

**A Village Board Regular Meeting was held on Monday, December 2, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.**

**PRESENT:**

**Mayor Thomas DeVinko, Deputy Mayor Donna Jacaruso, Trustee Susan Walski, Trustee Steve Presser and Trustee Vernon Coleman.**

**ALSO PRESENT:**

**Village Clerk Christine Shenkman, Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro and H2O Operations Project Manager Justin Fairbrother.**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:**

**Mayor DeVinko led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.**

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**LOCAL LAW NUMBER 7 – “EXTENDING A MORATORIUM PROHIBITING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CERTAIN LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS IN THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE FOR SIX (6) MONTHS”:**

**Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to open the Public Hearing regarding adoption of Local Law Number 7 entitled “Extending a Moratorium Prohibiting the Review and Approval of Certain Land Development Applications in the Village of Washingtonville for Six (6) Months.”; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.**

**The Mayor indicated the Village Board will now entertain audience comment:**

**Paul Lang of 10 Patriot Lane questioned “when you state certain land developments is that specific?”**

**Mayor DeVinko replied “in general terms that is the language the Village has received from the Public Hearings that has been used for the last two years for all property and zones.”**

**An audience member indicated “besides the 61 East Main Street project are there other development projects being held up?”**

**Mayor DeVinko responded “yes. 36 North Street renovation, Auro-Chemicals, Orange County Transmission and the Presbyterian Church on Route 94.”**

**Michael Graziano of 3 Lark Street commented “a local bank in the Village has construction being done. Why is that allowed?”**

**Mayor DeVinko explained “an individual backed their vehicle into a support column so this is being repaired.”**

**Vincent Lang asked, “how many more times can the Village extend the moratorium, is this the last time and what is the progress regarding the Village Comprehensive Plan?”**

**Mayor DeVinko responded “this will be the final extension time for the Moratorium,” and Deputy Mayor Jacaruso explained “the Comprehensive Committee met for the**

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last time. They will hold a Public Hearing on January 6, and receive comments which will be reviewed.”

There being no further audience or Village Board comment:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to close the Public Hearing regarding the aforesated Local Law; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Absentions.

Mayor DeVinko stated “I would like to make a comment that approximately a half-hour ago an e-mail was received from Baroda Realty regarding an amended Site Plan on Auroa-Chemicals property. This documentation will be included in the Village records.”

**PUBLIC COMMENT – AGENDA ITEMS:**

Sean Hegarty from 4 Belvoir Drive questioned “has the well on Hudson Street been put back online”, and the Mayor responded that well has been abandoned for many years. The last time it was utilized it only produced five (5) gallons per minute.”

Mr. Hegarty further asked “where is the building going to be located for the Rieger wells?”

The Mayor explained “the Village is still in the design phase”.

Mayor DeVinko continued to discuss more details concerning the wells and his potential future plans.

Vincent Lang of 9 Plymouth Rock Court questioned “how did the Sewer Plant roof hold up with the recent snowfall?”

Mayor DeVinko replied “all electrical components in the room were covered. Even with three (3) tarps in place leakage occurred in some areas. By Wednesday or Thursday the project should be one-half finished. The power pit area including blocks was completed. Weather dependent, the project should be done in approximately another two (2) weeks. The building and equipment will remain covered until the roof is done.”

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION:**

**UPDATE – 2024 WHOVILLE AND CHRISTMAS PARADE:**

The Mayor announced Whoville will take place on Saturday, December 7 from 12:00 p.m. through 5:00 p.m. with Vendors located in E.J. McLaughlin Square. Fencing for the Parade will be installed early in the Day. The Christmas Parade will begin at 6:00 p.m. Road closures will be posted on the Village Website and a telephone communication message will be sent regarding these events.

**NEW YORK STATE CONFERENCE OF MAYORS - ADVOCACY UPDATE:**

The Mayor reported the New York State Conference of Mayors (N.Y.C.O.M.) are working to increase the cost of State aid to \$50 million dollars for Towns and Villages. The Village of Washingtonville receives \$13,000 while other Villages

**ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION: (CONTINUED):**

receive \$200,000 which is not fair. The Mayor will update the residents as new information becomes available.

