

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
TOWN BOARD MEETING
March 8, 2018**

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held their regular meeting on March 8, 2018, at the Town of Washington Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Supervisor Gary Ciferri with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Robert Audia, Al De Bonis and Michael E. Murphy, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Bookkeeper to the Supervisor Dana Sukow and Assessor Kathy Myers.

Supervisor Gary Ciferri opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance

Supervisor Ciferri received a letter from Sheriff Anderson to reassure the community that the DC Sheriff's Office is fully trained and prepared for any situation that might occur. The men and women are highly trained to confront and deal with any threat in any situation and rest assured that the safety of you and those around you is our top priority.

Assessor Myers advised the Board that we have just passed March 1, taxable status date, which is the busiest time of year. The Assessor's Office reviews evaluations, exemptions and assessed values. Mrs. Myers has hired a per diem data collector, John Lloyd, as allowed in her budget to assist with the property reviews. Mr. Lloyd also works in Northeast and Amenia and has been a big help. Assessor Myers personally looks at major new construction, new houses and additions.

The Town of Washington is maintaining 100% equalization rate. The Town is at about 97% which is within the 5% tolerance allowed by New York State. Next year the town might may need to do an assessment variation.

A discussion ensued regarding the effect of new sales on an assessment. With the onset of annual assessment, you are allowed to look at new sales and make a change. If you are maintaining 100% you do an analysis of all properties in a year. Working with the state, there are computer models and if a property is high or low they can bring it into range. Assessor Myers does not generally bring a property to the sale price. One sale doesn't make the market.

Assessor Myers advised that in some instances exemption applications or supporting documentation will be filed after March 1st. There is a provision in the law, modifying the local law, allowing property owners with a previous exemption to file up to Grievance Day, which is the fourth Tuesday in May. Past practice to accept the paperwork. She requested that the Town Board modify the local law to make the practice and the law consistent.

- On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia, the Board moved to authorize Attorney Battistoni to prepare the Resolution to Adopt a Local Law Pursuant to Real Property Tax Law S467
"Authorizing the Assessor to accept applications for renewal of exemptions pursuant to this section after taxable status date. Such local law shall provide that in the event the

owner, or all of the owners, of property which has received an exemption pursuant to this section on the preceding assessment roll fail to file the application required to this section or before taxable status date such owner or owners may file the application, executed as if such application had been filed on or before the taxable status date, with the assessor on or before the date for the hearing of complaints.”

The vote was as follows:

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

Councilman Murphy asked if there any issues coming up that the Board might need to be aware of. Assessor Myers said after all of the exemption applications are reviewed and inputted, reports can be provided to the Town Board.

There is a concern by Assessors across the state regarding the new federal income tax changes and whether there will be an effect on the value of property. Everyone will be following the real estate market regarding this topic.

Bookkeeper Sukow provided the Board with her monthly report.

- The Court audits have been completed for Judges Shequine and Feigelson for a two-year period. It has been verbally reported that everything is fine.
- The Annual Report for 2017 is underway. The Town has requested and received an extension through May 1 from the Office of the State Comptroller.
- The Town had started two small claims proceedings against residents that owed transfer station fees. Both residents paid their fees in the amount of \$1355 and \$205.00 on the day they were to appear in court.
- In the matter of Mr. Tice and the money he owes the Town, Ms. Sukow asked the Board how they wished to proceed to collect the money. The Board opted to see if the Town Attorney would work on a contingency based upon collection.
- The Town has billed the Village of Millbrook, Cardinal Hayes and the Millbrook Central School District for salt usage. Payment has been received from Cardinal Hayes and the Village.
- A payment from Cablevision in the amount of \$19,400.00 has been received for payment of the franchise fee. A second check will be received in November.
- The Town has received the final \$60,400.00 from Dutchess County for the front entry project.
- A CD in the amount of \$119,489.45 will mature on March 19th. The Town will roll it over for reinvestment.

Councilman Audia reported that he went to Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies presentation on Feb. 13 regarding the use of salt on roads. They presented information that salt is dangerous to the water streams and wells. TOW, we are at so many parts per million in the streams, which is well below the level to be dangerous. We have gone up several digits since 2010. August,

September and October are the times when the salt leaches into the streams. There is salinity in water in late summer, early fall. No magic answers. The sand also has a bad effect because it covers the fish eggs. Right now, it is all in management of how we do the job. They discussed equipment that will allow operators to dial in the precise mix needed for certain areas of the road. The State is supposed to let us know if there is money available for the equipment to dial in salt and liquid calcium or for equipment to spray the liquid on the salt and it doesn't bounce off of the road. Specific speed per dial to spread the right amount of material. Councilman Audia requested grant info from the State DOT official. High tech, state is mindful. There may be money available in the future. Liquid brine treatment studies are all positive. He will continue to look into this.

Highway Superintendent Spagnola was not at the meeting because of the snow storm. He provided a list of roads that had closures during the first nor'easter.

- South Road: 6 trees down, wires down
 - Canoe Hill Rd: 10 trees down,
 - Verbank Rd: 2 trees down, wires down
 - Woodstock Rd: 1 tree down
 - Hammond Hill Rd: 3 trees down, wires down
 - Christian Hill Rd: 2 trees down, wires down
 - Tower Hill Rd: Snow drifts
 - Deep Hollow Rd: 1 tree down, wires down, snow drift
 - Short Rd: 1 tree down, wires down
 - Shady Dell Ed: 2 trees down, wires down
 - Andrew Haight Rd: Snow drifts
 - Kennels Rd: Snow drifts
 - Tyrell Rd: 1 tree down, wires down
 - Oak Summit Rd: 2 trees down, wires down, snow drifts
 - Hoxie Rd: Accident
 - Killearn Rd: 2 trees down, wires down
 - Fowler Rd: 2 trees down, wires down
 - Wing Rd: Snow drifts
 - Bangall Rd: 2 trees down, snow drifts
 - Bontecou Rd: Snow drifts
 - Overlook Rd: 1 tree down
 - Stanford Rd: 1 tree down, wires down
- Central Hudson was notified of any location with downed trees in wires.

