

**TOWN BOARD WORK SESSION  
OCTOBER 22, 2007**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Dennis Caplicki, Attorney

**ITEMS DISCUSSED:**

Supervisor Bloomfield opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 7:35 p.m. He said there will be a fourth item added to the Executive Session as number 4, personnel problem.

Supervisor Bloomfield said also he would like to get some information out to the public about the Supervisors Debate published in the Independent Republican, scheduled for October 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. at the Comfort Inn. He said he had received a letter from Mr. Thornton on September 5<sup>th</sup> extending an invitation to participate in a public debate. He read from the letter “the sponsor of the debate is yet to be determined, the site will be determined once the sponsor is in place.” The letter also stated “I am looking forward to hearing from you on this matter and I will forward to you as soon as it is obtained the sponsor and the location for the event.” Supervisor Bloomfield said he has not heard anything and has been told this is a paid advertisement and he cannot find out who the sponsor is. The Supervisor stated however, “I need to tell the public that I have two engagements, one in town and one out of town on Wednesday night.” “After triaging them, the one out of town I have to be at.” He said he cannot be at the Supervisors debate, and I cannot go to the newspaper and tell them I will not be there. He asked if anyone present could pass the word on that he will be unable to attend, he would greatly appreciate it.

**1. PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

**A. Myruski Farm Purchase of Development Rights:** Attorney Rick Golden, who will be handling the purchase for the Town, explained that a Public Hearing is really not legally required for a PDR purchase. “However, you have held them in the past and are holding it tonight and it is a good thing that you are holding it tonight.” He said a Public Hearing is to hear the public’s general comments as to whether or not there should be a conservation easement on this property. He explained the Conservation Easement is still under negotiations with the County. Although negotiations are almost ninety eight percent complete, there are a few minor things the Myruskis would like to have modified. Attorney Golden presented the Board with copies of the most recent draft of

the easement that incorporates as many of those provisions that were clearly different, not in substance, but in form, from which the Board had previously discussed. He said there are still several provisions that need to be discussed to see what the Town wants to do with them, but tonight is for public comments.

Supervisor Bloomfield said the purpose of this Public Meeting is not to debate PDR itself, the PDR program was approved by the public back when they had the five million dollar bond referendum. He said with the approval of that five million dollar bond referendum, so went the approval for the Town to go on with it. The question for this Public Hearing is relative to the Myruski farm and “is this a good farm for us to buy, or not a good farm to buy.”

Councilman Lyons made a Motion to open the Public Hearing for the Purchase of the Development Rights of the Myruski Farm. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield gave a history of the PDR program going back to 2004 when an Open Space Preservation Board was formed, to the present. In 2005 the Preservation Board requested applications from the public as to who might want to participate in the PDR program. He said the response was twenty three applications. He said three came in too late to meet the closing deadline. Twenty of the applications were accepted resulting in 2,238 acres of land. The twenty applications were then processed by the Open Space Preservation Board and were ranked by points, by certain criteria. They would get 30 points for water, 25 points for farmland, depending on the fertility of the land, 15 points for scenic value, recreational aspects 12 points, cultural value 5 points, forest land 8 points, Bio-diversity 5 points. After being ranked, the parcels were presented to the Town Board with out their names. He said the Goshen Ethics Law was applied to the Open Space Preservation Board, which included a section that said “A Board member may take no action that will provide a personal financial benefit to any town officer, employees or consultants, or a member of his or her family or client.” The Open Space Preservation Board made their decisions using these ethical methods under the direction of Jayne Daly, Esq.

Supervisor Bloomfield stated many of the farmers who where chosen decided they did not want to participate at that time. He stated the number one farm chose not to participate and still does not want to. The number two farm was submitted, the number three farm has been purchased, the number four farm has been submitted, and the two and four are the ones we will be submitting tonight. He continued saying the number eight farm has been purchased and the number ten farm is the one that will go to Public Hearing tonight.

Supervisor Bloomfield called for comments from the public. Doris Bialis said she was happy to see a working farm being chosen.

Supervisor Bloomfield explained that this purchase involves approximately ninety acres of the Myruski Farm, which is located on route 17A. The County has awarded us a grant

of \$358,335.00 to assist us in the purchase of these development rights. The total purchase price is \$765,000.00 for the 90 acres, with the family setting ten acres of the farm aside for future use of their own. He stated the Board would probably go to purchase on this sometime in early January at the request of the Myruskis for tax purposes. He stated the Board will review the Conservation Easement they have received from Attorney Golden this evening and have a negative declaration of this purchase, which will proceed to a resolution. There will then be a resolution to authorize the Supervisor to purchase.

With no further comments from the public, Councilman Canterino made a Motion to close the Public Hearing. Motion seconded by Councilman Lyons. Motion carried unanimously. Time: 7:50 p.m.

