

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
TOWN BOARD
January 8, 2009

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held its regular meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2009, at the Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Drive, Millbrook. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Florence Prisco with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Michael Murphy, Robert Audia and William Murphy, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Highway Superintendent James Brownell, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor Laura Hurley, Assessor W. James Tyger and Associate Attorney Rebecca Valk.

Also present were County Legislator Margaret Fettes, Mayor Andrew Ciferri, Village Trustee Stan Morse, Howard Schuman, Kate Farrell, Janine Stankus, DeForest Howland, as well as students from Millbrook High School's government class.

Supervisor Prisco opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Prisco welcomed Councilman William Murphy to the Town Board.

County Legislator Fettes appeared before the Board to update the Town on Dutchess County issues. She said that she is now the Assistant to the Majority Leader. Mrs. Fettes discussed the recent County budget process and reported that charges to the Towns for elections and sheriff patrols will remain as part of the county budget. There will be a 14% increase in Dutchess County taxes. The sheriff patrols remain covered, and there has not been any change to sales tax on clothing. Mrs. Fettes touched briefly on the schedule changes to the LOOP bus system

Supervisor Prisco said that Mr. Marshall has decided to move forward on his Open Space project. What is the county position on funding? County Legislature Fettes said that the funds are in the county budget and that the County remains firm on funding the Marshall's project.

Supervisor Prisco asked that Mrs. Fettes continue to come to the Town Board meetings and keep the Board apprised of information.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board accepted the 2008 Highway inventory presented by Highway Superintendent Brownell. All ayes were recorded.

Mr. Brownell reported that it has been very muddy on the dirt roads. He is expecting that there might be some complaints due to the frost and ice. Councilman Murphy asked if this would have any unanticipated costs in the spring for road upkeep. Mr. Brownell said that it is general spring repairs.

Mr. Brownell advised that the salt surplus from 2008 has been depleted. We are awaiting a salt delivery to get us through the next storm.

Supervisor Prisco praised the Millbrook Rotary Club for the annual New Years Eve event. This is a true community event that is enjoyed by many. She thanked DeForest Howland for chairing the event and doing such a great job.

Mr. Howland appeared before the Town Board as a representative of Marshall and Sterling offering the Town an opportunity to appoint his firm as the broker for employee benefits. He explained that they would be able to provide the shopping out of rates, as well as provide expertise and advice in all areas of employee benefits. There is not an additional fee to the town for this service, the town has always paid a broker fee to MVP, however a firm was never designated or used. Town Clerk Alex said that she has a good working relationship with the staff of Marshall and Sterling, and would welcome the assistance that they would be able to offer. The Board was receptive to naming Marshall and Sterling as the Broker and representative for employee benefits. Mr. Howland will provide the town with a sample letter to complete and send to MVP.

Mayor Ciferri was present on behalf of the Village of Millbrook to discuss the Shared Services Grant that is being prepared by Steve Lynch, for which the Town is a co-applicant. The grant is for the implementation of improvements to the Village Water and Sewer facilities, and is in the amount of \$600,000.00. Mayor Ciferri indicated that the village has in the past year performed flow testing of the wastewater system and smoke testing with improvements completed on Ciferri Drive, and cooperation at Cardinal Hayes for improvements. Mayor Ciferri and Village representatives have met with the NYS DEC to review the Village facility. The Village Board has committed to repair work at the facility and has already started the process. He requested that the Town sign a resolution supporting the grant.

The Town Board requested an opportunity to review a copy of the grant. Mr. Lynch had indicated that he would be able to meet with a Town Board member on Monday afternoon. The Board scheduled a meeting for January 12th at 4:30 PM to review the proposed grant application. The following resolution was offered provided the grant is acceptable to the Town Board.

The following resolution was authorized by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman W. Murphy:

WHEREAS, the Village of Millbrook will apply for a grant under the New York State Shared Services Incentive Program, which has a deadline of January 14, 2009; and

WHEREAS, such application wick request a grant to implement the shared use of water and sewer facilities by the Town of Washington, Village of Millbrook and County of Dutchess; and

WHEREAS, Village Trustee Laura Hurley will be the Lead Agency Contact Person, and the grant application will be written by R. Stephen Lynch (RS Lynch & Co.) at no cost; if the grant is awarded, RS Lynch & Co. will manage the study; and

WHEREAS, the Project Title will be “Implementation of Shared Use of Water and Sewer Facilities by the Town of Washington, Village of Millbrook and County of Dutchess” and the request will be for \$600,000.00; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Millbrook will pay all of the ten percent (10%) local cost share, which will be \$66,667.00 if a \$600,000.00 grant is awarded; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington and County of Dutchess will be co-applicants on the grant application; and

WHEREAS, if the grant is unsuccessful the Village of Millbrook will reapply for the grant under the same terms and conditions in the 2009/2010 grant cycle; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Washington hereby supports the Village of Millbrook in its effort to obtain the aforementioned grant by being a co-applicant.

