

## Zoning board approves Besha's barns

By John Addyman

Jim Besha wants to move his engineering firm away from the noise and bustle of Washington Avenue Extension to the peace and quiet of Route 20 near the Watervliet Reservoir.

The Village of Altamont wants to update and improve its sewage treatment facilities, on land that lies in the Town of Guilderland, to conform to a State Department of Environmental Conservation court order mandating improved effluent during "storm incidents."

Last night the Guilderland Zoning Board of Appeals gave Besha the go-ahead but decided to get some expert testimony before approving the Altamont request.

### Besha's barns

In a slick presentation complete with computer-generated graphics projected on a large screen, Besha showed how he plans to bring his Besha Associates firm out to 29 acres of farmland on the southern side of Western Avenue, right across the street from 84 Lumber. Offices for his 18 employees and 35 computers will be housed in three 200-year-old New World Dutch barns.

The barns are listed in the National Registry of Historic Structures. Besha will move two barns already on the site to the southern side of the parcel, and bring the third in from a mile away. The barns will be modernized inside, and the sides facing the reservoir will have a contemporary look. The facades of the barn will remain intact. The site will be reached by a paved narrow access road, and a small pond will front the structure.

Besha explained his firm designs water facilities for municipalities and private industry, so the engineering done in the environ-

mentally sensitive area will be showcased. The total structure compound will use less than an acre, and Besha said he plans to allow the rest of the parcel to be farmed.

Two variances were requested from the zoners—for fewer parking spaces than required by ordinance, and for a waiver of the sidewalk stipulation. The board granted neither variance but approved the project anyway. Besha will have to provide more parking later if deemed necessary, and he will install a sidewalk when the town tells him he must.

### Altamont sewerage

Altamont Director of Public Works Dan Jensen told the zoners the village needs to upgrade its sewage treatment facilities to provide adequate treatment in heavy storms. Four more clarifiers would be built and much of the sewage equipment would be covered by an 80-by-100-foot building. The Altamont plant, with first elements constructed in 1918, cannot handle all the flow generated when storm sewers load the system in a heavy rain. EnCon says it must do a better job of treating the overflow, or be fined.

Jensen also discussed the village's plans to purchase 5.7 acres of adjacent land to use as a buffer between the plant and surrounding residential areas certain to be developed. That discussion ended up confusing the zoning board and some of the people in the audience. The extra land is not needed to gain approval from the zoners, but the village board of trustees wanted it known that the plant site would be segregated from future development.

Zoning chairman Tim Sheehan deferred any ruling until a town designated engineer can look over

the village's plans. The matter will be discussed again Aug. 10.

### Denials

Two applicants were denied the variances they sought.

Fred and Biaggio Polsinelli were told they could not build within the 12-degree angle of repose on their 30-acre parcel on Old State Road. The Polsinellis could have placed 12 or 13 lots on the site without intruding into the angle of repose area, but they cited return on investment as the reason they elected to force a decision on an 18-lot subdivision.

Jeffrey Cascini's request to build a 16-by-12-foot porch on the north side of his home at 1468 Siver Road was axed by the zoners. The porch would have significantly and negatively affected a neighbor, the board ruled, and Cascini had not proved hardship nor loss of enjoyment of his property as a result of the denial.

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Mr. and Mrs. Frank A. Testa

## Testa, Dickenson Are Wed

Kimberly Anne Dickinson and Frank Anthony Testa were married May 28 at the Appel Inn, Osborn's Corners. Judge E. David Duncan officiated. Kim is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nathaniel Dickinson of Ferbeck Road, Town of Guilderland. Frank is the son of Leona Testa of Guilderland and Mr. Frank Testa of Schenectady.

Maid of honor was the sister of the bride, Mary Dickinson. Best man was Anthony Mejlak.

After a reception at the Appel Inn, the couple took a honeymoon trip to California. They reside in Altamont.

Frank is a graduate of Guilderland High School and is employed as a carpenter by Barry, Bette and LedDuke. Kim is a graduate of

Schalmont High School and Hudson Valley Community College. She attended SUNY at Albany and Empire State College. She is employed as a caseworker for Albany County Department of Children and Family Services.

### People In Service

Airman 1st Class James O. Virmala, son of Mr. and Mrs. James O. Virmala of 270 Main St., Guilderland Center, N.Y. has graduated from Air Force basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas. He is a 1987 graduate of Guilderland Central High School.



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