

**A Village Board Work Session Meeting was held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.**

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor Thomas DeVinko, Deputy Mayor Susan Walski, Trustee Steve Presser and Trustee Vernon Coleman.**

**ABSENT:**

**Trustee Donna Jacaruso.**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

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

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**There were no audience public comments.**

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

**ORANGE COUNTY MOBILE D.M.V. UNIT:**

**The Mobile Unit of the Department of Motor Vehicles will be at the Village Hall Parking Lot at 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville on Friday, February 23 from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M. and 1:00 P.M. – 3:30 P.M. for all your motor vehicle needs except for written examinations.**

**DISCUSSION ON UTILIZING EXTRA CAPACITY OF SEWER PLANT AS A REVENUE STREAM:**

**Deputy Mayor Walski reported due to the fact there are large numbers of recreational campers in the Village, residents have questioned if the Village Sewer Plant would accept discharge from recreational vehicles. The revenue would be \$15.00 for discharge. It was discussed that camper waste is already treated with enzymes, and a dump site would have to be created. Mayor DeVinko will follow up with Chris Finnegan of H2O regarding this matter.**

**CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF VILLAGE SWEEPER \$250,000 GRANT FUNDING:**

**The Mayor announced that on February 15, \$250,000 funds will be deposited in the Village Bank Account. If a balance remains then said funds will be placed into a Reserve Account until things are settled from a Budget perspective. The monies could then be utilized towards the purchase of a truck for the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.).**

**Audience member Sean Hegarty expressed his concerns indicating funds from New York State should be utilized to pay down the Bond loan, not for the purchase of a truck. The Mayor explained a Bond cannot be paid off prematurely, and Mr. Hegarty**

**CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF VILLAGE SWEEPER \$250,000 GRANT FUNDING – (CONTINUED):**

questioned what projects does the Village plan to spend the \$4.4 million dollar loan on. Mayor DeVinko requested that Mr. Hegarty choose a date and time that the Mayor, Mr. Hegarty and the Village Financial Advisor can have a telephone conversation to discuss this topic.

**PURSUIT OF \$50,000 FUNDING FOR RECREATION – L. VERNON ALLEN PARK OR WOODFIELD SKATEBOARD PARK:**

A telephone call with the State of New York was held and the State provided the Village with a Grant link to check and determine available Grant funding. Trustee Coleman will provide updates as they are received.

**DEVELOP BUDGETING FOR A GRANT FOR SEWELL PARK:**

A meeting with New York State Assemblyman Brian Maher is scheduled for Friday, February 23 to discuss what the State can do to help the Village obtain Grant funding, if available for Sewell Park.

**DISCUSSION WITH SENATOR JAMES SKOUFIS OFFICE FOR FUNDING FOR VILLAGE INTEREST PAYMENT FOR SEWER PLANT B.A.N. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$309,000:**

Mayor DeVinko reported that payment is required to be made this year (2024) with regard to the loan the Village obtained from New York State. The Mayor will provide updates when available.

**CONFIRMATION OF RECEIPT OF \$100,000 GRANT PAYMENT FOR DRAINAGE WORK ON EMERSON DRIVE AND SEACORD LANE:**

The Village of Washingtonville has received approval for funds in the amount of \$100,000 which will be set aside for road projects.

**PURSUIT OF \$135,000 GRANT FOR L. VERNON ALLEN PARK - NEW ELECTRIC AND LIGHTING FOR PICKLE BALL COURTS:**

Mayor DeVinko stated the pipes and wires in L. Vernon Allen Park by the proposed pickle ball courts are twenty (20) years old, and in poor condition. The Village has been in contact with Electrical Contractors to obtain price estimates for LED lighting in this area.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING AMOUNT A VILLAGE/TOWN/CITY CAN INCREASE TAXES UP TO EIGHTY-FIVE (85%) PERCENT BEFORE NEW YORK STATE INTERVENES:**

If a Village, Town or City increases taxes above eighty-five (85%) percent New York State will step in and question why this has been done.

**CARDINAL DRIVE COMMUNITY GARDEN AND PLANTING OF TREES ON AHERN BOULEVARD:**

Mayor DeVinko reported Horticulturist and others that are interested in gardening are looking to create a community garden in the Cardinal Drive area. All those interested please advise the Village Board or Village Clerk Christine Shenkman.

The Village is interested in creating a program wherein residents can donate a flowering tree to be planted along Ahern Boulevard. The Mayor will provide an update when information is available.

