

VILLAGE BOARD REGULAR MEETING

A Village Board Regular Meeting was held on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Village Deputy Clerk Michelle Reif and Village Attorney Christopher Pavlacka.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Thomas DeVinko led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

A moments silence for Fred Laflair who recently passed away who was a planning board member.

1. High Growth Wells

- Pump station location remains undetermined.
- One pipe requires investigation; possibly damaged years ago by DPW near the baseball park parking lot.
- Water test results from the roadside well showed good gallonage but cloudy water, similar to prior results.
- Both wells tested at 80 GPM and 100 GPM, respectively.
- Through DDC approvals, projected output from all bedrock wells may reach 500,000 gallons/day.

2. Tractor and Compactor

- Compactor purchase funded by proceeds from the tractor sale.
- Old tractor (PTO power take-off) was used for brush hogging and easements but is now inoperable.
- Capital equipment lists are being reviewed for replacement options.
- Remaining funds from the sale will be used for additional purchases.

3. Sidewalk Responsibility

- Discussion about village vs. resident responsibility for sidewalk replacement.
- Law states village is responsible for maintenance (cracks, tree limb damage).
- Residents remain responsible for snow and ice removal.
- A letter from former attorney Dave Heinz will be referenced for clarification.

4. Pollution and Lawn Maintenance

- Complaint noted: grass, leaves, and branches being dumped into streets.
- This leads to storm drain and pond clogging.
- Residents will be reminded to bag or dispose debris properly.
- Village DPW collects brush but may not clear remaining residue.

5. Village and DPW Updates

- Underground survey underway along North Street to locate break near Woodfield.
- Coordinating pipe and paving work for Bristol Court, Potomac, and Puritan Lane scheduled for the week of November 4th 2025.
- DPW beginning contract negotiations (expires next year).
- Budget meetings have begun for H2O and DPW departments.

6. Village Hall Structural Inspection

- Second floor surveyed; three hatches to be cut for joist access and inspection.

7. Energy and Grants

- M & R Energy Resource: Low bid from Constellation Energy at \$0.0914154 for 38 months.
- Transition to G & G Process Grants for improved experience and results.
- Grant focus: High Grove wells, Spindler's wells, water storage tanks, and general infrastructure.
- Exploring VAC truck purchase for MS4 compliance and IMA partnerships (e.g., New Windsor).

8. Meetings & Seminars

- November 13: NYCOM Legislative Priority (Zoom), MS4 Workshop, DEC Mapping Seminar (Phases 1 & 2), McGowan, Hauser & Edsel Seminar – New Windsor.

9. Water & Sewer Billing

- Water/sewer bills issued.
- 385 meters installed, goal of 450 by fiscal year-end.
- Current well depth: 27 ft 1 in.

10. Department Reports

- Building Department: Revenue \$2,255.25 (last 2 weeks) – \$875 Municipal Searches, \$1,255 Permit Fees. Inspector began restaurant inspections.
- Police Department: Halloween patrol successful; only one egging incident reported. Two new patrol cars active; old units being prepped for wholesale. Working on upcoming budget.

11. Resolutions Passed

- 12174 – Schedule Public Hearing for Village Code Codification (5-0).
- 12175 – Adopt MNR Energy Bid (Constellation Energy \$0.09154 / 38 months) (5-0).
- 12176 – Accept Resignation – Officer Benjamin Gerstner (effective Nov 28, 2025) (5-0).
- 12177 – Appoint Lanka McCormick – Temporary Ethics Board Member (hourly rate stipend).
- 12178 – Approve Final Employee Handbook (v. 11/04/2025).
- 12179 – Purchase Asphalt Whacker Plate Compactor (\$4,973.28).
- 12180 – Authorize Budget Transfers to Pay Warrants.

12. Public Comments

- Vertex typing of minutes currently assisting; work caught up.
- Discussion: Food trucks at Sewell Park, pending sidewalk grant (~\$170,000).
- Concern: Village residents pay town taxes with little return. Proposal to explore village detachment from Town of Blooming Grove or conversion to Town/Village model (similar to Harrison, NY).
- Ongoing efforts to trace tax allocations and fund distribution from Blooming Grove A and AD funds.
- Possible ward redistricting if South Blooming Grove population increases.
- Albany encourages IMAs to increase grant eligibility.
- Separation would be multi-year, requiring public and town votes.

13. Ethics Board

- Note the Ethic Board has a full 5-member board.
- Lanka McCormick temporarily replacing Christine (hourly rate stipend).

14. Adjournment

- Motion to enter executive session for personnel and litigation matters.
- No decisions made in executive session.
- Meeting adjourned.