

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
TOWN BOARD
February 8, 2007

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held its regular meeting on Thursday, February 8, 2007, at the Town Hall, Reservoir Drive, Millbrook, NY. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Florence Prisco with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Allan Rappleyea, Michael E. Murphy and Robert Audia, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Highway Superintendent James Brownell, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor Laura Hurley and Attorney for the Town John Gifford.

Also present were: Deputy Highway Superintendent Ed Wheeler, CAC members David Greenwood, Frank Genova and Tim Marshall, Mitch Trinka and members of VFW Post 9008 Tom Fiore, Lon Moore, Ken Lilley and Joe Magnarella.

Monthly reports were received from the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Justice Clerk, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor, Zoning Administrator and Building Inspector.

Supervisor Prisco opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. She then asked for a Moment of Silence in memory of Michele West, the Chairperson of the Town Planning Board. Michele died suddenly on February 1, 2007 of natural causes. After the moment of silence Mrs. Prisco said that Michele was a very compassionate person, which has done many good things for her community. She was courageous, focused and totally dedicated to everyone in the Town of Washington. Mrs. Prisco read a letter she sent to the town employees and volunteers regarding a scholarship being set up in Michele's memory. The town sends its deepest sympathy to Michele's family.

Mrs. Hurley, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor reported that the Town had a compilation of bank balances through January 31, 2007. The following reserve accounts were opened at the Bank of Millbrook: Highway Bridge Fund, Data Processing Fund and B fund reserves. The BAN for the purchase of additional recreational land has been paid down and only an interest payment will be due in 2007. Mrs. Hurley is working with Accounting Associates on filing the 2006 Annual Financial Report. New York State has extended the filing date to March 31.

Mrs. Hurley advised that the town is in good financial shape. \$45,000.00 was made in interest on the CD investment structure that was initiated. In regard to the transfer station, the town is closing the gap on what it costs to operate the facility. The adjustment in fees and tighter enforcement at the facility has helped. Highway Superintendent Brownell did not charge the Town for use of the highway machinery and equipment at the facility, which resulted in a savings of \$20,000.00. Revenue in the A Fund was \$153,000.00 higher than projected, and sales tax revenue was \$66,000.00 over its projection. In the B Fund, building permit revenue equaled \$42,000.00.

All funds were under expended. The details are as follows:

A Fund	\$52,208.00
B Fund	\$24,908.00
CR Fund	\$3,401.00
Highway	\$196,792.00

The Board thanked Laura for her detailed report. They are being given much more information than they have ever received, and they are wiser and more knowledgeable because of it.

In her capacity as Clerk of the Assessor, Mrs. Hurley advised that the Town's reimbursement from the New York State Office of Real Property for the annual review of parcels will be \$11,695.00. Harry Girdlestone will be meeting with the Assessor's staff later in February to discuss sales trends and where the town will go with assessment figures in the coming year. They continue to have communication problems with John Watch.

Mrs. Hurley said that last month Supervisor Prisco asked the Board to consider several different exemption options. Mrs. Hurley had been asked to provide the Board with additional information. In regard to Senior Citizen exemptions the town is currently in line with other local taxing authorities. The Webutuck School District has just advised that they will be keeping the current income levels in place. There are 52 people in the town and 34 people in the village that currently take advantage of the senior exemption, with a \$5,000.00 overall taxing shift to other taxpayers. Supervisor Prisco recommended that the exemption remain as it currently is. The Board concurred. On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board resolved to leave the income levels where they currently are for Senior exemptions. All ayes were recorded.

In regard to the Veteran's Exemption, Mrs. Hurley explained that there are two different types of exemptions. One is for a veteran using eligible funds for the purchase of a home. The town has some veterans that have qualified for this exemption. There is also an Alternative Veteran's Exemption, which the Town does not currently offer, but is offered by Dutchess County and the Village of Millbrook. Currently there are 56 residents taking advantage of this program through Dutchess County. The tax shift to other property owners would amount to approximately \$3,700.00.

Members of the VFW were present to encourage the Town Board to consider adopting this exemption. They would very much appreciate the Board supporting the exemption.