**B. TOWN OF GOSHEN BUDGET:** Supervisor Bloomfield explained the budget process stating that the Town Supervisor has to compile a budget, present a tentative one to the Town Clerk, followed by a Preliminary budget and then the final budget to the Town Clerk on various dates. During this time various Public Hearings will be held and the public has a chance to review the budgets and comment on them. He stated his budget was at first originally for a 1.2 percent increase however, when he presented it to the Town Board and they reviewed it and tweaked it, it came down to a zero percent increase.

Councilman Canterino made a Motion to open the Public Hearing for the Town of Goshen Budget at 7:55 p.m. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion carried unanimously.

Supervisor Bloomfield reviewed the following items that make up the budget:

#### SOURCES OF INCOME

Mortgage Tax

Sales Tax

Court Revenue

Property Tax

Grants

The Supervisor stated the Mortgage Tax in the calendar year of 2007 took a hit relative to the amount of home sales and refinances.. He said we will end up this year with \$595,000. He said the Board decided to use this same number for next year.

The Supervisor reported one million dollars of Sales Tax this year, with the majority of the amount coming from Woodbury Commons. He said the tax revenue should remain the same for next year.

The Court revenues will go from \$175,000 this year to a projected \$360,000 next year. The Board asked both Justices how they intended to double their income and he was informed by the Justices that there were two reasons. One reason is the number of offenders have doubled and the other is the issuance of summons for speeding tickets, which before were not paid on the spot. The only recourse the Courts had was to wait till the person applied to renew their driver’s license. The Justices now issue a summons and they must appear and pay the fine, plus an additional fee for not paying the fine originally.

Supervisor Bloomfield said in reference to Grants the Board is now making a list that he will be personally carrying to Senator Larkin, Anne Rabbit and Congressman John Hall.

ASSESSABLE BASE		
2007	2008	%CHANGE
915,484,934	926,624,033	+ 1.22%

Influences:

- Home Sales Slowing
- Al Turi Landfill

Supervisor Bloomfield said there are two reasons why these figures have been rather flat. One is that home sales are very slow, houses are staying on the market a lot longer. Also the Al Turi Landfill assessment has been reappraised from fifteen million dollars to three point nine million dollars. The appraisal was dropped because they are no longer extracting methane gas from the ground, and it is not economically feasible to make a profit.

Supervisor Bloomfield said the following principles were followed in the preparation of the 2008 budget.

**PRINCIPLES FOLLOWED  
PREPARING 2008 BUDGET**

- Use 5 year budget analysis/conclusion  
In decision-making
- Implement several cost savings programs
- No new borrowing in 2008  
Except for PDR
- Pay as we go or don't go

Supervisor Bloomfield and the Board reviewed the Debt History of 2006 to 2008.

**TOWN OF GOSHEN BUDEGET**

**Debt History**

	12/31/2006	21/31/2007	12/31/2008
Operations:	\$3,553,666	\$3 ,016,999	\$2,549,665
PDR	\$ 677,000	\$1, 483,150	\$1,874,634
Total Debt	\$4,230,666	\$4,500,149	\$4,424,299

The Board then reviewed the Tax Levy Increase (%)

**Tax Levy Increase (%)**

“A” Fund (V&T)	<b>(9.79)%</b>
“DA” Fund (V&T)	<b>(2.59)%</b>
“B” Fund (T Only)	<b>(9.56)%</b>

<b><u>“DB Fund(T Only)</u></b>	<b><u>(8.26)%</u></b>
<b>Total Operations</b>	<b>(1.93)%</b>
<b>Total PDR</b>	<b>133.0%</b>
<b>Total Tax Rate</b>	<b>000%</b>

**Tax Levy Increase (\$)**

**Town Resident Bill**

<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>(\$ Change)</u></b>
<b>\$1,109.90</b>	<b>\$1,109.93</b>	<b>\$(.03)</b>

**Village Resident Bill**

<b><u>2007</u></b>	<b><u>2008</u></b>	<b><u>(\$ Change)</u></b>
<b>\$412,40</b>	<b>\$408.95</b>	<b>\$(3.45)</b>

**Taxpayer bill calculated using assessable value of \$200,000 (equates to \$412,371 at 48.5% valuation)**

Supervisor Bloomfield stated that “by doing what we are doing, cost reduction and paying off debt, we are trying to stay in a good financial solid position.” Councilman Canterino pointed out the fact that the debt for PDR was established a number of years ago by referendum that said five million would be spent on PDR. Therefore, as we purchase the properties, the Town has to bond the money. This is not something we had done, this is something that we have to do. The operational debt, the cost representing what this Board has done, will be reduced in 2008 by one million dollars.

Supervisor Bloomfield opened the floor for questions:

Howard Weiss did not come to the mike and part of his question was inaudible. He referred to the 1 ½ % and the zero %. However, the Supervisor’s answer was. “We were very conservative on one of our fundings, it was around the courts as I remember, and by bringing that up it made the difference.” “We also did one cut in the B Fund, but I don’t remember.” Mr. Weiss asked if services would be cut with this reduction. Supervisor Bloomfield replied no, “there will be no cuts in services.”

