

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
TOWN BOARD  
May 8, 2008

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held its regular meeting on Thursday, May 8, 2008, 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, Allan Rappleyea, Michael Murphy and Robert Audia, 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 Kate Farrell, Frank Genova, Tom Beaumont, Louise Moore, Stan Morse and Mitch Trinkka.

Supervisor Prisco opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Supervisor Prisco asked for a moment of silence in memory of former Councilman Harry Bly.

The Millbrook Fire Company was congratulated by Supervisor Prisco for their 100 hundred year anniversary. They celebrated recently with a spectacular event that was attended by former fire chiefs, past presidents and representation from companies throughout the county. Supervisor Prisco also recognized the volunteer auxiliary for thirty years of service. On behalf of the town and the village, David Greenwood had prepared a sketch of the firehouse for presentation to the Fire Department. Supv. Prisco thanked Mr. Greenwood for the beautiful framed sketch.

Legislature Fettes was unable to attend the meeting. Supv. Prisco reported that earlier in the day she had toured the county infirmary with Mrs. Fettes. The building is close to completion. It appears to be a very safe, secure facility with bright spaces. Mr. Genova said that in his opinion the buildings will be effectively used.

Mr. Beaumont, co-chair of the Master Plan committee reported that the sub-committees are continuing to make progress on data collection. He said he is pleased with the efforts put forth by all of those working on the various committees. An advantage to the town is that by the time professional consultants are hired, the committees should have all of their information available and will be able to talk sensibly with the consultants.

Mr. Beaumont said that the Town Board should all have received a copy of the proposed Request for Proposals (RFP). The committee would like to have the RFP out by the end of the month, and they are requesting that the Town Board approve the proposal as soon as possible. Mr. Hanson, co-chair, said that the Board has the 4<sup>th</sup> draft which has been reviewed and worked on by Steve Lynch, Kate Farrell, Frank Genova, Jim Shequine, Tom Beaumont and Don Hanson.

Jerry Baker entered the meeting.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia, the Board accepted the Request for Proposals for the Town of Washington Master Plan Update and authorized the Town Clerk to prepare a legal notice for publication in local newspapers, on the town website and on the NYS Planning Federation. All ayes were recorded.

Ms. Farrell said that she believes the town should begin the Public Hearing process as quickly as possible. People in the town are waiting to be heard, as the Village Board has done for village residents. Mr. Beaumont responded that he originally thought, like Ms. Farrell, that the public hearings should be held early on, however after talking with people he has changed his mind. Mr. Beaumont said it has been the decision of the steering committee, that public input sessions will be more instrumental on a segmented basis for each subject. They expect that there will be nine or ten public meetings that will take place after the survey is distributed and returned and before public hearings of the draft document. Councilman Audia said that it is very important to prepare the public for the distribution of the survey and hope for a voluminous response. Mr. Hanson and Mr. Beaumont will be working with Mitch to provide a series of articles in order to educate the public.

Town Clerk Alex has requested a procedural meeting with Co-chairs Beaumont and Hanson, Supervisor Prisco and Consultant Wilson to discuss the publication of the legal notice, the return date of proposals, website information and how questions regarding the proposal will be handled. Dr. Beaumont will coordinate dates.

Councilman Rappleyea advised the Board that he had researched whether the town could respond positively to the request made by Liz Baldwin on behalf of the Rescue Squad and Fire Company for complimentary transfer station permits. Since the town does not have a direct link to the fire department (The Town contracts service with the village.) the town cannot give a gift to those volunteers. There would have to be an amendment to the contract in order to provide for this. A brief discussion ensued on the matter, as well as the possibility of increasing the contribution to the LOSAP retirement program. Supervisor Prisco will speak with Mayor Ciferri on this matter. Mayor Ciferri has requested a joint meeting of the two boards to discuss items of mutual concern. When dates are established the Board will be notified.

Louise Moore, a resident of the Village and Town, appeared before the Board to request that the town consider adopting an exemption for people with disabilities. Ms. Moore said she has always been a strong advocate for people with disabilities, and never imagined that she would find herself disabled. Mrs. Hurley presented information to the Board that was available to the Assessor's office. Currently, the town has 178 properties enjoying agricultural exemptions, 49 with forestry exemptions, 49 Veterans exemptions, 58 wholly exempt properties, 98 senior exemptions and 220 eligible for the enhanced STAR. Ms. Moore pointed out the income levels for the exemption are so low, that one

would have to be a person living on there own to benefit from the exemption. Supervisor Prisco will contact other towns in the county that offer the exemption to see how many people take advantage of the exemption, and the impact on the tax rolls.

