiled the DEC for the copies of the prints. He said this water/sewer meeting is usually held in April, so that the Town can collect the rates for three quarters, we had to put it off

as we could not figure out the base. This means the first bill will be done in August and we will be collecting it in November, which pushes it way back.

Jerry Boss, resident who used to live in Hambletonian Park, said when he left the Park his water bill was \$51.00 a quarter. My son did not have a real shower till he went into the Marine Corp. He said he would like to address the sewer plant, we talk about building a new sewer plant. He said the developers want to use it, the County wanted to use it, it is the Village's plant. He said the plant was built with a hundred year build out, it is the Village's sewer plant, therefore it is the Village that should dictate what it is going to be used for and what the rates are, not the people out here.

Keith Roddey asked when the plant was built, someone answered 2007. He asked if this billing is much higher than the ones in 2007. Supervisor Bloomfield answered yes. He asked for clarification on the billings and Supervisor Bloomfield explained how the bills were compiled. Much of what Mr. Roddey said was not audible, as he did not use the microphone. Councilman Cappella, for clarification, stated this example: In Arcadia Hills in 2006 the actual sewer bill was \$50,855.00, in 2008 the real bill was \$217,000.00, Councilman Cappella said people want to know why it went up four hundred and some per cent. (At this point the public started talking to each other) Keith Roddey asked why everyone is upset now?

Kyle Roddey said a lot of the cost they are discussing is debt service and the electric, and he would be happy to sit down and discuss this with anyone.

Supervisor Bloomfield addressed Keith Roddey's question saying the Village had to build a new sewer plant, the DEC mandated it, and it is too bad we didn't get more information earlier so we could acclimate to it. When the rates went up so drastically and, now in 2008 we have to collect that back, along with what is going forward, " it is more than people, how are they going to do it?). He said what we are asking for are details, and that is the fault of the Town and Village Boards fifty years ago when this agreement was made. He said when you go in with your car for a brake job, you are given the details on your bill such as labor, parts, etc. He said we don't have that type of detail here, "how much was electricity, how much was the maintenance of the lines, how much was in the whatever". Supervisor Bloomfield said every year we get a bill for so many gallons, with no break down. He said we need to negotiate a new contract going forward.

Joel Markowitz, a village resident, said " it is getting late, I would like to commend everyone who is here tonight for coming out, and he said if they take anything home from this meeting it is that the Work Sessions and Regular Meetings of the Village and Town Boards are being held in empty rooms." "It is nice you came out tonight, but it is not enough." He encouraged the public to come out more often. He asked if the Board could talk more about details on the pro rata share of over capacity, the debt service and the contaminated land fill expenses that are being passed thru to the Town. Attorney Caplicki replied that this would not be appropriate at this time, since as the Village and the Town are aware, we are in the process with our auditor and our engineer attempting to analyze and understand how these billings and cost factors have been generated, and the audit is not complete.

With no further questions from the public, Councilman Cappella made a Motion to close the Public Hearing. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield said it was time to determine what the Board was going to do in reference to the water/sewer rates and the projects. He said the projects are to replace the water tanks in 2009 for Scotchtown, create the back up well in Stone Hedge in the 3rd quarter of 2009. He said what the Board really has to decide is which solution does the Board want to accept for the rate increase in Hambletonian Park and Arcadia. He asked Board members for their input. After a lengthy discussion the Board decided on Solution two with a special assessment once they have the results of the audits.

Councilman Cappella made a Motion to accept the proposals tonight in regard to water rates and project activity as specified in this review and with solution two proposed rate increases in Arcadia Hills and Hambletonian Park. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold.

Roll Call Vote:

Supervisor Bloomfield	AYE	Councilman Canterino	AYE
Councilman Lyons	AYE	Councilman Newbold	AYE
Councilman Cappella	AYE		

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of 5 to 0.

D. FINANCES: Councilman Canterino made a Motion to authorize the Supervisor to pay manual A/P Runs as of 4/3 to 5/15/2009 amounting to \$9,341.72. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Lyons. Motion carried unanimously.

E. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Neil Hickock referred to the air conditioning being on instead of the windows being open if you want to talk about saving money and energy. Supervisor Bloomfield explained the problem with our heating system and the fact that many times we have problems with it. He asked for clarification on some of the items discussed in tonight's meeting. He also said he found out that Hudson Heritage Credit Union can do business with government. This was a question he had asked at a former meeting.

Jerry Boss wondered what happened to the audit Mayor Weinberger had asked the Department of Education to do? The Board has not received any information on the audit.

Joel Markowitz spoke again about the electric to run the plant was so high as it is computer controlled and wondered if it could somehow be controlled.

F. AJOURNMENT: With no further questions from the public, Councilman Lyons made the Motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 10:20 p.m.

Valma Eisma, Town Clerk