

Village Board Meeting
November 25, 2024

Members present: Mayor O'Donnell, Trustees Gurda, Hand, Rouis and Wohl

Also present: Village Clerk Darby, Attorney Donovan, Interim DPW
Superintendent Morgiewicz and Police Chief Rich

Mayor O'Donnell called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion by Trustee Rouis, seconded by Trustee Gurda, the October 28, 2024 Village Board Meeting Agenda was accepted as presented.

Gurda aye
Hand aye
O'Donnell aye
Rouis aye
Wohl aye

On a motion by Trustee Gurda, seconded by Trustee Wohl, the Minutes of the September 23, 2024, Village Board Meeting were accepted.

Gurda aye
Hand aye
O'Donnell aye
Rouis abstain
Wohl aye

Items of Business

1. Request for Use of Village Property – Signage for 2025 Historic Track Events

RESOLUTION 119 of 2024

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE GOSHEN HISTORIC TRACK'S REQUEST FOR PLACEMENT OF SIGNAGE ON THE VILLAGE GREEN FOR VARIOUS EVENTS IN 2025

WHEREAS, a request from Goshen Historic Track was received to place signage on the Village Green to promote various events they are holding in 2025 including the Car Show/Food Truck Festival, Race Days and Junk in the Trunk; and

WHEREAS, the events will take place in May, July and September 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Goshen Historic Track would like to post signs for the events on the Village Green; and

WHEREAS, the application and Certificate of Insurance will be provided; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY,

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees approved the following:

- Subject to review by DPW and Police Department;
- The use of the Village Green by the Goshen Historic Track to place signs for the following events, that include the dates signage will be placed and removed:
 - Car Show/Food Truck Festival
 - 5/5/25 – Up
 - 5/19/25 – Down
 - Race Days

- 6/16/25 – Up
- 7/7/25 - Down
- Junk in the Trunk
 - 9/8/25 – Up
 - 9/22/25 - Down

Motion to adopt by Trustee Hand and seconded by Trustee Gurda. The vote was 5 ayes to 0 nays with 0 abstentions. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted on November 25, 2024.

2. Request for Use of Village Property – Menorah Lighting

RESOLUTION 120 of 2024

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE LUBAVITCH OF ORANGE COUNTY’S MENORAH LIGHTING EVENT ON THE VILLAGE GREEN ON DECEMBER 26, 2024, WITH A RAIN DATE OF DECEMBER 30, 2024, FROM 5PM – 8PM

WHEREAS, a complete application for use of Village Property was received by Rabbi Meir Borenstein of the Lubavitch of Orange County of Goshen, New York; and

WHEREAS, the request is for a Menorah Lighting celebration event; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY,

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of Trustees approved the following:

- Application for use of Village property for the Menorah Lighting event on December 26, 2024 from 5pm – 8pm, with a rain date of December 30, 2024; and
- The application is subject to review by DPW and Police Department, including the placement of the menorah.

Motion to adopt by Trustee Hand and seconded by Trustee Gurda. The vote was 5 ayes to 0 nays with 0 abstentions. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted on November 25, 2024.

3. Munistat Agreement

RESOLUTION 121 of 2024

A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE THE MUNICIPAL ADVISOR SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH MUNISTAT

WHEREAS, Munistat is a Municipal Advisory firm specializing in municipal finance and municipal government related matters; and

WHEREAS, the Village desires to engage Munistat to provide certain services relative to the issuance of the certain obligations as set forth in Appendix A (“Work Orders”), and Munistat desires to provide services to the Village in connection with such Work Orders; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY,

RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts the proposal from Munistat Services, Inc., dated October 25, 2024, for services relative to the issuance of certain obligations as set forth in Appendix A of the attached Agreement;

AND IT IS FURTHER

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign the proposal, in agreement with the fees and expenses in Appendix B.

Motion to adopt by Trustee Wohl and seconded by Trustee Rouis. The vote was 5 ayes to 0 nays with 0 abstentions. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted on November 25, 2024.

