

A Village Board Regular Meeting took place on Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.

PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph Bucco; Deputy Mayor Valerie Laudato; Trustees Laurisa Sampson; James Kolar and Richard Calore.

ALSO PRESENT:

Building Inspector John Terry and Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Joseph Bucco led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – MAYOR BUCCO:

Mayor Bucco announced that Bull Road is now open and please heed the speed limit while traveling on this road.

The Village is preparing a second newsletter that will be going out with the water bills at the end of this month.

The Route 94 project is complete, however, Ahern Boulevard is still closed and will remain so for an additional two (2) – three (3) weeks due to unforeseen problems that Orange and Rockland was not aware of over the past six (6) years.

Mayor Bucco indicated the Village is watching water levels very closely since there has been limited rainfall of late.

The Mayor will be meeting with the Architects regarding the progress of renovating Village Hall, and moving the Police Department into this building hopefully by year end. An update will be provided at the August 1 Village Board Work Session Meeting. Also at this meeting the Board will be discussing rezoning of a farm that surrounds the former Spear Lumber building.

FACILITY USE REQUEST – WASHINGTONVILLE HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY SWIM & DIVE TEAM – CAR WASH FUNDRAISER:

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to authorize approval of a Facility Use Request Form for the Washingtonville High School Varsity Swim & Dive Team to hold a Car Wash Fundraiser on Sunday, July 31 with a rain date of Sunday, August 21 from 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at Memorial Park; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

EMPLOYMENT OF VICENT BIELE - PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER:

Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro stated Vincent Biele has worked for the Village of Washingtonville for twenty (20) years. Officer Biele recently retired from his full-time position as Principal at Minisink Valley School District. In order to finalize his School Retirement and collect his pension, Officer Biele had to temporarily separate

EMPLOYMENT OF VICENT BIELE - PART-TIME POLICE OFFICER – (CONTINUED):

from service from the Police and Fire Retirement System, and take a Leave of Absence from the Village.

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to authorize the rehiring of Vincent Biele as a Part-time Police Officer for the Village of Washingtonville based upon recommendation of Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

SALARY AGREEMENT – DPW SUPERINTENDENT CHRISTOPHER MARTINO:

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to authorize approval of a salary increase for full-time Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) Superintendent Christopher Martino in the amount of \$68,140.86 annual; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

SALARY AGREEMENT – BUILDING INSPECTOR JOHN TERRY:

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to authorize approval of John Terry becoming a full-time Building Inspector-Code Enforcer from a part-time position to a full-time position at an annual rate of \$56,804.80; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

UPDATE – ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND PLANNING BOARD:

Trustee Sampson stated at this point in time there are no items before the Zoning Board of Appeals, and the next scheduled Regular Planning Board Meeting is Tuesday, July 26 at 7:00 P.M. There will be a Public Hearing and Work Session Meeting on Tuesday, August 9 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall.

UPDATE – VILLAGE PARKS AND FIELDS:

Trustee Sampson commented recently there was a request for a non-resident to utilize L. Vernon Allen Park. The Village Board needs to decide if there will be a usage charge for the Parks. Trustee Sampson explained the original applicant could not obtain insurance so they withdrew their request. Mayor Bucco stated more research needs to be conducted regarding this topic, and non-residents also use the Village Parks for baseball games and other matters. The Mayor indicated he does not believe that Village taxpayers should pay for concession stand electricity.

APPROVAL OF SIGNAGE – ANNA’S GOURMET CATERING & MEAL PREP COMPANY:

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to authorize the approval of signage for Anna’s Gourmet Catering and Meal Prep Company; signage will be 120” by 16” aluminum composite; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

ORANGE COUNTY BAGEL – ACCEPTANCE OF CASH ESCROW:

Mayor Bucco reported there are a few items left on the site plan that need to be addressed and Orange County Bagel will appear before the Planning Board to resolve this matter.

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to authorize approval of a cash escrow in the amount of \$38,600 representing the cost of completion for certain outstanding improvements pursuant to the site and approval of OCDW Properties LLC, and the Project at 32 West Main Street. The posting of the set escrow shall be for the purpose of considering the issuance of the temporary Certificate of Occupancy all of which shall be subject to final approval by the Village Attorney; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

MOTHER-DAUGHTER HOMES:

Mayor Bucco explained that technically there is no definition of a Mother-Daughter Home in the Village Code. According to Article IV R100 - District Limited Usage, it depends on the kitchen unit. Some residents have two kitchens in their homes.