The foregoing resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Prisco:	Aye
Councilman Turletes:	Aye
Councilman M. Murphy:	Aye
Councilman Audia:	Aye
Councilman W. Audia:	Aye

This resolution was duly adopted.

Supervisor Prisco reported that she had received a letter from Assemblyman Molinaro regarding Governor Paterson’s proposal to merge Greenway with another state agency. Mr. Molinaro did not feel this was a prudent move and requested that local officials provide him with their experiences with Greenway.

Mrs. Hurley has completed the Bookkeeper’s report and presented the Town Board with revenue and expense reports. She had been asked by the Board to study the building permit revenues. 2005 and 2006 were good years with revenue of \$46,902. and \$48,727. For 2007 and 2008 the revenue decreased \$28,200. and \$28,632.

The official rate of mileage had been discussed at the Reorganization meeting, with a request by an employee to increase the mileage from forty cents to fifty eight cents. After a review of information, on a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman M. Murphy the official rate of mileage was changed to forty four cents per mile. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia the following petty cash accounts were established:

Town Clerk \$50.00
Recreation \$100.00
Park and Pool \$100.00

All ayes were recorded. Councilman Murphy asked that all petty cash be kept in a secure location.

The Board received an invoice from Superior Telephones for an annual contract in the amount of \$375.00 for one year of service. The hourly cost for service is \$95.00. A resolution was offered by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman W. Murphy to enter into a one year service contract agreement with Superior Telephones in the amount of \$375.00. All ayes were recorded.

Mrs. Hurley advised the Town that the official retiree health plan of MVP Gold costs \$200.00 per month, and that the official retiree health allowance amount will be \$200.00.

Mrs. Hurley reported that the town's auditing firm of D'Achille and Associates is beginning the preparation of the Annual Financial Report to be filed with the NYS Comptroller's office. The Board has received bank balances through December 2008. Revenue and Expense reports were provided to the Town Clerk.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the following budget amendments were made:

From		To	
A 7110 0200	\$1979.17	A 71100110	(Park caretaker)
A 1910 0400	\$775.02	A 9050 0800	(Unemployment Ins)
A 1990 0400	\$2,687.64	A 5132 0400	(Highway garage exp)

All ayes were recorded.

W – 2 reports have been printed for employees. The town had 106 employees with an annual payroll of \$901,887.09.

Assessor Tyger notified the Town Board that all property owners will be receiving full disclosure notices this year, which is a letter similar to the one sent by John Watch. This is a letter required by law which includes the property owner's assessment information, and an indicator of what taxes would be based upon the most recent budgetary figures. Mr. Tyger explained that the values in the Town of Washington have not declined as rapidly as other communities. The biggest change in our town is the reduction in sales. The assessment numbers will reflect sales data through July, 2008. Because of the lack of sales in the town, the state has grouped us in the north east quadrant of Dutchess County for data. Councilman M. Murphy suggested that due to the number of phone calls that are anticipated as a result of the mailing, that Mr. Tyger put together an informational bulletin to be included on the website.

Supervisor Prisco scheduled a meeting for February 9, at 6:00 PM, at the Town Hall, for the Municipal Emergency Policy and Procedure Committee for the Town on Village. Councilman M. Murphy will serve as chair, with the following as members: Supervisor Prisco, Trustees Morse and Bondus, Highway Superintendent Brownell, and former Councilman Rappleyea. Trustee Morse said Bill Augerson would be interested in working as an advisor. Ms. Farrell asked if the Master Plan Committee should be involved. At this time, the purpose of the Committee is to prepare for an emergency if there was an event in New York City, and how the town would be able to prepare for an influx of people. There is a survey for each community to use as a guideline. The Town currently has an Emergency Management Plan. At some point, it will probably be incorporated with the Master Plan.

