

A Village Board Work Session Meeting was held on Monday, December 16, 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 and Trustee Steve Presser.

ABSENT:

Trustee Vernon Coleman.

ALSO PRESENT:


Village Clerk Christine Shenkman, Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro and Village Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

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

FINANCIAL PRESENTATION – VILLAGE TREASURER:

WATER AND SEWER BUDGET PRESENTATION:

	Water Fund-Revenues		
Account	Adopted Budget	Total billings through 10/31/2024	Total pmts. received through 11/30/2024
Water Rents	\$1,105,991	\$762,215	\$483,158
Water Rents- Bulk			\$159,320 (7 months)

FINANCIAL PRESENTATION – VILLAGE TREASURER – (CONTINUED):



Water Fund-Expenditures

Expenditure Category	Adopted Budget	Actual through 11/30/2024	Variance
Water Operations	\$115,000	\$72,344	\$42,656
Administrative	\$478,693	\$359,729	\$118,964
Water Purification	\$140,000	\$1,820	\$138,180
Water Transmission Wells	\$182,500	\$77,405	\$105,095
Employee Benefits	\$189,798	\$145,599	\$44,199



Sewer Fund-Revenues

Account	Adopted Budget	Total billings through 10/31/2024	Total pmts received through 11/30/2024
Sewer Rents/facility	\$1,538,616	\$1,274,157	\$1,006,301



Sewer Fund-Expenditures

Expenditure Category	Adopted Budget	Actual through 11/30/24	Variance
Sewer Operations	\$908,343	\$741,798	\$166,545
Employee Benefits	\$187,298	\$144,849	\$42,449
Debt Service	\$442,975	\$442,975	\$0

PUBLIC COMMENT- AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Resident Paul Lang of 10 Patriot Lane questioned "does the Water Purification line item represent chemicals" and the Treasurer responded "yes." Mr. Lang further stated, "the Water Operations figures appear to be off, and why is the Sewer Fund receiving more money than the Water Fund?"

Trustee Walski explained "the Sewer numbers include the Facility Use charges that have been collected."

Paul Lang suggested "the Village increase the water fee for the water haulers."

John Cappello from Jacobowitz and Gubits Law Firm stated, "I am here to speak on behalf of Mr. Casazza regarding the Village proposed Comprehensive Plan. A letter was submitted to the Village Board on November 15 regarding the initial review of the plans and raising some concerns which relate to Mr. Casazza's property which is the largest undeveloped parcel in the Village. Some of the concerns the Casazza's expressed are working with the Village Board to create a balance allowing Mr. Casazza to realize his retirement plans and develop the land in a manner that will be a benefit to the Casazza family and the Village of Washingtonville; provide much needed housing and diverse development opportunity in the Village setting; and provision of tax benefits and support of businesses in the Village. The Law in New York State is it is required to provide diverse housing opportunity not just for Village residents but for everyone in the region. There is a dire housing crisis in the entire County of Orange, especially in the Hudson Valley. This property would create an opportunity for flexibility in Zoning. After reviewing Village Codes, a good portion of this property is zoned for Agriculture businesses. The Comprehensive Plan proposes the parcel for Agriculture Business and a portion of the area is for some commercial uses. The Village has been under a Moratorium, but the Casazza family would like to meet with the Board and Comprehensive Plan Committee to present their ideas regarding this land."

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso indicated "that she invited Mr. Casazza to come this evening and present specific ideas as to land use before the Comprehensive Committee does their presentation on January 6."

Attorney John Cappello from Jacobowitz & Gubits Law Firm stated, "the Casazza family has plans that can be provided to the Village Board regarding their thoughts on the Comprehensive Plan." Deputy Mayor Jacaruso requested "Mr. Casazza deliver the plans via e-mail or in person at Village Hall and she will forward them to the Comprehensive Planner prior to the Public Hearing." Attorney Cappello indicated "I have been involved in many Comprehensive Plans over the past thirty-five (35) years and there is still work to be done regarding the Village Plan."

On behalf of the Village Board Mayor DeVinko thanked the audience for their comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – DISCUSSION:**UPDATE – 2024 WHOVILLE EVENTS AND CHRISTMAS PARADE:**

Mayor DeVinko reported the 2024 Whoville event and Christmas Parade was a success. On behalf of the Village Board, the Mayor expressed thanks to the Events Committee, Blooming Grove – Washingtonville Chamber of Commerce, Department of Public Works, Village Police Department and Village Clerk Christine Shenkman for all their hard-working, dedicated efforts in doing an excellent job.

EMERGENCY ALERT COMMUNICATION SYSTEM – CODE RED:

The Village of Washingtonville has signed up with a new emergency alert communication system called Code Red and urged the residents to sign up as soon as possible. The Code Red link can be found on the Village of Washingtonville Website. The system will help residents and business owners to stay informed about activities with the Village and any emergency situation.

HUNTING SEASON - NO HUNTING WITHIN VILLAGE LIMITS:

Mayor DeVinko announced there is no hunting within the Village of Washingtonville limits. If incidents of this nature occur, then penalties will be enforced.

UPDATE - VILLAGE VOLUNTARY WATER RESTRICTIONS:

As of this evening, Monday, December 16, 2024 Village of Washingtonville voluntary water restrictions have been lifted.

