

A Village Board Regular Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 4, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.

PRESENT:

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

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 Thomas DeVinko led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS:

Audience member Sean Hegarty of 4 Belvoir Drive stated "with regard to the \$309,000 Deficit Financing letter will interest or principal be paid?" Mayor DeVinko responded "the funds will pay principal, and he will check with Senator Skoufis's Office as to how the Village of Washingtonville will receive the funds. According to Environmental Facilities Corporation (E.F.C.) the funding can be used for principal but does not include interest."

Mayor DeVinko explained "to date the Village of Washingtonville has received from Environmental Facilities Corporation (E.F.C.) \$597,824.25, and the remaining balance due the Village is \$442,441.42 which E.F.C. will divide into two (2) payments and reimburse the Village during the month of October, 2024 and in 2025. The New York State Auditor and Village Auditors are continuing to work on Audits."

Audience Member Sean Hegarty questioned "is the Village Police Department Contract almost settled?", and Mayor DeVinko replied "the Part Time Police, and Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) Contracts are complete. The Full Time Police Contract expired February 28, 2023 and the Village is close to settling with the Police Benevolent Association (P.B.A.)."

Sean Hegarty continued "with regard to the Sewer facility operations building will the replacement roof consist of rubber", and Mayor DeVinko responded "the Village selected the rubber roof."

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION:

INSTALLATION OF BLEACHERS - PICKLEBALL COURTS:

The Village will install bleachers by the Pickleball Court area. Mayor DeVinko is working on obtaining Grants for lighting in this area so evening Pickleball can take place.

VILLAGE COURT AUDIT – FISCAL YEAR 2023 – 2024:

The Village Court Clerk is compiling information required for the 2023 – 2024 Village Fiscal Year Court Audit. PKF O'Connor – Davies will be reviewing the past two (2) years of Village Court records.

**UPDATE – ENVIRONMENTAL FACILITIES CORPORATION – (E.F.C.) –
DISBURSEMENT – FINAL NUMBERS:**

Mayor DeVinko received notification from Environmental Facilities Corporation (E.F.C.) indicating the Village will receive funds in the amount of \$313,000. The Mayor, Village Attorney and Village Bond Counsel worked together and E.F.C. has removed the hold on all Village accounts. Presently, the Village is working on providing invoices and Contractor check payments from the prior administration so E.F.C. has proof all Contractors were paid.

SENATOR JAMES SKOUFIS – DEFICIT FUNDING - \$309,000:

Mayor DeVinko announced a letter was received from Senator James Skoufis's Office informing the Village that the Senator has secured \$309,000 in special aid specifically for the Village of Washingtonville. It is anticipated the Village will be receiving this payment in early September and will utilize the funds to pay down a significant portion of the interest that would be accrued on these debts, cost that absent the special aid would have needed to be covered by Village taxpayers.

TREE PLANTINGS ON AHERN BOULEVARD:

Mayor DeVinko announced that tree plantings regarding the Donate a Tree Program will take place on Saturday, October 19 at 9:30 A.M. on Ahern Boulevard.

PAVING WORK – E.J. MCLAUGHLIN SQUARE:

Paving work will commence on E.J. McLaughlin Square Parking Lot in mid-September. The stump will be removed, and plants will be placed in this area. Paving line work will be done in-house.

LINCOLN DRIVE – SIDEWALKS AND CURBING:

The sidewalks and curbing project on Lincoln Drive is complete, and paving is scheduled for early September.

**WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) OPERATIONS BUILDING ROOF
REPLACEMENT PROJECT:**

Mayor DeVinko reported the Village Board is in receipt of proposals submitted to the Village of Washingtonville regarding the Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Operations Building Roof Replacement Project.

**OPENING OF WASHINGTONVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOOL
BUILDINGS:**

Mayor DeVinko announced today, Wednesday, September 4 was opening day for the Washingtonville Central School District Senior High School, Middle School, Taft, Little Britain and Round Hill Elementary Schools, and urged all motorists to drive with caution.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION – (CONTINUED):

GREENE COUNTY GRANT FUNDING – SCHOOL PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SIGNAL LIGHT:

The Mayor indicated the Village of Washingtonville has received a Greene County Grant Fund check in the amount of \$500.00 to be utilized towards the purchase of a School Pedestrian Crossing Signal Light.

CANCELLATION – SEPTEMBER 2 VILLAGE BOARD REGULAR MEETING:

Mayor DeVinko announced the September 2 Village Board Regular Meeting was canceled due to the Labor Day Holiday and was rescheduled for this evening, Wednesday, September 4.

CANCELLATION – VILLAGE BOARD AND COMPREHENSIVE/ZONING PLAN COMMITTEE MEETING:

The Village Board Work Session/Comprehensive/Zoning Plan Committee Meeting scheduled for Thursday, September 5 has been canceled and rescheduled for Thursday, September 12 at 6:30 P.M.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2024 - MEMORIAL CEREMONY:

The September 11 Candlelight Memorial Ceremony will take place at 7:30 P.M. (dusk) at Firemen’s Memorial Park located at the corner of Washington Boulevard and Ahern Boulevard.

