

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
TOWN BOARD  
SEPTEMBER 11, 2008

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held its regular meeting on Thursday, September 11, 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 Allan Rappleyea, Michael Murphy, Robert Audia, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Highway Superintendent James Brownell, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor Laura Hurley, Town Justice Elizabeth Shequine, Justice Court Clerk Dana Lopergalo, Recreation Director Warren McMillan Attorney for the Town John Gifford and Associate Attorney Rebecca Valk.

Also present were Jerry Baker, Thomas Beaumont, Donald Hanson, Michael Hagerty, Warren McMillan, Tom Fiore, Frank Genova, Steve Lynch, Steven Alex and William Murphy.

Supervisor Prisco opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. She asked for a Moment of Silence in honor of all of the victims of the tragic event attacks on September 11, 2001.

Supervisor Prisco thanked Deputy Clerk Irene Wing for her outstanding efforts these past several weeks in the absence of Town Clerk Alex. The office ran very smoothly with several projects being completed under Irene's direction.

Supervisor Prisco recognized Didi Barrett, for the fine job she did organizing Community Day, on the previous Saturday. It appeared that many people were out enjoying the event.

Judge Shequine appeared before the Board for herself and Judge Aubin. She advised that an audit was completed for both judges, as required. She was pleased to report that everything has flushed out equally. The following resolution was offered by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Audia:

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington Town Justices Elizabeth and Bruce Aubin had an audit of their books by D'Achille & Associates completed in July 2008 for the fiscal year 2007; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board has reviewed the audit as written; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town Board of the Town of Washington does hereby accept the audit of the books of Town Justice Shequine and Town Justice Aubin; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Town Board does hereby acknowledge that no recommendations were noted by D'Achille & Associates.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Prisco	Aye	Councilman Turletes	Absent
Councilman Rappleyea	Aye	Councilman Murphy	Aye
Councilman Audia	Aye		

Judge Shequine was pleased to advise that Court Clerk Dana Lopergalo has been able to secure funding through the NYS Justice Court System and the Office of the Justice Court to improve the building and the court facility. Ms. Lopergalo advised that the 2007 - 08 grants totaled \$30,000.00 with \$15,000. in upgrades to the court room. The 2008 – 09 grant was also for \$30,000. for a new bench, judges chamber and an increase in the footprint of the courtroom. The estimated cost is \$33,000 and the Court is requesting an increase to the grant to meet the costs. Judge Shequine said that there may be expenses to the town that are specific to the security of the court. Presented to the Board by Judge Shequine was a check in the amount of \$7,290.00 for forfeited bail. The Town must hold it for 7 years, and if it remains unclaimed, the fund becomes part of the General Fund.

Mr. Beaumont, Co-Chair of the Master Plan Update Committee advised the Board that the RFP committee had met with three firms: River Street, Troy, NY, Behan & Associates, Saratoga Springs, NY and Saccardi & Assoc., Saratoga Springs, NY. It was a unanimous decision by the committee to recommend to the Town Board River Street Planning is the firm to assist with the update of the Town Master Plan. They appeared to be the most compatible having assisted other similar communities of like concerns and size. Steve Lynch will be spearheading the discussions with River Street on extra services and the costs associated with them. Mr. Lynch said that the document agreement will include the complete scope of services, will lock in the schedule they have offered and commits that the individuals that they met will be the ones working through out the project. The proposal by River Street includes 17 meetings including public hearings. They emphasized the need for public inclusion. Ms. Farrell said their public participation were triple the amount of other firms. The Board accepted the recommendation of River Street, and authorized the committee to speak with them to bring an acceptable contract to the Town.

Mr. Beaumont said that the moratorium on subdivisions larger than four lots is set to expire in November. He thought that the criterion for extending the moratorium is that the town is showing progress with updating the Master Plan, which the town is doing. The Board directed Ms. Valk to prepare the necessary documents for the extension of the Master Plan, with a proposed Public Hearing in November.

Mr. Alex appeared before the Town Board to provide an update from the Chazen Companies regarding the submittal of the Bog Turtle Phase 1 Survey and Impact Assessment to the United States Fish & Wildlife Service. The Board was presented with a draft of a letter to the Endangered Species unit of the Fish and wildlife Service which outlined the towns proposed mitigation efforts. Upon review, the Board accepted the draft authorized the application to be submitted.

Mike Hagerty and Warren McMillan spoke to the Board regarding a Community Development Block Grant proposal. After speaking with Beth Doyle, they have learned that a handicapped accessible egress to the Town Park would be eligible for funding. They proposed to the Board that the town submit an application to CDBG for an egress into the new park area. The town may submit a grant up to \$100,000. The Board asked that Mr. Hagerty prepare the grant application on behalf of the town. On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Rappleyea a Public Hearing was scheduled for Monday, September 29, 2008, at 7:00 PM, at the Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Drive, to hear any and all comments on suggested Community Development Block Grant applications.

