

**TOWN OF WASHINGTON
MINUTES
DEC 12, 2019**

The Town Board of the town of Washington held its regular meeting on Thursday, December 12, 2019, at the Town of Washington Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Robert Audia, Al De Bonis and Michael Murphy, Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Recreation Director Chelsea Edson, Zoning Administrator Nancy Patrick and Attorney for the Town Jeff Battistoni.

Present were: Village Trustee Tim Collopy, Millbrook Fire Chief Ted Bownas, Brian Hicks, Judith Balfe and Howard Schuman.

At the request of Supervisor Ciferri, on a motion made by Councilman De Bonis and seconded by Councilman Turletes, the Town Board opened the Public Hearing on the Fire Contract with the Village of Millbrook.

The vote was as follows:

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

The Fire Contract covers all of the Town of Washington. The Millbrook Fire Department will provide fire protection coverage to all properties in the Town. The Village, with a contract through Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP) will provide rescue squad service to all properties in the Town. The Millbrook Rescue Squad will provide backup service to NDP.

In consideration of said service, the Town will pay Five hundred fifty-two thousand seven hundred and 00/100 (\$552,700.00) dollars which shall be paid on or before the 15th of March 2020.

The Town no longer contracts with East Clinton Fire Department for services. East Clinton Fire Commissioner offered to be on first response for calls to the Upton Lake Christian Academy. After a brief discussion, the Board said that it has its confident in the Millbrook Fire Department and the County Mutual Aid plan to service Upton Lake. In regard to rescue services, the Town believes that Northern Dutchess Paramedics and the Millbrook Rescue Squad is capable of handling service.

Supervisor Ciferri reported he received an email from Vince Pitruzzello regarding an EPA Solar review of the Transfer Stations to determine if Solar installations would be viable on the facility. Councilman De Bonis said he participated in some of the town's meetings when drafting the solar legislation. The Town Board declined his offer, because we would be criticized if we allowed a facility at the Transfer Station when we do not allow commercial solar entities on private property.

The Town had a request from Ben Geering with Power Research and Development to make a presentation to the Board. Supervisor Ciferri said maybe in February because we have a presentation in January. Joshua Groffman will be discussing a documentary opera, originally called "Unfinished". It is now called "Halcyon" and it is about Bennett College. It's an interesting project. Mr. Groffman along with Kelvin Chan will be at the January meeting. He asked Trustee Collopy to arrange for them to present at a Village meeting, too.

Monthly reports were provided by department heads.

Recreation Director Chelsea Edson requested a resolution to appoint Kim Moffett to the Recreation Commission beginning January 1, 2020 for a four-year term. Mrs. Moffett has three children aged 6 – 12 who have been involved in Recreation programs. Mrs. Moffett also participated in Recreation programs as a child. There is one additional available seat. The Recreation Commission will be interviewing candidates and making a recommendation in the next month or two.

A resolution was offered by Councilman De Bonis and seconded by Councilman Turletes to appoint Kim Moffett to the Recreation Commission for a four-year term beginning on January 1, 2020.

The vote was as follows:

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

Councilman Murphy asked Ms. Edson to ensure there is a plan in place to have the park closed every evening when people are finished with practices, events or work. It's a liability to the town when the gate isn't closed. Ms. Edson said she may have a camera installed in addition to going to check it every night.

Zoning Administrator Nancy Patrick advised that she had a meeting on November 12th with representatives of YSG Solar. Councilman Murphy was also in attendance. When she followed up this week, they had not come up with a screening plan because they had time sensitive tasks with Central Hudson. They suggested they might be installing an 8-foot fence,

which Councilman De Bonis said would not be adequate. They participated in the development of the law and they were very aware of the screening requirements. Town Clerk Alex stated the Town Law allows for six-foot fences, not eight.

Mrs. Patrick would like YSG Solar to show the Town the plans of what they will be doing. The Board agreed. They need to ensure that the Town approves the screening.

Mrs. Patrick reported that Building Inspector Smith has completed the Fire Inspections for the year. He's at the Stanfordville meeting tonight.

There is an application before the Planning Board for a Daycare, in Mabbettsville, at the property owned by Holly Hammond. They are suggesting there will be about sixty children. Ms. Hammond told the Planning Board she will not rent the apartment if the Daycare receives approval. In the past, Ms. Hammond would not allow Building Inspector Fiore entrance into the building. Mr. Schuman said the applicant has hired Rich Renna, an Engineer, to design a new septic system.

