

TOWN OF WASHINGTON
TOWN BOARD
January 12, 2017

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held their regular meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2017, at the Town of Washington Town Hall. The meeting was called to order, at 7:00 PM, by Supervisor Gary Ciferri with the following in attendance: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Robert Audia, Al De Bonis and Michael Murphy, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola, Bookkeeper Dana Sukow, and Attorney Jeffrey Battistoni.

Also present were Millbrook Fire Chief Ted Bownas, Ed Loedy, Architect, and Judith Balfe, Reporter for the Millerton News.

Supervisor Gary Ciferri opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ed Loedy appeared before the Town Board to review the Community Development Block Grant project. Mr. Loedy advised the Board that the original plan did not include a cover or enclosure for the lift, as it wasn't thought to be necessary. When the plan was being reviewed, Mr. Loedy suggested that an enclosure may be difficult to incorporate with the aesthetics of the building, and the proposed area should be looked at in the winter during storm events. After a storm, Mrs. Alex contacted Mr. Loedy to advise him that an enclosure or cover may be required due to the proposed placement of the lift and where the water lands in that area. Mr. Loedy provided the Town with photographs and price differences of an enclosed lift, as well as renderings of how it may look, and the height that is required with an enclosure. A manufacturer enclosed lift will increase the cost by \$10,000 - \$12,000.00. After some discussion, it was decided that the Bid Specifications should indicate an alternative price to include the enclosed lift.

Mr. Loedy has to submit the plans and estimated costs to Dutchess County for approval of specifications before completing the bid package. Once the plans are approved, the bid specifications will be finished and the Town can go to bid for construction.

Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola said the Town spends a lot of money to ensure the roads are safe and passable 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Most of the storms have been at night or the weekend, requiring the department to incur overtime costs. With the storms we have had, it was necessary to refill the salt shed. The department uses a 20/25% salt to sand mix on the blacktopped roads. As the frost has come out, the dirt roads are extremely muddy. The department uses sand and bluestone for traction on the dirt roads.

In the matter of the Town accepting a portion of Jameson Hill Road, as part of a subdivision approval, Mr. Spagnola said he was looking for some clarification. Mr. Spagnola spoke with Neil Wilson, Planning Board consultant, and was advised that Jameson Hill Road is a 3-rod road. If it is deeded to the Town, and owned by the town, what are the implications for liability? The Town has maintained the road for over ten years, does that imply that the town is already responsible for the road.

Mr. Battistoni suggested that if the town acquires a road, the conveyor should be required to pay for the title search, survey, town legal expenses and deed filing. Kagan should be paying any legal fees for the Town to accept the road.

Mr. Spagnola said that within the right of way there are trees, fences and a stone wall. He believes they are currently the property owners responsibility to maintain. On non-owned roads, what's the towns responsibility? He said he would like to understand all the roads, their ownership and their widths. What's the language for this? He asked how does the town make it clear to the residents of the difference between their responsibility and the Town responsibility.

Mr. Battistoni advised that the Town communicate with the Association of Towns for information or ordinances that discuss the ownership and responsibility of roadway obstacles, trees, fences, stone walls, etc. Additionally, he advised that the Town representative should not sign any Subdivision plats until all documents are filed and the town expenses have been recouped.

Councilman Murphy noted on the Planning Board approval, page 2, # 3 and 4, that the town not accept the deeds until the Town answers are satisfied. Councilman De Bonis said that he had conveyed, on behalf of the Town Board, that the Town Board had conceptually approved the concept proposed on behalf of the Kagan's. Councilman Turletes acknowledged that the applicant hasn't completed the conditions of the Final Sub-Division, and won't until the conditions have been met. It was suggested that if there are concerns about this project, Surveyor Brian Franks, representative of the Kagan's and the Planning Board Chairman be contacted.

Councilman Murphy said this subject should be discussed with the Planning Board before similar projects are approved. The Town Board directed Town Clerk Alex to contact the Association of Towns or the appropriate agencies for information or ordinances that highlight these matters.

