

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
TOWN BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12,2019**

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held a special meeting on February 12, 2019, at the Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Dr., Millbrook. Supervisor Gary Ciferri opened the meeting at 6:00 PM with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Robert Audia, Michael Murphy and Al De Bonis and Town Clerk Mary Alex. Attorney Thomas Whalen was present on behalf of the Town.

County Legislator Deirdre Houston, South Road residents Carrie and Tom Whalen and Fred Dietrich were also present.

The purpose of the meeting was for the Town to make a decision on Devereux New York's notification of a group home at 593 Verbank Road.

Mrs. Whalen provided the Board with rental and sales information for alternative locations for Devereux New York's consideration.

Attorney Whalen reiterated that the New York State Statute allows the Town Board three options:

- Approve the suggested site,
- Suggest alternate sites
- Deny the site based upon a high concentration of similar sites, causing a saturation in an area.

The town Board had a discussion which included the position that 593 Verbank Road is an unsafe location to the property terrain and isolation. Several of the Board members serve or have served on Boards for not-for-profit agencies that serve children and felt strongly that safety is of the utmost importance for children living in residential communities.

Mr. Dietrich reiterated the concerns of Mrs. Whalen: the property has a steep cliff running along the northern property line, the fact that it is isolated from emergency services and that 2,000 acres of state land backs up against the said property, which creates many hazards to people who are unfamiliar with the terrain and the animal habitat.

Legislator Houston noted that this is her first experience with a group home wanting to be placed in her district. She would be happy to reach out to people on the county level.

Attorney Whalen said that Devereux New York still has to go through the Planning Board review process. If the Town were to say the site is fine, it means Devereux may proceed and seek the approvals that are necessary, which are all subject to Public Hearings.

Attorney Whalen advised that if the Town were to suggest alternative locations, anyone looking at this down the road can see that the Town can demonstrate in good faith, that the safety issues which have been raised these are actual concerns.

On a motion made by Councilman De Bonis and seconded by Councilman Audia, the Town of Washington Town Board resolved to notify Devereux New York that there are better suited alternative locations which would be better settings for a group home and to provide them with a list of local alternative sites.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri Aye
Councilman Turletes Aye
Councilman Audia Aye
Councilman De Bonis Aye
Councilman Murphy Aye

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board moved into Executive Session t 7:15 PM for an Attorney Client privileged session. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board resumed the regular session at 7:45 PM. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia the Board authorized Town Clerk Alex to send via email a letter drafted to Devereux New York suggesting alternate sites to 593 Verbank Road.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri Aye
Councilman Turletes Aye
Councilman Audia Aye
Councilman De Bonis Aye
Councilman Murphy Aye

On a motion made by Councilman De Bonis and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board authorized Town Clerk Alex to seek bids for a Bond the BAN that is coming due for a highway vehicle.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri Aye

Councilman Turletes Aye

Councilman Audia Aye

Councilman De Bonis Aye

Councilman Murphy Aye

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the meeting was closed at 8:10 PM.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri Aye

Councilman Turletes Aye

Councilman Audia Aye

Councilman De Bonis Aye

Councilman Murphy Aye

Mary Alex, Electronically Signed

Mary Alex, Town Clerk