**INSTALLATION - TAFT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - CROSSING WARNING LIGHTS:**

Mayor DeVinko indicated the Village of Washingtonville received two (2) Grants from the County of Orange and Greene County Bank concerning the purchase and installation of new crosswalk lights which will be solar.

**UPDATE - SEWER PLANT ROOF PROJECT:**

This topic was previously covered earlier in this evening's meeting.

**UPDATE - ORANGE AND ROCKLAND - STREETLIGHT RESPONSE:**

The Village Police Department continuously reviews and reports street lighting outages. The Mayor urged residents to report any non-working light to the Village who in turn provides the information to Orange and Rockland Utilities. O. & R. will charge the Village for use of said lights whether they are in working or non-working condition.

**UPDATE - GENERATOR GRANT - VILLAGE HALL AND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BUILDINGS:**

A New York State Assembly Grant Project Number has now been issued to the Village of Washingtonville regarding the purchase of generators for the Village Hall and Department of Public Works building. Grants can take between twelve and eighteen months to come to fruition.

**UPDATE - TRAFFIC REPORTS - ANALYZING SPEED ON ARROWPOINT LANE:**

Chief Zaccaro reported an analysis of Arrowpoint Lane regarding speeding vehicles took place and the results were as follows:

Of 5,800 vehicles the data the Police Department received was low. The P.D. will set up a test on other Village streets, and will work on having people slow down by giving warnings to them.

**BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING DATES:**

The following are the dates for the upcoming Village Budget meetings:

Monday – January 6, 2025 and Monday, January 13, 2025

Budget Adoption – Monday – February 3, 2025

The Treasurer is meeting with Department heads and the Village Board to review proposed Budgets. A Tax Cap Resolution to allow the Village to go over the allotted New York State two percent (2%) cap will be passed.

**RESOLUTIONS:****RESOLUTION – 24 – 0208 – APPROVAL - ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD SIGN APPLICATION - ACCESS PT PHYSIOTHERAPY:**

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to approve the Architectural Review Board Sign application for Access PT Physiotherapy located at 83 East Main Street; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

**RESOLUTION – 24 – 0209 – ACCEPTANCE OF SEWER PLANT ROOF EMERGENCY REPAIR BOND - \$185,000:**

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to accept the Sewer Plant Roof Emergency Repair Bond in the amount of \$185,000; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

**RESOLUTION – 24 – 0210 – AUTHORIZATION – EXECUTE GRANT APPLICATION - WIIA GRANT AND/OR IMG GRANT - NEW WELL IN THE HIGHGROVE DEVELOPMENT:**

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize Mayor Thomas DeVinko to sign and apply for a WIIA Grant and/or IMG Grant for project described in Application for a new Well in the Highgrove Development location; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

**RESOLUTION – 24 – 0211 – ACCEPTANCE - BID PROPOSALS UNLEADED GAS - ON-ROAD DIESEL FUEL:**

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to accept Bid proposals for Regular Unleaded Gas and or On-Road Diesel Fuel; Sealed Bids to be received at Village Hall no later than 3:30 p.m. on Friday, December 13, 2024; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

**RESOLUTION – 24 – 0212 - AUTHORIZE APPROVAL OF CABLE TELEVISION FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH SPECTRUM NORTHEAST, LLC.:**

Trustee Coleman made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to authorize approval of the Cable Television Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC. for a period of ten (10) years; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

**RESOLUTION – 24 – 0213 – AUTHORIZE ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW NUMBER 7 OF THE YEAR 2024 ENTITLED "EXTENDING A MORATORIUM PROHIBITING THE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CERTAIN LAND DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS IN THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE FOR SIX (6) MONTHS":**

