

TOWN OF WASHINGTON  
February 23, 2023  
Minutes

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held a special meeting on Thursday, February 23, 2023, at the Washington Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Supervisor Gary Ciferri with the following present: Councilman Michael Murphy, Councilwoman Leslie Heaney, Town Clerk Mary Alex and Attorney Jeff Battistoni.

Attending via Zoom were Howard Schuman and Judith Balfe.

Supervisor Ciferri opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilwoman Heaney the Board opened the Public Hearing on the Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Rescue Squad Workers. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	ABSENT
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	AYE
Councilwoman Heaney:	AYE

On a motion made by Councilwoman Heaney and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board opened the Public Hearing on Increasing the Income Level for Persons with Disabilities and Low Incomes. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	ABSENT
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	AYE
Councilwoman Heaney:	AYE

On behalf of Councilman Rochfort, Town Clerk Alex relayed his question asking if there should be a provision included that the Resolution would be updated if the State allows an exemption for residents living in our town and serving in an adjacent town or if a volunteer serves the Millbrook Fire Department as a 209 I member, the Town would revise the resolution so they may receive the exemption. Attorney Battistoni said it wouldn't be necessary, as this exemption is being adopted as a resolution. The Town Board could revise the resolution at any time if the state fixes some of the concerns.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilwoman Heaney the Town Board closed the public hearing on the Exemption for Volunteer Firefighters and Rescue Squad Workers. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
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Councilman Audia: ABSENT  
Councilman Murphy: AYE  
Councilman Rochfort: AYE  
Councilwoman Heaney: AYE

**RESOLUTION CREATING REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR  
VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS AND VOLUNTEER AMBULANCE WORKERS  
RESOLUTION NO. 01-0223 OF 2023**

Councilman Murphy offered the following Resolution, which was seconded by Councilwoman Heaney who moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, New York State Real Property Tax Law Section 466-a authorizes municipalities to create a real property tax exemption for volunteer firefighters and volunteer ambulance workers to the extent of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of such volunteer's primary residence within the municipality; and

WHEREAS, said exemption may be created by local law, ordinance of resolution after a public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Town Board of the Town of Washington intends to create such exemption within the limits required by RPTL Section 466-a; and

WHEREAS, a duly noticed public hearing was held to address this issue on February \_\_, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. prevailing time at the Town of Washington Town Hall;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board hereby classifies this action as a Type II action for SEQRA purposes pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(26) and any other applicable subsection; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Town Board hereby creates and provides for a real property tax exemption of ten percent (10%) of the assessed value of the primary residence within the Town of Washington for a volunteer firefighter or volunteer ambulance worker who is an enrolled member of an incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service that serves the Town of Washington provided that such volunteer has a minimum of two years of such service; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Assessor may rely upon a list or other certification provided by such incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service which certifies such volunteer's enrollment and length of service; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the said real property must be used exclusively for residential purposes and, in the event that any portion of such real property is not used exclusively for the applicant's residence but is used for other purposes, such portion shall be subject to taxation and the

remaining portion only shall be entitled to the exemption provided for in this Resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that any such enrolled member who accrues more than twenty (20) years of active service and is so certified by the authority having jurisdiction of the incorporated volunteer fire company, fire department or incorporated volunteer ambulance service shall be granted this ten percent (10%) exemption as authorized by this Resolution for the remainder of his or her life as long as his or her primary residence is located within the Town of Washington and, further, that this exemption shall continue for the unremarried surviving spouse of such volunteer; and be it further

RESOLVED any exemption granted hereunder shall in no event exceed three thousand dollars (\$3,000.00) multiplied by the latest state equalization rate for the Town of Washington.

The foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri	AYE
Councilman Audia	ABSENT
Councilwoman Heaney	AYE
Councilman Murphy	AYE
Councilman Rochfort	ABSENT

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilwoman Heaney, the Town Board closed the Public Hearing on Increasing the Income Level for Persons with Disabilities and Low Incomes. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	ABSENT
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	AYE
Councilwoman Heaney:	AYE

### **RESOLUTION**

Councilwoman Heaney offered the following Resolution, which was seconded by Councilman Murphy, who moved for its adoption:

WHEREAS, a local law was introduced entitled A LOCAL LAW OF THE TOWN OF

WASHINGTON, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO AMEND LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF 2019 TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF THE TAX EXEMPTION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND LIMITED INCOMES PURSUANT TO REAL PROPERTY TAX LAW SECTION 459-c; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing in relation to said local law was held on February 23, 2023 at 6:00 p.m., Prevailing Time; and

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was given pursuant to the terms and provisions of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, said local law has been on the desks of the members of the Town Board of the Town of Washington for at least seven (7) days, exclusive of Sunday.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED and BE IT ENACTEDE by the Town Board of the Town of Washington as follows:

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON LOCAL LAW NO. 1 OF THE YEAR 2023**

Section 1. Local Law No. 1 of 2019, which amended Section 2(a) of Local Law No. 2 of 2008, is hereby amended so that the reference in Section 2(a) thereof to “\$29,000 (“Maximum income”)” is changed and increased to “\$37,400 (“Maximum Income”)” as permitted by RPTL §459-c.

Section 2. The remainder of Local Law No. 1 of 2019 remains the same.

Section 3. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York Secretary of State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town Clerk shall file a certified original of this local law in the office of the Town Clerk and one (1) certified copy in the Office of the Secretary of State, State of New York.

The foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote which resulted as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri	AYE
Councilmember Audia	ABSENT
Councilmember Heaney	AYE
Councilmember Murphy	AYE
Councilmember Rochfort	ABSENT

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilwoman Heaney, the Town Board authorized Recreation Director Szalewicz to advertise for a Request for Proposals for professional services for an engineer to prepare bid specifications and an RFP for a new well and water hookup at the Town Park. Bids will be due on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 12 Noon. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	ABSENT
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	AYE
Councilwoman Heaney:	AYE

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilwoman Heaney the Town Board scheduled a special meeting for March 14, 2023, at 12 Noon for the Town Board to receive and review the bids for an engineer to prepare bid specifications and an RFP for a new well and water hookup at the Town Park. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	ABSENT
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	AYE
Councilwoman Heaney:	AYE

Recreation Director Szalewicz reported that she is scheduling interviews for a Maintenance Person at the Town Park for March 7, 2023. She has requested that Councilman Audia participate in the interviews.

On a motion made by Councilwoman Heaney and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the Town Board authorized Town Clerk Alex to submit the revisions made by Attorney Wilson to General Code.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
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Councilman Audia: ABSENT  
Councilman Murphy: AYE  
Councilman Rochfort: AYE  
Councilwoman Heaney: AYE

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilwoman Heaney, the Town Board accepted the following claims as presented:  
Gen Fund A

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri: AYE  
Councilman Audia: ABSENT  
Councilman Murphy: AYE  
Councilman Rochfort: AYE  
Councilwoman Heaney: AYE

Supervisor Ciferri was pleased to report that the NYS Department of Transportation recently approved speed limit reductions on several county roads, which had been requested 2019. The following speed reductions have been enacted:  
Altamont Road (County Route 96) is now 45 MPH.  
Shunpike (County Route 57) is now 45 MPH.  
Little Rest Road (County Route 99) is now 45 MPH.  
North Mabbettville Rd. (County Route 98) is now 45 MPH  
Chestnut Ridge Road (County Route 23) from Route 343 to the Washington/Union vale Town line is now 45 MPH

Studies of Oak Summit Road and County House Road revealed they do not support a lower speed limit.

Supervisor Ciferri said he had a request from the Millbrook Historical Society requesting to be the custodian of the Historic Preservation records completed by Stephanie Mauri on behalf of the Town. The Town had consulted with Historian David Greenwood and CAC Chairperson Margaret Schneible and they were in agreement that the records should remain with the Town.

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilwoman Heaney and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the meeting was closed at 6:25 PM.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri: AYE  
Councilman Audia: ABSENT  
Councilman Murphy: AYE

Councilman Rochfort: AYE  
Councilwoman Heaney: AYE

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Mary Alex, Town Clerk