

TOWN BOARD
TOWN OF WASHINGTON
MAY 10, 2007

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2007, at the Town Hall, 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 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 Jerry Baker, Rebecca Valk of Van De Water and Van De Water, Frank Genova, Mark Pozniak and Rae D'Achille of Accounting Associates, Mitch Trinkka, Historian David Greenwood, Howard Schuman, Karen Scantlebury and Ed Wheeler.

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

Supervisor Prisco opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Prisco thanked the Town Highway Department, the Village Highway Department, the Fire Company, Rescue Squad and Ladies Auxiliary for all that they did during the floods on April 16th. The communication between the Town, the Village and the School District worked very well. Supervisor Prisco said that any residents that require information on applying for funding may call the Town Clerk's office. Highway Superintendent Brownell will be attending a meeting on Friday regarding storm related funding specific to municipalities.

Mrs. Hurley presented the Town Board with monthly revenue and expense reports, as well as the bank balances. She reported that the Town has received \$46,000.00 in sales tax revenue from Dutchess County. Mrs. Hurley reported that the Annual Report has been filed with the Office of the State Comptroller.

Supervisor Prisco said that she had asked Mr. Pozniak and Mrs. D'Achille from Accounting Associates to be present this evening to discuss the proposal that they had prepared for the Town.

Councilman Rappleyea entered the meeting.

Mrs. D'Achille said that the Town is financially secure. They worked with Mrs. Hurley to complete and file the annual report. Although the state had not granted an extension to the town, we are in compliance with filing. The proposal for services by Accounting Associates is to:

- Assist in the formation of bank accounts to improve the efficiency of the Town's financial management

- Determine the balance each account should have and associate it with appropriate Town funds
- Assist in the reconciliation of all Town bank accounts for January and February 2007
- Establish systems and procedures to facilitate monthly bank reconciliations of all Town bank accounts.
- The fee for the services would be the town's option of a flat rate of \$2500 or an hourly rate of \$75.00 per hour.

Mrs. D'Achille said that Mrs. Hurley inherited a less than ideal set of books with some clumsy processes. It is difficult to identify errors and omissions that may have happened through the years. The proposal will allow the town to have established accounts specific to the highway fund and general fund, which will be very helpful to the town during its budgetary process. The Town currently shows a fund balance of \$1,300,000.00. Supervisor Prisco said that Mark and Rae have done an outstanding job for the town. This would be the next step in ensuring that the town's financial practice continues to be improved upon. On a motion made by Councilman Rapplelea and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board accepted the proposal from Accounting Associates at the fee of \$2,500.00. All eyes were recorded.

Jim Outwater entered the meeting.

Supervisor Prisco reported that all the retirees have transitioned their health benefits to the new coverage plans. She thanked Laura Hurley and Mary Alex for their assistance.

Supervisor Prisco advised that the correspondence for the month included letters in favor of the proposal for Bos Haven Farm. She said that she had received some verbal questions and negative feedback. The Town has received a donation from the Rotary Club for \$400.00 to purchase wooden display case to showcase people in our community that exemplify "Service above Self." The Town has also received a donation in lieu of taxes from the Millbrook School in the amount of \$3,200.00.

Supv. Prisco sent a letter to Rob and Emilie Dyson on their recent award as "Family of the Year." A letter was also sent to Michael Murphy, who recently retired as Dutchess County Commissioner of Public Works. Mr. Murphy is a Millbrook native that had served as Town Councilman and Village Mayor.

Recreation Director McMillan introduced Jim Outwater, the gentleman that the Recreation Commission is recommending to be appointed to fill Carolyn Wilk's position on the Rec. Commission. Mr. Outwater volunteers for many recreational events, as well as coaches two ball teams. On a motion made by Councilman Rapplelea and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board

appointed James Outwater to fill the unexpired term of Carolyn Wilk on the Recreation Commission. All ayes were recorded.

Mr. McMillan invited the Town Board to the Senior Picnic co-sponsored by the Town of Washington and the DC Office for the Aging. The picnic is on June 8, at 12 noon. In regards to the summer season, the summer camp is 85-90% full. We have seen a tremendous increase in youth tennis. The soccer and lacrosse numbers are high; however the baseball numbers are low. Mr. McMillan thanked Jim Brownell and the highway crew for their help at the reservoir.