UPDATE - OUTSIDE FIRE PIT BURNING BAN:

The outside fire pit burning ban in the Village of Washingtonville has been lifted.

VILLAGE WELLS - WATER LEVEL:

The Village well water level is presently twenty-six feet two inches.

GOTHAM ELECTRIC VEHICLE PROPOSAL - VILLAGE PARKING LOTS:

The Village received a letter from Gotham Company regarding a electric vehicle proposal for Village municipal parking lots. The Mayor is waiting to receive additional information regarding this matter.

COVID TESTING KITS:

Covid Testing Kits are now available at Village Hall. If you are in need of a Kit please contact Village Clerk Christine Shenkman at Village Hall.

UPDATE DRINKING WATER STATE REVOLVING FUND GRANT - HIGHGROVE WELL AND WATER TREATMENT PLANT:

The Village of Washingtonville previously applied for a Water Grant but unfortunately New York State ran out of money for this program. The Village was asked to reapply next year.

VILLAGE PICKLEBALL COURTS:

The Village Pickleball Courts located at L. Vernon Allen Park will be closed on January 2 until early Spring.

UPDATE - WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT (WWTP) OPERATIONS BUILDING ROOF REPLACEMENT PROJECT:

The Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Operations Building Roof Replacement project is moving along even though adverse weather conditions have prevailed. The project will be completed in the near future.

VILLAGE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

The Village Draft Comprehensive Plan is now available for viewing on the Village of Washingtonville Website. The Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan is scheduled for January 6, 2025.

DRONE ACTIVITY:

The County of Orange has asked the Village to announce if residents have questions or comments about the recent Drone activity in the Orange County area please contact the New York State Police with any concerns. Please do not call 911.

RESOLUTIONS:**RESOLUTION – 24 – 0217 - ORANGE COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF TOWNS, VILLAGES AND CITIES:**

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to attend the Orange County Association of Towns, Villages and Cities on February 14 through February 19, 2025, in New York City; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – 24 – 0218 – SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING - LOCAL LAW NUMBER 1 OF THE YEAR 2025 – “EXTEND OPENING HOURS OF L. VERNON ALLEN PARK – PICKLEBALL PLAY:

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to schedule a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. regarding Local Law Number 1 of the year 2025 to Extend Opening Hours of L. Vernon Allen Park until 9:00 p.m. for Pickleball play; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – 24 – 0219 – SCHEDULE PUBLIC HEARING – VILLAGE DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to schedule a Public Hearing to be held on Monday, January 6, 2025 at 7:05 p.m. to consider the Village of Washingtonville Draft Comprehensive Plan as received and recommended by the Village of Washingtonville Comprehensive Plan Committee; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – 24 – 0220 – APPROVAL - ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD SIGN APPLICATION - BODY BY JULI:

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to approve the Architectural Review Board Sign application for Body By Juli; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTIONS:**RESOLUTION – 24 - 0221 – TO APPOINT VILLAGE EMPLOYEE CHRISTINE SHENKMAN TO CODE OF ETHICS BOARD:**

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman and adopted to appoint Village Clerk Christine Shenkman as Municipal employee to the open Board of Ethics membership position effective this date, December 16, 2024; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION – 24 – 0222 - TO AUTHORIZE BUDGET TRANSFERS – AMENDMENTS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO PAY VILLAGE WARRANTS:

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Coleman 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	\$140,639.27	(Most of the Funds are due to January 2025 State New York Civil Service)
Water Fund	\$ 3,492.00	
Sewer Fund	\$ 4,913.70	

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Paul Lang commented "the Auto Part Store's delivery vehicle is always parked on Main Street with the trunk open."

Audience member Earl Steves stated "I am part owner of the Casazza farm at 19 South Street which has been in our family for two-hundred years and has been a dairy farm. The Village proposed Comprehensive Plan is calling for AB business in this location, and since economic times have changed there is no demand for agricultural business. I want to make the Village Board aware of this fact and provide you with uses that would be a benefit to the Village of Washingtonville."

Sean Hegarty questioned "how many fire hydrants are out of service" and the Mayor indicated two are remaining to be fixed."

Mr. Hegarty further commented "one of the Village benches appear to have been hit and will it be repaired?" "The Mayor indicated the D.P.W. had to remove the entire bench from its location and the family who provided the bench will be contacted. A concrete slab will be installed in the Spring." Mr. Hegarty indicated "also, the rocks need to be removed from the stream at L. Vernon Allen Park."

Vincent Lang suggested a Village Local Law regarding water irrigation be put in place before Spring, and requested an update on Police Contract negotiations. Trustee Presser explained "negotiations are still taking place."

Mr. Vincent Lang questioned "when will the proposed Budget be on the Village Website for review"? and the Mayor responded "the Board is anticipating the week of the 30th."

RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 24 - 0223 — EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Trustee Walski made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Jacaruso and adopted to enter into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters and no decision will be made; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION 24 – 0224 – RESUMPTION OF MEETING:

Deputy Mayor Jacaruso made a motion, seconded by Trustee Presser and adopted to adjourn the Executive Session and resume the Village Board Work Session Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESOLUTION 24 - 0225 – ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Presser made a motion, seconded by Trustee Walski and adopted to adjourn the December 16, 2024 Village Board Work Session Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 4 Ayes, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 0 Abstentions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

CHRISTINE SHENKMAN

VILLAGE CLERK