Someone questioned the occupancy of the building. Fire Chief Bownas said occupancy is determined by New York State Code. The building inspector will be able to provide occupancy information.

Mrs. Patrick advised the Board that she thinks it is necessary for the Town to have a property inspection before any Planning Board applications or Building Permit applications are approved. She is currently working with Attorney Battistoni regarding a property at 636 Deep Hollow Road, which recently received Planning Board approval for a barn conversion. The building permit was taken for a barn conversion. When Mr. Smith stopped at the property, he noted there wasn't a barn on the property. It was taken down in July and they did not take out a demolition permit. Attorney Battistoni advised that this is an issue for the Planning Board. They need to make an interpretation as to what a barn conversion is. Mrs. Patrick said the Building Permit for the guest house is 2600 square feet, which is larger than the original information given to the town. Attorney Battistoni said the Town needs to determine if this is accessory housing or something more.

Lisa Evangelista, Acting Assessor, entered the meeting. Ms. Evangelista reported to the Board that she has studied for and taken the exam for data collection. Both she and Mrs. Patrick have passed. Mrs. Myers has been coming in about once a week to provide knowledge and training. Ms. Evangelista said she enjoys the challenge with so much to learn, having attended several different classes. Assessor's Clerk Malstrom is a wealth of information and is very good on the computer. Ms. Evangelista stated she sees it as a Team effort between the Building Department, Zoning Administrator and Assessor. Having consistency is cleaner and we will know that the information is correct. She believes they will all work cohesively as a team.

Based on information from Mrs. Myers, she believes the village is the first area that we will tackle. 700 properties. She will touch base with Village Clerk Witt to ensure she receives timely information from the Village regarding building permits.

The Board asked that when she begins to feel comfortable, to provide them with information as to when we will need to do a revaluation of all properties.

The Board commended Brian Hicks for another successful Parade of Lights. There were many people out and enjoying the evening. Mr. Hicks said it is a great night and he will never have any rules like other towns do.

Highway Superintendent Spagnola advised the Town Board that they have taken delivery of the new plow truck. It's an automatic which will save a lot of toil going up and down hills. Mechanic Charlie Erts went over the truck with a fine-tooth comb. He has all of the documentation on the truck. One thing they had to do was trade the tires out because the ones that came with the truck did not have the tread we required. The Town should receive the bill next week and the Town has 30 days to pay the bill.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Town Board authorized Van de Water & Van de Water to prepare the Bid Request for the Bond Rate to finance the truck. The vote was as follows:

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

Highway Superintendent Spagnola said we have had 5 storms so far and have used 7% of the salt that we allocate for the year. We apply for 26 tons of salt per year. Last year we were off by 6 tons.

Councilman Audia complimented the Highway Department for the nice job they do plowing the roads. He was traveling on Stanford Road, and our road was plowed, salted and cleared. When he reached the Stanfordville side the road was slush and mud. Highway Superintendent Spagnola said we try to keep the roads clear. We use very little salt mix for the dirt roads. The Town has cut the salt in the dirt by 10 percent since he became Highway Superintendent.

The night prior to the Parade of Lights, the Town Highway Department removed the snow from the village roads. It takes about 5 – 6 hours to do and the town will be reimbursed by the village.

Highway Superintendent Spagnola will have the 284 contract to spend highway funds available for either the January or February board meeting.

Town Clerk Mary Alex notified the Board that Bookkeeper Petrone received notice from the Dutchess County Office of Real Property that there will be a slight change to the reported tax rate for residents inside the Village. The reason for this is the State doesn't finalize the assessment rates until November 15th. This year there was a decrease in the assessed values in the Village of Millbrook from 213,897,897 to 213,785,507. The tax rate is increased from 0.864 to 0.873. Neither the bookkeeper or the Town Clerk were aware that the number provided by the Assessor was a tentative rate and not the final rate.

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Murphy the following Resolution was presented:

RESOLUTION TO CHANGE TAX RATE

WHEREAS, the Town Board adopted the Town of Washington 2020 Budget on November 7, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the tentative assessment for properties inside the village was 213,897,897; and

WHEREAS, Bookkeeper Petrone was notified by the Dutchess County Department of Real Property that the final assessed value, which was approved on November 15th is 213,785,507; and

WHEREAS, this has resulted in an increase in the Village tax rate from 0.864 to 0.873; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Washington does hereby accept the 2020 tax rate of 0.873 for properties in the Village of Millbrook.

