

Town of Washington  
Town Board  
March 10, 2011

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held its regular meeting on March 10, 2011, at the Town Hall, 10 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 and Associate Attorney Rebecca Valk.

Also present were Howard Schuman, Fletcher Coddington, Christine Bates, Maureen King, Jerry Baker, John Asklidsen, Michael Shepley, Joan Trombini and Jeff Feigelson.

Supervisor Prisco opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Prisco said she was pleased to be able to make the following introductions and recommendations for appointments of five special volunteers. We are fortunate to live in a community where residents wish to participate in their government and serve as volunteers. She thanked Councilman Audia and the respective committee chairs: Josh Mackey, Jerry Baker and David Greenwood for taking the time to meet with the candidates.

On the recommendation of the Planning Board Search Committee, a motion was made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia to appoint Michael Shepley to the Planning Board. All ayes were recorded.

On the recommendation of the Zoning Board of Appeals Search Committee, a motion was made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia to appoint Fletcher Coddington to the Zoning Board of Appeals. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board appointed Jeff Feigelson to the Board of Assessment Review. All ayes were recorded.

On the recommendation of the Conservation Advisory Commission Search Committee, a motion was made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman M. Murphy to appoint Howard Schuman to the Conservation Advisory Commission. All ayes were recorded.

On the recommendation of the Conservation Advisory Search Committee, a motion was made by Councilman M. Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia to appoint John Asklidsen to the Conservation Advisory Commission. All ayes were reported.

Town Clerk Alex administered the Oath of Office to Michael Shepley, Fletcher Coddington, Jeff Feigelson, Howard Schuman and John Asklidsen for their respective appointments.

Maureen King of the Comprehensive Plan Committee reported that the Committee has regular meetings on the first Monday of the month, beginning at 6:00 PM. The new website is up and running and there will be a link from the Town website to the dedicated Comprehensive Plan website. On Saturday at the Visioning Workshop, there were about 100 people in attendance, and they were able to agree upon a draft Vision Statement. The committee will now be looking to River Street to guide them through the next part of the process. River Street will take the goals and actions and compile the information for the committee to review. This will help the committee determine if the existing goals align with the Vision Statement. Mrs. King said on Monday evening the Committee had a discussion on the tax rates. Town Clerk Alex said there was a comment made at the Visioning Meeting that Washington has some of the highest taxes. She said that is an incorrect statement, and the following information will help clarify the facts. The information is from the Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency, for the 2011 County, Town, School & Village Tax Rates.

	Washington	Amenia	Beekman	Clinton	Dover **	Pleasant Valley	Stanford
C,T,L,F*	4.68	6.03	5.34	6.07	14.10	11.99	9.60
School	11.24	17.35	19.19	11.24	36.91	19.04	19.51
Based on an assessment of \$750,000.00 the tax for each town would be:							
	<b>11,940.00</b>	<b>17,535.00</b>	<b>18,397.50</b>	<b>12,982.50</b>	<b>38,257.50</b>	<b>23,272.50</b>	<b>21,832.50</b>
					<b>** not 100% assessment</b>		

\*County, Town, Library and Fire

Regarding the Farmland Protection grant, Supervisor Prisco said that she and Mrs. Parker had a phone conference with John Brennan, from the Office of Agriculture and Markets in Albany to further discuss the pros and the cons of the grant. Supervisor Prisco requested that the committee meet one more time and to make a recommendation to the Town Board as to whether or not the Town should pursue this funding avenue and whether the agricultural protection could be folded into the Comprehensive Plan.

The Town Board has continued the Wetlands Public Hearing with a meeting to be held on Monday, March 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30 PM at the Millbrook Firehouse. Councilman Murphy said he had the opportunity to review with Ms. Valk and Mr. Marino three scenarios, and Mr. Marino will determine with these scenarios what it might cost an applicant with the proposed legislation. If the Town Board closes the Public Hearing, there may be a discussion on the Town Board's thoughts on the legislation.

Supervisor Prisco thanked the Highway Department for their work during the recent ice storm. There were some horrific problems due to fallen power lines and electric lines on trees, which the highway department cannot take care of. Supv. Prisco participated in a phone conference with municipal officials and Central Hudson. Central Hudson reported that there had been 600 customers in Washington without power with the majority back on by Wednesday. Supervisor Prisco also thanked the volunteer fire department for spending many hours pumping water out of the basements of local residences. We are fortunate to have these volunteers.

Town Clerk Alex notified the Town Board that the full amount of the town tax warrant has been paid to Supervisor Prisco. Dutchess County has been provided with a check in the amount of \$3,800,000.00 for taxes received and checks cleared. The Board will see a voucher for \$87,000.00 payable to the Millbrook Library for their funds that have been collected. Any additional money paid to the Supervisor will be for penalty fees collected or bank interest.

