

A Village Board Regular Meeting was held on Monday, October 18, 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; Richard Calore; James Kolar.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

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

MAYOR JOSEPH BUCCO - ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Bucco expressed thanks to all who were involved in Witchingtonville and Witchingtonville After Dark. Special thanks were also given to Deputy Mayor Laudato and Trustee Sampson for all their dedicated efforts in making this event a great success.

On Tuesday, October 11 the Washingtonville Central School District was kind enough to lend the auditorium at the Middle School to the Village Board in order to hear an application for Orange County Transit LLC regarding a private bus depot facility at 23 South Street which is also New York State Route 208. The bus company is looking to purchase a 9.1 tract of land.

The Village Board listened to the application as presented and determined after conversation with Zoning Board of Appeals Attorney, Elisabeth Cassidy, that it would not continue with the application the way it was submitted.

The Mayor invited Planner John Bayham from Saratoga to the Monday, November 7 Village Board Work Session meeting.

The Village Board is preparing to complete the Comprehensive Plan we started back in 2019 – 2020, precovid. I have also invited Attorney Cassidy and Orange County Planner Kate Schmidt to join us in the conversation. This is a work session so questions from the public will not be answered. The Mayor spoke to Orange County yesterday regarding the Comprehensive Plan that was submitted in the past, and the County stated they do not have any record of the Village of Washingtonville submitting a Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Bucco indicated the Village Board is in receipt of a Petition regarding a temporary moratorium for one-hundred eighty (180) days on all building of any structure larger than a single family residence. The Board appreciates the effort that went into this Petition. Mayor Bucco stated it is my understanding that any project presently in front of the Village Planning or Zoning Board of Appeals Boards will not be affected by the moratorium. With that said, we would like to enter a moratorium for one (1) year on any building with the exception of additions to existing residences, fences and other projects.

The Village Board wants to form groups of Village residents and business owners to work on the Comprehensive Plan for the Village of Washingtonville. If you are interested please email Christine Shenkman, and include your name and address, telephone number and hours that you are available. This is a huge commitment and I wanted to thank you before we even begin. Once we have the Committee and Planner selected we will file the necessary paperwork to proceed with the moratorium.

MAYOR JOSEPH BUCCO – ANNOUNCEMENTS – (CONTINUED):

Mayor Bucco stated the Village has received a large number of applicants regarding the Planning and Zoning Board vacancies. October 31 is the last day to submit your letter of interest from Village residents. Once all applications are received the Board will go through them and select the applicants who will be called and interviews will be set up. To clarify, no positions on either of these Boards have been offered to anyone. I was asked in an email why not interview as you receive these applications. The Mayor indicated the Village needs openness and transparency. Things feel very suspicious lately. The Village Board's point of view is by not waiting for everyone's interest by October 31 it is not being transparent and it would certainly look to be suspicious. We do not want anything suspicious here.

On November 1 there will be no overnight parking on Village streets from 1:00 A.M. – 5:00 A.M.

Mayor Bucco commented the Village Halloween Curfew is Sunday, October 30 and Monday, October 31 at 7:00 P.M.

On a final note before we go to the Agenda, when I decided to run for Mayor back in 2017 it was not because I was bored or needed to make new friends. It was because I care about the Village. This whole Board cares about the Village. Living here for the past 32 years, soon to be 33 years, I was accused of selling my house and my house is not for sale.

Trustee Sampson expressed thanks to the Washingtonville Police Department and the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.), and all the volunteers who participated in Witchingtonville and Witchingtonville After Dark.

UPDATE – PAINTING LINES ON ROADWAYS:

Trustee Kolar stated Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro would like an update regarding when the painting of lines on roadways will be done, and Village Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) Superintendent Christopher Martino said the work will commence in the next two – four weeks.

UPDATE ON NEW VEHICLES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – (D.P.W.):

Trustee Kolar reported that the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) has requested purchase of the following vehicle and equipment:

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to authorize the approval of

DIXIE CHOPPER LAWN MOWER	\$ 11,055.00
CHEVROLET SILVERADO 6500 TRUCK	\$131,059.69

(Vehicle is on State-County Bid)

Said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

GIRL SCOUT HERO WALK:

Trustee Sampson indicated the Girl Scouts Heroes Walk will be held on Saturday, November 5 between 12:00 P.M. until 2:00 P.M. at L. Vernon Allen Park; raindate is Sunday, November 6. The walk will begin at Firemens memorial Park and end at L.

GIRL SCOUT HERO WALK (CONTINUED):

Vernon Allen Park. Colonel Michael Brockway who has served in the Military and runs the J.R.O.T.C. Program at the Washingtonville High School will be honored.