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 Audia and seconded by Councilman Turletes the Town Board scheduled the Reorganization Meeting for January 9, 2020, at 7:00 PM to be followed by the regular Town Board meeting. The vote was as follows:

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

Town Clerk Alex requested assistance from the Town Board regarding the generators to be installed at the Town Hall and Highway Garage. Councilman Audia will provide information regarding the location, size, etc.

Town Clerk Alex reported that due to the upcoming changes in the Justice Court System, which have to do with notifications to principals (formerly called defendants), the Justice Court will be required to have a phone or tablet capable of texting information. This information has been recently provided to the judges, after the budget was adopted. This is an unfunded mandate. The Town will have to make a budget adjustment once we learn the cost.

The Town is in receipt of the final plans from Architect Ed Loedy for the CDBG Bathroom upgrade project. A motion was offered by Councilman Turletes and seconded by Councilman Audia authorizing Town Clerk Alex to prepare the bid documents and advertise for bids in January. The vote was as follows:

- Supervisor Ciferri: AYE
- Councilman Turletes: AYE
- Councilman Audia: AYE
- Councilman De Bonis: AYE
- Councilman Murphy: AYE

At the recommendation of Bookkeeper Petrone, on a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman De Bonis the Board authorized the following account transfers:

Account Over Expended	Amount	Transfer From	Amount
A.1355.0100 Assessor's PS	\$3,37.67	A.1355.0410 Assessor Attorney Fees	\$1,500.00
		A.1355.0401 Assessors Reval	\$810.45
		A.1460.0100 Records Management PS	\$827.22
A.1355.0100 Assessor's Social Security	\$177.47	A.1460.0100 Records Management PS	\$177.47
A 1620.0100 Buildings PS	\$106.91	A.1010.0400 Town Board CE	\$106.91
A.1620.0800 Building SS	\$7.90	A.1010.0400 Town Board CE	\$7.90
A.1620.0400 Buildings CE	\$3,491.04	A.1620.0200 Buildings Equip	\$3,491.04*

A.1680.0100CE Ransomware Recovery	\$1,727.75	A.1680.0210 Data Processing Equip	\$1,727.75
A.1680.9410 Data Processing	\$3,718.02	B.3620.0410 Zoning Data Processing B.8020.0440 PB Data Processing	\$3,500.00 \$218.02
A.7110.0110 Pool Caretaker PS	\$32.63	A..7110.0100 Lifeguard PS	\$32.63
A.7310.0404 Senior Activities	\$222.44	A.7310.0406 Gym Activities	\$222.44
A.8160.0400 Refuse & Garbage	\$1,649.22	A..8161.0400 Landfill Transfer Station	\$1,649.22
B.3620.0400 Safety Inspection CE	\$110.81	B.3620.0401 Build/Zoning Data Processing	\$110.81
B.8010.0100 ZBA Sec'y PS	\$88.97	B.8010.0400 Zoning CE	\$88.97
B.8010.0800 ZBA Sec'y SS	\$6.26	B.8010.0400 Zoning CE	\$6.26
B.8020.0400 Planning CE	\$219.67	B.8010.0400 Zoning CE	\$219.67
B.8020.0410 Plan Board Consultants	\$140.00	T.8000.0200 Planning Board Escrow	\$140.00
B.8020.0410 Planning Attorney Fees	\$840.00	T.8000.0200 Planning Board Escrow	\$840.00
B.9060.0800 Health & Dental	\$625.59	B.1990.0400 B Contingency	\$625.59

*Town received a grant for one of the generators, making this transfer of funds available for other building expenses.

