

A Village Board Work Session Meeting was held on Monday, November 6, 2017 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.

PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph Bucco, Deputy Mayor Paul Lang, Trustees Richard Calore, Thomas DeVinko and Diane Mack.

ALSO PRESENT:

Village Clerk Christine Shenkman, Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro, Village Building Inspector Jeanne Ovensen and Village Department of Public Works Superintendent Christopher Martino.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Bucco led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Bucco stated that a moment of silence will be observed in memory of the victims and their families who were a part of the horrific tragedy in the State of Texas yesterday, November 5.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee DeVinko made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING:

Trustee Mack made a motion, seconded by Trustee DeVinko and adopted to adjourn the Executive Session, and resume the Village Board Regular Meeting.

RESOLUTION – EMPLOYMENT – FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER:

Trustee DeVinko made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to authorize the employment of Thomas Santosuosso as a Village of Washingtonville Full Time Police Officer effective Tuesday, November 7, 2017 at an annual salary of \$79,868.26; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board.

VILLAGE CLERK – ADMINISTER OATH OF OFFICE – FULL TIME POLICE OFFICER:

Village Clerk Christine Shenkman administered the Oath of Office Ceremony to newly appointed Village Full Time Police Officer Thomas Santosuosso, and expressed congratulations to Officer Santosuosso and his family.

MAYOR JOSEPH BUCCO – ANNOUNCEMENTS:**THOMAS COMMITTA – COMPREHENSIVE PLANNER:**

Mayor Bucco stated on October 14 a meeting was held with Comprehensive Planner Thomas Comitta, Corinne Courtney from Nailed It Hardware Store, Leanne Bucco of the Village Beautification Committee and several speakers were present at said meeting in West Chester, Pennsylvania. The Mayor continued that a bill was sent to the Village by Mr. Comitta for attendance at said meeting, and Trustee DeVinko stated if the Village is interviewing Comprehensive Planners to determine if they will do work for the Village a bill should not have been submitted for this meeting. Since the remaining Village Board members concur with Trustee DeVinko, Mayor Bucco will contact Mr. Comitta tomorrow and inform him of the Village Board's decision.

GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY – WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT:

Mayor Bucco announced that the Village of Washingtonville held a successful groundbreaking ceremony last Saturday, November 4 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP).

STORM DRAIN MAPPING:

Mayor Bucco stated that recent smoke testing conducted in the Village of Washingtonville showed that Village storm drain maps from 1990 are not accurate, and the Board will be reviewing this matter.

JODI LOMELI – SPAY AND NEUTER PROGRAM:

Village resident Jodi Lomeli came before the Village Board to discuss the overpopulation of feral cats within the Village of Washingtonville. Ms. Lomeli explained that the New York State Animal Population Control Department which is managed by the State Agricultural and Markets Department, and partners with the Animal Rights Alliance Group, maintains a fund with grant monies set aside for Municipalities to provide Spay and Neuter Programs for Cats belonging to low income residents, or anyone who has adopted a Cat from a 501c3 organization or animal shelter. Ms. Lomeli is part of an organization that will submit the Grant application at no cost to the Village of Washingtonville. The Village Board will hold discussion regarding this matter at a future date.

JAMES CASAZZA - RYAN IRVING (COMMUNITY ENERGY) - SOLAR FARM UPDATE:

James Casazza and Ryan Irving of Community Energy came before the Village Board and presented preliminary design drawings regarding a proposed solar farm on Mr. Casazza's property which borders Route 208.

Audience member Frank Frasca questioned what environmental impacts would a project of this nature have on the community, and Mr. Irving responded the solar farm company would have to follow a permit process and conduct due diligence regarding matters such as habitat, wildlife, wetlands, cultural and archaeological factors.

JAMES CASAZZA - RYAN IRVING (COMMUNITY ENERGY) - SOLAR FARM UPDATE – (CONTINUED):

Mr. Casazza explained he is the owner of a ten (10) acre parcel of land bordering Route 208, and a change in zone would need to occur to allow a solar farm on the proposed portion utilized for this project.

Mr. Irving indicated New York State is in favor of implementation of projects of this nature, and individual customers of Orange and Rockland Utilities in the community can sign up to receive credit and save on their utility bill due to power output from the solar farm system.

Mr. Frasca questioned how much savings goes to the property owner where the solar farm will be located, and Mr. Casazza explained that revenue comes from the leasing of his property through the solar power purchase agreement, not from the consumed power.

