

**A Village Board Regular Meeting was held on Monday, June 3, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.**

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor Thomas DeVinko, Deputy Mayor Donna Jacaruso, Trustees Susan Walski and Vernon Coleman.**

**ABSENT:**

**Trustee Steve Presser.**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Village Clerk Christine Shenkman.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT: AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

**Village resident Pat Mitchell of 10 York Place stated she submitted a check for the Donate A Tree Program over a month ago, and questioned why it has not been cashed. Mayor DeVinko indicated he will follow up to ensure the check will be deposited.**

**Resident William Graber of 18 Washington Boulevard commented he submitted a check for Water – Sewer payment weeks ago, and the funds have not cleared. Trustee Walski responded she will check into this matter.**

**Audience member and Village resident Nancy Donaldson of 4 Emerson Drive questioned how many tree requests did the Village receive concerning the Adopt a Tree Program, and Mayor DeVinko replied ten (10). The Girl Scouts planted one (1) tree already.**

**Mayor DeVinko reported the New York State Trees for Tribes Program will be a part of Sewell Park. The State will plant trees to help support wildlife along stream beds, and the Village is waiting to be notified of available dates.**

**Resident John Donaldson of 4 Emerson Drive commented what work is going on today in the Village, and Mayor DeVinko explained New York State – Department of Transportation – (N.Y.S. – D.O.T.) were working on catch basins.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION:**

**UPDATE – DONATE A TREE PROGRAM - PLANTING ON AHERN BOULEVARD:**

**Mayor DeVinko reported he will contact the Landscaping Company for the Donate A Tree Program regarding the planting of additional trees on Ahern Boulevard at the end of June, weather dependent.**

**UPDATE - BST AUDITORS – FINANCIAL AUDIT AND 2023 AND 2024 GASB NUMBER 75 ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORTS:**

The Mayor indicated the 2022 Village Audit has begun and BST Auditing Firm will be invited to the June 17 Village Board Work Session Meeting to conduct a Budget presentation. Treasurer Leslie Tillotson will also be in attendance.

The Village of Washingtonville has an additional Auditing Firm (Danziger & Markoff) conducting an accounting, review and status of Retirement Accounts to ensure enough funds are being deducted as per Accounting Board standards.

**UPDATE - LIONS CLUB MEMORIAL PARK:**

The Lions Club has ordered equipment for the Inclusive Playground through a \$125,000 Grant received through the State of New York.

**UPDATE - SEWELL PARK:**

As part of the process of developing Sewell Park, F.E.M.A. is reviewing the elevation rise, GSI Maps and elevation areas concerning flooding matters to ensure that creation of Sewell Park does not negatively affect this area. F.E.M.A. has provided feedback to the Village as to what is needed to be done in this location.

**UPDATE - VETERANS BANNER PROGRAM:**

Orders have been placed for twenty-one (21) Veterans Banners, and the Village of Washingtonville was granted approval regarding the Application submitted to Orange and Rockland Utilities Inc. for hanging of said banners on O. & R.'s utility poles.

**UPDATE - PICKLEBALL COURTS:**

Mayor DeVinko indicated surface painting on the Pickleball Courts has begun today and will take several days to complete multiple coats. The fencing company is ready to go once all other items are complete. The Courts should be usable in approximately two (2) weeks, weather dependent. The Village Board is reviewing a price quotation regarding functional lighting, wiring, fixing of outlets, repair of GFI and placement of lights on poles in the amount of \$22,000. Additional price quotations will be obtained before a decision is made by the Village Board.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT - DCJS LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY GRANT - \$99,500.00:**

The Village Police Department has been awarded a DCJS Law Enforcement Technology Grant in the amount of \$99,500.00. Chief Zaccaro has signed the appropriate Grant paperwork and is waiting to receive said check.

**UPDATE – CREST GRANT – PRELIMINARY APPLICATION REGARDING GENERATORS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND VILLAGE HALL:**

The Village of Washingtonville will submit tomorrow, Tuesday, June 4 a preliminary Crest Grant Application in the amount of \$82,000 for generators for the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.), and Village Hall. The Village will be responsible for installation of concrete pads for the generators.

