

**Town Board  
MEETING  
September 8, 2016**

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held their regular meeting on Thursday, September 8, 2016, at the Town of Washington Town Hall, 10 Reservoir Drive, Millbrook. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Deputy Supervisor Stephen Turletes with the following present: Councilmen Robert Audia and Michel Murphy, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Bookkeeper Dana Sukow, Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola and Attorney John Gifford.

Also present were: Howard Schuman, Claudia and Jonathan Heunis and Mr. & Mrs. Rod Brown.

Deputy Supervisor Turletes opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Deputy Supervisor Turletes stated that the Town has been fortunate to receive several grants from Millbrook Tribute Garden, Inc. The Town has received \$6,000.00 for the summer camp bus transportation, \$5,000.00 for senior citizen bus trips, \$5,000.00 for the fee waiver scholarship program and \$30,000.00 for the park and pool improvements. The Board expressed their appreciation to the Tribute Garden Board. The Town Board appreciates their continued support of the recreation programs and their generosity to the Town.

The Director of the NYS Department of Transportation has sent a letter to the town that funding is available to help meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act. \$98,700,000.00 is available for projects that meet their requirements.

Stephanie Harrison, Director of the Millbrook Library, was at the meeting to bring the Board up to date on happenings at the Millbrook Library. Currently, they are participating in the Library Card Sign Up Program, as September is library card sign up month. The library will provide free replacement cards, will be waiving fines for overdue books and for those with accumulated fines, if they bring a donation for the DCSPCA their fine will be reduced. For Community Day, they will be offering a "how to festival" which will include fly fishing lessons, lessons on a ukulele, how to knit or train your dogs, ad a Friends Book Sale. The library is also participating in a National Program called Color Outside the Lines, which is reintroducing your library to the community: Paper Coasters will be placed at the local restaurants to be colored. Diana Bontecou, program director, will create an art installation using the coasters.

Ms. Harrison said she appreciates the opportunity to come and speak about the library. Millbrook Library is one of the few in the area with school children visiting the library from the local elementary schools. Use is up from last year 2014-15 and although the number of books that are checked out remain the same, the program usage has increased. The children's programs and the MAG Concert series are the two most popular programs and brings in the largest volume of patrons. Ms. Harrison said they recently had an energy audit completed by NYSORDA. Unfortunately, funding is not currently available to make changes.

The Board asked how the library handles communications with patrons. Ms. Harrison said without a local in town paper, the Millerton News is the primary method for distributing information, as the Poughkeepsie Journal doesn't necessarily publish press releases. They also use social media, Facebook and their website as a means to share program information.

Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola advised that within the vouchers, the Board will see a payment for salt. This is the amount that we were contracted to purchase in 2016. The shed is now full and ready for winter.

The road repair and blacktop schedule right now has Monday 9/12 milling of Maple Avenue and Front St. The town hauls the millings for use on the dirt roads.

- 9/15 Oil & Stone Elm Dr. Road will remain open and begin work after school starts and finished
- Monday – Tuesday Front St – Merritt and Upper Maple Avenue. The Town and Village are working well together.
- Detours in the village
- Wednesday and Thursday Ludlow and Hoxie. Ready to go. The Village crew will be assisting with flagging and other tasks.
- Roads are holding very well due to the rolling. The Town will be rolling dirt roads again in October. The equipment rental will be leased from another vendor at 1/3 of the price we paid in the spring. The Town is currently using calcium to prevent dust on the dirt roads.
- The Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies requested a sample of the salt we use on the roads, so they can test it. Highway Superintendent Spagnola provided them with as much as they needed.
- When the blacktop work is done the highway department will be headed to work on Verbank Road. The town was able to purchase a 32 - foot culvert in one piece. There may be a portion of the road that has to be closed for several hours. Tom Shaw is allowing the department to stage their equipment on his property.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the Board authorized Highway Superintendent to request bids for highway materials. The bid opening will be Tuesday, October 11, 2016 @ 12 Noon.

The vote was as follows:

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

Bookkeeper Dana Sukow provided the Board with the monthly revenue and expense reports. The board was advised that the Town has received a payment for the Telecommunication Franchise Fee from Altice in the amount of \$18,811.00.

Budget letters have been distributed to each department, along with their expense/revenue comparison/control reports. They have been asked to return their budget requests to Dana by 9/15/16 or schedule a meeting with Dana prior to 9/15/16 to discuss their budgets. The preliminary budget is to be presented to the Town Board by October 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Sukow is working with Emily of D'Archangelo to determine Fund Balance available to put towards 2017 budget.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia the following budget transfers were authorized:

- 1460.0400 – Records Management CE (2420.00) Transfer from A.1110.0110 Court PS
- 1460.0800 – Records Management SS (486.67) Transfer from A.1110.0110 Court PS
- 9010.0800 – State Retirement (8715.00) Transfer from DB. 9040.0800 Workmen's Comp
- 1110.0400 – Justice CE (800.00) Transfer from A.1110.0111 Special Prosecutor

The vote was as follows:

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

The Town will be taking a Small Claims action against a resident owing \$3844.93 and has failed to remit payment by 9/1/16. A resident owing \$454.53 has requested the Town waive a charge of \$80.00 because the fee was from 2013 and there isn't any backup documentation to substantiate the fee. The other payment has been paid. The Town Board agreed to waive the fee. Another resident shows a payment due of \$87.01 from 2011-12. The resident said he has paid the bill and requested the charge be released. The Board agreed to waive the fee, as there aren't any records to substantiate the fee.