The following resolution was introduced by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia:

ALTERNATIVE VETERANS EXEMPTION

WHEREAS Pursuant to Section 458-a of Real Property Tax law of the State of New York, the Town of Washington Town Board wishes to exercise its local option and extend the benefit of the Alternative Veterans Exemption providing limited exemption for real property taxes for real property owned by persons who rendered military service to the United States, provided such property meets the requirement set forth in the law; and

WHEREAS Section 458-a of the Real Property Tax law of the State of New York provides an alternative exemption from real property taxation for qualified residential real property owned by veterans of defined periods of war, veterans who received expeditionary medals, or certain members of their family, based on a percentage of assessed value.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Washington hereby approves the Alternative Veterans Exemption, for property reduction, adopting the maximum limits of assessment reduction as follows: Alternative Veteran - \$27,000.00, Combat Veteran - \$45,000.00 and Disability \$90,000.00.

All ayes were recorded. This resolution was duly adopted.

Supervisor Prisco said to the gentlemen present from the VFW that she would like in some way recognize any members of the community that are currently serving in the military. She asked if they had any type of listing. The men know that Luke Nardone, Sean Sullivan, Lacey Ialongo and Jonathon Ialongo are currently serving in the armed forces. The VFW supplies phone cards to local residents serving overseas. Supv. Prisco would like to pay tribute, but doesn't want to leave anyone out.

David Greenwood said that this might be a good time to share with everyone the donation made by John Marona of a scrapbook he made with newspaper clippings of all local people serving in World War II. The Round Table used to feature anyone entering into service, and when they returned. This is quite a treasure.

Supervisor Prisco asked the Board if they had any thoughts on the request made from a resident for a disability exemption. Mrs. Hurley said that 14 taxing authorities in Dutchess County currently offer this exemption. She said that a resident cannot have both a senior exemption and a disability exemption. Mrs. Hurley hasn't any information on the number of people that might be eligible or the amount of money involved. Councilman Murphy said that the town should hold off on this until they can do more research. The general consensus of the Board was to review the matter again next year.

On a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board reappointed David Greenwood as Town Historian. All ayes were

recorded. Supervisor Prisco said that David very much deserves this appointment and many, many accolades.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the Board appointed Thomas Beaumont as Planning Board Chair, to replace Michele West. All ayes were recorded.

Supervisor Prisco announced that the Public Hearing regarding Greenway will remain open an additional month, to allow the Planning Board some additional time to submit their ideas.

Highway Superintendent Brownell announced that the town received seven bids for the new highway trucks. He thanked Bob and Peter Audia for their assistance in writing the specs. He believes that with the well written specs the town had a more competitive bid process.

On the recommendation of Highway Superintendent Brownell, a motion was offered by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia to accept the bids from Van Bortel Ford for:

1	2008 4 x 4 ¾ ton Ext cab with plow	Bid Price	\$32,965.00
1	2008 4 x 4 1 ton dump truck with plow	Bid Price	\$38,383.00

All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes the minutes of January 4, 2007 and January 11, 2007 were accepted as presented. All ayes were recorded.

At 8:20 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss a particular personnel matter. All ayes were recorded. At 9:03 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy the regular meeting reconvened. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy, on the recommendation of the committee to interview zoning administrator candidates the Board appointed John (Jack) Neubauer to the position of Zoning Administrator, effective immediately. The salary for the position is \$12,000.00. All ayes were recorded.

Supervisor Prisco advised that there is a special meeting scheduled for February 21, 2007, at 7:00 PM. The Board will move into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters with the Planning Board relating to the death of Michele West.

Supervisor Prisco reminded everyone of another meeting scheduled for February 26. The purpose of the meeting is to hear input from members of the Planning Board, CAC and the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the proposed zoning amendment for open space in regard to soil mining.

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

General Fund A	\$22,156.34
General Fund B	\$1,603.51
Fund DB	\$1,067.00

TOTAL	\$24,826.85
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All ayes were recorded.

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Audia the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 PM. All ayes were recorded.

Mary Alex, Town Clerk