

A Village Board Work Session Meeting was held on Monday, July 15, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Trustee Steve Presser.

ALSO PRESENT:

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

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

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS:

There were no public comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION:

UPDATE - EDMUNDS - NEW WATER AND SEWER BILLING PROGRAM:

Trustee Walski reported the Department of Public Works has been reading the water meters which is almost complete, and she is learning the new Edmunds Water and Sewer billing system. The bills will be sent out by August 1, and there is a new way to pay online as follows:

Go into the Village Website and on the right-hand side select "click here" (the link will take you to a login page). You can also pay your Village taxes using this page. There is a fee to utilize this service: Credit Card is 2.95% and E-Check is \$1.95. When your new bill arrives you can locate both your new account number and pin number which you will need to use both to pay online. The Village is still accepting checks or money orders which can be mailed or dropped off at Village Hall.

Mayor DeVinko explained the bills will be mailed in a sealed window envelope.

Resident Mary Kennedy of 1 Potomac Court stated "I have been into the Village Hall multiple times and met with Susan who explained that I need a new water meter. I have always met the minimum water and sewer usage as it is only my two (2) children and I. Then I receive a bill for over \$1000. Twice the D.P.W. called to say they will be at my house and each time they were a no show. How long do I have to play this game or do I have to wait another six (6) months."

Mayor DeVinko indicated "I apologize that the Department of Public Works did not show up. We will follow-up and take care of it. If this ever happens again please call the Village Hall and ask for me, Mayor DeVinko and I will sort it out. Wednesday is the Village water meter day and an appointment will be set up for you and the new meter installation will be done."

UPDATE - FOOD, FIRE AND FUN EVENT:

Mayor DeVinko reported the Food, Fire and Fun Event was held on Friday, July 5 at L. Vernon Allen Park, and was well attended despite the weather. The Park was in full attendance like the previous year and the food truck and vendors had a good day. The Fireworks Display was successful, and tomorrow a post event follow-up meeting will take place with the Events Committee. No actions or incidents occurred, and Chief Zaccaro confirmed all went well. The Mayor thanked the Events Committee and all who participated in this wonderful event.

UPDATE - NORTH STREET AND LINCOLN DRIVE – ROAD WORK UPDATE:

The Mayor announced the Village received payment details and the cost with regard to road work being done on North Street. "Metal piping has been replaced in one area of Lincoln Drive, and the Village is waiting to receive a price quotation regarding curb replacement on the newer section. Prices have already been obtained for milling and paving." The Mayor will keep the public updated as information becomes available.

UPDATE – VILLAGE WELL WATER STATUS:

A Water Flow Test will be scheduled this week for Spindler wells as a back up to the Village water system in case a restriction status ever occurs. Today our wells are at twenty-four (24) feet, and previously they were 23.8 – 23.9 feet. Evening testing is being conducted on Firemans Memorial Park wells in the evening hours from 7:00 P.M. – 4:00 A.M. The Orange County – Department of Health (O.C. – D.O.H.) has been notified.

VILLAGE HALL – COOLING CENTER:

A telephone communication (C.T.Y.) message was sent out today to remind residents that the Village of Washingtonville is preparing for an extreme heat wave this week. The safety and comfort of our residents is our top priority during this heat event. The Village Hall will serve as a Cooling Sation for the next several days, and is located at 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville. If you are in need of assistance or experience an emergency situation such as loss of power or air-conditioning during this time please do not hesitate to contact Mayor Thomas DeVinko at 845-849-4523 or Village Hall at 845-496-3221 Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M. or the Washingtonville Police Department at 845-496-9123, day or night.

UPDATE - BUILDING DEPARTMENT I.P.S. SYSTEM:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso indicated since the current Village Building Inspector is on leave a Part Time Building Inspector was brought in to work eight (8) hours per week. "The Inspector has given two (2) weeks resignation notice to the Village so now the Village has Building Inspector Consultant B.J. Gettle updating the Village Code Book, Building Department IPS system modules, fire safety aspects and Building Department forms so that the Department will run properly and efficiently. An Inter-Municipal Agreement with the Town of Blooming Grove for Building Department services is being arranged strictly to update the Fire Safety Inspections and this will take approximately six (6) months and will generate revenue for the Village."