Supervisor Prisco asked the Board if they had any questions regarding the request by Bos Haven Farm for the purchase of development rights. Supv. Prisco said that Mr. Marshall was unable to attend this evening, as he was in Union Vale to make the request tonight. A brief discussion ensued with several questions being raised. The Board requested information on other properties in town that might fit the criteria for the program, and to view a copy of the map that Mr. Marshall had showing where he was retaining the right to build. Town Clerk Alex will contact Rebecca Thornton for additional information. The Board also discussed the financial aspect of the request, and asked that Mrs. Hurley provide them with information. A special workshop meeting was scheduled for June 4, 2007 at 7:00 PM to further discuss the request. Supervisor Prisco advised that before the Town Board can make a decision to move forward this project, the Town must hold a public hearing. On a motion made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Rappleyea a resolution was offered to schedule a public hearing for Thursday, June 14, 2007, at 7:00 PM to hear any and all input regarding the request made by Bos Haven Farm for the Town to share in the cost with Dutchess County to purchase the development rights to a portion of the farm property. All ayes were recorded.

Supervisor Prisco reported that the Assessor's Office has sent letters out to all property owners regarding the changes in assessment. Most property owners have seen a 3% increase in their assessment. Mr. Tyger is available this week for informal discussions with residents regarding their current assessments. The Board of Assessment Review will meet on May 22nd to hear complaints from residents regarding their assessments.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia the following minutes were accepted as presented: March 15 and April 12, 2007. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Audia the following resolution was offered to revise the minutes of January 4, 2007 to show that Roderick W. Ciferri III was appointed as an Assessor's Aide. The original minutes stated Assessor's consultant. All ayes were recorded.

Highway Sup't. Brownell said that the men are doing a great job and all the thanks and credit should be directed to them. Some of the roads that sustained damage due to the storm were: Killlearn Rd., Butts Hollow Rd., South Rd., Verbank Rd., Tower Hill Rd., Deep Hollow Rd., Milewood Rd. and Overlook Rd. The crew has been working diligently to ensure that these roads are safe to travel.

On behalf of Chief Hawks of the Millbrook Fire Department, Mr. Brownell requested permission for the fire company to use the Tedesco house for additional training. The Board approved this request.

The Board was asked to consider the transfer station rates for 2008 season. Supervisor Prisco said that the cost to run the facility is \$250,000., with revenue being \$93,000.00. Permit fees and bulk rates were raised in 2007. Highway Sup't Brownell said he would like to keep the rates the same for the current year, and monitor the bag ticket purchases. If necessary the bag fee tickets could be raised later in the year. The Board agreed to keep the rates the same for the coming year: \$70.00 for residents, \$40.00 for seniors, \$15.00 for an additional family car and \$350.00 for contractors. The bag tickets are currently \$40.00 and \$20.00.

Councilmen Murphy and Rappleyea reported that the Parkland Development committee is being formed. They will be meeting to discuss concepts, as well as taking a global look at the park.

Councilman Murphy said that the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals have several applications before them. The Planning Board will be submitting a recommendation regarding the soil mining proposal.

Historian Greenwood said that he has been making site visits at the request of property owners whose property predates 1940. He is happy to receive copies of original documents, as Sloan Architects has recently done. The Town Historical Society has also been the recipients of many photographs in a tif and jpeg format. Someday it would be nice to have all documents computerized. Mr. Greenwood was pleased with the \$400.00 donation made by the Rotary Club for the display case honoring local citizens, and he looks forward to working with Supv. Prisco on the project.

Councilman Audia reported that the fire escape has been primed and will be completed by summer. The building has been measured up for soffets.

Mr. Greenwood reported that the CAC has drafted a letter regarding the soil mining amendment. They are ready to be of assistance to the Wetlands Committee when they move forward to presenting the document to the public. The theme for the upcoming 2008 calendar is the Millbrook Fire Department, which will be celebrating its 100th Anniversary.

Councilman Murphy advised that the Wetlands Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, May 21 to look at the application process. He will be able to report more next month.

Karen Scantlebury appeared before the Board to see if there are any updates regarding the return of her dog, "Roxie." She said that she appreciates the efforts made on her behalf by the town, but was frustrated by the slowness of the process. Supervisor Prisco said she too wished it was a faster process, and can only begin to imagine how emotional and difficult this must be. Ms. Valk stated that the opposition papers have been submitted and the town has until May 15 to submit any replies. Judge Brandts has the right to make his determination based on his court log. Mrs. Scantlebury asked if the judge decides to remove the dog while he makes his decision, could the dog be housed with the trainer. Ms. Valk said that the dog would have to be located in a neutral location, and the court would not deem it a neutral location. Mrs. Scantlebury thanked the Board for what they have done.

At 9:00 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board moved into Executive Session. All ayes were recorded. At 9:40 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Audia the regular meeting resumed. All ayes were recorded.

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

Gen Fund A	\$48,000.30
Gen Fund B	\$2,097.25
Youth Rec Fund CR	\$3,814.91
Highway Fund DB	\$56,865.86
T Fund	\$1,247.50
Prepaid A	\$704.85
TOTAL	\$112,730.67

All ayes were recorded.

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes the meeting was closed at 10:35 PM. All ayes were recorded.

Mary Alex, Town Clerk