CODE RED – VILLAGE COMMUNICATION NOTIFICATION SYSTEM:

The Village of Washingtonville will be changing the Village communication notification system to a program entitled “Code Red.” The Village will be sending a test message once staff training is complete.

MONELL ENGINE COMPANY - CAR SHOW – L. VERNON ALLEN PARK:

The Washingtonville Fire Department First Annual Car, Bike and Truck Fundraiser Show sponsored by Monell Engine Company will be held on Sunday, September 8 from 9:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M. at L. Vernon Allen Park. Please be aware that Ahern Boulevard will be closed from Revere Circle to Decker Drive between approximately 8:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M.

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 24 – 0135 – MCGOEY, HAUSER AND EDSALL PROPOSAL – STORM WATER MANAGEMENT - MS-4 - ENGINEERING REPORT:

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to authorize approval of the McGoey, Hauser & Edsall proposal for Storm Water Management MS-4 Engineering Report at a cost not to exceed \$17,000 annually; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – 24 – 0136 – FACILITY USE REQUEST FORM – GIRL SCOUTS HERO WALK AND BREAKFAST:

Deputy Mayor Walski made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize approval of a Facility Use Request form for the Girl Scouts of Washingtonville Service Unit 225 Hero Walk and Breakfast honoring the Washingtonville Senior High School J.R.O.T.C. students to be held on Saturday, September 7, 2024 from 9:30 A.M. to 12:30 P.M. at L. Vernon Allen Park; the Walk will begin at 10:30 A.M.; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTIONS – (CONTINUED):

RESOLUTION – 24 – 0137 – POLICE DEPARTMENT – PURCHASE OF 2022 DODGE DURANGO:

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to authorize the purchase of a 2022 Dodge Durango Police Package vehicle from Joe Cecconi's Chrysler Complex in the amount of \$37,375.12 matching New York State Minibid Number 11297 price; said vehicle will replace the 2016 Police vehicle that has a bad transmission; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 1 Abstentions. (Trustee Walski abstained from voting).

RESOLUTION – 24 – 0138 – AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS, AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY VILLAGE WARRANTS:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize Budget Transfers and Amendments as necessary to affect necessary Transfer of Funds and to pay Village Warrants – General Fund Payments - \$48,260.97; Water Fund Payments - \$31,147.82 and Sewer Fund Payments - \$37,937.46; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Audience member Vincent Lang of 9 Plymouth Rock Court questioned "what is the status of the previous Village Building Inspector?"

Village Attorney Christopher Pavlacka explained "there are separate proceedings taking place. One is a Section 72 versus Section 75 Medical and Disciplinary Hearings which will be held on September 14, 2024."

Mayor DeVinko stated if the Building Inspector "is cleared then the Village Board can review the Inter-Municipal Agreement (Building Department services) with the Town of Blooming Grove."

Mr. Lang continued "has the Village Board made any progress with regard to the Irrigation Meters", and Trustee Walski commented "the Village Attorney is working on this issue, and the Village Code has to be changed in depth and a Local Law created in which a Public Hearing will be held at the time before the Local Law is passed or a decision made by the Village Board."

Mr. Lang further questioned "what is the status of the water wells", and Mayor DeVinko stated "the well level is 24.9 inches."

Resident expressed concerns regarding "the gate being left open at the Department of Public Works (D.P.W.) facility, and it was open again this evening as well as 6:45 A.M. on Saturday, September 7. Does the trucking company have a key to the gate? If the Village can sell Spindler Bulk water it should be during normal business hours."

Mr. Lang explained his concerns over the open gate, individuals driving the trucks and companies having access to the property. "No one who does not work for the Village should have access to the Water - Sewer Plant property after hours where they cannot be monitored. The Village needs to track who is coming in and out of the area at all times. We cannot go on the trust factor. Everything should have fences and locks on them."

Mayor DeVinko replied "the gate has a combination lock and the trucks run early in the morning and the Village is not open on weekends or Holidays. The Village is charging Spindler Bulk for the water. This has been going on for years. Spindler Bulk was sold in 2020, and it is my understanding that he has been pumping since."

PUBLIC COMMENT – (CONTINUED):

Audience member Sean Hagerty questioned “what is the Water billing cost per hour and is the Village still moving forward with three (3) more pickleball courts since the season is slowing down”.

Mayor DeVinko responded “yes there will be additional pickleball courts.”

Mr. Hegarty continued “what is happening with the Village Skateboard Park?” and Mayor DeVinko stated “the Village Board does have numbers, and price quotations are based on dimensions. The companies will also recommend which equipment will best suit the area.”

Trustee Walski responded “the Village does have proposals but I am not familiar with Skateboarding terms. Three (3) Bids are required. This particular Bid ranges from \$42,000 -\$90,000. The Village Board will review all Bids when they are received.”

RESOLUTION 24 – 0139 – EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski 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.

RESOLUTION 24 – 0140 – RESUMPTION OF MEETING:

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

RESOLUTION 24 – 0141 – ADJOURNMENT:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to adjourn the September 4, 2024 Village Board Regular 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

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