

Town of Washington
Town Board
September 9, 2021
MINUTES

Those present in person at the meeting include: Deputy Supervisor Stephen Turletes, Councilman Bob Audia, Councilman Joe Rochfort, Councilman Mike Murphy, Town Council Jeff Battistoni, Highway Supervisor Joseph Spagnola, Village Mayor Tim Collopy. Present via zoom Bookkeeper Lois Petrone, Hillary Edmonds, Nicole Drury

Deputy Supervisor Stephen Turletes opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6 P.M.

- A Moment of Silence was observed in memory of those who have lost their lives due to the events of 9/11/2001
- John Dyson was publicly mentioned with appreciation for the \$10,000 donation to support the professional fees to guide the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee in its work.
- Gayle Bontecou was given the floor to address the Board to discuss or answer questions about the future donation of land. Mrs. Bontecou mentioned she will be donating some land which she would like to be useful to Town residents in the future. The purpose of the donation is mostly for conservation. Ownership will be set up between the Dutchess Land Conservancy, Winnakee Land Trust and Scenic Hudson. There will not be any hunting allowed on the property. The current agricultural areas will remain in place. The public will only be allowed access/fishing/boating through a permit from Mrs. Bontecou, to ensure the areas stay pristine. The existing houses will be going to Dutchess Land Conservancy for income and to have a live-in caretaker at all times. She asked for suggestions from the Board on how to proceed with the property, and any suggestions they may have for the use and management of it. Councilman Murphy recommended setting up an advisory board that would meet approximately once per year to make sure things are running smoothly. The Board stated they will review the materials Mrs. Bontecou has presented and get back to her with any comments or ideas.
- Deputy Supervisor Turletes mentioned the notification that the Open Meetings Law in person meetings has been suspended, extending virtual access until January 15, 2022. He discussed that the State has extended the virtual meetings law and all meetings will need to be available via remote access.
- Deputy Supervisor Turletes advised of the following employment changes at the Town of Washington:
 - Opportunity: Justice Court Clerk
(PT, 17 ½ hours, plus court Tuesday 5 – 7 pm)
 - Appointment: New Hire: Kathy Moro (Poughkeepsie, NY) for Assessor Dept, Assessor clerk position, \$18/hr. for 15 hours a week, tentatively starting 9/20

- Appointment: New Hire: Data Collector Michael Olivette (Millbrook, NY) for Assessor Dept, Data collector position, \$18/hr. for 15 hours a week, starting 9/20
- Deputy Supervisor Turletes mentioned the following volunteer opportunities:
 - 1 position available for a Zoning Board of Appeals Member (3rd Tuesday of the month)
 - 1 position available for a Conservation Advisory Commission Member (Wednesday following the Planning Board)
 - 1 position available for a Planning Board Alternate Member (1st Tuesday of the month). The alternate would attend all planning board meetings without voting unless a regular member of the board can not be present, at which time they would be able to vote.
- On a motion by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Audia, Mr. Turletes opened the Public Hearing on LL #1: to adopt a Moratorium on certain land development actions that are pending or may subsequently be filed with the Town of Washington. The local law is intended to ensure no development applications are considered or acted upon until the Town Board considers revisions to its comprehensive plan and considers revisions to its Zoning Law, Land Subdivision Code or other pertinent sections of Town Code. There was no public input. The public hearing was closed on a motion of Councilman Audia, seconded by Councilman Murphy. All Ayes were recorded. Town Council Battistoni reviewed that the resolution was a Type II action under SEQRA, therefore there is no environmental review necessary.
- Councilman Murphy made a motion to adopt LL #1: to establish a temporary moratorium on certain land development applications that are pending or may subsequently be filed with the Town of Washington. Bob Audia seconded the motion, All ayes were recorded.
- Mr. Turletes discussed the Marijuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA) and opened the Public Forum to discuss whether the Town should allow marijuana retail locations or introduce a Local Law to Opt Out. There are 2 options, whether to allow Marijuana Retail locations in the Town, and also whether to allow On-Site Consumption Lounges. We can opt in or out of 1 or both of these options. Once municipalities opt in, however, they cannot opt back out. If Opting out, towns can opt-in at any time. Councilman Turletes asked for any public comment. Two residents went on record strongly encouraging the Town to opt out and see how things go in other areas where they are opting in. There are going to be locations close by that Town residents can travel to, should they want to visit a retail site, such as Poughkeepsie and Great Barrington. It was expressed that the on-site consumption lounges should never be an option here. A letter was also submitted to the Board expressing the same sentiment. Councilman Murphy noted that he has done some research on the subject. He mentioned that anyone wanting to review impacts this may have on a community should google Colorado. There have been many impacts there that were unforeseen and it has had a very large negative social impact. Unexpected results include increased cases of impaired driving, emergency room admissions, and overuse by children of CBD products

such as edibles and gummies. There was a consensus by the board and residents that we can observe what happens locally first and always opt-in at a later date.