Mr. McMillan presented the Board with an end of season Park and Pool Report. He thanked Tome Fiore for another fine season as park caretaker. This is Tom's 12<sup>th</sup> season at the park, and the town is fortunate to have someone with his work his skills, flexibility and work ethic.

Revenue at the park saw a decrease of \$3000. over 2007. There was a decrease in non-resident passes and daily passes. Pavilion rentals saw an increase. The overall park expenses were decreased \$2,000. which is attributed to not having lifeguard staff on rainy days and a decrease in general park and pool expenses.

Supervisor Prisco advised the Board that two separate parties had contacted her to offer donations of trees at the park. Warren and Tom have met with the parties about the types of trees needed and the locations that would be best for the town. These will be a beautiful enhancement to the park. Councilman Murphy suggested a plan be developed for future plantings.

A proposed local law to adopt the exemption for persons with disabilities and limited incomes pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 459-c was presented to the Town Board by Ms. Valk. This exemption allows for persons with disabilities an exemption from taxation up to 50% dependent upon income. After some review and discussion, Ms. Valk was asked to revise the income level component of the law. After the revisions are made a public hearing will be scheduled.

County Legislator Fettes was on the agenda to provide an update to the Board on County business. Mrs. Fettes was unable to attend the meeting.

Mrs. Hurley presented the Board with the current bank balances and revenue and expense reports. Mrs. Hurley said that she is confident that the Transfer Station will be reaching its projected revenues for the year. As reported earlier, mortgage tax revenues will probably not reach its anticipated revenue. On the expense side, insurance costs are down and legal fees are down.

Mrs. Hurley advised that there are two vouchers of note: \$50,000. for the landfill closure bond and \$20,000 for the BAN on the land purchase adjacent to the park. \$320,000. remains on the landfill closure bond and \$235,000. is left on the land purchase.

The BAN with the Bank of Millbrook is due to be renewed, paid off or extended into a Bond, on October 1. On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board authorized Supervisor Prisco the ability to execute the paperwork necessary to issue a new Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) for a period of one year with the Bank of Millbrook, at an interest rate of 2.25%.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Prisco Aye Councilman Turletes Absent

Councilman Rappleyea Aye Councilman Murphy Aye

Councilman Audia Aye

This resolution was duly adopted.

Highway Superintendent Brownell advised the Board that the work on South Road has been completed. The department will be paving Maple Hill Rd on Sept. 12.

Mr. Brownell requested permission to go to bid for highway materials for the time period of Nov. 1, 2008 – October 31, 2009. On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia the Board authorized the Highway Superintendent to advertise for highway material bids for the upcoming year. All ayes were recorded from those present.

On a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Audia the minutes of August 14, 2008 were accepted as presented. All ayes were recorded by those present.

Councilman Murphy reported that there were 3 projects before the Planning Board. They are the Mabbettsville Marketplace, the bowling alley building and the Bancroft property. The Planning Board made a site visit to the Marketplace. They have decided not to proceed with loft seating. The owner also suggested adding a water meter for several months to determine usage. The bowling alley will be used solely as self storage units. The Bancroft application is back in front of the Board.

Mr. Baker said the Zoning Board of Appeals most recent application involved the placement of a rabbit hutch.

Regarding the proposed Wetland's ordinance, Councilman Murphy said that he had met with Attorney's Gifford and Valk on the most recent changes. Some suggestions were offered specific to the penalty section. The committee will review any changes made to the document.

Councilman Audia provided the town with the proposals he received for painting or siding certain the soffets of the town hall. Barnes Construction was the least expensive with a bid of \$16,500.00. On a motion made by Councilman Rappleyea and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board accepted the proposal of Barnes Construction in the

amount of \$16,500.00 to cover the soffets of the town hall with vinyl. All ayes were recorded.

Mr. Baker provided Supervisor Prisco with some information regarding windmills as an energy source. The Board might wish to consider legislation on the matter, as the windmills become smaller in size. There are units that are 10 – 12 feet high that can be mounted on ones roof.

Mr. Genova thanked Mrs. Hurley for her recent participation in the joint Village and Town meeting. He appreciates Mrs. Hurley’s service on the Village Board.

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

Gen Fund A	\$109,874.44
Gen Fund B	\$4,703.46
Youth Rec	\$12,532.40
Highway DB	\$87,044.09
Planning Board Escrow	\$420.00

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 10:40 PM. All ayes were recorded.

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Mary Alex, Town Clerk