

**A Village Board Work Session Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 21, 2023 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.**

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor Thomas DeVinko; Trustee Donna Jacaruso; Trustee Steve Presser; Trustee Vernon Coleman.**

**ABSENT:**

**Deputy Mayor Susan Walski.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

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

**MOMENT OF SILENCE – MAYOR DAVID J. HEINTZ:**

**Mayor DeVinko observed a moment of silence in memory of former Village Mayor David J. Heintz.**

**RESOLUTION – APOINT ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – (Z.B.A.) - BOARD MEMBERS:**

**Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski and adopted to appoint Patricia Cooney and Patricia M. MacBain to the Zoning Board of appeals; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.**

**OATH OF OFFICE – ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – (Z.B.A.) - MEMBERS:**

**Village Clerk Christine Shenkman administered the Oath of Office to newly appointed Village Zoning Board of appeals (Z.B.A.) members Patricia Cooney and Patricia M. MacBain, and expressed congratulations to both members; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions. Trustee Jacaruso indicated that the Zoning Board of Appeals is now complete, and one (1) remaining opening is on the Architectural Review Board (A.R.B.), and the Village Historian position.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Audience member Andrew Gross of 16 North Street expressed concerns over flooding and drainage issues at this location. Mayor DeVinko stated that the Village will address this problem in the near future.**

**The Village Board announced they are seeking an Historian who will assist in looking for designated historical locations and the history of the Village of Washingtonville. Currently, there are two (2) registered historical sites in the Village – Moffat Library and Brotherhood Winery.**

**Mayor DeVinko announced that the tunnel on Toleman Road will be closed until August 25, 2023. The Village is looking to put signage in place at the beginning of North Street – Toleman Road that states large trucks should not access this area,**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – (CONTINUED):**

and drivers would be able to see the signage and be able to turn around before reaching said bridge.

**UPDATE REGARDING GENERATOR – SEWER PLANT:**

On August 14, 2023 the rental Generator was removed and returned to United Rentals. The current generator is in the process of being wired and will be tested. This generator will be paid in full by December 2023.

**UPDATE REGARDING REHABILITATION OF WELL NUMBER 3:**

The Village has scheduled rehabilitation work on Well Number 3 to be completed by September 2023. The well will be cleaned and serviced to ensure it runs properly for continued usage.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE:**

Mayor DeVinko stated the Village has paid outstanding invoices and is currently finishing Audits that have not been completed since 2019. The Village credit rating has been removed and the bank would not provide the Village with a credit card due to the financial state of the Village. Approximately three – four million dollars will be borrowed to pay bills and run the Municipality. The Bond Company and Attorneys researched lending institutions in which to borrow funding, however, the Village request was denied by three companies due to the financial situation. One company did accept the Village's request so the Village will move forward with the process. The Mayor stated the previous Administration kept records only and no documentation using the computer software system was in place. Quick Books was used for budgeting purposes, and records show funds were being borrowed from one fund to another.

The Village will borrow approximately three – four million dollars for the next ten (10) years at an estimated interest rate of 7%. This breaks down to approximately \$225.00 or higher per resident regarding Village taxes. The Village is working on sending a letter to residents regarding this matter.

All Vouchers are now being signed by Mayor DeVinko and all Village Board members. The Village is also currently going through a forensic audit.

**PICKLE BALL COURTS:**

Mayor DeVinko stated Recreation funds will be utilized towards installation of Pickle Ball courts which includes fencing, paving, surfacing and nets.

The Village will have three (3) courts to begin with located at L. Vernon Allen Park with potentially six (6) total courts in the future. The goal is to complete the project by November 2023.

**PARK UPDATES:**

The Village Board outlined the plan for Firemens Memorial Park. A new walkway leading to the playground will be installed, and drainage, seeding, trimming and re-mulching will occur. The goal is to complete the Park for the upcoming September 11 ceremony. The new playground equipment was donated from the Lions Club, and the paver project with names is underway. The new sidewalk will

**PARK UPDATES – (CONTINUED):**

be wheelchair accessible. Woodfield Skateboard Park area will be paved in the near future.

**RIEGER HOMES - HIGH GROVE ROAD DEDICATION:**

The Village is in the process of finalizing paperwork with Rieger Homes regarding dedication of roads for the High Grove area. Rieger Homes will also be providing the Village of Washingtonville a check in the amount of \$85,000 which represents Recreation funds which will be utilized for paving and fencing for the pickle ball courts.

**E.J. MCLAUGHLIN SQUARE – NEW CONCRETE PAD INSTALLED:**

Funds from the Coach Bus Agreement will be utilized towards the cost of the stamped concrete area at E.J. McLaughlin Square, and two (2) additional picnic tables will be added.

**NEW YORK STATE REGIONAL – NEW YORK FORWARD GRANT PROGRAM:**

The Village is working with Millennium Grant Writing Company to apply for a \$150,000 Grant through the New York Forward Grant Program for public improvement projects (signage, parks, plaza, landscape). The village is looking to utilize these funds for Sewell Park. In two weeks the Village will provide a breakdown on cost for the Park. The Village is looking to utilize funds towards building a bandstand, and once permission is obtained from FEMA, the goal is to build an area comparable to Goshen, New York with a raised paver patio that is flood protected. The Village would like to offer the community a concert series and bring entertainment back to the Village of Washingtonville. It is planned to have a sidewalk installed from the Veterans Memorial Lot (29 West Main Street) to Sewell Park.

**98 – RESOLUTION – INCREASE THE VILLAGE COURT SPECIAL PROSECUTOR SALARY:**

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize approval to increase the Village Court Special Prosecutor salary from \$350.00 to \$400.00; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**99 – RESOLUTION – MILLENNIUM STRATEGIES TO WORK ON SUBMITTAL OF THE NEW YORK FORWARD GRANT APPLICATION:**

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize Millennium Strategies to work on submittal of the New York Forward Grant application at a cost not to exceed \$4,500; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**100 – RESOLUTION – AMERICAN FENCE COMPANY:**

Trustee Vernon made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize approval of American Fence Company to provide materials and install a chain link fence for the Village Pickle Ball Courts at a cost not to exceed \$19,230; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**101 – RESOLUTION - ABSTRACT – BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS:**

Trustee Vernon made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize approval of Budget Transfers and amendments as necessary to affect necessary transfer of funds and to pay Warrants; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

An audience member expressed concern over safety of a chain link fence.

Edie Johnson of the Courier Journal stated the previous Village Board Meeting received over 1000 online views. The Village Board noted all Village Meetings are open to the public.

Mayor DeVinko indicated he was unaware of the financial issues that were going on in the Village before he ran for office, and everyone together (Mayor, Administration, Police, Department of Public Works and residents) will work together as a team and get the work done.

The Village is in the process of reviewing the Sewer Facility Charge which will have to be increased to cover bond payment deficits.

An audience member questioned will fiber internet be part of Village Departments, and Mayor DeVinko indicated Crown Castle will complete fiber upgrade installation first at the Village Police Department, the Department of Public Works, Sewer Department and finally the Village Hall. At this point in time Spectrum Internet will be removed. Mayor DeVinko stated with regard to Village residents other suppliers can come into the Village if residents request their service.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – PERSONNEL ISSUES:**

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**RESUMPTION OF MEETING:**

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to adjourn the Executive Session, and resume the Village Board Regular Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to adjourn the August 21, 2023, Village Board Work Session Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**CHRISTINE SHENKMAN**

**VILLAGE CLERK**