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to authorize the adoption of Local Law Number 7 of the Year 2024 entitled "Extending a Moratorium Prohibiting the Review and Approval of Certain Land Development Applications in the Village of Washingtonville for Six (6) Months; said

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Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

**RESOLUTION – 24 – 0214 - SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING A PROPERTY TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE LIMIT ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-C:**

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to schedule a Public Hearing regarding Adoption of a Local Law Authorizing a Property Tax Levy in Excess of the Limit Established in General Municipal Law Section 3-c to be held on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. or as soon thereafter as can be heard; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

**RESOLUTION – 24 — 0215 - AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS – AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS:**

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jacaruso and adopted to authorize Budget Transfers and Amendments as necessary to affect necessary Transfer of Funds and to pay Warrants; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

General Fund	\$603,922.56	(NYS Retirement Contributions	\$136,841.00)
		(Public Contributions	\$447,692.00)
Water Fund	\$ 1,085.18		
Sewer Fund	\$ 2,000.00		

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Nancy Donaldson of 4 Emerson Drive questioned “what is going on with the renovation on North Street?”, and the Mayor stated, “I have spoken to the Building Inspector and there is a number of open Permits needed to be addressed. The Village is waiting to receive the updated architectural plans. There is a fence around the property and the Building Department requested a window be closed and sealed. Presently, the property is vacant.”

Ms. Donaldson asked “will it be turned into apartments?”, and the Mayor explained “I believe at this point it is a two family home but I will find out this information for you.”

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso added “the original rendering was not E-Code compliant and there were violations. The property owner was requested to submit architectural or engineer renderings that are compliant but it is taking quite awhile. The fencing is temporary to prevent any vandalism.”

Nancy Donaldson asked “is it an historical home?”, and the Deputy Mayor explained it is not however the Village is in the process of revising Codes. A Historical District will be created and include this home but it will not be on the National Historical Registry.

**PUBLIC COMMENT - CONTINUED:**

Paul Lang of 10 Patriot Lane stated, "When I get my water bill and I pay it there is a water, sewer and facility charge. Where does the money go, and I am disappointed the Treasurer is not having the financial presentation today. Which fund does the money from the water sales go?"

Mayor DeVinko commented "the money goes into a sperate account and those funds are used for the Engineering Firm that is developing the well."

Paul Lang replied "can't the Village use the money to reduce water rates?"

The Mayor explained "the Village is utilizing this money to develop wells and are hoping to receive a Grant."

Paul Lang asked, "Do we have an update on how many meters have been installed?"

Trustee Walski stated "fifty-nine (59) and three (3) more this week will be done."

Mr. Lang further questioned "do we still own the Building Department vehicle?", and Mayor DeVinko indicated "yes. It is being utilized by the D.P.W."

Paul Lang asked "what is the current level of the Village wells", and the Mayor stated "twenty-six feet 7 inches, and they are being continuously monitored."

Sean Hegarty asked "if the Village Board has looked into fly tipping/dumping being done on Toleman road, Canterbury Circle and Decker Drive" and the Mayor responded "yes the location is private property. It was discussed with the homeowner in the past that it is not allowed to dump behind their home."

Sean Hegarty questioned "is the electrical work finished at L. Vernon Allen Park because conduit has been left behind the shed. What is the reason for that?"

The Mayor will have D.P.W. pick it up tomorrow.

Sean Hegarty indicated "is the shed utilized for Pickleball Court storage because it is left open and I am concerned that animals or children can go inside."

The Mayor will look into this matter.

Resident Michael Graziano of 3 Lark Street commented "with regard to the Resolution to give Spectrum a ten (10) year Agreement, and Verizon also in in this area doesn't that create a monopoly? Is there anything the Village can do about it so competition can occur?"

Mayor DeVinko replied "I understand your frustration because as a homeowner I and everyone in this Village have experienced this situation."

**RESOLUTION 24 – 0216 — ADJOURNMENT:**

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to adjourn the Monday, December 2, 2024 Village Board Regular Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,**

**CHRISTINE SHENKMAN**

**VILLAGE CLERK**