

TOWN OF WASHINGTON

TOWN BOARD MINUTES

May 6, 2020

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held a special meeting on Wednesday, May 5, 2020, via Zoom, at 7:00 PM. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Ciferri with the following present: Councilmen Stephen Turletes, Al De Bonis and Michael Murphy, Town Clerk Mary Alex, Recreation Director Chelsea Edson, Assistant Recreation Director Kelly Cassinelli, Zoning Administrator Nancy Patrick and Attorney Jeff Battistoni.

Also present was Howard Schuman.

Supervisor Ciferri said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss recreation programs moving forward due to Covid 19 and the Executive Orders. He requested that Recreation Director Edson provide an update to the Board.

Recreation Director Edson first addressed the relocation of the Recreation Department to the Town Hall. Essentially, the office has been packed. Ricky and several lifeguards moved a good deal of the materials to the Town Park. Larger items and furniture will be moved on Thursday, May 6th, by the Highway Department. The only thing that will be left is the telephone. People are familiar with the phone number. As we promote the town hall number with an extension will be used going forward. We will check the current phone number for a specific time period and will be in touch the village regarding the same.

Councilman Murphy offered to write a press release regarding the relocation of the office space. He will circulate it in the morning for it to be posted on the Town website and other social media locations.

The discussion moved into the summer recreational programs. Ms. Edson reported that she participated in the County phone call regarding summer programs. The Executive Orders are encouraging municipalities to operate a summer camp and to offer full time camp for daycare for families. County Executive Molinaro also explained that there is a risk involved in doing so, and it is up to each municipality to make a decision what is best for their location. Many of the Towns have expressed concerns about the ability to safely operate a summer camp with the number of children previously served.

Ms. Edson noted that she has concerns about operating the camp and is developing other summer programs. Some of the concerns include social distancing amongst campers, the potential need for additional staff to enforce social distancing guidelines, the ability to maintain a clean environment, additional enrollment costs to sustain the practices and the risk to the

community of the spread of Covid-19. Summer programs might be two hours in length and focus on a specific sport or craft. They will be smaller in size and scope than the camp with limited enrollment and hours. She has been working with Assistant Recreation Director Kelly Whalen and other municipal Recreation Directors. At the same time, Ms. Edson is suggesting opening the pool, as it will be easier to enforce social distancing measures with parents or care givers monitoring their children. The Town pool operations will require a Covid – 19 plan of action, which will need to be approved by the County.

Based on information provided by Dutchess County, summer recreational programs and the Town pool operations are listed as a Phase 4 opening, which is tentatively scheduled for early July.

Councilman Murphy requested information on how Covid-19 is affecting Town revenues. The Board also discussed the financial impacts of the recreation programs on the Town budget. Ms. Edson's recommendation is for programs to be limited to Town of Washington and Millbrook Central School District residents. She noted that this might greatly affect the revenue received for the season and asked the Board for their consideration on the matter. This discussion will be addressed further at the May 14th Town Board meeting.

The Bathroom Improvement project was then discussed. The Town has not issued a formal Notice of Award or contract documents because the Executive Orders has not allowed for non-essential construction projects. It was discussed that if construction projects are allowed beginning May 18th, there is the potential for the project to be completed prior to the commencement of summer programs. Councilman Audia offered to be a liaison on this project and reach out to MCT AT Services to determine their work schedule. If they can begin work on or about May 18th, contract documents and the Notice of Award need to be sent out quickly. If MCT AT Services has other projects ready to go, then we may need to delay the work until the fall, which might hold up BOHA for summer programs. This will be further discussed at the May 14th Town Board meeting.

Councilman De Bonis raised a Planning Board concern regarding YSG Solar at Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. YSG Solar has not complied with the screening of the solar array. They were going to submit a revised plan to the Town by April 29th, and to date it has not been received. They did, however, send a letter to an adjacent property owner with their site plan, fence samples and a letter for them to sign agreeing to their plan. The property owner, Susan Roeller-Brown, contacted Councilman De Bonis and asked what was happening. He told her not to sign anything, as the plan has not been approved by the Board.

Attorney Battistoni stated that the Planning Board members are upset by the actions of YSG Solar and asked if the Town can take enforcement action. The Town Zoning Administrator may issue a Cease and Desist Order and a Notice of Violation. He also noted that the fine in the Town Code is \$350.00, which is quite low and seemingly outdated. Most town's have a minimum of \$1,000.00. Councilman De Bonis stated he has tried to contact someone at Central

Hudson to determine the status of the operation of the array and who is receiving the benefit. He's yet to receive a return call.

Attorney Battistoni noted one other point of concern. The property is owned by Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies. YSG Solar is an applicant. The Board concurred that a Cease and Desist and Notice of Violation should be served by the Zoning Administrator. It should be served on any and all parties affiliated with the application. The Town Board instructed Attorney Battistoni to advise Zoning Administrator Patrick on how to proceed.

Supervisor Ciferri advised the Board that Councilman Audia has met with a local contractor, Schmaling Glass, for an estimate to install plexiglass dividers in several locations throughout the Town Hall.

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman De Bonis and seconded by Councilman Audia the meeting was closed at 8:20 PM. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri: AYE

Councilman Turletes: AYE

Councilman Audia: ABSENT

Councilman De Bonis: AYE

Councilman Murphy: AYE

Mary Alex Electronically Signed

Mary Alex, Town Clerk

5/12/2020