- Attorney Battistoni will prepare a resolution for the next board meeting for a Local Law to Opt-out.
- Councilman Turletes spoke on the establishment and procedures for a Board of Ethics in the Town. It is currently in our law and mandatory to have. The Board should have 3 members and we are currently looking for those 3 members. He would like to encourage interested parties to contact us with resumes and qualifications. Councilman Murphy also mentioned it would be beneficial to solicit people in professions such as Doctors/Lawyers/Judges/Military, since they already work in their profession under a code of ethics.
- A question was raised regarding our current policy on annual disclosures for Board Members. It was discussed that this is addressed at our annual re-organizational meeting each January. Councilman Turletes stated we will try to do a better job at disclosing that information in the future. We do currently have Rules of Ethics which all employees and board members have to sign off on.

Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola:

- Currently with all the rain we have had, there is a lot of water pouring into Killearn road. It has gotten much worse, as now just a minimal amount of rainfall is flooding the road. He has talked with the ZBA and our Building Inspector on how to allow us to address these situations.
- Superintendent Spagnola requested permission to seek bids for highway materials and fuel oil for Town facilities. The Board granted approval to seek bids on a motion of Councilman Audia, seconded by Councilman Murphy, all ayes recorded. Tim Collopy, Village of Millbrook Mayor, would like the Village to be included in our bid.

Recreation Director Chelsea Edson:

- Review of Summer Camp & Park and Pool 2021 Season: Ms. Edson stated that she has submitted printouts of the Financials and Revenue for the Town Park. We had an increase in pool passes from residents and non-residents as compared to last season. Next year we will have to replace LeAnn and there will be 3 lifeguard positions available. We will also need to solicit quotes for a new driveway apron. The Board suggested to speak with Joe Spagnola on how to proceed. She would like to look into getting some used golf carts or cabodas for next season, as the current golf carts being used are falling apart. Ms. Edson mentioned that the Gym Lease with the Village is up for renewal. It would be a 3-year renewal. The board discussed waiting to approve the new lease to go over the cost impacts while reviewing the new budget in October.
- Pavillion rentals are up with lots of bookings into the fall.
- Councilman Turletes mentioned they have gotten a lot of great ideas from the recreation commission regarding fall activities. See the attached recreation report.

Bookkeeper Lois Petrone:

- Monthly Report – see attached
- Councilman Rochfort made a motion to accept the following budget adjustments as follows, seconded by Councilman Murphy, all ayes recorded.

Resolution for the 2021 Budget

Budget Ajustments For the 9-9-21 Town Board Meeting

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.1110.0110	Justice Court Clerk PS	\$6,500.00
A.1110.0800	Justice Court SS	\$498.00
A.1335.0111.0100	Assessor's Aide	-\$6,500.00
A.1335.0800.000	Assessor's SS	-\$498.00

Note: resolution to cover the payroll for C Briggs assistace to the Assessor

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.1010.0400	Town Board CE	\$750.00
A.1010.0100	Town Board PS	-\$750.00

Note: resolution to cover the cost of Zoom until 12/31/21

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
B.0000.1120.0000	County Sales Tax - Revenue	\$7,355.99
B.3120.0400.0000	Police CE - Expense	\$7,355.99

Note: resolution to cover the expenses for James Brownell's constable training by the additional sales tax revenue received to date

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
A.1620.0401	Building Improvements	\$6,065.00
A.17020.0110.00	Assist Rec Director	\$6,065.00

Note: resolution to amend the budget to cover the unexpected costs of the new gutters

Account	Account Name	Adjustment
---------	--------------	------------

Note:

- Budget requests are due September 15th by all department heads
- Mrs. Petrone discussed the need to schedule a special meeting date/time before October 5th for introduction of the 2022 budget to the Board. Councilman Rochfort made a motion to schedule a special meeting for Monday, October 4th at 6:30 PM for the Town Clerk to present the budget. The motion was seconded by Councilman Murphy, all ayes were recorded.