**ORANGE COUNTY MOBILE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES – (D.M.V.) - UNIT:**

The Orange County Mobile Unit of the Department of Motor Vehicles will be at Village Hall Parking Lot at 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville on Wednesday, June 5 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.

**RESOLUTIONS:**

**24 – 0065 – RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT:**

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to authorize Mayor Thomas DeVinko to execute the Memorandum of Agreement between the Laborers’ International Union of North America Local Number 17 for the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) Employees and the Village of Washingtonville; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 1 Absent.

**24 - 0066 – RESOLUTION - DANZIGER & MARKHOFF LLP - FISCAL YEAR ENDING 2023 and 2024 GASB NUMBER 75 ACTUARIAL VALUATION REPORTS:**

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to approve Danziger & Markoff LLP to conduct the Fiscal Year Ending 2023 GASB Number 75 Actuarial Valuation Report in the amount of \$4,450.00, and the Fiscal Year Ending 2024 GASB Number 75 Actuarial Valuation Report in the amount of \$2,225.00 (fifty percent discount); said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 1 Absent.

**24 – 0067 – RESOLUTION – COMMUNITY RESILIENCY, ECONOMIC SUSTAINABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (CREST) PRELIMINARY APPLICATION - GENERATORS FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND VILLAGE HALL:**

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jacaruso and adopted to authorize Mayor Thomas DeVinko to execute the Community Resiliency, Economic Sustainability and Technology Program (CREST) Preliminary Application regarding Generators for the Department of Public Works and Village Hall; the Village D.P.W. will be responsible for the preparation and installation of concrete pads for each Generator per Contractor specifications not to exceed an amount of \$20,000.00 which will help reduce external costs; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 1 Absent.

**24 – 0068 - RESOLUTION – AMEND RESOLUTION 24 – 0060 – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS – WORKING LEADER POSITIONS:**

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to Amend Resolution 24 – 0060 passed at the May 20, 2024 Village Board Work Session Meeting authorizing the promotion of Karl Burke and John Page to the positions of Department of Public Works Working Leader effective Monday, May 20, 2024; Amendment will reflect the start date for the promotion of Karl Burke and John Page to the positions of Department of Public Works Working Leaders effective Thursday, May 23, 2024; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 1 Absent.

**24 – 0069 – RESOLUTION – BUDGET TRANSFERS AND AMENDMENTS AS NECESSARY TO AFFECT NECESSARY TRANSFER OF FUNDS AND TO PAY WARRANTS:**

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski 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. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 1 Absent.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Village resident Vincent Lang of 9 Plymouth Rock Court questioned is the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) Contract a three (3) year Contract, and what is the percentage increase per year? Mr. Lang indicated he would like this amount to be included in the Resolution, and Trustee Walski responded the Village Board does not have the numbers with us tonight but will follow up regarding this matter.

Mr. Lang further questioned once the lights are fixed at the Pickleball Courts will the Village Board be amending the Village E-Codes regarding Park hours to reflect the days and times of usage of the Courts so that the Parks do not continue to be used as a hangout for kids, and Mayor DeVinko requested if Mr. Lang sees issues in the Park to please report it to the Washingtonville Police Department.

Resident Lang commented are the Knights of Columbus going to repair the grass at L. Vernon Allen Park that was damaged from the generator that the Carnival utilized because the area looks awful. Mayor DeVinko explained that the K. of C. will be placing soil and top seed in this location.

Village Attorney Christopher Pavlacka announced that he has the Department of Public Works percentage increase schedule, and it is as follows:

One (1) Year            Four and One-Half (4 & 1/2%) Percent

Two (2) Years        Three (3%) Percent

Three (3) Years      Three and One-Half (3 & 1/2%) Percent

Resident Sean Hegarty of 4 Belvoir Drive commented children are throwing rocks in the stream by L. Vernon Allen Park which need to be removed, and chicken wire should be placed over the top located near the walkway on the other side of the Dog Park where water flows. In addition, the Trailer Park Pump Station needs to be maintained because there is grass and trees growing out of it. Mr. Hegarty indicated the D.P.W. needs to be told to do more work around the Village.