Mr. Irving explained that minimal equipment maintenance is required, and an increase in traffic through the property and in the Village will not occur from this project.

Concerns were expressed by audience members as to what happens if the company abandons the property and equipment, and Ryan Irving replied that the equipment sits on steel footings in the ground and existing topography, and is easily removable. The applicant will post a Bond which will cover costs to remove the solar structures, and protects the property owner as well as the Village of Washingtonville.

Mr. Casazza stated he will contact the Assessor to obtain preliminary information regarding this project, and if there are roll back taxes from a change in Zoning then Community Energy Solar Farm will be responsible to pay them.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS (D.P.W.) REPORT:

Christopher Martino, Superintendent of the Department of Public Works reported that the following job duties were conducted over the past month by the D.P.W.:

Daily rounds consisting of refuse removal, Water meters were read, Mowed lawns, Painted Maltese Crosses by fire hydrants, Painted white triangles depicting location of catch basins, Brought fill into Sewell Park to level ground, Removed trees and debris from Sewell Park, Decorate the Village for Halloween, Repaired asphalt on Weathervane Drive and Arrowpoint Lane damaged by the water main break, Replaced fire hydrant in the location of Hallock Drive and Locust Street, Repaired shed at L. Vernon Allen Park, Preparation of equipment for adverse winter weather, Winterize bathrooms at L. Vernon Allen Park and Woodfield Park.

Other duties for the month of November will consist of leaf bag pick-up, and Christmas decorations will be placed in E.J. McLaughlin Square.

RESOLUTION - PURCHASE OF LEAF VACUUM:

Discussion took place regarding leaf bag pick-up or utilization of leaf pick-up equipment wherein residents would place leaves curbside and a leaf suction pick-up machine would collect the leaves. Audience member Frank Frasca, 16 Puritan Lane commented without the bags leaves will be blowing throughout the Village.

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Trustee DeVinko and adopted to authorize the purchase of a leaf vacuum from Newburgh Power Equipment at a cost

RESOLUTION – PURCHASE OF LEAF VACUUM – (CONTINUED):

not to exceed \$6,900. Mayor Bucco put said Resolution to a vote and the results were as follows:

4 Ayes

1 Nay

Trustee DeVinko voted Nay

0 Abstentions

Mayor Bucco declared said Resolution adopted.

Deputy Mayor Lang made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to authorize funds for said expenditure to be taken from Village Budget Account Code A511023 Road Improvements.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT:

Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro reported there were no Halloween related calls on October 30 and October 31. Chief Zaccaro credits the Halloween Curfew and Police Department presence as a major factor. The Orange County Police Chiefs Association handed out glow necklaces.

Police Officer Edwin Ramos has finished his third week in the Police Academy, and Sergeant Frank Cirigliano Jr. is in his second week of Supervisor School.

The Village Police Department is accepting old and unused prescriptions in the lobby of the Police Station.

The Police Department is participating in "No Shave November", and there is a \$50.00 fee which goes toward cancer awareness.

ENFORCEMENT OF VILLAGE CODE – LEAVES AND GRASS IN VILLAGE ROADS:

Trustee Diane Mack stated that many residents are blowing their leaves, grass clippings and other material into the street, especially on Capital and Decker Drive, and this is not acceptable. Village Code states that "no person shall sweep, rake or otherwise deposit leaves, grass clippings or branches on sidewalks or streets except at places and times deemed allowable by the Village Board for leaf pick-up." Trustee Mack commented enforcement of Village Laws should take place regarding this matter.

Mayor Bucco suggested each Village Board member visit their assigned areas, and give the information to Village Building Inspector Jeanne Ovensen who will enforce the Code.

CHANGE OF ZONING – ORANGE COUNTY BAGEL SHOP:

Brent Kunis, owner of Orange County Bagel, came before the Village Board and indicated he is interested in purchasing property at 44 West Main Street, the vacant house between Washingtonville Senior High School and Washingtonville Middle School. The existing house on this parcel would be removed, and a new Bagel Shop building would be put in place, however, this location is zoned residential. Mayor Bucco indicated he will check with the Village Attorney regarding this matter.

RESOLUTION - DRIVEWAY CURB CUTS:

Trustee DeVinko made a motion, seconded by Trustee Mack and adopted to set a Bond amount of \$3,000 for driveway curb cut work being conducted in the Village of Washingtonville; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board.

