

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

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor Susan Walski; Trustee Donna Jacaruso; Trustee Vernon Coleman.

ABSENT:

Mayor Thomas DeVinko and Trustee Steve Presser.

ALSO PRESENT:

Village Clerk Christine Shenkman, Treasurer Leslie Tillotson, Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro and Department of Public Works Superintendent Christopher Martino.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Deputy Mayor Walski led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Audience member John Donaldson of 4 Emerson Drive requested an update regarding the Village State of Emergency due to the recent rain storm. Deputy Mayor Walski indicated there were minor street closures on Beverly Lane and Patricia Lane and other areas were not affected. The D.P.W. had to pump water out of a few houses, and some clean-up was done in Newcastle Development. There were no evacuation of homes, and thankfully the storm ended.

VILLAGE BUDGET UPDATE – TREASURER TILLOTSON:

Village Treasurer Leslie Tillotson reported the Mayor, Board of Trustees and Department heads have been meeting over the past several weeks to compile the 2024 – 2025 Village Budget.

Each Department head was requested to submit their Budget to the Mayor, Village Board and the Treasurer with their projections by the end of November. During the past Administration, the Department heads were not involved in the Budget process.

Once the Department requests were submitted the Mayor, Village Board and Treasurer reviewed each Budget request line by line for reasonableness.

To lessen the tax increase burden on the residents (due to the past administration) the Mayor and Village Board have been working diligently to reduce expenditures as needed.

The current Administration has been very transparent with the residents about a large tax increase this year. As previously mentioned by the Mayor and Village Board this increase is due to minimal to no tax increase over the past six (6) years.

The Water and Sewer funds will also experience an increase in rates due to minimal increases over the past six (6) years. The Mayor and Village Board are working to reduce the burden on taxpayers.

The Village will be holding a Public Hearing on the 2024 – 2025 Budget in January.

VILLAGE BUDGET UPDATE – TREASURER TILLOTSON – (CONTINUED):

The next ten (10) years of Budgets will reflect the deficit financing debt the Village needed to borrow. The 2024 – 2025 Budget will reflect the first interest payment of \$309,000 on the debt. The future debt payments of principal and interest are not known at this time.

The fiscal year end February 28, 2020 Audit should be finalized over the next month. The Village anticipates a cumulative deficit for all funds of approximately \$440,000.

The external consultant started to work on the fiscal year end February 20, 2021. The Village anticipates to be caught up with all of the Audits by January 2025. This includes fiscal years ending February 28, 2021; 2022; 2023; 2024.

The Village is on track to implement the new accounting software (Edmunds) by February 1, 2024.

WATER METER READINGS AND MAINTENANCE – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS:

Water meter readings and maintenance will now be shifted to the Village Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) crew in lieu of utilizing H2O Water Company. This will be a cost savings to the Village of Washingtonville in the amount of \$135,000 plus per year.

PAVING - MOCKINGBIRD LANE AND PEACOCK CIRCLE:

The Deputy Mayor commented the first course of paving on Mockingbird Lane and Peacock Circle is in place, and paving will be completed in the Spring of 2024 since it is too late in the year to utilize the remaining asphalt due to weather conditions.

WOODFIELD LIFT STATION - CONTROL BOARD ISSUE:

Deputy Mayor Walski reported the Control Board issues at the Woodfield Lift Station were repaired and the equipment is working correctly.

WELL NUMBER 3 - PUMP REHABILITATION:

Deputy Mayor Walski explained Well Number 3 Pump rehabilitation is now complete. This type of maintenance has to be conducted every three (3) – five (5) years.

N.Y.C.O.M. LEGISLATIVE TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE UP-AND-COMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

The New York Conference of Mayors (N.Y.C.O.M.) lobbying organization for Villages and Towns are working on their priorities for 2024 under finance increase, State aid to Cities and Villages, provide dedicated funding for local Water - Sewer infrastructure, increase highway funding, remove tax cap distinctive for economic growth, employee relations and public service working to reform civil service law, establish general ambulance service as an essential service and to support New York State funding for EMS workers. Government operations and community development create final incentives to revitalize properties, strengthen vehicle and traffic regulation enforcement, enhance tools to vacant distressed, abandoned properties, curtail town F.O.I.L. Law request, energy, environment and technology, promote sustainable and alternative energy resources, implement

N.Y.C.O.M. LEGISLATIVE TOP PRIORITIES FOR THE UP-AND-COMING LEGISLATIVE SESSION – (CONTINUED):

extended produce across sectors, provide funding for water contamination testing and water source protection.

