

# Washingtonville Village Board Meeting

Date: March 4, 2026

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**Members: Mayor Tom DeVinko, Deputy Steve Presser, Trustee Vernon Coleman (Absent),  
Trustee Donna Jacaruso & Trustee Susan Walski**

**Attorney: Matt Toal**

**Village Deputy Clerk: Michelle Reif**

## 1. Sewer Facility Fee Public Hearing

**Topic:** Additional \$25 quarterly sewer facility fee

### **Purpose**

- Address a New York State–identified sewer fund deficit.
- Intended to recover about \$900,000 over five years.

### **Key Points**

- The fee would appear as a separate line item on sewer bills.
- The description may change yearly to track progress.

### **Concerns Raised**

- No expiration date is currently written in the local law.
- A resident asked why the fee does not automatically end.

### **Board Discussion**

- Idea of adding a sunset clause (automatic expiration after 5 years).
- Concern: rewriting the law would require another public hearing.

### **Outcome**

- Decision to table the law temporarily.
  - Board will revise it to include an expiration/termination date.
  - Issue expected to return around April.
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## **2. Public Comment – Greenlight Fiber Construction**

Residents raised concerns about construction cleanup.

### **Issues**

- Dirt left on North Street and Ahern Avenue.
- Soil washing into storm catch basins.

### **Resident comment**

“They should protect the catch basins, and they shouldn't be leaving the mess behind.”

### **Board Response**

- Will investigate and enforce cleanup requirements in the company's contract.
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## **3. Fiber Installation & Gas Main Incident**

Ongoing work: Fiber installation across the village.

### **Recent incident**

- Workers hit a gas main on Ahern Boulevard while drilling.
- Cause may have been incorrect or misread 811 markings.

### **Response**

- O&R / Con Edison crews secured the pipe.
- Used:
  - Hydro vac excavation
  - Specialized pipe pinching equipment

### **Impact**

- Gas flow stopped.
- No homes lost service.

## 4. Fiber Expansion Areas

Upcoming installation areas include:

- Decker Drive
- York Place
- Cambridge
- High Grove
- Ambers Way
- Hopkins Court

### Other notes

- New areas: underground fiber
- Older areas: aerial lines
- Required separation: 40 inches from power lines

### Timeline

- Goal is completion by the end of the year.
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## 5. Retention Pond Maintenance

Plans to maintain and evaluate village ponds.

### Actions

- Spring maintenance around shoreline.
- Surveyor will measure pond depth.

### Current Data

- 2023 measurements showed 5.5–6 ft depth.

### Dredging

- Costs \$35,000+.
- Requires DEC permits and disposal plans.

### Status

- DEC confirmed ponds are not overflowing and outflows work.

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## 6. Village Infrastructure Updates

### Water Main Break

- 8-inch water main broke during snowstorm near Route 94 / Walt Cole Blvd
- Officials on site midnight–7 AM.
- Water restored without major issues.

### Storm Drain Lids

- Several removed during snowplowing.
- 7 replacements ordered.

### Water Meter Program

- 465 new Badger meters installed.
- 164 residents using Ion water monitoring app.
- Weekly water usage from these meters: 861,346 gallons.

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## 7. Village Finances Snapshot

Recent revenue collected:

Category	Amount
Water revenue	\$72,618
Sewer revenue	\$96,562
Facility fee revenue	\$85,195

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## 8. Zoning Dispute – Casazza Property

A major portion of the meeting focused on zoning for a large parcel near the village gateway.

### Planning Board Recommendation

- Keep current AB (business) zoning.
- Maintain scenic overlay protection.

### Concerns

- Proposed R10 residential zoning change presented under review
- Applicant says it conflicts with the Comprehensive Plan.

## **Development Vision (from comprehensive plan)**

Potential uses:

- Small business park
- Active adult housing
- Veterans housing
- Limited commercial uses
- Possible agricultural continuation

## **Developer Argument**

Attorney John Capello argued:

- The official zoning filed with the state may be missing the use table for AB zoning.
- Current zoning and 10-ft scenic overlay height limit make development not viable.
- Suggested creating a Planned Development District.

## **Key Issue**

The village envisions mixed-use development, but the zoning code does not currently provide a mechanism to create it.

## **Next Steps**

- Review of official zoning file.
  - Planner to evaluate whether development is feasible under current zoning.
  - Possible future discussions with the village planner.
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## **9. New Businesses & Local Changes**

- Washingtonville Dental purchased the former TD Bank building.
  - New business “Cheese bar” awaiting final inspection.
  - Some businesses remove non-compliant signage lighting after enforcement letters.
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## **10. Grants, Events & Community Items**

### **Grant**

- \$3,500 PERMA grant for police driver safety training.

## **Film Production**

- A winter film titled “Clashing Through the Snow” filmed at the police station.
- Produced by Amazon/MGM.
- Expected release 2026–2027.

## **Upcoming Events Approved**

- Red Cross blood drive – June 22
  - Blues Canine Rescue 5K – May 31
  - Kiwanis Flags for Heroes – May 21 to July 7
  - Hispanic Heritage event – June 6
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## **11. Historical Preservation Efforts**

Village planning to preserve historical items:

- Old LaFrance fire truck
- Historical photographs
- Antique hand-pumper fire engine
- Historic quilt (needs preservation framing)

Plans include creating a history display wall in the building.

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## **12. Administrative Improvements**

Village is working on:

- Policies & procedures manual
  - Digital archiving of records
  - Organizing maps and financial documents
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## **13. Next Meeting Change**

The next board meeting is moved:

Original: March 16

New date: March 23, 2026 – 7:00 PM

Reason: Village elections on March 18.