Building Inspector John Terry indicated there are different scenarios with Mother-Daughter homes. There can be a bi-level and some are essentially full floor, totally separate and distinct living units, while in some homes you are required to walk through the main living unit in order to get to the second kitchen and food preparation area. A Single-Family home has one kitchen stove, and food preparation area. The Village is waiting upon written interpretation of the Code from the Village Attorney.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – F.O.I.L. REQUESTS:

Mayor Bucco stated there have been numerous F.O.I.L. requests being submitted to the Village. The Village has thirty (30) days to prepare the request, and it is .25 cents per page.

APPROVAL OF FACILITY USE REQUEST – KIWANIS FLAGS FOR HEROES:

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to authorize approval of the Facility Use Request Form for the Washingtonville Kiwanis Club to utilize Memorial Park August 20 through October 1 with the "Flags for Heroes" Ceremony to be held Saturday, August 27 at 11:00 A.M.; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS:

Audience member Donna Jacaruso of 39 Woodfield Drive questioned is there an Agenda for the August 9 Planning Board Meeting. The Mayor responded at this point in time the only item on the Agenda is a Public Hearing. "Applicants have until seven (7) days prior to the meeting to submit all documents, hard copy and PDF to be considered for the Agenda. The Engineer and Attorney will have ample time to review and provide comment on their submission and if they do, the Applicant will be placed on the Agenda. We will not know this until the deadline for submission arrives."

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS – (CONTINUED):

John Salka of 25 Horton Road stated "I am a retired FDNY member & President of Washingtonville Firefighter's Memorial Committee. The Committee has an issue arising over the Flags for Heroes; not over the Flags themselves, but the families of the five firefighters have expressed the desire to have the specific day of September 11 more solemn and focused on the monument and the five (5) firefighters who lost their lives rather than the flags, lights etc. "We have been doing a candlelight vigil for over twenty (20) years and traditionally have placed small flags with no lighting in the Park every year, and at the end of the ceremony everyone takes a flag home. The Committee did not know that Flag for Heroes was going to be an annual event. We saw advertisements for it, and the families requested that on September 11 the flags not be in this area. Mr. Salka indicated he tried contacting the Village to discuss this matter but did not receive a response which is why he is here tonight."

Mayor Bucco stated I received an e-mail from Steve that it is okay to have the flags up three (3) days out of the year which is July 4, Veterans Day and Memorial Day.

Bob Sapienza, President of the New York City Firefighter Retirees stated "I read the emails that Steve sent you and I spoke to John Salka about this today. The concern of this fundraiser is selling of names on flags at the Memorial Park. This is sacred ground for firefighters and their families."

Bob Youngins, 13 Pennsylvania Avenue stated his research shows that Flags for Heroes is always done on Veterans Day or Memorial Day, and that working at the Memorial Park over the years he has come in contact with all the families who have voiced their opinion about this matter as stated above.

Mr. Salka is requesting a meeting be coordinated between the Village Board, Kiwanis Club and John Salka.

Susan Walski of 24 South Street stated the terminology of Mother-Daughter in the Village Code is inconsistent with New York State Fair Housing. Mother-Daughter is now called accessory apartments, and to put these homes in the R-100 Zone would not be fair to those that live in the RA-Zone as well as the R-M Zone. I would ask that you consider looking through all of the zoning in the Village, and not just in the R-100 Zoning. Furthermore, New York State defines the kitchen as a place to cook and prepare food.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Donna Jacaruso indicated there are no Village Trustee or volunteer Boards emails located on the Village Website, and Mayor Bucco said he will contact the Webmaster.

Celina Rofer, Chairperson of the Village Planning Board indicated she announces her email at the beginning of every Planning Board meeting, and residents can e-mail the Building Department as well.

Diane Mack of 25 Capital Drive questioned if there would be a turning lane into the development at Ahern Boulevard. Mayor Bucco responded the road has now been raised in excess of five (5) feet, and the Village of Washingtonville signage is now below the level of the road. Ms. Mack indicated a conversation needs to take place with the State of New York and Town of Blooming Grove regarding widening the road.

An audience member commented is there camping allowed in the village, and Mayor Bucco replied John Terry was looking into this matter with the Village Attorneys.

PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS – (CONTINUED):

Audience member Sean Hegerty of 4 Belvoir Drive questioned has clarification been provided regarding what the Village tax money paid to the Town of Blooming Grove represents?

Mr. Hegerty further stated is New York State going to pay for the "Welcome to Washingtonville" sign to be raised in the Ahern Boulevard location.

Audience member Susan Walski commented the Village Department of Public Works should merge with the Town of Blooming Grove Highway Department because it would be less expensive for Village residents.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Deputy Mayor Laudato made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESUMPTION OF MEETING:

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to adjourn the Executive Session, and resume the Village Board of Trustees Regular Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Sampson made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to adjourn the July 19, 2022 Village Board Regular Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous Vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
CHRISTINE SHENKMAN
VILLAGE CLERK**