VILLAGE HALL RENOVATION:

Mayor Bucco stated the Village is discussing renovation plans to move the Washingtonville Police Department to the present Village Hall building. The Mayor has been meeting with Interior Designers and Architects, and will provide an update at the December 5 Village Board Work Session Meeting.

WATER RESTRICTIONS:

Mayor Bucco announced the Village is still under mandatory water restrictions and as soon as the water operators feel the wells are at the appropriate levels then the restrictions will be rescinded.

UPDATE ON COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Mayor Bucco discussed a proposed comprehensive plan for the Village of Washingtonville with Planner and Designer John Bayham of Saratoga, New York. The Village received a price quotation of \$80,000. Mr. Bayham will be making a presentation at the November 7 Village Board Work Session Meeting.

Mayor Bucco stated the Village Board is looking for residents and business owners to volunteer for the Planning, Zoning Board of Appeals and Comprehensive master plan committee. If you are interested please e-mail Christine Shenkman.

UPDATE ON EMERSON DRIVE DRAINAGE:

Mayor Bucco announced construction will be starting the week of November 14 on Emerson Drive which should take approximately two – three weeks. The road will not be closed and the Washingtonville Central School District will be notified. The road will remain open, and no curbing will be installed on this street due to the residents wishes.

ORANGE COUNTY COURIER JOURNAL:

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Laudato and adopted to authorize the approval of the Orange County Courier Journal to be the official newspaper of the Village of Washingtonville; said Resolution was adopted by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

REMARKABLE WATER SOLUTIONS:

Mayor Bucco announced that Remarkable Water Solutions will be renting two stores in Brotherhood Plaza Drive. They are requesting a sign permit. Discussion on this matter was tabled until additional information is obtained.

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR:

Deputy Mayor Laudato made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kolar and adopted to authorize Swanson Consulting and Association to be added to the Village Electrical

ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR – (CONTINUED):

Inspector list; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS:

Susan Walski of 24 South Street questioned with regard to the Comprehensive Plan and professional Planner was an R.F.P. sent out to find a planner? If so, how many companies responded. Also, I do not see funding in the 2022 – 2023 Budget for a Planner and the Village Attorney's fees so how is this going to be financed?

Mayor Bucco explained that the Planner is considered a professional service and an R.F.P. is not required but we are searching other planners as well. The Mayor asked who Ms. Walski had in mind for planning, and she responded I will forward the names to the Mayor.

AUDIENCE MEMBER: (No name was given): An audience member questioned when will the moratorium go into effect and the Mayor responded the Board is looking to have a one year moratorium.

AUDIENCE MEMBER (No name was given): If we were to adopt a moratorium tonight then it would expire in one year from today's date. In that year the Village could be looking for Planners and comprehensive members. Everything should be in place and then do the moratorium. Can you submit that there will be no rezoning during that time, no building, or a single family structure.

MAYOR BUCCO: The Village Board is looking into not having any building except for additions to your house or a deck or shed.

DONNA JACARUSO: Doesn't that mean there is no rezoning during that time.

MAYOR BUCCO: Rezoning would have to come in front of the Village Board. There are no applications on record right now.

DONNA JACARUSO: The Planning Board members have changed. Is there an updated list?

DEPUT MAYOR LAUDATO: I have to update the list on the Village Website.

DONNA JACARUSO: Questioned how many Planning Board members are there, and Deputy Mayor Laudato responded two.

DONNA JACARUSO: With regard to Section 175 – 2 it states "what is deemed beneficial to the interest and the welfare of the residents to protect the character and well-being of the Village and promote what's in the publics best interest for the utilization of land and what is most appropriate and to secure the safety and prevent overcrowding, prevent traffic congestion, and enhance the value of land." The Village Board should take this section into consideration when making decisions.

MAYOR BUCCO: The residents want to stay with the character of the Village, this building here fits right into the Village and so does the brick building behind the Village Hall (the Atlantis Building). Hopefully, we are all on the same page, and people are not thinking its us against them or them against us.

DONNA JACARUSO: Sometimes it feels that way.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS – (CONTINUED):

TRUSTEE CALORE: Indicated there are many lies on facebook which are causing problems.

THOMAS DEVINKO: (7 Maple Court). The audience comments are critical conversation and I hope you do away with the three (3) minute timeframe to make comments.

MAYOR BUCCO: The Town of Blooming Grove limits comments.

THOMAS DEVINKO: The Board needs to pass the moratorium tonight in the event an applicant comes in with a proposal tomorrow. The moratorium can also be extended.

MAYOR BUCCO: You just cannot keep on extending it. The Resolution cannot be done tonight according to our Attorney.

