

WASHINGTON TOWN BOARD

NOVEMBER 4, 2021

MINUTES

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held its regular meeting on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at the Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Dr., Millbrook, NY. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Supervisor Gary Ciferri with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Robert Audia, Michael Murphy, Town Clerk Mary Alex Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola and Bookkeeper Lois Petrone. The purpose of the meeting was for the Town Clerk to present the Preliminary 2022 Budget and any other business that might come before the Town Board.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the Board moved to open the Public Hearing on 2022 Proposed Budget. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

Bookkeeper Petrone discussed several of the Budget Highlights:

1. Budget is under the 2022 allowable 2% tax cap.
2. Bond for Parkland expansion was paid off in 2021.
3. \$34,000.00 reserve fund for Reassessment of all properties has been budgeted. The \$34,000.00 was the annual payment for the parkland bond.
4. Restored funding for programs removed in the 2021 budget due to Pandemic. Restored records management, employee training and Conservation Advisory Commission line items.
5. Added money for sick leave liability in A and B funds.
6. Anticipate Town Park and Summer Programs to be fully functional.
7. Increased data processing line items for continued IT and website improvements.
8. Will complete zoning code migration to General Code with information in a more organized fashion, and available online for easy access.
9. \$30,000. for professional services related to Killlearn Road.
10. Added two full time positions and the related benefits.
11. Increased fees for contracts with the Village of Millbrook: Fire and Rescue Services, Rental of Village Gymnasium and Police Protection for Court Night.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the Board moved to reschedule the Public Hearing for Local Law #5 of 2021, Opt-Out of Cannabis Sales for December 9, 2021 due to an issue with the publication of the legal notice. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the Board moved to schedule a Public Hearing for December 9, 2021 for the Fire Contract with the Village of Millbrook. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

Highway Superintendent Spagnola advised that the town sustained road damage during recent storms including, Ida. A 10-foot basin at the bottom of Hammond Hill Road incurred damage and the highway crew completed the work with block masonry. The state originally installed the basin, and there is a question as to who is responsible for the basin. Highway Superintendent Spagnola would like to know if there was an agreement made in 1974 that the Town would maintain the basin? The expense for this work is covered through funds available from FEMA for storm Ida.

Highway Superintendent Spagnola said that the Highway Department has placed 20 No Littering signs to go along with the new regulations recently passed by the Town. The department is waiting for availability on the 10-foot metal posts. As of 2016, the inventory for signs is 400+. Some roads such as South Road and Stanford Road have 35 – 40 signs including speed limits, road names, curves and more.

Highway Superintendent Spagnola said that Truck 7 is out of service, being repaired off site due to antifreeze in the engine. Mechanic Erts could not do the work.

Highway Superintendent Spagnola reported he will be meeting with representatives from Colliers Engineering to discuss Killlearn Road. Foreman Wayne Gruntler will also be in attendance

Bookkeeper Petrone advised that bank reconciliations and monthly reports will be delayed because of the change in meeting dates. Bank statements haven't been received. Mrs. Petrone asked the Board if they would be interested in meeting with Joel Friedman of NYCLASS, which is

a government investment pool to determine if there are ways for the Town to invest for a more favorable return. Many towns are using the service for the ARPA money.

On the recommendation of Bookkeeper, a motion was made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia, the following Budget Transfers were approved as presented:

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
DB.5130.0200	Machinery Equipment	\$3,500.00
DB.5132.0400	Highway Garage Contractual	-\$3,500.00

Note: Resolution amend the budget for the purchase of the 1990 Mauldin Paver

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.7110.0200.0000	Park & Pool Equipment	\$8,700.00
A.7110.0100.0000	Pool Lifeguard Salary	-\$8,700.00

Note: Resolution to amend the budget for the purchase of the KUBOTA

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
B.8020.2115.0000	Planning Board Fees - Revenue	\$850.00
B.8020.0404.0000	PB Wetland's Consultant	\$850.00

Note: To record the income used from the escrow for Wetlands Consultants

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
B.8010.0400.0000	ZBA CE	\$700.00
B.8010.0100.0000	ZBA PS	-\$700.00

Note: Resolution to cover the unexpected costs of the ZBA CE Line for wetlands consultant

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

Town Clerk Alex noted that the December minutes have been distributed and posted to the website. Website updates continue with the addition of all Planning Board and ZBA Applications being posted. The Town Clerk's office is issuing DEC licenses for hunting and fishing.

The Town Hall will be closed on November 11 for Veteran's Day and November 25 and 26 for the Thanksgiving weekend.