Supervisor Prisco met recently with a Jennifer Cherry, a representative from the Dutchess land Conservancy, regarding the application for Open Space Preservation made by Timothy Marshall, owner of Bos Haven Farm. The Marshall's have decided to move forward with their application, and additional paperwork is being submitted to New York State to continue the process. The state will again review the preliminary application, it will be returned to Dutchess County for lead agency status and public hearings and then back to the state for final approval. The Town had originally decided to Bond the money, and the Board expects that is how they will proceed. It is likely that the \$80,000.00 from the town will be required in the fall. County Legislator Fettes earlier in the meeting reiterated that Dutchess County is still invested in the project, and funds are earmarked for the County portion of money.

On a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the 2008 Town Clerk's report has been accepted as presented. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board approved the purchase of a loader and backhoe for the tractor that was recently purchased. The costs are: Kubota LA240 Front End Loader \$2295.00
Kubota BT601 Backhoe 6" w/ 12" bucket \$4,400.00 and will be purchased from Reardon Briggs Co. Inc. All ayes were recorded.

Town Clerk Alex reported that she had spoken with Beth Doyle from Dutchess County Planning and Development regarding the Town's application for \$100,000.00 in Community Block Grant Funding for Park accessibility. The Public Hearing period has been completed and the town's project has been included those approved for HUD funding. The applications will be forwarded to HUD, and the Town will receive a letter from either Dutchess County Planning or from Dutchess County Executive Steinhaus confirming the approval in writing.

Town Clerk Alex requested permission from the Board to invite local clubs and organizations to have contact information on the Town website. Other towns currently do this, with a disclaimer. Mrs. Alex would like to investigate how other towns monitor

the information, and then proceed with offering this service to local clubs. The Board approved this request.

Supervisor Prisco announced the following Town Board liaisons:

Councilman Turletes: Finance and Recreation
Councilman M. Murphy: Planning and Zoning
Councilman Audia: Building and Grounds
Councilman W. Murphy: Park Expansion

Upcoming meetings are as follows:

Jan. 22 – Joint meeting with Village and School
Jan. 26 – Public Hearing on Proposed Wetland's
Feb. 24 – Master Plan meeting @ 1:00 PM

It was reported that the Master Plan Committee held a meeting earlier this month with River Street Planning. The steering committee and sub-committee members were present to discuss the expansion of information, the community survey and the format of the completed document. As noted above, the next meeting is on Feb. 24th.

Councilman Murphy said that for Planning and Zoning this is a slow period. Planning Board approval was given to the Mabbettsville Market. There will be an extensive and lengthy reporting period to monitor the use of water and sewer systems. Councilman Murphy said that this is a model project for environmental issues. Mr. Campbell spoke preliminarily to the Planning Board about building an enclosure on his property for the storage of materials.

Supervisor Prisco told the Board that the Town staff has decided to put a collection box at the Town Hall for the Food for Folks food pantry run by the local churches. There are items that are needed and not always donated, so there will be a collection theme of the month. For January it is oral hygiene and February will be shaving products. Contributions are welcomed by all.

Mr. Schuman said he hopes that the Town Board moves quickly on the Wetland's ordinance, for, in his opinion, there are and have been projects that would have benefited by the law. Councilman M. Murphy rebutted that the original hearing brought out many good comments. The town wants the legislation passed, but with a meaty and clear document. He also said that the Planning Board and ZBA have worked carefully to customize restrictions based upon particular applications.

Mayor Ciferri mentioned to the Town Board that there might be changes in coverage by the Millbrook Rescue Squad. He needs to meet with the Chief of Rescue, and will advise the Board if additional contracted time with Alamo is required. Supervisor Prisco said that it is important that the community have continuity in coverage and would requested notification if changes are forthcoming.

On a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia the following 2008 claims were accepted as presented:

Gen Fund A	\$22,391.62
Gen Fund B	\$1,318.67
Gen Fund DB	\$32,959.11
Fund H	\$12,070.21
TOTAL	\$68,739.61

Councilman W. Murphy abstained. Otherwise all ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia the following 2009 claims were accepted as presented:

Gen Fund A	\$58,921.14
Gen Fund A	\$2,105.00
Gen Fund DB	\$69,741.36
TOTAL	\$130,767.50

All ayes were recorded.

There being no other business, at 10:00 PM, a motion was made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes to close the meeting. All ayes were recorded.

Mary Alex, Town Clerk Mary Alex