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

Councilman Newbold led the Board in thanking Budget Officer William Standish for all his work on the budget and for doing such an excellent job.

Councilman Canterino made a Motion to accept the budget as read. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Lyons. Motion carried unanimously.

**2. CONTINUATION OF EIS SCOPING SESSION FOR LOCAL LAWS 2 AND 3:** Attorney Caplicki suggested the Board continue the Scoping Session to the November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2007 meeting. He said this would allow for more written comments to come in and at that time the modifications to the Comprehensive Plan should be ready and you should be able to do a final scope and final acceptance. Councilman Canterino made a Motion to continue the EIS Scoping Session for Local Law #2 and #3 to November 19, 2007 and in this time the Board will continue to receive written submissions. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Lyons. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. SUBMISSION OF THE TUTHILL AND SLESINSKI PROPERTIES FOR PDR:** Supervisor Bloomfield reported the PDR submissions complete and the Tuthill and Slesinski properties will be submitted to the County. These properties were previously submitted, but were not chosen. It was not that they did not meet the criteria, but there was a great amount of competition. Councilman Cappella made a Motion to submit the Tuthill and Slesinski Properties to the County for PDR. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Councilman Lyons made a Motion to accept the minutes of Special Meeting August 29, 2008, Work Sessions: September 10, 2007, September 24, 2007, Regular Meetings of September 13<sup>th</sup> and September 27, 2007 with the following corrections: September 13, 2007, page 3, Councilman Canterino seconded the Motion made by Councilman Lyons and September 27 page three changing the word go to so. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Cappella. Motion carried unanimously. Councilman Lyons commended the Town Clerk and her office for the hard work done on these minutes saying “it could not have been easy”.

**5. REQUEST FOR DEER CROSSING – 6 ½ STATION ROAD:** Supervisor Bloomfield reported the County Historian, Theodore Sly has requested a Deer Crossing Sign on 6 ½ Station Road due to the large deer population in that area. Councilman Lyons made a Motion to have a Deer Crossing sign placed on 6 ½ Station Road. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Canterino. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. PERSOON SUB DIVISION SPEED LIMIT:** Steven Kunis, the applicant for the Persoon Subdivision approached the Board identifying himself and stating the subdivision has received final approval of the Planning Board and will be built out in three phases. He said the town’s speed limit is 35 miles per hour, unless otherwise posted. He said the name of the development will be Hambletonian Estates and the speed limit is placed at twenty miles an hour. He said the reason being the road was originally drawn up as a thirty foot road, with curbing. It has since been changed to a rural road twenty four feet wide with no curbing. He presented the Board with a map showing the subdivision and pointed out that the road connects with Winners Circle Lane and coming off of Winners Circle lane, turning right or left you are going down hill and also there is a curb going toward Breezeway. He said they feel 20 miles per hour would be best for this areas, as Winners Circle is going to connect to Remington Ridge, which will connect into Sawyer’s Peak. He said the

road will be running parallel to Maple Avenue, and so that a speedway will not be created, we are asking for the 20 miles per hour speed limit.

The Board discussed the proposal and Councilman Canterino said he had no objection, as there would be children playing there. Supervisor asked Chief Marsh, who was in the audience, and the Chief said in that development the speed limit should be 20 miles per hour. Councilman Lyons made a Motion to approve the 20 miles per hour speed limit in the Hambletonian Estates development. Councilman Canterino seconded the Motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**7. APPLICATION FOR CABLE FRANCHISE FOR HOMETOWN ONLINE, INC.:** The Board had previously addressed this application. The application is for a wholly-owned subsidiary of Warwick Valley Telephone Company, and is called Hometown Online, Inc. They are petitioning the Town for a franchise to provide cable services to portions of the town. They would be using Warwick Valley Telephone Company lines to provide video service.

Attorney Caplicki addressed the application saying, there was a time when a waiver was required from the Town. However, he said it appears the waiver might not be required any longer. He said procedurally speaking, he said he inquired of the Public Service Commission, the Town can go right to negotiations on a franchise agreement, if the Board so wishes to proceed. Attorney Caplicki said he will contact Mr. Martin C. Rothfelder, of Rothfelder Stern, L.L.C. who is representing Hometown Online, Inc. and confirm the agreement of the Board. He said if something further has to be done, it could be placed on Thursday's agenda. It was decided the Board will take action to approve moving forward with the franchise at Thursday's meeting.

Councilman Cappella made a Motion to go into Executive Session with no intent to return, to discuss the SRO Program-BOCES, 6 Larchwood Drive Status, Serdarevic Litigation Status, a personnel problem. The Motion was seconded by Councilman Newbold. Motion carried unanimously.

Time: 9:33 p.m.

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Valma Eisma, Town Clerk