Town Clerk Mary Alex advised that monthly reports have been received from the Recreation Department, Building and Zoning office, Justice Court and Town Clerk and filed appropriately. The minutes from August 11, 2016 have been previously distributed to the Town Board.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Board reappointed Mary Alex and Irene Wing as Registrar and Deputy Registrar for an additional four-year term.

The vote was as follows:

Councilman Turletes Aye  
Councilman Audia Aye

Councilman Murphy	Aye
Supervisor Ciferri	Absent
Councilman De Bonis	Absent

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the Board approved extending the Server Warranty and additional three years at a cost of \$808.43.

The vote was as follows:

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

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy authorization was given to Town Clerk Alex to continue with submittals to the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York for the Composting & Solar Bathroom at the Town Park (2<sup>nd</sup> phase – assisted by Sen. Serino & staff).

The vote was as follows:

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

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the Board scheduled a Special Meeting for Monday, October 3, 2016, at 7:00 PM in order for the Town Clerk to present the 2017 Preliminary Budget to the Town Board.

The vote was as follows:

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

Councilman Turletes provided an update on the Recreation Department:

- Town Clerk Alex took the opportunity to attend a Recreation Commission meeting providing a good Q & A period for Commission members.
- The Commission approved the August meeting minutes.
- Summer movie night discussion – There was a good turnout in July and August, attempted a movie night on Labor Day weekend, which didn't work as well as they hoped attendance wise. Fire pit was enjoyed that evening.
- Final soccer registration numbers are 214 children. The season runs from September 10 to a tournament the first weekend in November.
- Added 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade for pickup basketball game program.

- Bake sale at the soccer field to benefit recreation programs – Rec Committee will assist.
- Small sign in gym to thank Mr. Walter for his donation to refinish the gym floor.
- Basketball program fees will increase by \$15.00 for resident and non-resident registrants.
- Summer camp fee waiver – establishing attendance policy for those receiving scholarships, in some cases children don't attend. We offer 27 camp days and the recipients will be required to attend for a minimum of 23 days.
- A long range planning survey is being prepared by the Recreation Commission.
- Summer camp is being reviewed for planning and improvements for next 2017. The increase in the minimum wage will have an impact on the camp fees.
- The Financial Report is being reviewed and the budget is currently being prepared.
- Upcoming activities: Swim Team practices, Dodgeball, Fall Soccer, Open teen and Basketball pickup games 7 – 9 pm, Monday, Adult Pickup Soccer, Nature Art Camp, Senior Trip to Hunterdon Playhouse, After School Programs and Women's Self Defense.

Councilman Audia reported on Buildings and Grounds, as well as a meeting with Senator Serino regarding funding for the Town's Culvert upgrades. The Town wants to ensure that we are on a list of towns ready to begin repairs of culverts and bridges that Governor Cuomo said would be funded through the most recent State budget. Councilman Audia provided contact information for Senator Serino and her legislative assistant.

Councilman Audia noted the light on east side of the building is out. He will contact Millbrook Electric to change the bulb.

Councilman Murphy raised the topic of vacant properties in Town that are being left to disrepair. People are being told by a financial institution that they will face foreclosure, and then the person moves out. The financial institution hasn't completed the foreclosure process and the property begins to become decrepit. Millbrook is known as a nice place to live and these abandoned properties are unkempt and unattractive. In some cases, the financial institute will hire a maintenance company to maintain the yard and secure the location. He has asked the Building Inspector to take a look at some of the properties to ensure they are up to code.

Councilman Murphy suggested beginning a town wide cleanup day. It would be an opportunity for all living in the community to take a look at their own properties and take pride in where they live.

Claudia and Jonathan Heunis, Village residents, were at the meeting to discuss the same topic. They love the village, yet have some concerns regarding the tennis courts on Elm Drive. Mrs. Heunis said "the Village doesn't take ownership of the tennis courts. Someone should take a walk onto courts – there are cracks, the wire is rusted and there is poison ivy. The weeds and leaves were causing mold and destroying courts. Garbage cans should be moved. I'm shocked

at what the village has turned into. People had to have Millbrook zip code, and 677 number. This is not a place that is inviting. Is there a maintenance agreement on the courts?”

Councilman Turletes said that Joe Coogan ran a program this summer for the Recreation Department. Town Rec is responsible for programs and the village is responsible for maintenance and upkeep. Councilman Murphy will take a look at the courts and follow up, as he was rec director at the time the tennis courts were built. He believes he has information on the terms.

Mrs. Heunis had additional questions regarding the roadwork being completed in the Village, and she was directed to the Village for answers. She also inquired about the possibility of consolidating services or merging the two municipalities. The Town Board has spoken about the possibility, and has several areas that we share services including the Assessor, Dog Control Officer and the Highway Departments do work together on some projects.

Mrs. Heunis also said she felt that the handicapped ramp would not be used, as she has seen many locations where they have been placed and have removed them because of lack of use and repair. She hopes that won't happen with the Town.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the claims were accepted as presented.

The vote was as follows:

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

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the meeting was closed at 9:15 PM.

The vote was as follows:

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

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Mary Alex, Town Clerk