SHED AT CLINTON DRIVE WATER TOWER:

Department of Public Works Laborer Christopher VanRiper reported to the Village Board that the shed at Clinton Drive water tower location is in disrepair, and needs to be replaced. The shed also houses the Department of Public Works repeater and radio system for the 911 Center in Goshen, and radio system used in the D.P.W. trucks. Monell Engine Company is willing to pay one-half (1/2) of the total cost of a new shed. Mayor Bucco requested that price quotations regarding the purchase of a shed be provided to the Village Board by Friday, November 17.

JOHN KIDD – QUARTERLY MAGAZINE:

Mayor Bucco reported that John Kidd, Owner – Publisher of local area quarterly magazine recommended that the Village of Washingtonville purchase four, five and six page editorial sections in each quarter at a discount of \$550.00 per page, and would be under the Village's control. Deputy Mayor Lang indicated the total price would be \$2,200.00 per quarter at a minimum. Mr. Kidd provided the first Quarterly Washingtonville Magazine at no charge. Mayor Bucco will contact Mr. Kidd regarding the possibility of participating in one quarter per year.

RESOLUTION – EMPLOYMENT - PART TIME CLERICAL POSITION – VILLAGE HALL:

Trustee DeVinko made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to authorize the employment of Evelyn Carrasquillo to fill part time clerical position at Village Hall at a rate of \$12.50 per hour; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board.

UPDATE – L. VERNON ALLEN PARK:

Trustee Mack reported that a letter was submitted to New York State Assemblyman James Skoufis containing estimates of ideas for L. Vernon Allen Park. Assemblyman Skoufis has obtained a Grant in the amount of \$125,000 for the park, and the Village Beautification Committee's estimate is at \$144,000. Ideas for the Park include a dog park area, basketball court, hand ball court, bocci ball facility, playground, childrens splash pads for summer, band shell, picnic benches and a pavilion.

PAST INVOICES – NUGENT & HAEUSSLER – VILLAGE AUDITORS:

Mayor Bucco stated that Trustee Calore and the Mayor met with Nugent and Haeussler, Village Auditors regarding unpaid invoices that were ignored by the previous Administration for 2015 and 2016. Further discussion regarding this matter was tabled until the Village Board reviews said invoices.

PAST INVOICE – JOSEPH MCKAY – SPECIAL VILLAGE COUNSEL:

Mayor Bucco indicated Special Village of Washingtonville Counsel Attorney Joseph McKay stated there is a past due invoice of \$1,300.00 that was never paid to the Law Firm by the past Administration in office during 2012.

AUDIT – NUGENT & HAEUSSLER:

Mayor Bucco reported that the Village Audit was provided by Village Auditor Nugent & Haeussler and copies were given to the Village Board. Mayor Bucco will be meeting with the Auditors on November 22 to discuss Village financial status.

PURCHASE OF TRUCKS – BOND ANTICIPATION NOTE – B.A.N.:

Mayor Bucco stated recent Village Board discussion included lease versus purchase regarding new vehicles and equipment for the Department of Public Works. The Mayor explained Village Auditors, Nugent & Haeussler, indicated it is possible for the Village to take out a Bond Anticipation Note (B.A.N) regarding the purchase of a new truck and equipment for the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.).

RESOLUTION - STORAGE CONTAINERS – VILLAGE WATER WORKS:

Trustee DeVinko made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to authorize the purchase of two (2) forty foot storage containers from LGI Transport to be placed at the Village water works location. Said expenditure will be taken from Village Budget Account Code A511023 not to exceed a maximum of \$5,000; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board.

PURCHASE OF TRAILER FOR LINE STRIPING EQUIPMENT:

Discussion regarding purchase of a trailer for line striping equipment was tabled.

RESOLUTION - SURPLUS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TRUCK:

Trustee DeVinko made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to declare the Kodiak Department of Public Works truck surplus, no value to the Village of Washingtonville and to accept offer of insurance claim payment from Village Insurance Company (N.Y.M.I.R.) in the amount of \$7,700.00; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board.

WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ENGINEERS – H2M INVOICES:

Discussion regarding H2m Engineering invoices for the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) was tabled until the Village Board reviews said billing.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Audience member Frank Frasca indicated there are many Election campaign signs throughout the Village of Washingtonville that need to be removed by the candidates.

PUBLIC COMMENT – (CONTINUED):

Audience member Arthur Jefferies suggested that Village Building Inspector Jeanne Ovensen put a Permit process in place, and collect a fee for said Permit.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee DeVinko made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to adjourn the November 6, 2017 Village Board Work Session Meeting.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTINE SHENKMAN

VILLAGE CLERK