Town Clerk Alex brought forth to the Town Board a request from the Dutchess County Real Property Tax Service Agency Addressing to name the private driveway of Christina Lang-Assael (Parcel 6967-00-647075) Lang Farm Lane. On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board approved the private lane name for the property owned by Christina Lang-Assael (6967-00-647075) as Lang Farm Lane. All ayes were recorded.

Monthly reports were received and filed by the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Building Inspector, Court Clerk and Transfer Station Clerk. Mrs. Alex noted that as the Town has taken over dog licensing, a news insert was provided with tax receipts, alerting residents about the new local law. There has been an increase in dog licensing, and the projected revenue will be met rather quickly.

Town Clerk Alex suggested that the Town might wish to consider initiating a conceptual review fee for projects brought before the Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals in the instances where the Town Attorney or Planning Board consultant is asked to provide an opinion on the project. Mrs. Alex said that other towns in the Hudson Valley have this type of application and fee and generally the application fee is \$200.00 to \$250.00 for one hour of professional review. An example she cited was the preliminary discussion at the Planning Board and whether the moratorium is to be considered. The Planning Board Consultant and the Town Attorney have both been asked to provide opinions on this project. Attorney Valk acknowledged that this is a common practice and said the town could adopt this by a local resolution. Mrs. Alex said that it would alleviate some of the concerns that has been raised if the Wetland's Ordinance is adopted, and a consultant was required prior to the application stage. The Board was in favor of the idea and asked that the Chairman of the Planning Board be provided with the information for his input. ZBA Chairman Baker said that the Town might want to bring the idea further and include the Building Inspector after "X" hours of his time on a conceptual project. The Board concurred, and Mr. Neubauer will be provided with the information as well.

The Board was notified that Bailey's BBQ would not be renewing their lease for the concession stand at the park. A legal notice seeking a new vendor was sent to The Millbrook Independent for publication. Two people have expressed an interest in the venue. The town is also seeking bids for staining the interior of the park building. When additional information is available, the Town Board will be advised.

Councilman Turletes apprised the Board as to the recent Recreation Commission news. In years past, the Dutchess County Department of Aging and the Town Recreation Commission

has sponsored a senior picnic at the Town Park. As a cost saving measure, the DC Department of Aging has consolidated the picnics from Washington, Pleasant Valley and Hyde Park into one picnic in Pleasant Valley. The Recreation Commission would prefer to sponsor a senior picnic at the town park. The date the county has chosen conflicts with a senior bus trip. The Board approved the Commission request provided the cost was similar.

Councilman M. Murphy said that the Planning Board has a couple of applications for lot line changes. Councilman Murphy said that the Moratorium is still in effect. He also noted that the ZBA had approved a veterinary practice, at the previously approved addition, on the property owned by Robert Campbell in Washington Hollow. There will be an Emergency Preparedness meeting within the next month.

County Legislator Michael Kelsey entered the meeting.

Councilman Audia said that courtroom improvements are moving forward. Mr. Ciferri has been helpful to the town in the preparation of plans, for the best and most efficient use of the space. The town will begin to see movement in April or May. Councilman Audia said the road committee will have a report next month.

County Legislator Michael Kelsey reported to the Town on Dutchess County issues. He provided the Town Board with maps and schedules for the new LOOP bus schedule. Legislator Kelsey said the demolition of a portion of the Eastern Dutchess Government Center went off as planned. The Millbrook Independent had raised the question would the facility be better off under private ownership? Private ownership is not being discussed by the County. Legislator Kelsey said that if the Town Board has input on the future development of the facility he would be happy to hear from them.

Legislator Kelsey said that on the March agenda, the Legislature will be addressing the 3.25% sales tax. Every two years the County Legislator has to vote on the .25% portion of the sales tax. It also has to be approved by the State Senate and Assembly.

The Resource Recovery Agency has completed their Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) and submitted it to the DEC for approval. The DEC has rejected the SWMP plan, because they do not think the county is measuring up to its waste recovery responsibility. If the permit is not renewed by the DEC in June, there is a potential for the facility to be shut down, which could cost the county two million dollars per month. Legislator Kelsey said the County has not had a Solid Waste Commissioner for two years. The Legislature has approved two new positions, a compliance investigator and a secretary. There were several no votes, because the county has just eliminated positions and departments. The positions will help the Resource Recovery Agency to ensure licensing of haulers and meet other necessary requirements.

Legislator Kelsey said that also on the March agenda is the tick task force to provide education for all tick borne diseases including Lyme, babesiosis and ehrlichiosis. The task force will host a Tick Borne Disease Trivia Contest on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM, at the Millbrook Farm and

Home Center. Mr. Coddington said that in European countries they place signs warning people of the risks of Tick Borne Diseases.

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

Gen Fund A	\$104237.72	
Recreation	\$6640.85	
Gen Fund B	\$2674.59	
Highway Fund DB	\$76306.39	
Fund H	\$5388.51	(Comp Plan)
Fund SF	\$413690.00	Fire Contact
Fund PB	\$761.25	Planning Board Escrow
Total	\$609699.31	

All ayes were recorded.

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

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Mary Alex, Town Clerk