On a motion made by Councilman De Bonis and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board approved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Highway Spagnola notified the Town Board that it is necessary to his department to have a roller and trailer to manage the dirt roads; and
WHEREAS, the purchase of a roller and trailer is an allowable expense through NYS CHIPS funding; and
WHEREAS, the purchase price of the roller and trailer is \$148,571.00; and

WHEREAS, the 2018 budget must be amended to show the revenue and expense for the purchase price;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 Town Budget be increased in the following highway department line items DB 5112.0002 and the DB 5110.0400.

The vote was as follows:

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

On a motion made by Councilman De Bonis and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Board approved the purchase of a roller and trailer in the amount of \$148,571.00 through NJPA.

The vote was as follows:

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

Town Clerk Alex provided her monthly report.

- Monthly reports have been received from the Building Department, Recreation Department, Justice Court, Town Clerk and Tax Collector.
- Reports have been filed with the NYS Department of Agriculture for Dog Licenses, the NYS Department of Health for Marriage Licenses, the NYS DEC for hunting and fishing licenses and the Town Supervisor for local fees.
- The annual Transfer Station report has been filed with the NYS DEC
- The annual NYS Electronics Collection report has been filed with NYSDEC
- Tax Collection
Total Collected to date: \$6,168,229.50
Payment to be made to Supervisor \$968,098.45 and Dutchess County \$3,811,091.69
Millbrook Library: \$167,691.81
Village of Millbrook Fire Contract \$387,988.48
East Clinton Fire District: \$2,500.00
- Deputy Clerk Moore has provided the Town Board with the February 8, 2018 meeting minutes.

Supervisor Ciferri reminded the Board that on March 28th Dutchess County Executive Marcus Molinaro will provide the State of the County at the Town of Washington Town Hall. The forum will begin at 6 pm. Residents are invited and encouraged to attend.

Councilman De Bonis said that the Solar Committee will be meeting on Monday, March 12. He advised that Jeff Feigelson volunteered to write up the residential portion. He thought it would be prudent to do residential and commercial simultaneously, while Councilman De Bonis thinks they should be separate. Councilman Murphy said that Attorney Battistoni said there are some good templates available to municipalities from NYSERDA. The meeting will be at 7:30 pm.

Mr. De Bonis reported on the Planning Board.

- Mr. Salteri, a resident on Verbank Road applied for a Special Use Permit for a home occupation. He is a salesman for DHL, and as a franchise requirement for an SBA loan, they require the Town to approve the fact that he has a business in the Town. The Public Hearing was held and the Special Use Permit was granted.
- Dawn Tree, withdrew her application for a psychiatric practice in the Hammond Building on Rt. 44.
- The Van Buren's, Stanford Road are in violation of the wetlands ordinance. The Planning Board approved a 6-month extension to complete the work. There is some confusion over the fine of \$1000.00 flat rate or per day. If they do not complete the work, the fine will be retroactive to February. They have been required to put \$5800.00 in escrow for monitoring, plus \$1000.00 for the fine.
- Guardian Angels Day Care, Halcyon Road has requested that the public hearing is postponed, as the owners are rethinking their plans.
- The Zoning Board of Appeals did not meet.

Councilman Murphy praised the work the Highway Department has done in the recent storms. They have been working around the clock. Many residents have been praising the work Highway Superintendent Spagnola and the crew are doing.

Councilman Murphy reported on the oil leak in the basement. It has been fixed, but the valve on the tank closest to the basement wall is not in a very workable location. Mr. Spagnola suggested if the tanks are ever replaced, the valve location should be moved.

Councilman Turletes provided a report on the Recreation Department.

- The past two recreation meetings have been cancelled due to weather.
- The following clinics have been completed: lacrosse, golf and kindergarten basketball.
- The following programs are coming to a close: Open teen basketball, youth basketball, adult indoor pickup soccer games and adult volleyball.
- Spring lacrosse has had a decrease in participants in some grade levels. Lagrange Lacrosse is accepting some of those participants.
- Twilight Easter Egg, March 30 8 pm 4 – high school at the Town Park.
- Tribute Garden Easter Egg Hunt, March 31, pre-school – 3rd grade
- Councilman Murphy will follow up with Schuyler Woods regarding a price on the turning dock.
- Town Clerk Alex said Rec. director Edson will need assistance with the filter beds and tree removal in the spring.

Dutchess County Legislator Deirdre Houston reported to the Board that the legislature will be appropriating money for a new Emergency Training Center which will be built where the current one still stands. The Public Defenders office will be located at 45 Market St. There is a discussion to raise the age of purchase for tobacco products from 18 to 21, with an exemption for military personnel.

Legislator Houston would like the Eastern Dutchess Government Center to be cleaned up, including the former Department of Health House and the cemetery. This is the year of the veteran and the unmarked graves should be identified.

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

Gen Fund A	\$29,947.25
Gen Fund A Rec	\$4,394.90
Gen Fund B	\$460.10
Gen Fund DB	\$76,591.17
Fund H	\$9,402.78
Fund SF	\$429,280.00
TOTAL	\$550,076.20

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 De Bonis, the meeting closed at 8:25 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

3/21/18