4. Purchase of Copier for Village Hall

RESOLUTION 122 of 2024

A RESOLUTION FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SHARP COPY MACHINE FOR VILLAGE HALL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,717.60 AND A SERVICE AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$765.00 PER YEAR FROM SHARP WHO HAS AN OGS CONTRACT #PM68232

WHEREAS, Village Hall is in immediate need of a new copy machine for conducting day to day functions; and

WHEREAS, the said equipment needed by Village Hall is available by way of an approved vendor through OGS; and

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Village of Goshen can outright purchase the Sharp BP-70M45 in the amount of \$8,717.60, along with an annual maintenance agreement of \$765.00 from Sharp who has OGS Contract #PM68232.

Motion to adopt by Trustee Gurda and seconded by Trustee Rouis. The vote was 5 ayes to 0 nays with 0 abstentions. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted on November 25, 2024.

5. Purchase Front Loader Engine for DPW

DPW Superintendent Morgiewicz explained that the coolant is going into the oil, and is only a matter of time before the machine is no longer usable.

RESOLUTION 123 of 2024

A RESOLUTION FOR THE ENGINE REPLACEMENT OF THE JOHN DEERE LOADER 544G FOR USE BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$19,979.49 FROM JESCO

WHEREAS, there is a need for an engine replacement for the John Deere loader that is used by the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, a quote was obtained that is under \$20,000.00; and

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby

RESOLVED that the Village DPW has approval to purchase the replacement engine for the John Deere Loader in the amount of \$19,979.49 from JESCO.

Motion to adopt by Trustee Gurda and seconded by Trustee Wohl. The vote was 5 ayes to 0 nays with 0 abstentions. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted on November 25, 2024.

6. Waive Parking Meter Fees

RESOLUTION 124 of 2024

A RESOLUTION TO WAIVE PARKING METER FEES FROM NOVEMBER 26, 2024 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2025

WHEREAS, the Village of Goshen DPW and Board of Trustees, as a courtesy, like to waive parking meter fees for the holidays in the downtown area; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY,

RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Goshen hereby approves the waiving of parking meter fees in the downtown area from November 26, 2024, through January 1, 2025.

Motion to adopt by Trustee Wohl and seconded by Trustee Rouis. The vote was 5 ayes to 0 nays with 0 abstentions. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted on November 25, 2024.

7. Public Employee Notification Policy (FOIL Law)

Attorney Donovan explained that the policy is for both present and past employees.

RESOLUTION 125 of 2024

A RESOLUTION FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE FOIL POLICY RELATED TO PROVIDING NOTIFICATION TO PUBLIC EMPLOYEES IN THE EVENT THAT THE AGENCY IS RESPONDING TO A REQUEST FOR SUCH EMPLOYEE'S DISCIPLINARY RECORDS

WHEREAS, in September of 2024 article 6 of the FOIL law was amended to include providing notification to public employees in the event that the agency is responding to a request for such employee's disciplinary records; and

WHEREAS, Village Attorney Donovan drafted a policy for the Village of Goshen; and

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY

RESOLVED, that the Village of Goshen approves the FOIL policy.

Motion to adopt by Trustee Wohl and seconded by Trustee Gurda. The vote was 5 ayes to 0 nays with 0 abstentions. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted on November 25, 2024.

8. Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments

RESOLUTION 126 of 2024

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED AND INCREASED STATE AID FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

WHEREAS, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

WHEREAS, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

WHEREAS, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing longstanding funding challenges; and

WHEREAS, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

WHEREAS, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HERBY

RESOLVED, that the Village of Goshen calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Goshen urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

Motion to adopt by Trustee Rouis and seconded by Trustee Gurda. The vote was 5 ayes to 0 nays with 0 abstentions. The Mayor declared the Resolution adopted on November 25, 2024.