BILL PALMER (10 Decker Drive): Section 175-2 applied ten years ago regarding traffic and congestion. If allowed, there would be one-hundred sixty-seven buses and the same amount of bus driver vehicles in that area which would create over two-hundred new vehicles in this area.

BOB BUCHALSKI (29 Capital Drive): I sat through the proposal of Orange County Transit. if the owner needs a bus garage near here to service his customers he is going to buy a piece of property, to the east, to the west, to the south and he is going to get his bus depot. The Village will still get the traffic, and we will not have the opportunity to control the buses filing into our traffic. While its great to say no, we do not want it in our neighborhood we need to watch what does happen. There is a lot of property for sale around here. So if its in our Village we can control it to some point.

AUDIENCE MEMBER (No name was given): Please check Orange County Transit on a google search because you would be surprised how many lawsuits appear including issues regarding bankruptcy and a matter with Valley Central School District. They do not seem to be operating correctly and you do not want to deal with someone who operates like that.

MARK: (No last name given) - 360 Toleman Road: Indicated with regard to the Comprehensive Planner is there a timeframe allocated to that plan and cost?

MAYOR BUCCO: Stated the Board would like to have the Comprehensive Plan done within a year.

TRUSTEE CALORE: Commented a master plan should be done every 5 years.

MICHAEL GRAZIANO: (3 Lark Street): Questioned can an intermediate plan be done before the year is up that would give restrictions to new applicants coming to the Village.

MAYOR BUCCO: Stated the Board will work on it and we need all the Village's help in how you want to see the Village in 20 years.

MAYOR BUCCO: explained with regard to 61 East Main Street which is office – residential the Board suggested to the Developer to leave it all residential, to turn the buildings in the direction they are now and to set them back forty (40) feet so the road could possibly be widened. The Developer indicated he was fine with this.

THOMAS DEVINKO: Questioned was the Village Board acting as the Planning Board or Village Board?

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS – (CONTINUED):

The Mayor responded that the Developer never came before the Planning Board, only the Village Board who is the only Board that can change zones. The Zoning Board of Appeals grants variances. Orange County Transit wanted a zone change. That is why the Village Board heard it, and did not act as the Planning Board.

THOMAS DEVINKO: Asked who put the application in, and Mayor Bucco responded Orange County Transit did with the permission of land owner James Cazassa. With that request they also asked us to change whole farm to business-commercial.

THOMAS DEVINKO: Indicated the reason for the comprehensive plan and resolution is to forego any of the issues that were already explained. Once the moratorium is in place the Board can have time to do what needs to be done, and you can interview other planners if you wish because \$80,000 seems like a lot of money although it may be a fair price.

DONNA JACARUSO: Indicated the proposal is gone but the applicant has the option of coming back with another proposal. Did the Board vet Orange County Transit while we were entertaining that proposal?

MAYOR BUCCO: Said even if someone comes in with a seventy-two story building proposal for the farm we as a Board and Village have to listen to the proposal. The Board cannot just say no.

MS. JACARUSO: Questioned what if they come back under a different name? There is a lawsuit against the owner specifically. I do not believe he will go away. He will come back with another proposal.

MAYOR BUCCO: Responded the Village Board would have to listen to it.

DONNA JACARUSO: Stated please do your due diligence and research this matter in the event it should come before the Village Board again.

TRUSTEE KOLAR: Explained if someone comes with a similar proposal what makes you think the Village Board will change our minds. You can see how the Board feels about it. The applicants idea was turned down.

DONNA JACARUSO: Responded the same applicant can come back.

MAYOR BUCCO: Explained the applicant can still come in and ask for a zone change.

THOMAS DEVINKO: Commented the point is you are going to listen to the applicant, and Ms. Jacaruso stated she is concerned about what is going on.

MAYOR BUCCO: indicated the first time the previous Village Planning Board actually looked at the drawings for Chase Bank was the night when Chase Bank had the Architects, Engineers, Attorneys, Contractor and the person who is going to oversee the job in attendance at the meeting. When I said we need to have Work Sessions before the applicant comes in with their plans past Planning Board members got up and left.

MAYOR BUCCO: stated most people who spoke at the Middle School Meeting were Town of Blooming Grove residents. If Orange County Transit builds in another area the Village will not receive tax revenue, however all the buses will still be traveling through the Village of Washingtonville.

MS. JACARUSO: Indicated if this project went through all the bus drivers vehicles will be there as well.

PATRICE GESNER: (7 Puritan Lane): Ms. Gessner commented there is a big difference between one-hundred thirty (130) buses coming in and out all at one

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS – (CONTINUED):

time compared to if this area is residential in which traffic would be disbursed throughout the day.