Mayor DeVinko responded the Village D.P.W. Superintendent is a Department Manager who will follow through and get the work done. The two (2) new Working Leader positions were created to split the D.P.W. into two (2) teams which are assigned different tasks. Last week was spent focused on drainage pipe work on Lincoln Drive. The grass is growing rapidly, and there are a limited number of Staff members who do everything to the best of their ability. Deputy Mayor Jacaruso commented for every one item not getting done there are fifty items that are getting done.

Resident Hegarty questioned what happened to the fifty (50) trees planted through the Trees for Tribes Program in Sewell Park, and Mayor DeVinko explained this was before his tenure as Mayor but the soil utilized was bad quality.

Mr. Hegarty asked is there an update on the flood way by the Pond. Mayor DeVinko stated its operational, and the Village is not going to touch it. Resident Hegarty explained there are maps from Reiger Homes, and the Village should hire a Hydrogeologist concerning this matter.

**PUBLIC COMMENT – (CONTINUED):**

An audience members questioned if the Village of Washingtonville is currently being sued, and are there any lawsuits going on, and Village Attorney Pavlacka responded yes, 61 East Main Street is suing however, the Village insurance will cover the current cost as they have a separate firm covering this case.

Diane Mack of 25 Capital Drive expressed thanks to the Village Board for cleaning up the culvert by her home. Ms. Mack is also requesting a No Dumping Sign be put in place. School Board Election signs remain all over the Village, and the Mayor explained he has reached out to those individuals to remove this signage. Ms. Mack continued has the Village Sweeper been fixed, and the Mayor replied hydraulic parts need to be repaired. With regard to the new hiring of a Village Building Inspector for eight (8) hours a week, Ms. Mack questioned what does this individual do? The Mayor indicated the Inspector has been driving throughout the Village to check on which residents are throwing their grass into the streets to prevent it from going into storm drains. Resident Mack suggested the Village Board should fine these residents since the Village is in financial difficulty and could use the revenue. Trustee Walski indicated the Village Attorney will review the Village Codes to see if charging fines is an enforceable act.

Village resident Diane Mack stated she walks every day and notices many things when leaving L. Vernon Allen Park such as there are no dog waste bags or stations located on Newcastle Drive. Mayor DeVinko responded a replacement unit will be installed.

Mayor DeVinko discussed the Village is working with Crown Castle regarding the installation of cameras in all three (3) Village Parks. Several vandalism incidents have occurred, and destruction has taken place. If residents see problems occurring please report it to the Washingtonville Police Department.

Village resident Michael Graziano from 3 Lark Street questioned what will the generators be utilized for, and Mayor DeVinko explained one generator will be for the Village Sewer Plant, and the other will be for Village Hall.

A resident recommended the Village Board hold off on installing lights in the Village Parks until cameras are in place due to the fact there are situations occurring in the Parks at night. Mayor DeVinko stated the security light has to be put in place, and timer settings can be modified.

An audience member questioned does the Village know the statistics from the Knights of Columbus Carnival such as disturbance incidents, and do we know the outcome of the situations? Mayor DeVinko indicated there was one incident but no charges were filed, and the episode was believed to be blown out of proportion over social media. Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro responded on Facebook to this matter, and calmed the waters. There was a good turnout for the Carnival, and the money they raised will be utilized for the community's benefit. On behalf of the Village Board, Mayor DeVinko expressed thanks and gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for their community support.

**24 – 0070 - EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

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

**24 – 0071 – RESUMPTION OF MEETING:**

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

**24 – 0072 – ADJOURNMENT:**

**Trustee Walski made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jacaruso and adopted to adjourn the June 3, 2024 Village Board Regular Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions, 1 Absent.**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**CHRISTINE SHENKMAN**

**VILLAGE CLERK**