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.7310.0403	Basketball Expense	\$3,000.00
A.0000.2089.0403	Rec/Basketball Revenue	\$3,000.00

Note.: to increase the appropriation expense line due to the surplus of revenue received

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.7310.0406	Gym Activities Expense	\$3,000.00
A.0000.2089.0406	Rec/Gym Activities	\$3,000.00

Note.: to increase the appropriation expense line due to the surplus of revenue received

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.7310.0411	Summer Camp Expense	\$2,000.00
a.0000.2089.0411	Rec/Summer Camp Revenue	\$2,000.00

Note.: to increase the appropriation expense line due to the surplus of revenue received

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.1110.0400	Justices CE Expense	\$1,539.62
A.0000.2705	Gifts & Donations Revenue	\$1,539.62

Note: Resolution to record the transfer from the Justice Grant Savings for purchase of Court Computer

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.1680.0210	Data Processing Equip. Reserve	\$3,288.96
A.0000.2705	Gifts & Donations Revenue	\$3,288.96

Note: Resolution to record the transfer from the Data Processing Reserve for the purchase of 3 computers

B.1990.0400	Contingency	\$626.59
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To reduce the contingency for transfer to B Fund Health & Dental

B.9060.0800	Health & Dental	\$626.59
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To increase the Health Insurance line for open enrollment period

The vote was as follows:

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

Councilman Turletes provided a report for the Recreation Commission.

- Dec 14 – Gingerbread houses from 3 – 4 pm and Santa 5 – 7 pm
- Basketball begins the first Saturday in January 100 children, 5th & 6th grade – not enough children for a team
- LMC Athletics – Basketball clinic has 36 children enrolled. December 28th

- Pickleball continues to be desired. Renting the Guertin gym with at least 3 families participating every week
- Indoor soccer finishing with 25 children having a successful season

Councilman Audia advised that the elevator lift was fixed on Wednesday. The technician didn't seem to know what he was doing. He had the whole thing torn apart, and did not have appropriate tools for the job. When we get the bill, if it is for the total time he was here, we will not pay based on his work. Councilman Audia had to ask him about the switches on the bottom panel. When he removed the bottom panel, a thousand squirrel nuts came out. There are seven switches under the panel and a nut was in one of the switches.

Keys are not needed for the lift doors. You push the button and the door will open. Councilman Audia said a copy of the bill should be given to the police officer and the police will proceed with following up on the initial the situation.

Councilman De Bonis discussed a matter before the Zoning Board of Appeals. An application was made to build a home on North Tower Hill Road. A home was previously there but was burned down in a fire several years ago. (Former Otto then Feigelson property) If they are allowed to build a new home, then the current one needs to be decommissioned so it is not livable. Neighbors have spoken in opposition to the application. The current owner is operating an animal rescue organization and there have been confrontations with volunteers and migrant workers regarding driveway issues. Neighbors complaining. A realtor told them they could rebuild the house. They should have checked with building department or had their legal people do the research before they purchased the property.

Councilman Murphy suggested the Town consider zoning regulations for Film Productions in Town. With the increase in filming in the area, he suggested we come up with some plan, law or agreement, so we have some guarantees in place. Several towns have done so. Town Clerk Alex has provided the Board with information from Dutchess County, the Town of Bedford and the Village of Orchard Park. He has spoken with Village Trustee McGrane that the village may wish create a similar plan. Councilman Murphy requested Town Clerk Alex obtain copies of the local laws from North East and Hyde Park.

As there were no comments made regarding the Fire Contract, Councilman Murphy offered a motion to close the Public Hearing which was seconded by Councilman Audia. The vote was as follows:

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

The following resolution was offered by Councilman Murphy and was seconded by Councilman Turletes:

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT 2020 FIRE CONTRACT WITH THE VILLAGE OF MILLBROOK

WHEREAS, the Town of Washington annually contracts with the Village of Millbrook for the Millbrook Fire Department to provide fire and rescue services for the Town of Washington; and

WHEREAS, the contracted amount for 2020 is \$527,700.00; and

WHEREAS, the increase over 2019 is for the additional costs associated with the 24/7 coverage provided by Northern Dutchess Paramedics (NDP); and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 12, 2019; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Washington does hereby authorize Supervisor Ciferri to sign the Fire Contract with the Village of Millbrook.

The vote was as follows:

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

Supervisor Ciferri opened the floor to public input. Village Trustee Collopy requested a copy of the Town 2020 Budget and the 2018 AFR. Both items will be provided to him.

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

Gen Fund A	\$37,334.73	\$1,711.84
Gen Fund B	\$3,625.38	\$187.08
Highway Fund DB	\$34,921.52	
Fund T Trust & Agency:	\$1,295.00	

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 De Bonis and seconded by Councilman Murphy, the meeting was closed at 10:15 PM. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri Aye

Councilman Turletes Aye

Councilman Audia Aye

Councilman De Bonis: Aye

Councilman Murphy: Aye

Mary Alex Electronically signed