

A Village Board Special Meeting was held on Monday, July 29, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.

PRESENT:

Mayor Thomas DeVinko, Deputy Mayor Donna Jacaruso, Trustee Vernon Coleman, Trustee Susan Walski and 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 ITEM ONLY:

INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT (I.M.A.) BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE AND TOWN OF BLOOMING GROVE:

Mayor DeVinko explained “an Inter-Municipal Agreement (I.M.A.) between the Village of Washingtonville and the Town of Blooming Grove for Building Department Services was signed on Friday. The Agreement reflects the following:”

The Town of Blooming Grove has a fully staffed Building Department that conducts building inspections, fire inspections, investigates alleged violations of Code compliance, employs a Full-Time Building Inspector and two (2) Part-Time fully licensed Building Inspectors/Code Enforcement Officers who are also Fire Inspectors.

The Town of Blooming Grove, through its Building Inspector, shall assign the needed Building Inspectors/Fire Inspectors/Code Enforcement Officers to meet the minimum needs of the Village of Washingtonville for no more than twenty-four (24) hours weekly to cover the regular Building Department business and emergency, after hours, calls for service for the Village. This service shall include any and all concerns related to building permits, building inspections, certificates of occupancy, property maintenance, enforcement of local and State laws, investigate alleged violations, perform code compliance and enforcement, assist in all inquiries and inspections, and provide all required services to Village of Washingtonville residents.

The Village will compensate the Town of Blooming Grove on a monthly basis a rate of \$3,360.00 for building inspections, fire inspections, investigations of alleged violations, performance of code compliance and related enforcement services not to exceed \$40,320.00 annually. The I.M.A. will expire in July of 2025.

Audience member Paul Lang of 10 Patriot Lane questioned “why did the Village Board sign the I.M.A. on Friday, and not at this evening’s meeting?”

Mayor DeVinko responded “Supervisor Jeroloman and myself were not available to sign the Agreement at any other time which is why it was signed on Friday.”

Mr. Lang replied “what if the Village Board voted down the Agreement?”

Mayor DeVinko commented “the Inter-Municipal Agreement (I.M.A.) would be terminated. The Village Board held many discussions regarding this matter, and

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEM ONLY – (CONTINUED):

INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT (I.M.A.) BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE AND TOWN OF BLOOMING GROVE – (CONTINUED):

different interview processes took place. The Village Board is all in agreement to pass the Resolution for the I.M.A.”

Mr. Lang questioned “why did the Village sign the I.M.A. last week when there is a Village Board meeting next week? Has the Board considered the Village Board Inspector on leave may return to work?”

Mayor DeVinko explained “if that event occurs then the Village and Town can cancel the I.M.A. with thirty (30) days notice.”

Mr. Lang indicated “when various events or problems occur in the Village of Washingtonville such as snowplowing, water main breaks, equipment issues, decorations, blocking roads for the Christmas Parade and other street activities the Town Highway Department and Town Police Department assist the Village Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) and Police Department with these matters. There is no I.M.A. in place for these times so why is there one for the Building Department services?”

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso explained “it is needed to cover responsibility and liability matters.”

Mayor DeVinko questioned “what is your issue with the I.M.A. since during your tenure on the Village Board you had an Inter-Municipal Agreement in place with the Town of Blooming Grove for Building Department Services?”

Paul Lang indicated the I.M.A. was in place when he came on the Village Board, and at that time “I thought \$40,000 was too much money to pay to the Town of Blooming Grove.”

Mayor DeVinko explained “with the I.M.A. in place the Village Building Department has access to three (3) Building Inspectors at the same time if need be. Currently, it has been determined there are many open files; open permits; permits that have questions; Municipal Searches and other documentation that arrives on a daily basis. The Village cannot wait another week to institute the I.M.A. because residents are waiting to close on their homes; closings are scheduled; and to do it right and take care of these matters a Building Department was needed in the Village.”

Mr. Lang stated “I am not questioning how many people are part of the I.M.A. but feel that a Full Time person in the Village of Washingtonville Building Department between the hours of 8:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. is double-dipping.”

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso commented “presently there is no Full Time Building Inspector in the Village.”

Mr. Lang indicated “if the Village is using a Town Full Time Building Inspector between the hours of 8:00 A.M. – 5:30 P.M. they are being paid from the Town of Blooming Grove and the Village of Washingtonville, and that is double-dipping.”

Mayor DeVinko explained “that is why the Village and Town have an Inter-Municipal Agreement in place signed by the Village Mayor and Town Supervisor which allows shared serves to occur.”

Trustee Presser commented “the money the Village is paying to the Town of Blooming Grove is part of the Town Building Inspectors salary.”

Paul Lang responded “if they are a Part Time employee in Blooming Grove it is part of their salary. If they are a Full Time employee in the Town and come to work in the Village between 8:00 A.M. and 5:30 P.M., and Blooming Grove is paying the

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEM ONLY – (CONTINUED):**INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT (I.M.A.) BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE AND TOWN OF BLOOMING GROVE – (CONTINUED):**

employee's salary and the Village of Washingtonville is paying their salary too then that is double-dipping."

Mayor DeVinko replied "this Inter-Municipal Agreement is no different than it was in 2016, 2017 and 2018."

Mr. Lang stated "I did not agree with it then, and I do not know if an I.M.A. is needed now for the Village."

Mayor DeVinko commented "the Village of Washingtonville is required to have a Building Department. On occasion the Town will assist the Village with snowplowing, and other matters. The Town of Blooming Grove does not want liability issues to arise, and the I.M.A. offers protections for both the Village and Town. That is the purpose of an I.M.A."

Mayor DeVinko and Trustee Walski explained "the salary the Town of Blooming Grove pays their employees is between Blooming Grove Building Department Inspectors and the Town Board."

Mayor DeVinko stated "if the Village was to look for a Full Time Building Inspector presently it would cost \$90,000, \$100,000 or \$120,000 to hire an individual. Compared to 2016's I.M.A. cost, the 2024 I.M.A. amount is \$2,000 less than it was in 2016. With the cost increase in salaries and health benefits, and the high demand for Building Inspectors who many do not have experience this I.M.A. amount is cost effective."

Trustee Presser explained "it is only costing the Village of Washingtonville \$35.00 per hour."

Paul Lang indicated "he believes the \$42,000 I.M.A. is costing the Village too much money and it should not have been signed on Friday. He also stated many people do not attend the Village Board Meetings."

Mayor DeVinko expressed thanks to Mr. Lang for his comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION:**24 – 0101 – RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF INTER-MUNICIPAL AGREEMENT (I.M.A.) BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE AND TOWN OF BLOOMING GROVE:**

Deputy Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize approval of an Inter-Municipal Agreement (I.M.A.) between the Village of Washingtonville and the Town of Blooming Grove for Building Department Services effective Monday, July 22, 2024; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Village resident Paul Lang of 10 Patriot Lane expressed thanks to Mayor DeVinko and the Village Board for closing the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) gate. Mayor DeVinko expressed thanks to Mr. Lang for bringing the matter to the Village Board's attention.

24 – 0102 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Walski made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jacaruso and adopted to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and no decisions will be made; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

24 – 0103 - RESUMPTION OF MEETING:

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded Trustee Walski and adopted to resume the Village Board Work Session Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

24 – 0104 – ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to adjourn the July 29, 2024 Village Board Special Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTINE SHENKMAN

VILLAGE CLERK