LOCAL LAW - AMENDING FIREFIGHTER TAX EXEMPTION OF TEN PERCENT:

Deputy Mayor Walski announced a Public Hearing regarding a Local Law amending Firefighter Tax Exemption of Ten (10) percent will be scheduled.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS:

Deputy Mayor Walski indicated the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) contract negotiations are being finalized. A mutual Agreement for a three (3) year period is in progress. The D.P.W. have been out of Contract for one (1) year.

VILLAGE HISTORIAN JEANNE VERSWEYVELD - MAINTENANCE OF HISTORICAL MARKERS:

Deputy Mayor Walski commented Village Historian Jeanne Versweyveld has begun compiling a list of historical markers throughout the Village of Washingtonville that require maintenance. The Village Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) will paint said markers.

ORANGE COUNTY MOBILE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES:

Deputy Mayor Walski stated the Orange County Mobile Department of Motor Vehicles will be on site at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville on Friday, January 12 from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M., and 1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M.

VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT – PURCHASE OF U.T.V.:

Deputy Mayor Walski announced the Village Police Department U.T.V. has arrived, and was purchased through Grant funding. The Village of Washingtonville will be reimbursed in full for the purchase price of the U.T.V.

PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C:

Deputy Mayor Walski indicated a Local Law will be adopted in the event the Village of Washingtonville exceeds the tax cap limit.

ACCEPTANCE OF AN UNDEDICATED PORTION OF JAQUES DRIVE:

Deputy Mayor Walski explained it was brought to the attention of the Village Board by Town of Blooming Grove Assessor Moses Fridlich that a portion of Jaques Drive in the Village of Washingtonville was never dedicated to the Village.

AUTHORIZE PAYMENT OF ACCRUED TIME – VILLAGE EMPLOYEE:

Deputy Mayor Walski reported that a former Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) employee has accrued time on the books, and there were issues that have now been resolved. The Village will pay out said employee his time.

174 – RESOLUTION – SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING DATE – LOCAL LAW AMENDING VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 280 – EXEMPTIONS TO VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND AMBULANCE CORP. WORKERS:

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jacaruso and adopted to schedule a Public Hearing date on January 16, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. to consider the Adoption of a Local Law Amending Village Code Chapter 280 Taxation V Granting Exemptions to Volunteer Firefighters and Ambulance Corp. Workers; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

175 – RESOLUTION - DEPUTY MAYOR WALSKI AND TRUSTEE PRESSER – DESIGNATED GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE:

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jacaruso and adopted to appoint Deputy Mayor Susan Walski and Trustee Steve Presser as designated Committee to review a Grievance; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

176 - RESOLUTION - N.Y.C.O.M. WINTER LEGISLATIVE MEETING:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to authorize Village Board members to attend the N.Y.C.O.M. Winter Legislative Meeting on February 4 – 6, 2024 at the Marriott in Albany, New York. All members interested in attending please advise Village Clerk Christine Shenkman by December 31, 2023; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

177 – RESOLUTION – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS SWEEPER:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to authorize approval of the purchase of the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) Sweeper in the amount of \$250,000; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

178 – RESOLUTION - PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE ADOPTION OF A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to schedule a Public Hearing regarding the adoption of a Local Law Authorizing a Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c to be held on January 16, 2024 at 7:05 P.M; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

179 – RESOLUTION - ACCEPTANCE OF AN UNDEDICATED PORTION OF JAQUES DRIVE:

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Jacaruso and adopted to authorize acceptance of an undedicated portion of Jaques Drive; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

180 – RESOLUTION – AUTHORIZATION OF PAYMENT OF ACCRUED TIME – VILLAGE EMPLOYEE:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski and adopted to authorize payment of Accrued Time to a former Village Employee; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

181 – ABSTRACT RESOLUTION - BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to authorize 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. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident John Donaldson of 4 Emerson Drive questioned if there would be penalties to the STAR Program if the Village exceeds the New York State tax cap limit, and the Village Attorney indicated there would be no consequences.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to adjourn the December 21, 2023 Village Board Work Session Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 3 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTINE SHENKMAN

VILLAGE CLERK