

**A Village Board Regular Meeting took place on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.**

**PRESENT:**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Village 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 JOSEPH BUCCO:**

**Mayor Joseph Bucco announced the Village urges all residents of the Village of Washingtonville to contact the Village Hall with questions you may have. Many people are receiving misinformation, and we need to lower the temperature within the Village and work with everyone that is involved. The Board members, meaning the Village Board, Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals are all residents of the Village. I have been asked why we cannot just say no to various matters but by law you cannot just say no. The law has to play out. I am asking everyone to please let the system work. I, meaning we, have full confidence in all the Boards and Board members.**

**Mayor Bucco stated the Village is currently in a mandatory water restriction. We are asking that residents do not water lawns, driveways and use water unnecessarily. Please use a watering can when watering flowers and plants.**

**The Mayor reported Ahern Boulevard is still closed. The Village Board has been in contact with the project Engineers. The entrance to Route 94, even though it fits in the State guidelines, is not a good situation. There are problems with turning situations in this location.**

**Tonight, the Village Board has decided not to discuss the Casazza farm subject that was discussed at the last Village Board Meeting. The Board is waiting until the Washingtonville Central School District is back in session, and then auditorium space in either the Middle School or High School will be scheduled. Residents will be notified as soon as the meetings are set up. The Board will also schedule the same space for the Village Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals (Z.B.A.) when needed. To correct misinformation, 23 South Street (Casazza farm) is currently zoned R-A which is Residential and Agricultural.**

**POLICE OFFICER PROMOTION – THOMAS SANTOSUOSSO:**

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to authorize the promotion of Village Police Officer Thomas Santosuosso from Detective to Sergeant based upon approval of Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**REVISING THE PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT:**

Deputy Mayor Laudato stated the Village Board has been e-mailed a copy of the revised Public Assembly Permit which will be finalized within the next month.

**NEW MONUMENT AT MEMORIAL PARK:**

Mayor Bucco indicated two (2) years ago, the Village was approached by the Firemen's Committee regarding the addition of a monument in front of a berm at Memorial Park in memory of the people who were sick and have passed away after 911. Excavation began last week and the Village put a stop to it because the Board needs to approve the plans, and the Building Inspector needs to be aware of the situation. The Village will be filling out a Permit because it is a Village Park. A Mason had been hired and the Village Board does not know if they are insured and a Certificate of Insurance is needed. Digging also started without a prior 811 dig number being obtained which could cause a serious situation involving water main and gas lines. Proper protocol has to be followed, even on the Village level. The monument will be black onyx and made from the same material as the first monument. It will be approximately four (4) feet wide, and five (5) feet tall. The monument should be in place before September 11.

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to authorize the approval of a monument at Firemen's Memorial Park located at Ahern Boulevard and Washington Boulevard and based upon receipt of a Certificate of Insurance; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT - WITCHINGTONVILLE AFTER DARK:**

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to authorize the approval of a Public Assembly Permit from Guilty Pleasures Cheesecakes for Witchingtonville After Dark to be held on Saturday, October 15 from 3:00 P.M. until 10:00 P.M. at E.J. McLaughlin Square; said Resolution is based upon receipt of a Certificate of Insurance and passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – COLOR RUN:**

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to authorize the approval of a Public Assembly Permit for the Blooming Grove Chamber of Commerce annual Color Run to be held on April 23, 2023; said Resolution is based upon receipt of a Certificate of Insurance, and passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT – BLOOMING GROVE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – CHRISTMAS PARADE:**

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to authorize the approval of a Public Assembly Permit from the Blooming Grove Chamber of Commerce for the annual Christmas Parade to be held on Saturday, December 3; said Resolution is based upon receipt of a Certificate of Insurance, and passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**WASHINGTONVILLE VARSITY SWIM – DIVE TEAM – CAR WASH:**

Deputy Mayor Laudato indicated the Washingtonville Varsity Swim and Dive Team Car Wash scheduled for Saturday, September 4 from 10:00 A.M. until 2:00 P.M. was canceled due to mandatory water restrictions in the Village of Washingtonville.

