

A Village Board Regular Meeting was held on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.

PRESENT:

Mayor Thomas DeVinko; Deputy Mayor Susan Walski; Trustee Donna Jacaruso.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Thomas DeVinko led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There being no public comment:

Mayor DeVinko reported that the Village Board is researching obtaining an audio system for the meeting room.

PRESENTATION:

Jean Galli of Blooming Grove Conservation Advisory Committee and Shivon Chamorro of Levonne Inspirations (Florist) came before the Village Board to discuss proposed plans for Sewell Park.

Ms. Galli reported that the park is named in honor of Naomi Sewell Richardson who was the first African American to graduate from Washingtonville High School, and passed away at the age of one-hundred (100).

Ms. Galli indicated that a pollinator path will be created in the park and will attract monarch butterflies, hummingbirds and bees to the environment. No fertilizers or pesticides will be needed, and various plants will be in place.

Ms. Chamorro stated her daughter has horticultural certifications and will assist with the park, and plans are to involve the High School and Middle School students for educational purposes, Village businesses and the entire community so people can gather for music and nature. In addition, Ms. Richardson's college sorority will also be involved.

Audience member Joely Zarra, 71 West Main Street explained her daughter has created a presentation for the Taft Science Fair regarding water collection, and indicated her family will volunteer to assist with the park, and they also have a free organic soil source.

Audience member Kate Ahmedi of Blooming Grove suggested the Village of Washingtonville should join the Moodna Creek Watershed Intermunicipal Council.

DEDICATED INTERNET PROPOSAL LIGHT TOWER:

Mayor DeVinko reported that a proposal was received from Light Tower regarding increasing bandwidth in the Internet connections for Village buildings. The Board will review said proposal.

LETTERS OF INTENT:

Mayor DeVinko indicated there are different positions open on various Boards and the Village Board will meet tomorrow (Tuesday) evening at 6:30 P.M. in an Executive Session personnel meeting regarding interviews for said Boards.

BUILDING DEPARTMENT APRIL MONTHLY REPORT:

Mayor DeVinko stated the following is the monthly report for the Building Department for the month of April:

37 Building Permits were issued

0 Violations were issued

3 Municipal Searches were completed

1 Fire Safety and Property Maintenance Inspections were completed

Planning and Zoning:

Fire and Safety Inspection Fees collected	\$ 125.00
Municipal Search fees collected	\$ 525.00
New Construction fees received	\$5,961.22
TOTAL COLLECTED:	\$6,611.22

NELSON, POPE, VOORIS – COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Mayor DeVinko reported that the Village Attorney is reviewing the Agreement for Professional Planning Services with Nelson, Pope and Voorhis, LLC regarding consulting services for application review activities for Planning and Zoning matters in the Village of Washingtonville.

WITCHINGTONVILLE AFTER DARK EVENT:

The Village Board, Washingtonville and Blooming Grove Police Departments and Guilty Pleasures Cheesecakes will schedule a meeting to discuss Witchingtonville.

FINANCIAL UPDATE:

Mayor DeVinko indicated that with regard to the previous Board's financial findings to date:

Previous year invoices from Budget years 2021 and 2022 approximate year to date amount paid out of the 2023 Budget is 1.3 million in General A fund, \$427,000 out of Sewer Fund and \$38,000 out of water fund totaling 1.8 million in checks written in two weeks.

All invoices were approved and paid by the previous Mayor with no resolutions to approve payments

There was no Treasurer or Accountant for six years

The financial computer system was abandoned approximately six years ago for paper documentation and Quick Books for printing checks.

FINANCIAL UPDATE – (CONTINUED):

Lack of documentation is delaying annual audits for General, Water and Sewer funds.

Audit and annual update document (AUD's) left to be done for 2021, 2022 and 2023. Priority is 2022 – 2023.

Lack of Budgets and AUD's submitted to NYS Moody's had removed the Village Bond rating in 2020.

Currently there is no Bond or credit rating

The Village could not obtain a credit card from the local Bank due to no financials for over three years

Investigating currently what is beginning fund balance as of April 1, 2023

Road improvement (BAN) borrowing one million dollars

Department Heads were not part of the Budget process. Entire annual Budget completed by previous Mayor/Budget Officer

2023 – 2024 Budget increase was three percent. Treasurer recommended fifteen percent

Revenue amounts were overinflated on certain Revenue codes

Planning Board Escrow Account does not balance

Grant monies were co-mingled in the General Fund

General, Water and Sewer funds were co-mingled

No bidding on road capital projects

Mayor has handwritten checks to vendors

One million dollars borrowed for road pavement projects. Only three roads were paved

ARPA (Covid money) in the amount of \$300,000 received in two payments cannot identify what money was spent on

ACTION TAKEN TO DATE

The Office of the State Comptroller is ordering a risk analysis of the 2022 – 2023 and previous Budgets financial practices

A firm is being hired to complete the Budget years 2021, 2022 and 2023

The priority Budget year to audit is 2022 – 2023

Requested an Audit from the State Comptroller

Interviewing accounting firms for a forensic financial Audit – 2017 – 2023

Modified Treasurer responsibilities to handle all daily financial activities

Purchased Edmunds financial software suite

Department Heads will approve all invoices for payment

Weekly Department Head meetings

Analyzing water and sewer billing system for data entry and policy software inconsistencies

Excessive estimated meter readings and inaccurate data entry into billing system

FINANCIAL UPDATE – (CONTINUED):

Met with Bond Counsel regarding Sewer Bond payments. Approximately \$300,000 overdue past invoices from 2016 – 2019

Scheduled meeting with H2M Sewer Plant designer and Project Management to review all Contractors that walked off job due to lack of payments by the Village

Reviewing all vendor contracts for possible savings

To prevent co-mingling of grants and revenue deposits a separate account will be created

RESOLUTION - 2023 NYCOM ANNUAL MEETING:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski and adopted to authorize approval for the Village Board to attend the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) 2023 Annual Spring Meeting from May 17 – 19 at a registration fee not to exceed \$350.00 per person plus room availability; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION - PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT – WASHINGTONVILLE T-BALL:

Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jacaruso and adopted to authorize approval of a Public Assembly Permit for Washingtonville Little League T-Ball practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays from April 4 – June 22, 2023 from 5:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M. at L. Vernon Allen Park; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – FUELMASTER FUEL MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski and adopted to authorize approval of Fuelmaster Fuel Management Systems Extended Maintenance Agreement at a cost of \$550.00 for the Department of Public Works; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – SIGNAGE – SMOKE SHOP:

Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jacaruso and adopted to authorize approval of 845 Smoke Shop design signage which is fifty-six (56) inches length and twelve.seven (12.7) inches height for store at Brotherhood Plaza Drive; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING – VILLAGE MORATORIUM:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski and adopted to schedule a Public Hearing for May 15, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. regarding revising Local Law Number 2 and extending the Village Moratorium; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – EVENTS COMMITTEE:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski and adopted to authorize a Public Assembly Permit for Witchingtonville After Dark to be held on October 21, 2023 from 6:00 - 10:00 P.M.; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

EMPLOYMENT OF ALFRED MANN – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to authorize the employment of Alfred Mann as a seasonal Laborer at a salary of \$15.00 per hour effective May 2, 2023 – November 1, 2023; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – ABSTRACT:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski and adopted to authorize Budget Transfers and amendments as necessary to effect necessary transfer of funds and to pay Warrants; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

There being no public comment:

ADJOURNMENT:

Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jacaruso and adopted to adjourn the May 1, 2023 Regular Village Board Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTINE SHENKMAN

VILLAGE CLERK