

**TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION
SEPTEMBER 11, 2006**

Present:

Douglas Bloomfield	Supervisor	Kenneth Newbold	Councilman
Louis Cappella	Councilman	George Lyons	Councilman

Absent: Philip Canterino, Councilman

Also Present: J. Benjamin Gailey, Town Attorney

Supervisor Bloomfield opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. and expressed condolences from the Board to Councilman Canterino, absent this evening, due to the death of his brother.

Items Discussed:

1. Recognition of Francesca Albanese: Francesca has designed the pamphlet A Tour of Goshen History and presented it to the Town to give to the public. Ms. Albanese researched, photographed and designed the pamphlet as a project for her Girl Scout Troop 109 Gold Award. The Board will recognize her at Thursday's meeting.
2. Second 2007 Budget Review: Supervisor Bloomfield provided the Board with a summery sheet of the first few cuts. He said there are items not included in this, such as PDR, Salesian, etc. and he would like to prepare a list of these items the Board can discuss. A meeting will be held on Monday, September 18th at 7:00 p.m. to meet and discuss the budget and any other item of interest to the Board. A Resolution setting this meeting will be prepared for Thursday's meeting.
2. Stephen Brown, CPA, - 2005 Audit Review: Mr. Brown joined the Board and presented them with audit sheets showing a trend analysis for 2005. This included the Highway, Police, payroll and debt trends. He explained many of the sources of income such as the Mortgage Tax may not be as high as in previous years due to the economic changes taking place in the Real Estate world. He discussed the audit at length with the Board, saying that spending has increased at a rapid rate. He explained Town operations such as General Fund, Town Outside Fund and Highway is money used to run the town. This does not include borrowed money for projects such as Salesian, PDR, etc. In past years a surplus was shown and is needed, the State says around 10%, Mr. Brown suggested 15%. He said a Town should have 15% of what it takes to run a Town left in surplus untouched.

Mr. Brown went over all the trends in detail and left additional information for the Board to help them with the budget planning for this year. He pointed out that costs have gone up significantly. The future income will probably drop and he pointed out the standard expenses, such as Social Security, Workmen Comp., etc. are costs the Board cannot control. He expressed concern for the Road Program and the other projects. When asked what he would suggest, Mr. Brown replied: “you probably will have to beef up the accounting staff, as it is almost required now if you are going to compete or get federal money”. He said investments are doing fine and the Budget Officer, William Standish, is doing a great job. Mr. Brown said much of the debt the Town is now paying for came from commitments made back a couple of years ago when income was up. It is now difficult to stop these projects that have been started. He suggested slowing down these projects and searching for funding. He used an example of one of the towns that did the first PDR projects. The Town passed a referendum in 99 or 2000 for ten million dollars for PDR and at the end of 2005 they had three million dollars of that ten million dollars committed to back debt. He said this was due to a very slow approach and seeking Federal and State Grants. He suggested Goshen do the same and take a good look at the projects and decide what can be done now or be done at a later date.

3. Knoell Farm PDR: Mr. Knoell and John Bach, his attorney, approached the Board and Supervisor Bloomfield explained the Knoell farm has the road going down through the center. He said the house is on one side and the barn is on the other. Mr. Knoell is asking to put a home on the other side where the barn is. Also originally when it was surveyed eight acres were to be kept out of the original 169 acres so the Town would be buying PDR one hundred and sixty one acres, this would not change, but the configuration of the eight acres would be changed and would include a well on the property that the Town would like to maintain. Councilman Lyons questioned the proposal saying we are buying PDR and now we are talking development. It is good for Mr. Knoell, but he questioned whether it would be good for the Town. The Board will discuss it further in Executive Session.

Supervisor Bloomfield said they would be meeting Thursday afternoon to finalize this conservation easement so the surveyor can get started and finish by October first.

4. Stop Sign Plan – Arcadia Hills: There was some confusion as to exactly where the stop signs would be placed. It was decided to return it to the Police Chief for further clarification, perhaps a map showing the locations of the signs. Hopefully it can be ready by Thursday’s meeting so that a Public Hearing can be set.
5. Mary Ann Zadra Resignation – Retirement: Mary Ann Zadra has submitted her Resignation as she is retiring after twenty five years with the Town of Goshen Justice Court. A Resolution will be prepared for Thursday’s meeting.

6. NYRI Power Line - Town Board's Position: Supervisor Bloomfield addressed a letter from Holly O'Hern opposing the proposed privately owned and privately funded for-profit company, The New York Regional Interconnect Inc., that wants to install a 190 mile, 400 kilovolt, 1,200 megawatt DC power Transmission line from the Town of Marcy (near Utica) to the Town of New Windsor in Orange County. Ms. O'Hern would like the Board to write a letter of opposition concerning the NYRI power line to certain officials involved in this. The Board agrees with Ms. O'Hern that the line is of no benefit to our Town and could be a serious detriment. The Board agreed to authorize the Supervisor to write the letter of opposition.
7. NYSP- Plea Bargaining: The Board discussed the financial loss the Town will experience if the State approves the legislation sent down from the State Police Officials stating the State Troopers would not be allowed to plea bargain any more. Attorney Gailey stated he had heard it had reached the Governor, but he had not signed it. The Board will look for clarity on this as it proceeds.
8. Status of MTBE Contamination: Supervisor Bloomfield reported the results were back and a report was sent to the DEC by Stantec. The levels were relatively low and it appears we may not have to do further tests. He reported also Ira Conklin & Sons received a full bill of health on the Town's tanks.

Supervisor Bloomfield is meeting with a representative of OSHA to answer questions for them in reference to the employee's health. He will meet with the representative on the 18th of September. The Town Engineer will be present also.

9. Bid-Resolution-Replacement of Water Line – Hambletonian Park, Section A.: will be placed on Thursday's agenda.
10. Budget Transfer Request: The Budget Officer is requesting approval to transfer Monies from Fund Balance in the "B" Fund to Ban Principle. Will be placed on Thursday's agenda.
11. Glenpointe Estates Subdivision – Performance Bond Reduction: Will be placed Thursday's agenda.
12. Mutual Aid & Assistance Agreement: A request from the County Executive for the Town and County to enter into a Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement. The Board will have a Resolution on Thursday to authorize the Supervisor to sign the agreement.
13. The Highway Superintendent is requesting the hire of Darryl Ingrassia as a Laborer to start on Monday, September 18th at \$15.05 per hour. Will be placed on agenda. The Board also discussed other requests from the Department in regard to equipment and Superintendent Andryshak reported Highway will pave for the

Chips program this year. By doing the job themselves they will be saving enough money to do a section of Jessup Switch Road.

14. Other Matters of Interest to the Board: Councilman Newbold expressed his concerns for the cutting of trees being done by Orange & Rockland. He said they are still creating havoc on Arcadia Road and he asked if there is someone who can put a stop to this. He said the Village stopped them at one time, why can't the Town do something. Supervisor Bloomfield said he had made several requests, but did not know if Orange & Rockland is doing them. Orange & Rockland does have easements. Their easement precedes the Town's easement. The attorneys will look into it further and see if the Town has the authority to stop the job.

Supervisor Bloomfield made a Motion to go into Executive Session to discuss possible pending litigation without intent to return. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Cappella. Motion carried 4 to 0.

Time: 9:40 p.m.

Valma Eisma, Town Clerk