

VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: October 6, 2025

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Village Hall

Members: Mayor Tom DeVinko, Trustee Coleman, Deputy Steve Presser, Trustee Donna Jacaruso & Trustee Susan Walski

Attorney: Chris Pavlaka

Village Clerk: Christine Shenkman

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Opening and Pledge

- The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by a participant.
- Attendees were welcomed, and the agenda for October 6th was introduced.

Public Hearing: Sewerage Facility Rents Law Amendment

- The board discussed amending the village code to exempt undeveloped and unserviceable parcels from sewage facility rents.
- Concerns were raised about the lack of public access to the full text of the law and transparency in the amendment process.
- Residents questioned which parcels would be affected and requested identification before the law is passed.
- Officials clarified that parcels unable to connect to the sewer system would be exempt, and identification would occur post-adoption.
- Estimated financial impact was discussed, with the cost expected to be less than \$1,000 per quarter.

Transparency and Public Access Remain Key Community Concerns

- Residents repeatedly voiced frustration over limited access to proposed laws, missing agendas, and inconsistent meeting notifications.
- Calls for posting notices at physical locations (village hall, library) and improving online updates reflect a need for more inclusive communication, especially for seniors without internet.
- The board acknowledged technical and procedural challenges, promising to address notification gaps and clarify the process for updating the village code online.

Fiscal Health: Revenues Strong, Water Sales Surpass Projections

- The village is on track with 88% of general fund revenues collected by September, with property and sales taxes meeting or exceeding targets.
- Bulk water sales reached \$171,000, surpassing the \$150,000 budget and last year's \$159,000, contributing positively to the water fund.
- Expenditure projections indicate fiscal discipline, and the board committed to adding clearer budget lines for items like water meters in future reports.

Infrastructure Projects Face Delays and Maintenance Challenges

- North Street paving and drainage repairs are delayed due to sidewalk and valve issues, with additional costs requiring bond increases from \$872,000 to \$972,000.
- Residents highlighted long-standing maintenance gaps, such as uncleaned drainage easements and outdated equipment for brush hogging.
- The board addressed these concerns, including requiring contractors to fix defective sidewalks and planning further repairs.

Legislative Actions and Historic Preservation

- The board advanced a law amendment to exempt undeveloped and unserviceable parcels from sewage facility rents, though identification of affected parcels will occur post-adoption.
- 1 Depot Street was designated as a local historic landmark after a public hearing and county review, reflecting ongoing efforts to preserve village heritage.
- Upcoming actions include scheduling a public hearing to adopt the 2015 code book and updating the E Code online for better legal transparency.

Community Engagement and Safety Initiatives

- Residents advocated for improved pedestrian and cyclist safety, including repainting white lines on roads and installing bike racks.
- Concerns about water levels, hydrant flushing, and emergency preparedness were discussed, with the board promising clearer communication on water sales cutoffs.
- Suggestions for greater accountability in the event committee's finances and court fund audits were addressed, with assurances of ongoing audits and oversight.

Public Comments and Infrastructure Concerns

- Residents raised issues about North Street's collapsing west side and drainage problems, citing safety concerns after two cars went into the ditch.
- The board explained that insurance claims are involved due to previous damage by a truck, and repairs are pending.
- Questions were asked about the status of the upstairs structural engineering study, with clarification that only a third of it is structurally sound.
- Past engineering studies and their findings were discussed, with some confusion over the completeness and accessibility of reports.

Communication and Meeting Notification Issues

- Residents expressed frustration over inadequate notification for special meetings, citing missing online postings and inconsistent robocalls.
- Officials acknowledged reliance on a webmaster for website updates and explained challenges with last-minute scheduling.
- Suggestions were made to post notices on the village hall door and the library to reach residents without internet access.
- Technical issues with meeting recordings and missing agendas were also highlighted.

Fiscal Review and Budget Presentation

- A detailed fiscal report was presented, showing property tax collections at \$5,236,602 out of a \$5,393,550 budget, with the county making up any shortfall.
- Sales tax collections were \$582,131 out of a \$1,170,000 budget, with projections indicating targets will be met.
- Bulk water sales exceeded expectations, reaching \$171,000 against a \$150,000 budget.
- General fund revenues and expenditure were reviewed, with 88% of revenues collected and a strong fund balance projected.
- Questions arose about the accounting of water sales, event committee finances, and the need for clearer budget lines for water meters.

Infrastructure and Public Works Updates

- Updates on North Street paving and drainage repairs were provided, with delays due to sidewalk and valve issues.
- Hydrant flushing was scheduled and posted online, with explanations that it is required twice a year.
- Three hundred seventy-seven new water meters have been installed, leading to increased revenue from accurate billing.
- Concerns were raised about the installation of electrical conduits and compliance with code requirements.

Resolutions and Board Actions

- Several resolutions were passed, including authorizing the mayor to execute stormwater permits, scheduling a public hearing on filming regulations, and approving a 5K run event.
- A resolution was adopted to designate 1 Depot Street as a local historic landmark, following proper public notice and review.
- Budget transfers and amendments were authorized to manage general, water, and sewer funds.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items and Closing

- Residents questioned the allocation of water sale revenues and requested more transparency in the water department budget.
- The status of the DPW front gate repair and the temporary green mesh fence on North Street were discussed.
- Requests were made to clarify the cutoff for well water sales and to communicate any changes to the public.
- Suggestions included installing a bike rack to support a bike-friendly community and repainting white safety lines on roads.
- The meeting concluded with final comments on safety, public works, and a motion to adjourn.