

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
TOWN BOARD
February 11, 2010

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at the Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Drive, Millbrook, NY. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Florence Prisco with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turlentes, Michael Murphy, Robert Audia and William Murphy, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Highway Superintendent James Brownell, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor Laura Hurley, Attorney John Gifford and Associate Attorney John Gifford.

Also present were Recreation Director Warren McMillan, recreation Commission President Kerry Weller, Mayor Andrew Ciferri, ZBA Chairman Jerry Baker, Steve Alex representing The Chazen Companies, Howard Schuman, Joan Trombini, and Frank Genova.

Supervisor Prisco opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Councilman Murphy said that at the park expansion site Mr. Wiltse has finished the cut and fill work and the materials have been moved. The sub-grading work needs to be completed. The Town has kept the site open with the intention of continuing to work there when the weather cooperates.

Supervisor Prisco said that Dutchess County Executive Steinhaus announced the communities that have been awarded Community Development Block Grant funding. The application that Town Clerk Alex submitted on the town's behalf has been approved in the amount requested of \$100,000.00.

Supervisor Prisco said the Town has received the Opinion of Probable Costs for Contracts D and E and for estimated costs for engineering. Supervisor Prisco scheduled a special meeting for February 16th at 7:00 PM. This will allow the Board to review the documents and if desired to make changes or amendments to the plan.

Mr. Alex said that the opinion of probable costs are derived from a document called a Means Catalog, which includes current costs on specific work, as well as the engineer's knowledge of current projects in the Hudson Valley and their costs. Mr. Alex requested that the Board hold their specific questions until Tuesday night when an engineer can go into detail with them. The Board should determine if they want to modify the plans, make specific items option or remove items altogether.

Mrs. Hurley advised that the Town has \$73,109.00 in cash for the project, and an additional \$23,214.00 in recreation fees, plus \$100,000.00 from the CDBG grant. As part of the Board's discussion on Tuesday, they should discuss other funding options.

Mr. McMillan appeared before the Board to discuss changing the concession stand lease rate from \$1,750. to \$1,300.00. Mr. McMillan said that the rent was increased in 2009, with a reduction in the number of days the park is open. It is his recommendation that in order to get a reputable operator of the facility a reduction in rent might make it attractive. He said that putting vending machines in would be a detriment to the park. Mrs. Hurley said that the concession stand is an A fund budgetary item, separate from the park operations. If the Board chooses to implement the change the revenue can be offset by the funds budgeted for park maintenance on the new fields. Councilman M. Murphy suggested that the town advertise for an operator. Mr. McMillan said he has some feelers out, and if they aren't positive, he will begin to advertise. The Board will take the recommendation under consideration and make a decision on Tuesday night.

Mr. McMillan said that the Recreation Commission appreciated the memo from Mrs. Hurley detailing their operations. The Recreation Department will submit by the 10th of every month, a monthly report that will include their Recreation Commission minutes and their revenue for the month. Councilman Turletes agreed that the Recreation Commission was happy to see this information. It is a good way to see the highs and the lows. He said that Laura has made drastic efforts to improve communication.

Mrs. Weller said that with the information being much clearer that Commission members are able to be more involved and kept in the loop. She thanked Mrs. Hurley for her continued efforts and said it is very helpful to have Steve as a faithful attendee.

Mr. Schuman suggested that the town offer the one day complimentary park pass to renters as well as property owners. Supervisor Prisco said the town will take his suggestion under advisement, and as it is the first time the town is offering this, changes may be made in the future.

The Town Board has had an opportunity to review the plans and contract for the improvements to the Park Building. As there were no changes to the document, a resolution was offered by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes to solicit bids for the improvements to the park building. All ayes were recorded.

Mayor Ciferri appeared before the Board to bring them abreast of what is happening in the Village of Millbrook. He advised the Board that Mr. Heithaus and the Blumenthal Brickman Associates have been issued a notice of unsafe building codes at the Bennett property. Mr. Heithaus has requested a hearing on the matter. The village is concerned about both the condition of the building and people trespassing in the buildings. The hearing date has not been set, and when it is it will be at the fire house. There will not be any public input at the hearing. Mayor Ciferri said with the unsafe building law, the costs to remove a building will not be borne by village residents.

Regarding the Thorne Building, the Downings's are continuing with their endeavors. The handicapped bathroom has been designed and a pre-bid meeting has been held. Bids are due next Friday. He is working with Central Hudson on electrical upgrades.

There have been continued improvements to the recreational facilities at the Village Hall. They have focused on heat saving measures such as insulation and the installation of plexi-glass. The basement continues to undergo renovations and donations of services by Bob Rizzo and Felice Manzi have been very much appreciated.