In other highway business, Mr. Spagnola noted that the Town Board will see a voucher for \$5,000.00 to replace a plow for one of the larger trucks. It broke during a recent storm.

Councilman De Bonis said he believes Mr. Spagnola made a good choice in hiring Kevin Granger for the Highway Department. As a volunteer fireman, he knows the Town roads and he has experience on how to plow.

Bookkeeper Dana Sukow provided the Town Board with revenue and expense reports. She said she is winding down 2016 and that W-4's will be provided to employees with their next paycheck. When all accounts for 2016 are reconciled, she can begin working on the Annual Financial Report.

Court training is moving along. Once she began to train Mrs. Briggs, she realized how much there is to process in the court.

On the recommendation of Ms. Sukow, on a motion made by Supervisor Ciferri and seconded by Councilman Audia approved writing off a combined \$29.50 for 2015 Transfer Station charges for Don Bergeron, as he advised he made a cash payment for the charges and James Kohut, as he is deceased.

All ayes were recorded.

Town Clerk Mary Alex advised that monthly reports had been received from all departments including the Town Clerk, Recreation Department, Building and Zoning department and the Justice Court.

The Town is in receipt of and is processing the 2017 Tax Bills. They should be mailed on or before January 13th.

Town Clerk Alex is awaiting monthly hours worked from several elected officials. She anticipates receiving them prior to next month's meeting in order for the Town Board to adopt the required Retirement Reporting Resolutions.

A question was raised pertaining to the zoning districts that are shown on Dutchess County parcel access, as it appears they are different than the actual zoning district. Mrs. Alex advised that Dutchess County has a disclaimer on their site that the information and mapped lines might not be accurate and users should verify the information with the appropriate authorities. Town Clerk Alex noted that the Town has an adopted zoning map, which all Town residents and Boards have access to. She will contact Dutchess County regarding the Town information.

Councilman De Bonis requested that the proposed sign ordinance be sent to Town Board members for review.

Councilman De Bonis reported on the activities of the Planning Board. Two applications for properties in Mabbettsville are moving forward: Tuxis and the Legwear distributor. The Kagan application was discussed earlier.

Councilman Stephen Turletes gave the Recreation report and noted that Ms. Edson has created Excel spreadsheets to make it easier for Recreation Commission members to review and follow the revenue and expenses of each program. Mr. Van de Water attended his first meeting, and is looking forward to working with the department.

Basketball season is underway with 108 children participating. A pilot program is being introduced this season whereby seven children that are not town residents or MCSD residents are participating in the Town Rec basketball program. The children participate in other sports together. Sponsorships for the Basketball program went very well, with a number of local businesses supporting the teams.

Other Rec Commission discussions included the success of the Gingerbread House night, a new Mad Science Camp for Spring Break, the adult indoor soccer program and Sunday open gym for families.

The position of Camp Director is currently vacant, and the Recreation Department is accepting applications.

A Commission member information packet has been prepared so all Recreation Commission members understand their responsibilities. A new program worksheet was also designed for bringing new ideas forward.

Councilman Michael Murphy reported that he has continued to follow up with different agencies regarding funding opportunities for the culvert repair projects. The NYS DEC has issued the Town a permit to complete the work for Stanford Road.

A motion was offered by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes to authorize The Chazen Companies to prepare the necessary bid documents for the Stanford Road Culvert Construction Phase. The vote was as follows:

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

At 9:10 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board moved into Executive Session to discuss a particular personnel matter. All ayes were recorded. At 9:35 PM, on a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Turletes the regular meeting resumed. All ayes were recorded.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman De Bonis the Board approved the following claims as presented:

General Fund A	\$128,278.61
General Fund B	\$14,694.36
Highway Fund DB	\$51,809.96

TOTAL \$118,314.28

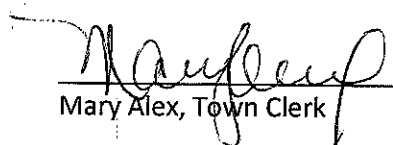
The vote was as follows:

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 10:45 PM.

The vote was as follows:

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


Mary Alex, Town Clerk