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (V.F.W.) POLE BANNER PROJECT:**

The Village is looking to start a project in which individuals or groups would donate a double-sided pole banner in honor of a Veteran which would include a photograph, name and branch of service on said banner. The cost per banner would be below \$50.00. The Mayor intends to purchase a banner in honor of his daughter who served in Iraq, and his father who was in World War II.

**ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES CORPORATION (E.F.C.) SEWER PLANT REIMBURSEMENT:**

Mayor DeVinko submitted documentation this date to Environmental Facilities Corporation (E.F.C.) in the amount of \$173,167.33 for reimbursement from the Sewer Plant project.

**194 – RESOLUTION – INCREASE OF VILLAGE WATER AND SEWER RATE:**

Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to approve the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 297 (Water) and 297 (Sewer) of the Village Code, the Village Board determines Water and Sewer rents and charges (“Water and Sewer Rates”) from time to time pursuant to Resolution as set forth in Village Code Section 297-24 and 245-10; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board desires to amend the Water and Sewer rents schedule in the Village.

NOW, THEREFORE, it is resolved by the Village Board as follows:

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

**Section 2.** The Village Board hereby sets the Water Rate at \$6.37 per thousand gallons and the Sewer Rate at \$8.84 per thousand gallons, and approves and adopts such rates as the schedule of Water and Sewer Rates to be effective in the May 2024 billing period.

**Section 3.** The Mayor and any officer, employee or consultant as directed by the Mayor is hereby authorized to take any and all actions 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.

**195 – RESOLUTION – CROSSWALK STUDY:**

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski and adopted to approve the following Resolution:

**195 – RESOLUTION – CROSSWALK STUDY – (CONTINUED):**

**WHEREAS, the Village of Washingtonville is requesting the New York State Department of Transportation to initiate a Crosswalk Study at the locations of North Street and Route 94 East Side, and Route 94 Village Municipal Parking Lot across to new Mini-Mall.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:**

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

**Section 2. The Village Clerk and any other Village officer, employee or consultant is as directed by the Mayor shall take any and all actions necessary to carry out the provisions of this Resolution.**

**Section 3. 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:**

	<b><u>AYES</u></b>	<b><u>NAYS</u></b>	<b><u>ABSTAIN</u></b>	<b><u>ABSENT</u></b>
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.**

**196 – RESOLUTION - PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT - BLEU’S K-9 RESCUE 5K WALK – RUN FUNDRAISER:**

**Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize the approval of a Public Assembly Permit for Bleu’s K-9 Rescue 5k Walk – Run fundraiser to be held on Saturday, April 20 from 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.; the route would be from L. Vernon Allen Park, up Ahern Boulevard to Highgrove Drive, around Hopkins Court and back; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.**

**197 – RESOLUTION - BODY CAMERAS AND SOFTWARE - VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT:**

**Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to authorize the purchase of necessary Body Cameras and Software in the amount of \$22,405.00 for the Village Police Department; the remaining balance of \$48,000 was received as Grant funding through the Department of Criminal Justice Services (D.C.J.S.), and will cover the cost of purchasing equipment, implementation training and yearly recurring costs; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Audience member Edie Johnson indicated there may be various individuals interested in the Corner Candle Store space.**

**PUBLIC COMMENT – (CONTINUED):**

Michael Graziano of 3 Lark Street questioned what percentage of lighting in the Village consists of LED lighting, and Mayor DeVinko responded he is currently waiting for a reply from Orange and Rockland Utilities Inc. regarding this matter. The Mayor further indicated they have been researching the possibility of additional traffic lighting and crosswalks in the Village. Mr. Graziano inquired is the Village allowed to fix potholes on State Highways because there is one on Route 94, and the Mayor indicated the Village would have to notify New York State – Department of Transportation (N.Y.S. – D.O.T.) unless it was a dangerous situation.

Patrice Gesner of 7 Puritan Lane reported that the driveway entrance and exit to the Village Bagel Store located on route 94 is very narrow, especially since the first parking spot makes it almost a one-way path. The Mayor will review the plans for this area.

An audience member indicated the storm drain on Brotherhood Plaza Drive is starting to become concave. The Mayor noted the resident's concerns.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Walski 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, 1 Absent.

**RESUMPTION OF MEETING:**

Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to adjourn the Executive Session, and resume the Village Board Work Session Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to adjourn the February 20, 2024 Village Board Work Session Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**CHRISTINE SHENKMAN**

**VILLAGE CLERK**