Department Head Comments

Chief Rich started Department Head comments by sharing that the last month has been busy in the Village of Goshen and throughout the County. Recently, there were instances of graffiti on water towers that was reported to the PD by the DPW. The Chief discussed upcoming events including the tree lighting and parade scheduled for 12/7/24, flags are to be half staff for Pearl Harbor Day, which is also on 12/7/24, and Wreaths Across America will hold their procession through the Village on 12/10/24 at 10:00 am. Lastly, he shared that the PBA is holding their annual tree sale starting on 11/29/24.

Interim DPW Superintended Morgiewicz reported on the following, which represents the major activities of the Department of Public Works from October 29th, 2024 through November 22, 2024

STREETS

1. Mowed and trimmed lawns at village owned properties and fire departments
2. Fall leaf cleanup on village owned properties and fire departments
3. Collected yard waste throughout Village
4. Sweep streets throughout the Village
5. Mutual aid to Town of Goshen to assist with fall cleanup
6. Collected and maintained parking meters
7. Bulk leaf pickup throughout the village
8. Grand Street drainage project
9. Paving of Oakcrest Drive and Pine Tree Lane
10. Restore and topsoil shoulders of roads (Oakcrest Drive, Judd Place, Hilcrest Ave, Pine Tree Lane)
11. Asphalt patching throughout the village
12. Remove flower baskets from street lights downtown and at Maplewood
13. Clean up lawn equipment to be stored for the season and ready snow equipment for the winter
14. Mutual aid to Town of Goshen to demo leaf vacuum
15. Cleared off debris from catch basins in preparation for 11/22 storm event
16. Response and cleanup of 11/22 storm event

WATER

1. Normal operations
2. Quarterly water meter readings

SEWER

1. Televisе Sewers w/ New York Rural Water Association

Mayor O'Donnell asked about the Reservoir levels, and Interim DPW Superintendent reported that it's now at -24".

Village Clerk Darby reported on the following activities:

- Spectrum installed cable at the PD and Village Hall, and reconnected DPW with complimentary basic service
- Frontier installed fiber internet at all Village locations, internet should be working significantly faster than before
- Staff is working hard on doing retro pay since the CSEA contract was finalized
- Working on OR grant that was to be used for street lights, but will now be utilized for other environmentally friendly options
- Working on quarterly water, sewer billing, which includes inserts regarding the boil water advisory from August as well as the drought warning stage
- Worked closely with the Mayor to complete the mailing for the lead service line inventory, which went out today to nearly 1,100 residents/businesses
- She provided a heads up that she'll be sending an email on preparing a three-month log of hours for the retirement system
- Sexual Harassment Training coming soon

Citizens' Comments

Susan Armistead presented the idea of placing a Blessing Box near Elsie's. Mrs. Armistead is seeking permission from the Village Board as the location is on Village property. The box was built by CTECH and will be painted in approved Architectural Design District colors. The idea is to keep the shelves stocked with non-perishable food items and other essential items.

Chief Rich voiced several concerns he had with the box being on Village property including liability with the box being on Village property, food being in the outside elements, having the box kept tidy, among others. Village Board members asked several questions as well. Mayor O'Donnell asked Mrs. Armistead to prepare a full plan to present to the Village Board. Mayor O'Donnell thanked Mrs. Armistead for everything she does for the Goshen Community.

Philip Cinelli read a letter to the Village Board about issues he has had with his supervisor with the JRC.

Trustee Comments

Mayor O'Donnell reminded everyone that the Annual Tree Lighting will be taking place on December 7, 2024 with a holiday pop up starting at 2pm, with the parade at 5pm, and the tree lighting at approximately 5:30pm.

She also thanked everyone who came out for the beautiful Veterans Day Ceremony, and thanked the VFW and other organizations involved in organizing that ceremony.

Regarding the Erie Street Property, the school board voted to approve the public referendum, and the vote is scheduled for 1/14/25. There will be information on the school district's website about the future plans of the property.

The next Village Board meeting will be on 12/9/24.

On a motion by Trustee Rouis, seconded by Trustee Gurda, the Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 pm.

Gurda	aye
Hand	aye
O'Donnell	aye
Rouis	aye
Wohl	aye