

Village of Washingtonville Meeting Minutes 12/15/2025

Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

Date: December 15, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Village Hall

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

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order with a moment of reflection for the victims of the Australia shooting and two National Guard members.

Agenda

The agenda included a presentation followed by scheduled agenda items.

Presentation – Zoning Amendment Discussion

Applicants/Representatives: John Capello (J&G LAW) and James Casazza, representing the property owners at Routes 94 and 208.

- An application was submitted to rezone the subject property to initiate dialogue with the Village.
 - The Village Comprehensive Plan designates the area as a Gateway, suitable for planned unit development with denser housing options to serve various demographics.
 - The applicants expressed willingness to extend response timelines to collaboratively explore solutions with the Village.
-

Procedure and SEQR Considerations

- The zoning amendment petition must be referred to the Planning and Zoning Board, which has 60 days to review and issue a recommendation.
- Concerns were raised regarding incorrect tax lot numbers within the application.
- The Assessor created specific parcel identifications related to a solar farm, altering the designation of the overall parcel.
- There were concerns regarding potential impermissible segmentation under SEQR.

- The petition currently lacks detailed development plans, as rezoning is being pursued to attract development proposals.
 - A Full Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) is required, as this is a Type I action under SEQR.
-

Planning and Zoning Board Referral

- The Village Planning Board and Zoning Board function as a single body: the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals of the Village of Washingtonville (PBZBA).
 - The PBZBA consists of seven members and meets on separate nights depending on capacity.
 - Motion: To adopt a resolution referring to the zoning amendment petition to the Village of Washingtonville Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.
-

Zoning Classification Discussion

- The subject property is currently zoned Agricultural Business (AB).
 - The request seeks rezoning to R-10 with an overlay district, consistent with the planned community concept outlined in the Village Master Plan.
-

Public Hearing

Local Law No. 6 – Codification of the Village Code

- Motion: To open the public hearing on Local Law No. 6.
- Purpose: To combine the original and amended codes into a single, updated codebook. The existing code is current through 2015.
- Upon adoption, the Village's online code will be fully updated.
- Motion: To close the public hearing.
- Vote: Motion carried 5–0.

Resolution

- A resolution was adopted to set the public hearing and approve the revised and recodified Village Code.
-

Public Comment and Announcements

Driveway Expansion Permits

- Residents were reminded that a permit is required to widen driveway aprons.

- Unpermitted driveway expansions have resulted in curb damage.
- DPW review and escrow are required to ensure proper completion.
- DPW will survey streets, document conditions, and photograph driveway aprons to track unpermitted work and responsibility.

Local Law No. 5

- A request was made to include Local Law No. 5 in online announcements for public review.
 - Local laws are drafted and posted for review prior to public hearings and adoption.
 - Due to a date change, Local Law No. 5 passed this evening will be renumbered as Local Law No. 1 of 2026 (Filming). A suggestion was made to re-vote to confirm numbering.
-

Fireworks and Community Events

- Fireworks will be held on Friday, July 3rd.
 - The Village budget covers fireworks; the Events Committee manages food and vendors.
 - Grants have been submitted to Orange County and Greene County Bank.
 - Estimated fireworks cost is \$15,000, with possible increases anticipated for the United States' 250th anniversary.
-

Records Archiving Proposal

- After evaluating vendors, GRM was selected to store approximately 250 boxes of records.
 - Records include finance, payroll, local laws, and minutes, with established purge dates.
 - Documents will be barcoded and retrievable digitally if needed.
-

Reports and Updates

Structural Engineering

- A pre-Thanksgiving walkthrough was completed; the Village is awaiting the written report.

Woodfield Park Survey

- Resident priorities identified: skateboarding, basketball, and an updated playground.

- Concepts will be reviewed over the winter, with potential implementation in spring.

Ice Skating and Recreation

- Synthetic ice rink options were researched; costs range from \$28,000 to \$150,000.
- Due to the lateness of the season, the proposal is deferred until next year.
- Use of the lake was discussed but deemed unsafe due to inconsistent ice conditions.

New York State Budget

- The State approved a \$50 million increase in unrestricted aid to municipalities.
- Village officials will engage state representatives to pursue funding opportunities.

Tree Planting & Veterans Banner Programs

- Enrollment continues.
- Trees lost over the summer will be replaced in the spring at no cost.

DASNY Grant

- A grant application was submitted for five crosswalk systems and is under financial review.

Building Department

- Venue inspections are complete; restaurant inspections are underway.
- Grease traps are required and inspected.
- A new business, Ceron's Chocolate, has opened in Brotherhood Plaza.

Police Department

- Two newly hired officers have begun academy training.
- Police and conservation grant meetings were held.

Water Department

- 418 new water meters have been installed.
- Past-due notices will be issued.
- 22 parcels were identified for potential facility use charges; 14 are not currently billed.
- Rate increases are anticipated next year.

Wells and Infrastructure

- The Village will apply for a grant to maintain two water towers, estimated at nearly \$1 million.
- Water quality tests at High Grove wells were positive; planning is underway to connect wells to infrastructure.

Resolutions Adopted

- **Resolution 12-191:** Approve fireworks for Friday, July 3rd. *Passed.*
- **Resolution 12-192:** Schedule a public hearing on January 20, 2026, for Local Law No. 1 of 2026 (Filming). *Passed.*
- **Resolution 12-193:** Authorize Board members to attend the NYCOM Winter Legislative Session (Feb. 1–3, Albany). *Passed.*
- **Resolution 12-194:** Approve records archiving with GRM, not to exceed \$150/month. *Passed.*
- **Resolution 12-195:** Approve Greene County Bank grant submission for fireworks. *Passed.*
- **Resolution 12-196:** Declare surplus Police Department vehicles (2014 Ford and Scepter Sedan, mileage 97,261). *Passed.*
- **Resolution 12-197:** Authorize budget transfers and amendments to process payments and warrants. *Passed.*

Public Comment

- Concerns were raised regarding snow removal in cul-de-sacs, including alleged curb damage and snow pushed onto private property. Video documentation was cited.
- A resident noted the absence of the Treasurer's quarterly report due to a scheduling conflict.
- Clarification was provided that the newly hired employee is a Bookkeeper/Accounts Payable Clerk, not a Deputy Treasurer.
- Ethics Board letters of interest remain open, as no applications have been received.

Closing Remarks

- Appreciation was expressed for the holiday decorations, with special thanks to Michelle for her efforts.
- Holiday greetings were extended, wishing residents a Happy Hanukkah and a joyful holiday season.

Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting.

Second: Made.

Vote: All in favor.

Meeting adjourned.