

A Village Board Budget Public Hearing was held on Monday, February 27, 2023 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 and James Kolar.

ALSO PRESENT:

Village Clerk Christine Shenkman and Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro.

PLEDGE OF ALEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

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

VILLAGE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to open the 2023 – 2024 Village Budget Public Hearing; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

Mayor Bucco reviewed and gave a presentation regarding the General, Water and Sewer Fund Budgets. The Mayor indicated the Village tax rate will increase by approximately three percent (3%).

The Mayor stated the Village Board will now entertain audience comment:

Audience member Donna Jacaruso, 39 Woodfield Drive questioned is the Comprehensive Planner fee in the amount of \$80,000 included in the Budget and the Mayor stated that is correct. Ms. Jacaruso questioned where is the Treasurer's salary located, and Mayor Bucco indicated the salary is split between the General, Water and Sewer Fund Budgets. Ms. Jacaruso questioned is the Mayor's salary \$5,000 ad Mayor Bucco responded that is correct. Ms. Jacaruso expressed concerns regarding Village financials not being submitted since 2018, and the Village cannot be rated. Mayor Bucco and Treasurer Tillotson stated the financials are presently being worked on and some of the reports have been sent to New York State.

Susan Walski of 24 South Street questioned does the current Budget show what actual income is for 2022 – 2023 and the \$15,000.00 Solar Pilot Program does not appear on last year's statement. When is it due to start, and what is the duration of the program. With regard to Zoning and Planning fees there has been no resolution to increase application fees. Economists are stating there will be a 20% decrease in mortgage applications over the next year. Ms. Walski suggested shared services should be broken down among the Departments so residents know what is being spent.

David Dunn of 1 Lincoln Drive requested are village auditors hired by bid, and the Mayor explained they are a professional service so bidding is not required.

Audience member Pat Mitchell of 10 York Place expressed concerns regarding the cost of insurance being very low.

Tom DeVinko of 7 Maple Court questioned what is the anticipated revenue for the solar farm pilot and how much revenue is the Court bringing in. Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro stated the Court would have to answer that question.

VILLAGE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING – (CONTINUED):

Mr. DeVinko indicated the Chips allocation seems to be on the high side, and Mayor Bucco stated there is a cumulative rollover of \$250,000.00.

Mr. DeVinko asked what prompted the reduction of \$10,000 in the Mayor's salary, and Mayor Bucco indicated the Village Board's salary was not reduced, and no positions in the Village were eliminated.

Mr. DeVinko requested what do the School SRO's do and Mayor Bucco explained there is one full time Police Officer in the High School, and four Part Time Police Officers who rotate in the Elementary Schools. The Officers help with Community events also and at times traffic Court.

Mr. DeVinko questioned what was the amount of the BAN for roads, and Mayor Bucco stated approximately one million dollars was for replacement of curbing, sidewalks, Decker Drive, Smith Court and Hayes Place.

Audience member Bob Buchalski, 29 Capital Drive asked for an explanation of how the three (3) funds are allocated, and the Mayor explained that many line items are divided between the General, Water and Sewer funds so that the Multi-Fund does not absorb the total cost which affects the tax rate.

Joely Zarra of 71 West Main Street asked whose idea was it to divide up the funds in this manner, and stated the Mayor's salary should remain at \$15,000.00.

There being no further public comment:

Trustee Kolar made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to close the 2023 – 2024 Village Budget Public Hearing; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

Deputy Mayor Laudato made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kolar and adopted:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Washingtonville has met and considered the Budget for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2023, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees conducted a Public Hearing thereon February 27, 2023 as required by New York State Village Law Section 5-508, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Budget as presented at the aforesaid Public Hearing is hereby adopted as the annual Budget of the Village of Washingtonville for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2023.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Trustee Kolar and adopted to adjourn the February 27, 2023 Village Board Budget Public Hearing; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTINE SHENKMAN

VILLAGE CLERK