**EMPLOYMENT OF PART TIME VILLAGE POLICE OFFICER:**

Deputy Mayor Laudato made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kolar and adopted to authorize the employment of Nick Giakoumis at an hourly rate of \$28.00; said Resolution is based upon recommendation of Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro and passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**BANNER DISPLAY:**

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to authorize placement of a banner in E.J. McLaughlin Square stating that on Saturday, September 10 between 10:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M. at L. Vernon Allen Park residents can drop off back to school supplies for students in all grades in the Village School District. Each building Principal will then distribute the items to the students in their School.

Mayor Bucco indicated as mentioned earlier, the Village Board has decided to postpone all discussion regarding 23 South Street until a larger venue such as the Middle or High School can be utilized when school reopens. We thank you and appreciate your understanding of this matter. With that said, we would like to open up public comment of the Agenda items and then we will do public comment on non-agenda items. Public comment is not to exceed three (3) minutes per person. Please sign one of the forms for public comment on Agenda items and public comment on non-Agenda items.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Margaret Stack of 78 Decker Drive indicated Chase Bank and Walden Savings Bank both had water sprinklers in use during mandatory water restrictions.

Patrice Gesner indicated many people are still utilizing fire rings which can be dangerous during this dry season.

Susan Walski of 24 South Street questioned when will the Rental Registry be complete, and she emailed a list of units that have come on the Market to the Building Inspector but has not received a response. Ms. Walski suggested the Moodna Creek be cleaned out since it is walkable due to the water shortage.

**PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS – (CONTINUED):**

Blooming Grove Ward Member Thomas DeVinko of 7 Maple Court commented that tractor trailers were coming in and out of the Water plant and questioned are they taking water and what is the chargeable rate they pay when picking up water.

Mayor Bucco responded you are referring to Spindler Bulk as well as the Town of Blooming Grove picking up water. The Mayor will obtain the information for Ward Member DeVinko and stated the Village is not losing money, and the process has stopped approximately two (2) weeks ago.

The Village is testing three (3) wells which can be utilized for emergencies only. The mandatory water restrictions will remain in effect until the Water Department notifies the Village Board of satisfactory water levels.

Ward Member DeVinko questioned the location of said wells, and Mayor Bucco explained there are two (2) wells at AuroChemical and one (1) well at Memorial Park.

A member of the audience commented that future meetings will be held at the School, and Mayor Bucco reiterated as soon as the meetings are scheduled the public will be notified.

Donna Jacaruso of 39 Woodfield Drive indicated regarding future meetings in the Middle School and High School there are concerns for the month of September because the School is booked for School events. Ms. Jacaruso explained that she contacted the school today because for a month and a half she was asking for a larger venue. The community is concerned about the proposals on the table, and hopefully everyone is on Team Washingtonville. We are all residents. This is positive that many folks have come out to show concern, and there is reason to be concerned. When I called the school they told me it was almost impossible to pick a date in September because of all the back to school functions. August would have been a perfect month to schedule meetings since School was not in session.

Mayor Bucco explained that 23 South Street is residential and agricultural. All of the Village of Washingtonville Boards are separate and independent Boards.

Trustee Calore stated there is misinformation being spread that the Developer for 23 South Street (Casazza property) is the same Developer as 61 East Main Street which is blatantly false, and also misinformation is being said that the project is a done deal which is completely false.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Donna Jacaruso questioned when did the Village Board receive the original plans for 61 East Main Street, and Mayor Bucco responded the Board never received any plans. It was discussion, and the Developer wanted to put up office – residential which he is allowed to do.

Ms. Jacaruso replied when was that? Mayor Bucco responded this took place before covid. Ms. Jacaruso stated when did the revisions go from one to two, originally it was one building, and the Mayor replied it was never one building, but always two buildings. Trustee Calore expressed agreeance that it was never one building.