Assessor Tyger advised the Board that the computerization of the property records for all parcels in town is progressing well. He showed the Board information that is being prepared for each property on the APEX drawing program, as well as the parcel data information. Sales data is being collected to produce a market cost model for each property. Photos of all buildings on a property will be included in the records.

The dates that the Assessor has sat the books are May 6, 8 and 10. Letters were sent out to about 150 property owners that would be seeing a tax increase. Grievance Day is on May 27<sup>th</sup> from 2-5:00 PM and 7 – 9:00 PM.

The Town has advertised for volunteers to serve on the Board of Assessment Review committee. Dennis Hawkins was the only person that sent a letter of interest in the position. The Board agreed that with his architectural background, as well as his knowledge of the community, he would be a good selection. On a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Murphy, Dennis Hawkins was appointed to the Board of Assessment Review to fill the vacancy of Ken Lilley. All ayes were recorded.

Mrs. Hurley presented the bookkeeper's report for the month. Revenue and expense reports were presented to the Board, as well as a breakdown of Master Plan expenses. Mrs. Hurley noted on the revenue report that the Cablevision franchise fee was \$6,000. over anticipated. The Town has received its first quarterly sales tax check in the amount of \$47,000.00. The budgeted amount for the year is \$165,000. The CD has been purchased for the highway funds; however the general fund CD was not purchased because of the fire and library expenditures.

Highway Superintendent Brownell reported that Jesse Sutherland has started working at the transfer station. He is a former employee of the town, and is able to work the heavy equipment at the facility.

In other highway business, Mr. Brownell requested permission to purchase a new loader from the New York State Office of General Services contract. It is a Volvo machine with a purchase price of \$103,000. and the town has been offered a \$30,000. trade in on the one we purchased for \$69,000. in 1997.

Howard Schuman entered the meeting.

On a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Audia the Board approved the Highway Department purchase of a Volvo loader, at a cost of \$103,000.00 off of the NYS OGS Contract. All ayes were recorded.

Town Clerk Alex advised that the Transfer Station permits for the coming year are available and requested that the Board make a decision on permit fees. She suggested that they consider a minimum \$5.00 increase on the annual fee. The increase would be to cover increased operating costs at the facility. There was a discussion as to whether the fee should be increased by \$10.00. A motion was offered by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Audia to set the Transfer Station fees as follows:

\$75.00	Resident
\$45.00	Senior Citizen
\$20.00	Additional Vehicle
\$355.00	Contractor

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Prisco:	Nay
Councilman Turletes:	Nay
Councilman Rappleyea:	Aye
Councilman Murphy:	Aye
Councilman Audia	Aye

Supervisor Prisco advised the Board that a request has been made by the Recreation Department to purchase a copy machine for their office in the village hall. He no longer has the ability to use the copier in the village court. The cost for a fax, scanner and copier is \$500.00. Funds are currently available in the Recreation Department budget. After some discussion, the Board requested that additional information be provided for lease vs. purchase options.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Rappleyea the Board reappointed Jim Outwater to the Recreation Commission. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes the minutes of the March 10, 2008 meeting were accepted as presented. All ayes were recorded.

Councilman Murphy reported that the wetlands committee is making some inquiries on questions they had. He expects that they will meet again in several weeks. The Planning Board has before them an application by Mr. Foxe on Rt. 343. There was questions raised by a neighbor regarding water runoff. While it may be a neighborly issue, it is not an issue related to the current Planning Board application. The Planning Board has had a good dialog with the new operators of the Mabbettsville Marketplace. The business will be similar to the previous business. They were able to discuss concerns about water and septic maintenance problems.

Councilman Audia advised that he had conferred with Lou Spagnola regarding the air conditioner concerns. He will have more information at the next meeting.

Supervisor Prisco advised that she had just received the Soil Evaluation results and the Opinion of Probable Costs from the Chazen Companies, and she has not had the

opportunity to review them. Copies were distributed to the Board. She would like to schedule a meeting with Ellen Jouret-Epstein in June to discuss the findings. The Board will be contacted when the date is set.

At 8:50 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Audia the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss a particular personnel matter. All ayes were recorded. At 10:10 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia the regular meeting reconvened. All ayes were recorded.

On behalf of the Millbrook Fire Department, Jim Brownell requested permission for the fire department to use the Tedesco house for smoke drills. The Board approved this request.

Councilman Rappleyea left the meeting.

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

Gen Fund A	\$85,215.24
Gen Fund B	\$4,836.85
Fund CR	\$8,433.46
Highway DB	\$24,796.47
Planning Escrow	\$402.50
TOTAL	\$123,684.52

All ayes were recorded.

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the meeting was closed at 11:00 PM. All ayes were recorded.

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Mary Alex, Town Clerk