Mayor Ciferri advised the Town Board that back in January, the Recreation Commission had a movie night scheduled at the Village Hall. There was a furnace malfunction partly through the evening and the building filled with smoke. The building was evacuated, and he had made the decision not to have the fire department called. As a result of this incidence it was discovered that the fire alarm system in the building had been disconnected. He called a company in as an emergency basis to install a fire alarm system to code. The system is in and working. It has not yet been certified. The system was installed by a licensed fire alarm company, the installers are certified and the system is UL approved. It is not hooked up to an alarm company or monitoring system. It is a local alarm in the building.

His request to the Town Board is for them to look at the town budget and see if there are any funds available to help offset the cost of \$21,000.00. The village has some funding available from the Tribute Gardens and the Mayor requested \$9,000.00 from the Town. He said it is a multi-use building used primarily by the recreation department. Councilman Murphy asked for the request in writing. Supervisor Prisco asked Bookkeeper Hurley if there are funds available. Mrs. Hurley explained that the town has a fund accounting system with the A fund shared by Town and Village residents. The B fund is funded by Town residents only. It would not be appropriate to for the funds to come from the A fund, as the village residents already have paid for this improvement. The Board will review the town funds and get back to Mayor Ciferri.

Supervisor Prisco asked the Mayor if he is considering an annual contribution from the Town to help offset costs. If so, to please start the conversation prior to the Town budget process. The Town would like to know what you are thinking.

Supervisor Prisco advised the Board that after adopting the procurement policy, the Town has learned that the town may increase the allotted amount in which the town would be required to advertise for bids for construction services from \$20,000.00 to \$35,000.00. On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes to amend the procurement policy where appropriate from \$20,000. to \$35,000. for construction services. All eyes were recorded. Ms. Valk advised that the legislation for this is through 2013.

Supervisor Prisco indicated that the Town has received four applications for the Planning Board. She is working to coordinate interviews. Mr. Schuman asked for the names of the applicants. They are Paul Schwartz, Edvard Jorgensen, Michael Herzog and Jeff Fiegelson.

Highway Superintendent Brownell advised that at the request of Supervisor Prisco he has spoken with Ed Donnelly about scheduling and AED class for town employees. Ed will get back to the town with dates.

Mr. Brownell notified the Board that he has two trucks that he has parted out over time. He would like to keep the engine from one and have permission to scrap them out through Efron. On a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board authorized scrapping the 1979 and 1980 trucks as requested. All ayes were recorded.

Mr. Brownell said that he is looking into replacing the 1985 grader. He is looking into options of a trade in and purchase or lease to own. The cost for a new grader is about \$165,000.00. Councilman W. Murphy asked if the town could take advantage of purchasing used equipment, perhaps through an auction. Mr. Brownell said that because of the price, we still have to go through the bid process and often times the used piece of equipment has been sold elsewhere.

Mrs. Hurley presented the Board with the Bookkeeper's Report which included bank balances and revenue and expense reports. The accounting firm is currently working on the yearend report. Mrs. Hurley advised that when the town learned of the Town of Poughkeepsie's recent troubles, we immediately contacted Fred Shequine to ensure that we are secure. Reviews of procedures were done where needed.

On a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman W. Murphy the minutes of January 11, 2010 were accepted as presented. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia, the Board reappointed John Parisi to the Zoning Board of Appeals. All ayes were recorded.

Councilman Murphy said that the Chairman of the Dutchess County Legislature would be meeting with the Dutchess County Elections Commissioners on election related expenses. News to the town should follow.

Councilman M. Murphy noted the program being sponsored by the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies on Saturday[<] March 6th, is an expansion of the vernal pool program by Dr. Klemens. Invitations have been sent to the members of the Town Board, planning Board and ZBA.

Councilman M. Murphy said that the Water Course legislation is still being worked on. The Planning and Zoning Boards have been very light in applications. They are working on a lot line change and the Taylor Oil application for underground propane tanks. Mr. Baker said that is an expansion of a non-conforming use. It is a 24 hour open site with a movement of trucks around the clock. Councilman Murphy said the next Emergency Planning Committee meeting is on March 1st.

Councilman Audia reported that he is continuing to work on road reviews and education. When it is convenient the group will get together and begin making suggestions. He is looking to schedule some time with Lou Spagnola to go over the furnace and determine if upgrades need to be made. The Comprehensive Plan Committee will be meeting on February 16th at 3:00 PM to discuss the visioning statement.

On a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board moved into Executive Session at 9:30 PM. All ayes were recorded. On a motion made by Councilman W. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia the Board resumed the regular meeting at 10:00 PM. All ayes were recorded.

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

Gen Fund A	\$28,806.42
Gen Fund B	\$1,751.86
Fund DB	\$73,931.87
H Park – Capital	\$29,636.75
Fund TA	\$195.00
TOTAL	\$134,543.72

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia, the meeting was closed at 10:50 PM. All ayes were recorded.

Mary Alex, Town Clerk