Donna Jacaruso questioned was the Village Board acting as the Planning Board at that time, and Mayor Bucco commented the Village Board was not acting as the Planning Board during this time. The Village Board is not allowed to act as the Planning Board.

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

Donna Jacaruso inquired who requested the zoning change regarding 23 South St, the owner or the applicant and when.

Mayor Bucco responded both the applicant and the owner requested said change at the February 16, 2021 Village Board Meeting.

Last Week's Work Session Meeting was the first time the Village Board was introduced to the entire project regarding 23 South Street.

Ward Member DeVinko stated the Village Attorney mentioned meeting in June with the applicants Attorney. At the last meeting she indicated she wants to have another meeting with the Engineers and Architects.

Trustee Calore commented there have been various meetings over the past two years regarding 61 East Main Street.

Ward Member DeVinko added if this matter is something that affects quality of life then everyone should be notified, and a Planner should be involved.

An audience Member questioned has anyone conducted a traffic study and Mayor Bucco responded the process has not gotten to that point yet.

Mayor Bucco explained the applicant is asking for a Variance for 23 South Street which is in its infancy stage. The first meeting was held last week and tonight's discussion was postponed until a larger venue is obtained. As far as the Zoning Comprehensive Plan the Village began working on it and then Covid hit. The last Comprehensive Plan the Village of Washingtonville had was in 1995.

Donna Jacaruso inquired with regard to 61 East Main Street, traffic studies were submitted for 2014, 2018, and 2021-2022 but it was their own independent study done in July, not the Department of Transportations (D.O.T.).

Trustee Kolar explained the Village Board is hearing the same information that the General Public is hearing, and the Boards do not discuss information with each other.

Susan Walski commented originally the zoning for the Casazza Farm had been for sixty (60) mobile homes. This was changed to R-A district, residential-agricultural. The water line at that time did not go all the way down to Woodcock Mountain, and the wells were not built to support the homes that K. Hovanian (Developer) wanted to build so when the K. Hovanian project came before the Planning Board they were told they would have to find a water supply. There was not a viable water supply to sustain one-hundred fifty (150) houses.

The Mayor reported if the Applicant goes before the Zoning Board of Appeals (Z.B.A.) and is not granted a variance then the project may be finished. The Applicant knows the risk they are taking in doing this.

Another audience member stated why allow this project in a one-hundred – five-hundred year floodplain, and it should be utilized for historical purposes.

Trustee Sampson reported that requests for School facilities follow a process wherein an online form is filled out and then it goes to Buildings and Grounds Department, and then to the Building Principal. This may take two weeks to be approved.

Donna Jacaruso stated she has sent several emails to the Building Inspector and has never received a response.

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

Mayor Bucco explained all correspondence goes to the Building Department and the Inspector will send it to the Attorney of the pertinent Board and then the Attorney will send it to the Chairperson of that particular Board.

Michael Graziano of Lark Street questioned if the bus garage does not go through is it possible to limit the lot sizes if homes were built?

Trustee Calore indicated if stores were located on this property that would contribute to a large amount of traffic.

Mayor Bucco indicated a referendum would have to take place in order for the Village of Washingtonville to purchase the property.

Mayor Bucco commented that Engineer fees are paid for by the applicant. Susan Walski added that the Engineer is a Village Consultant and not the applicant's consultant.

Planning Board Chairperson Celina Rofer indicated the last Planning Board Meeting was a Work Session but the agenda item was a Public Hearing, advised by Council that it is the time for the public to speak to the Board Members and the applicant and to let them know their questions and to let them know their comments so that the Board and the applicant, council and engineer can listen, evaluate, and advise the applicant to take every additional thing into consideration but it is not a question and answer session. It is to gather information from the public so we can act accordingly and show the applicant so that they can potentially make changes or make some considerations based on the public's comments. The Public Hearing is held open so that the Public can keep bringing up questions they have.

Mayor Bucco and the Village Board wished best of luck to all students and please drive slow as the new School year begins.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Sampson made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to adjourn the August 16, 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**