

A Village Board Budget Public Hearing was held on Monday, January 29, 2024 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; Trustee Vernon Coleman.

ALSO PRESENT:

Village Clerk Christine Shenkman and Village Treasurer Leslie Tillotson.

ABSENT:

Trustee Steve Presser.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

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

RESOLUTION:

187 – RESOLUTION- TRANSFER OF VILLAGE GREEN AREA PROPERTY – GEORGE WONTZ:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to authorize approval to transfer Village green area property located behind 184 East Main Street, Section 115; Block 4; Lot 12 to the current owner George Wontz; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.

CONTINUATION OF VILLAGE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor DeVinko indicated this is the third continuation meeting of the Village Budget Public Hearing, and Treasurer Leslie Tillotson will present the preliminary Budget:

Treasurer Tillotson reported the following:

- **The fiscal year 2024 - 2025 Budget reflects the following increases (there was a decrease in the original rates discussed at the January 24, 2024 Public Hearing due to the reduction of Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Trustees salaries)
Proposed – Mayor - \$40,000; Deputy Mayor - \$20,000; Trustees - \$16,500 per Trustee
Actual (Previous Salaries) – Mayor - \$15,000; Deputy Mayor - \$12,000; Trustees - \$10,000 per Trustee
21.4% increase on property taxes**
- **19.00% increase in water rates**
- **17.00% increase in sewer rates**
- **The deficit financing was issued to offset prior deficits and cannot be used to balance future budgets**
- **If it is determined that the Village did not accumulate a \$4.4 million deficit through fiscal year ending February 28, 2024 the difference needs to be paid back to New York State**
- **As mentioned at the January 24 Public Hearing the 2023 - 2024 Budget is projected to have a shortfall of approximately \$698,000 due to overestimating**

CONTINUATION OF VILLAGE BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED):

- **non property tax revenue. If revenues were budgeted conservatively (as they are in the 2024 - 2025 Budget) the tax increase for 2023 - 2024 should have been eighteen percent (18%)**
- **The original Budget that was submitted to the Mayor and the Village Board reflected an increase in taxes of 36.62%. The Mayor and the Board worked very hard going through each line item for each department to reduce costs. By doing this they were able to reduce the tax increase down to 21.14%.**
- **This increase is reflective of the minimal to no tax increase over the past six (6) years. If there was an average increase of three (3) – five (5) percent over the past six (6) years the 2024 - 2025 tax increase would be in that range**

RECOMMENDED SALARIES FOR THE CURRENT BOARD:

- **The salaries will be adjusted down to \$15,000 (Mayor), \$12,000 (Deputy Mayor) and \$30,000 (\$10,000 per Trustee).**

PUBLIC COMMENT:

The Village Board and Village residents discussed a variety of Budget topics, some of them as follows:

Sean Hegarty suggested all Grant reimbursement monies that are sent to the Village should be utilized to pay down B.A.N.'s or Bonds

Vinny Lang questioned what are the actual Revenues from last year's Water and Sewer billings, and Deputy Mayor Walski stated she will provide this information to Mr. Lang

Tom Gildea commented when the Village Credit Rating is improved will the B.A.N. or Bond interest rates decrease

Donna Murphy requested can the Village Board lower the tax rate

Steven Cox thanked the Village Board for not increasing their salary rates, and indicated dissolving the Village is not a solution to the problem.

Michelle Dillon reiterated the Village residents will be paying the loan reimbursement payment for ten (10) years

Paul Lang indicated all unpaid Water – Sewer fees are relieved on to Village Taxes and reimbursed to the Village by the County of Orange. Mr. Lang also expressed he does not see the need in the Budget for the Water – Sewer rates to be increased. He also stated the Village Treasurer is the same person who was part of previous Budgets, and Mayor DeVinko responded that in the past Treasurer Tillotson was only gathering paperwork for Village audits

Michael Graziano suggested the Village should hold a presentation in the future to show residents the state of the Village, and indicated there was only a minimal change to the Budget by the Village Board not accepting their salary increase

RESOLUTION – CLOSE PUBLIC HEARING:

Trustee Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to close the Village Budget Public Hearing; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.

188 - RESOLUTION – ADOPTION OF VILLAGE BUDGET:

The following Resolution was duly offered by Trustee Jacaruso and seconded by Trustee Coleman to wit:

WHEREAS, a tentative Budget ("Tentative Budget") for the Village of Washingtonville was prepared and introduced for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2024 and ending February 28, 2025; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on January 24, 2024, and all interested persons were afforded an opportunity to be heard with respect to the Tentative Budget, after which such Public Hearing was closed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

Section 1. The above "WHEREAS" clauses are incorporated herein as if set forth in full.

Section 2. The Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Washingtonville hereby adopt the proposed Village Budget for the fiscal year beginning March 1, 2024 to February 28, 2025, including any amendments to such Budget as approved by the Board of Trustees, which shall, upon adoption, become the final Village Budget.

Section 3. The Village Clerk and any other Village officer, employee or consultant as directed by the Mayor shall take any and all actions necessary to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.

Section 4. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

| | <u>AYES</u> | <u>NAYS</u> | <u>ABSTAIN</u> | <u>ABSENT</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|
| Mayor Thomas DeVinko | X | | | |
| Deputy Mayor Susan Walski | X | | | |
| Trustee Donna Jacaruso | X | | | |
| Trustee Steve Presser | | | | X |
| Trustee Vernon Coleman | X | | | |

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted, and passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.

ADJOURNMENT:

Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman, and adopted to adjourn the January 29, 2024 Village Budget Public Hearing; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
CHRISTINE SHENKMAN
VILLAGE CLERK**