

Village of Washingtonville Meeting Minutes

Date: November 17, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Present- Mayor Tom DeVinko, Deputy Mayor Steve Presser, Trustee Susan Walski and Trustee Donna Jacaruso

Absent -Trustee Vernon Coleman

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Overview

1. Public comments on agenda items
2. Sewer code, facility fee policies, and septic verification
3. Tax lot clarification and parcel review
4. Local law amendments and enforcement concerns
5. Infrastructure issues and operational updates
6. NYCOM legislative priorities
7. Department updates
8. Public comments on non-agenda issues
9. Resolutions
10. Executive session

1. Public Comment on Agenda Items

Concerns were raised regarding Resolution 12-183 SB121.1-1.100. It was suggested that the correct tax lot number should be 121.1-1-122, as 100 does not appear in Blooming Grove property records. Questions were raised about whether prior amendments removed facility charges and whether nine original sewer code subsections were modified. Records were reviewed to confirm accuracy.

2. Sewer Verification & Code Changes

A property between 1551 and 208 was confirmed to be on a septic system, not connected to sewer. A prior basement inspection in 2017 was noted for a water/sewer-related issue.

Clarification was provided confirming that 25 South Street (strip mall) is charged facility fees.

It was reconfirmed that the local law passed at the last meeting modifies the code, though some concern remained that the code itself needed more explicit amendment.

3. Local Laws and Septic Systems

Questions were raised as to whether all nine subdivisions of the sewer code were modified during past amendments. Examples were cited, such as the unit-based charges for churches and parish houses.

Discussion followed regarding Whistle Post, including whether the property's septic system is above the sewer line. Prior site visits had occurred to confirm the existence and location of septic infrastructure.

4. Tax Lots & Parcel Verification

It was acknowledged that the tax lot number for 121-1-1.100 may have been misrepresented, and only 121-1-1.122 now appears on county maps due to subdivision changes. The board agreed to remove the item from the agenda pending investigation of parcel 115.5-11 (Whistle Post).

The Cazazza parcel was referenced with a claimed tax lot number 121.1-1.1, previously provided at the prior meeting. A review of maps and lot configurations is needed.

5. Facility Fees & Fairness Discussion

Questions were raised about eliminating facility fees after they have been in place since 1731. Concerns centered around fairness, particularly whether property owners should pay for services they cannot or will never use.

It was noted that if the Casazza property were developed with its 24 potential connections, sewer services would be used. Some municipalities charge facility fees regardless of connection status.

It was noted that the code states properties must connect to sewer when lines are available. However, certain streets (e.g., Cardinal) have no sewer lines.

6. Cazazza Property History

The Cazazza property was once assessed for 60 sewer units, which were waived at the time because the property was solely agricultural. The property now has approximately 24–27 dormant hookups.

7. Review of Individual Situations

A need was identified to review why specific parcels cannot connect to the sewer system. The board discussed evaluating proximity requirements and determining if sewer lines run in front of properties such as 25 South Street, where connecting would be costly.

8. Easement Documentation

Documentation from 1986 regarding grinder pump easements on South Street was located and refiled appropriately in homeowner property files.

9. Tabling and Reviewing the Law

The matter was formally tabled. The law was amended previously with a new **subsection C**, establishing that:

- Undeveloped parcels are not charged facility fees.
 - Developed parcels are charged.
 - Parcels unable to connect are not charged.
 - Parcels able to connect must pay facility fees.
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10. Sewer Line Proximity & Engineering Review

An engineering review is needed to determine which properties are within proximity to sewer lines. Municipal files and prior engineering work must be reviewed. Due diligence will require additional time.

11. Halloween Decorations

Complaints were made regarding decorations left after the Halloween event, particularly in the dog park and nearby areas. DPW removed only those items specifically mentioned. Clarification was made that event organizers, vendors, and participating organizations are responsible for cleanup.

12. Announcements

- **Paving** of Potomac and Bristol streets is complete.
 - A **fire truck parade** is scheduled for December 6, 2025.
 - Upgrades are being made to ensure computers meet **Windows 11** requirements.
 - A village server will be upgraded with cloud-based software.
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13. Computer Security

Older computers pose security vulnerabilities. New systems are being built, and data is being migrated. The IT department continues to conduct regular security testing.

14. NYCOM Legislative Priorities

Topics that will be discussed at the February 1–3 legislative meeting include:

- Increased state aid
- Water infrastructure funding
- CHIPS funding increases
- Excluding ambulance corps funds from tax cap
- Grant process modernization
- Restore NY funding
- Energy policy concerns regarding all-electric mandates

- Alternative energy initiatives
 - Cybersecurity enhancements
 - Lead service line replacement
 - Harmful algae bloom prevention
 - Modernizing legal notice posting rules
 - Permitting online bidding
 - E-bike regulation updates
 - Prevailing wage threshold reforms
 - Increasing public employee retirement salary caps
 - Expanding residency requirements for appointed officials
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15. Lions Club Donation

The Lion's Club is donating **\$33,479** worth of playground equipment for Memorial Park and is awaiting design and placement plans.

16. Park Cameras

Cameras are being installed throughout the village. A hardware issue was noted at Woodfield. Current and planned coverage includes downtown areas, Memorial Park, the water supply, DPW facilities, DJ Square, Municipal Eye, and the police station.

17. Energy Audit

Johnson Controls is conducting an audit of village energy usage. Solar options for DPW and water facilities are under review.

18. Program Changes

Income level thresholds for Enhanced Star are increasing to **\$107,300** for the 2025–26 school year and **\$110,750** for 2026–27.

19. Woodfield Park Upgrade

A survey will be distributed to gather input on park improvements, including interest in skateboarding facilities, basketball courts, and other amenities.

20. Water / Sewer Billing

Billing has been issued. Reminder letters will be mailed in December to avoid rapid escrow increases before levy, following last year's successful process.

21. Building Department Update

From November 1–15:

- Total revenue: **\$2,305**
 - Fire inspections: \$0 (inspections completed but no revenue)
 - Municipal searches: **\$875**
 - Permit fees: **\$1,430**
- Priority is being given to business inspections.
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22. Police Update

The department received its list for detective placement.

23. Grants and Department Collaboration

Work continues with G&G to pursue water infrastructure grants and explore shared services, including participation in acquiring a vac truck favored by the state.

24. Resolutions

- **Resolution 12-181:** Public hearing for filming production local law — **tabled**.
- **Resolution 12-182:** Approval of auctioning equipment — **approved**.
- **Resolution 12-183** To discontinue the facility, use fee for the following S/B/L numbers that will not be connected to the WWTP-**tabled**.

121-1-1.100, 10-1-9, 10-1-8, 117-2-12, 118-1-6, 114-1-12.20, 101-1-1, 108-1-1 (only account 190-0)

- **Resolution 12-184** Approval of written notice to remove Pat Mitchell from the Board of Ethics — **approved**, with certified letter to be sent allowing 10 days for response.
 - Abstract transfers — **approved**.
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25. Executive Session