BONNIE RUM: Questioned why not put the moratorium in place today?

MAYOR BUCCO: Responded the Village Board has to discuss this situation, and it should be done before the end of the year.

MARK: (No last name): stated the water restrictions have to be taken into consideration. I agree with the moratorium but all issues have to be looked at including water, sewer, traffic, schools and other consideration.

BOB BUCHALSKI: (29 Capital Drive): Mentioned it was a proposal signed by the landowner in the Village. This means we listen to the applicant, the Attorneys, the Engineers and do research and then decide.

MICHAEL GRAZIANO: (3 Lark Street): Stated look at the previous moratoriums for guidance.

PUBLIC COMMENT - NON AGENDA ITEMS:

SUSAN WALSKI: (24 South Street): Suggested since the Moodna Creek is low and there is a rusted engine at the bottom of the embankment by former Village Hall this portion of the creek should be cleaned out.

Also, the Village Website still lists Linda Standish as Village Historian.

Ms. Walski questioned if any of the Village Board attended the Association of Municipal Historians Conference in September, and will somebody be going to the Association of Towns, Villages and Cities.

JOELY ZARRA: (71 West Main Street): stated back in February she received paperwork similar to a violation for having somebody chop and shovel ice and sleet from my sidewalk. I looked things up since then and I can see the Village Board within thirty (30) days of getting a levy on my property. I do not know if the thirty (30) days has past or the levy happened yet but I am being billed for it. I never received notice for two (2) months that it even happened. The date when the situation took place was February 27. I do have a definite excuse. I was not home but it also says that I can ask to have a Hearing. Do you mind just a couple of seconds so I can present what it is. It says it is supposed to be done thirty (30) days the date the penalty is levied. I don't know if that date is when it happened or is that date when the taxes happen.

Mayor Bucco stated the Board will look into this matter.

Ms. Zarra responded we were out of town but I do have my credit card statement and actually I had come home that day and realized we had ice and we were supposed to have somebody take the garbage cans out. I have my receipt from Home Depot literally from that day. Most of what I found out about that day wasn't for a few months. I had to FOIL the information that I had to pay for, and received an invoice for that which was paid. It said anything over 2 hours worth of work is supposed to be billed so the 2 & 1/2 hours it took to answer those questions (I'm not sure why) but it was never fully answered. Part of my FOIL request was not only who removed the snow and chopped the ice on the sidewalk but was also the name of the person who observed that happen and a list of all agents, outside vendors and companies used for chopping and shoveling ice and sleet, salting sidewalks, and removing snow from and for the Village of Washingtonville and I

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

never received that list. It was supposed to be done in thirty (30) days. I did get the other answers. The reason why I want a list is because I do not know who removes the snow but they plow my driveway to get to the Water Department behind my property and they constantly push snow out which covers our sidewalk. I want to be able to have the list so I can make sure I contact everybody before the winter. I received a fine for not removing snow and ice from the sidewalk. I would like to have the list or have my money back because I paid for information I never received. It was \$61.50.

Last year at an October 4 Zoom Meeting I was told to take out a driveway permit to add a parking area in the front and sides of my house. Not all the information was correct on that video. On the video (I am not sure who) but somebody had asked a question isn't that a residential area. Mayor Bucco answered yes it is. I just wanted to add that while it is in a residential area my home, 71 West Main Street, (Conklin Way is my driveway) I am also R-100 so I am already permitted for a home profession, a business inside my house.

Mayor Bucco stated that Ms. Zarra should contact Christine Shenkman for information regarding the above matters.

MICHAEL GRAZIANO: (3 Lark Street): Questioned can the Village place receptacles along Ahern Boulevard and other parts of the Village so that when Mr. Graziano is walking and picking up garbage from the ground there is a place to throw it away.

THOMAS DEVINKO: Requested to know if the Halloween Curfew hours have been set, and Mayor Bucco responded the Curfew is in effect on October 30 and October 31 from 7:00 P.M. to 6:00 A.M.

MICHAEL DEE: (15 Tower Hill Drive) Stated this road is in need of being paved, and would like an update provided. Mayor Bucco replied that the Board is looking into new drainage on this road as well.

MICHAEL GRAZIANO: (3 Lark Street): Commented that his Mother lives in Stone Hill Apartments and Ahern Boulevard, Toleman Road and North Street are also in need of repair.

MAYOR BUCCO: Stated the Department of Public Works replaced catch basins and manholes in many areas.

DONNA JACARUSO: Questioned since there is no planning board is the Public Hearing still scheduled for October 25. Mayor Bucco stated it is canceled.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to adjourn the October 18, 2022 Village Board Regular meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTINE SHENKMAN

VILLAGE CLERK