Audience member Paul Lang of 10 Patriot Lane questioned "will the Inspector from the Town of Blooming Grove focus mainly on Fire Inspections, and Deputy Mayor

UPDATE - BUILDING DEPARTMENT I.P.S. SYSTEM – (CONTINUED):

Jacaruso responded initially they will but as of now the Village is also looking for another Part Time Building Inspector."

Mayor DeVinko explained "the Town of Blooming Grove has two (2) Building Inspectors (one is Full Time and one is Part Time) and they will provide hours to the Village as inspections, code enforcement and safety aspects of buildings still need to be done."

Mr. Lang questioned "how much is the Village paying the Town for the Inter-Municipal Agreement", and Deputy Mayor Jacaruso stated "the Village Attorney is reviewing this matter now since a draft Agreement has been drawn up."

Mayor DeVinko stated to Mr. Lang "when you were active on the Village Board the Town was paid \$40,000 - \$60,000 for the Inter-Municipal Agreement."

Mr. Lang asked "does the Building Department have a Clerk", and Deputy Mayor Jacaruso responded "there is a Part Time Clerk who works two (2) days per week."

Mr. Lang continued "we paid the Town of Blooming Grove \$42,000, and of those funds the person who was the Building Inspector received \$15,000, and the Town absorbed the remainder for administrative costs which is why we stopped the I.M.A. If the Building Inspector is Full Time at Blooming Grove how can they ethically or legally be working for the Village at the same time they are working for the Town of Blooming Grove?"

Mayor DeVinko explained "this is the purpose and reason for the Inter-Municipal Agreement", and Deputy Mayor Jacaruso indicated "the State of New York encourages Inter-Municipal Agreements. There is also a major shortage on Building Inspectors."

Resident Sean Hegarty of 4 Belvoir Drive questioned "with regard to the Village Engineer and Building Inspector what are their hourly rates", and Mayor DeVinko commented "\$110.00 per hour for the Engineer, and \$40.00 per hour for the Village Consultant."

Mr. Lang asked the Village Board "how long is the period of suspension for the Village Building Inspector", and Village Attorney Chris Pavlacka stated "it is a thirty (30) day suspension. If there is a Hearing delay due solely and at the request of the Village employee then the unpaid suspension continues. This is a Section 75 suspension, and the employee has requested an extension."

WASHINGTONVILLE POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE (P.A.L.) - SUMMER BASKETBALL PROGRAM:

The Washingtonville Police Athletic League (P.A.L.) Summer Basketball League has open registration beginning tomorrow evening, July 16 at Mays Field. The games will be held at 6:00 P.M. and 7:00 P.M. on Tuesdays and Thursdays ending August 15. Registration is low this year according to the Program Director with approximately thirty (30) participants but hopefully more children will register.

RESOLUTIONS:**24 – 0094 – RESOLUTION – TO APPROVE THE SELECTION OF CONSTELLATION ENERGY:**

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to approve the selection of Constellation Energy Company who will supply energy to the Village of Washingtonville per a Contract for sixteen (16) months; said

RESOLUTIONS – (CONTINUED):**24 – 0094 – RESOLUTION – TO APPROVE THE SELECTION OF CONSTELLATION ENERGY – (CONTINUED):**

Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

24 – 0095 – RESOLUTION – AMENDMENT OF FACILITY USE REQUEST FORM KIWANIS CLUB OF WASHINGTONVILLE - PUMPKIN AND CHRYSANTHEMUM SALE:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to amend a Facility Use Request form to Kiwanis Club of Washingtonville for a Pumpkin and Chrysanthemum sale at Veteran's Memorial Park that was previously approved to be held on Sunday, September 15; the revised date will be Sunday, September 22 from 6:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

24 – 0096 – RESOLUTION – ACCEPT RESIGNATION OF PART TIME VILLAGE BUILDING INSPECTOR TIMOTHY IPPOLITO:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to accept the resignation of Part Time Village Building Inspector Timothy Ippolito effective Thursday, July 25, 2024; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