Councilman Turletes said that despite the horrible weather, Trunk or Treating and Pumpkin painting were held at the Town Park. LMC Basketball runs through the end of December. The Rec Department has learned that Santa will be paying a visit to Millbrook on Friday, December 3rd and will be at the tree lighting ceremony rather than at the firehouse.

Councilman Audia advised that he's revising the generator bids for distribution.

Councilman Murphy followed up on the discussion regarding consultants for the ZBA and Planning Board and has started to reach out to some companies to gauge their interest. An RFP should be prepared so all companies are given the same information.

Councilman Murphy is researching legislation on hosted and unhosted short term rentals. The Town currently allows Bed and Breakfasts if the owner has received a special use permit. At this time, there aren't any properties operating as Bed and Breakfasts, yet Dutchess County has 42 properties on their registry for short term rentals and hospitality taxes. Residents should understand that just because they have registered with Dutchess County, it does not authorize them to operate an AirBnB or VRBO in the Town of Washington.

The Town will be reviewing legislation in other communities as a guide. If the Town adopts legislation an inspection would be required which would protect the community by ensuring the house is up to code, it would protect the neighborhood by requiring a local representative if there are problems and it would provide information to the fire department and rescue squad regarding the number of allowable renters in the event of an emergency. This information will also be useful to the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee as they address the topic of accommodations.

As there weren't any questions or comments, on a motion made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia the Board moved to close the Public Hearing on the 2022 Budget. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board approved the 2022 Town Budget. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

On behalf of Councilman Rochfort, Councilman Audia attended the Planning Board meeting on November 2, 2021. He reported that a two-lot subdivision titled Bontecou 2 Subdivision was approved. A Public Hearing for a two-lot subdivision on Woodstock Rd titled Gayleward Farm has been scheduled for December 7, 2021 at 7:30 PM. One lot will be created for the barn and stable and an additional lot will be created for the house. There may be a possible lot line adjustment in the future. The meeting lasted 15 minutes.

Councilman Audia said he attended a Zoom meeting with representatives of Livingston Energy about vehicle charging station locations at Town properties. The funding from New York State is no longer available. He will submit a summary of the meeting to the Board members.

Supervisor Ciferri opened the meeting for public input.

John Askildsen appeared before the Board to discuss his concerns with the citizens of Union Vale using the Millbrook Library, even on a limited basis, as the Town of Union Vale has stopped paying the library a fee. Union Vale residents have access to Millbrook, Beekman and LaGrange Library's. Several years back the Mid-Hudson Library System negotiated a fee of \$77,000.00 to be paid by the Town of Union Vale, and split between the three aforementioned libraries. According to Mr. Askildsen, Union Vale Supervisor Betsy Maas objected to the fees, and stated she would not give in to what the three libraries and the MHLS negotiated. The agreement ended in 2020. Union Vale residents continue to use the library and Union Vale has not made a payment since February, 2020. Mr. Askildsen objects to the continued use of the Millbrook Library by Union Vale residents. Washington residents pay \$184,000.00 in local taxes for the Millbrook Library. The Town of Union Vale has decided they will spend \$1,500,000.00 to renovate property at Tymor Park for a library. The three libraries have restricted Union Vale residents to only utilizing print materials.

Based on a letter written by former Library President Kerry Weller, the three towns are subsidizing Union Vale residents at a rate of \$57 - \$67.00 per resident. This is not in the spirit of the law. How long will the Town of Washington entertain the idea of subsidizing the library for them? Where do we draw the line or contact an attorney? Is there a precedent with one town's taxpayers carrying the burden for another town's residents as it relates to library usage? How long should we as a town allow our residents to pay for the library without support from Union Vale?

Mr. Askildsen said the Millbrook Library is a huge and important part of this town. Can the Library Board make these types of decisions on taxes for our community? Has the Library Board notified the town about the ongoing problem? The Town Board said they will reach out to the library board for more information and the Town Attorney, if needed. Mr. Askildsen said the Town deserves better engagement from the library on this matter.

At 7:40 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia, the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss a particular personnel matter. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

At 9:15 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia the regular meeting resumed. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

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

Gen Fund A	\$31,124.24
Gen Fund B	\$5,992.74
Hwy Fund DB	\$20,190.24
Total	\$57,295.22

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the meeting was closed at 10:00 PM. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri AYE
Councilman Turletes AYE
Councilman Audia AYE
Councilman Murphy AYE

Mary Alex, Town Clerk