24 – 0097 – RESOLUTION – TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS, AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY VILLAGE WARRANTS:

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jacaruso and adopted to authorize Budget Transfers and amendments as necessary to affect necessary transfer of funds and to pay Village Warrants; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Resident Sean Hegarty stated "at the last Village Board meeting, the Board provided a price for the water meter readings between the D.P.W. and H2O Company. Where does the \$100,000 in savings (that the Mayor previously stated) come from, and what is the actual price for a Department of Public Works employee to read the meters including Social Security, uniform, gas, truck, etc. There is not a lot being done in the Village and work needs to be done such as the infrastructure needs repair and much more."

Mayor DeVinko commented "the Village Board is looking into the Village Water Budget to see if there is a way to hire additional people to read the water meters. Currently, it takes the entire team three (3) days to read all the meters in the Village. If the public feels the Village should obtain eight (8) additional workers from the Water Company at \$85.00 per hour to read the meters that could be done. Once Badger meter system is installed they will read and report over cellular computer, and our employees will not have to walk through the Village and can focus on other duties."

Trustee Walski explained "what you do not see in the \$225,000 cost was H2O water meter replacement at a wage of \$85.00 per hour. The Village no longer pays that for water meters being changed. The homeowner is only charged if they request a meter change, and the expense of the meter plus the D.P.W. employee's time spent installing it is approximately \$250.00 - \$300.00."

PUBLIC COMMENT - (CONTINUED):

Mayor DeVinko indicated "there were homes in the Village that sustained damage due to past heavy rains and the Village is focusing on these issues and will then work our way through the list of items that need to be taken care of in the Village."

Resident Sean Hegarty stated "he was told by Ellen Hart, a Representative from the New York State – Department of Environmental Conservation – (N.Y.S. – D.E.C.) that ponds are regulated by the Village," and Mayor DeVinko replied "in order to do any work on the ponds in the Village a Permit is required from the New York State – Department of Environmental Conservation – (N.Y.S. – D.E.C.)."

Audience member Paul Lang of 9 Patriot Lane questioned "is the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) gate ever locked anymore? I have noticed the gate open at all hours. There is a lock and gate for a reason because we do not want anyone tampering with the Village Sewer or Water Plants." Mayor DeVinko indicated he will check into this matter.

Mr. Lang informed the Village Board that "the street sweeper does not seem to be cutting the grass along the curb and the Village wants to avoid any clippings going into the storm drains". The Mayor will discuss this with D.P.W. Superintendent Martino.

In addition, Mr. Lang commented "how can the Village Board have good faith negotiations with the Washingtonville Police Benevolent Association (P.B.A.) when there are Village Board members who think there should not be a Police Department."

Mayor DeVinko responded "he is not aware of what was said in previous negotiation meetings but all I have asked is for the P.B.A. to reach out to the Village Board and myself directly and not through Social Media so that the matter can be resolved."

Mr. Lang asked "how do all the other Trustees feel about dissolving the Village Police Department", and Mayor DeVinko responded "there are rumors circulating about this, and the Mayor went directly to the Village Police Department and Village Officers to inform them that this is not the case."

An audience member indicated there were past discussions regarding shared services, and Mayor DeVinko stated "this came up during Budget Hearings when many residents suggested why doesn't the Village merge with other Municipalities to save funds. Studies would need to be done regarding this matter, and it would not be the Village Board's decision but the constituency's (the people who live here) decision, and they would have to submit a Petition with over 4,000 signatures to request dissolving the Village."

Paul Lang asked "is the Cooling Station still open at Village Hall, and who is in charge of the dumpster located at Woodfield Skateboard Park?"

The Mayor responded "the Cooling Station is still open, and I.W.S. is responsible for the dumpster."

24 – 0098 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

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

24 – 0099 – 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. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

24 – 0100 – ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to adjourn the July 15, 2024 Village Board Work Session Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTINE SHENKMAN

VILLAGE CLERK