Deputy Town Clerk Mindy Moore

- Monthly reports have been received and filed from the Building Inspector, Court Clerk, Town Clerk & Recreation Director
- August 12, 2021 minutes have been distributed, filed and posted to the Town website
- We are currently processing Hunting Licenses which went on sale August 1st.

Councilman Robert Audia

- There is a situation at the Town Hall regarding water leakage from the gutters backing up during the latest storm events. Our last storm rain fall caused basement flooding where permanent records are housed. It also caused a leak in the Town Clerk's office from the ceiling and running down the wall. Two gutters are currently plugged. This has caused an emergency situation and the gutters need to be attended to prior to snowfall. Councilman Audia discussed trying to get bids for the project. Currently it is difficult to get contractors to bid or work on jobs. He contacted 6 companies to come give an estimate. 4 of them could not come, 1 never showed up and later stated they could not come for 3-4 more weeks, and Brother's Gutters was the only company he could get to submit an estimate for the work. The current gutters are sized properly and in good shape but they will need to be cleaned and helmeted. Brother's Gutters stated they can come do the work approximately 2 ½ weeks out from the receipt of a deposit. Councilman Audia made a motion to accept the bid from Brother's Gutters to do the work and send the deposit. The motion was seconded by Councilman Rochfort, all ayes were recorded.
- Bookkeeper Petrone asked if Councilman Audia could add some notes of who was called and their phone numbers to attach to the payment voucher for the gutters. Steve Turletes added to put an emergency use on the voucher.
- Councilman Audia updated the Board regarding printing Wetlands and Aquifer Maps for the Town Hall. There was a zoom (virtual) meeting held with Howard Shuman of the CAC and Sean Carol, Senior GIS Environmental Educator at Cornell Cooperative. They discussed how the maps do not change much but we need new copies. It is important to note there will be no regulatory or zoning connotations with these maps. Each case will need to be site inspected. Mr. Carol received a quote from the Country Postman for the printing. They will be \$25/each for archival paper or \$30/each on poster paper. We will need 8 prints in total, 2 should be on poster paper for frames to be displayed in the Town Hall. The rest can be on archival paper. The total cost will be \$210.00. We will also have a pdf on file at Country Postman for any future reproductions. Mr. Audia made a motion to procure the maps, seconded by Mr. Murphy, all ayes were recorded.

Councilman Michael Murphy:

- Scheduled a meeting with Building Inspector James Finley and bringing recommendations to the Town Board for changes to some of the building codes. Councilman Murphy stated the current Planning Board application is lacking with its requirements for applicants to show the locations of wetlands. It was suggested to

clarify this by making a change on the application stating that a site map must be prepared by an appropriate professional licensed in the State of NY. If applications and maps are not properly prepared the project gets adjourned and progress is not made. Howard Shuman mentioned that 1st the wetland must be delineated by a certified wetland delineator. After this is done the surveyor can come out.

- A meeting is scheduled with building inspector James Finley regarding a potential future blasting permit. The Town Board may need to develop a local law. This needs to be discussed with Town Council Battistoni and we also need to check the current standards with insurance companies.

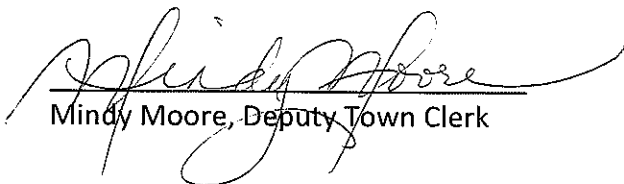
Councilman Joseph Rochfort:

- Planning Board Update – The Planning board meeting was extensive on 09/09/2021. They reviewed and approved the Millprop Lot Line change. Bontecou was reviewed, to bring 316 acres into one parcel. There will be a Planning Board public hearing on this 10/05. They reviewed the Chatillon Realty project. There are potential environmental impacts present. They are hiring an engineering firm to review the applicant's study. There was another wetlands application (applicant?) that was withdrawn and going to the ZBA for a pool. The applicant can move the pool and be outside of the wetland buffer, therefore not needing a wetlands permit. Application by Mellens for tree cutting was not reviewed as it was incomplete.
- The next Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting is 09/21/2021.
- Comprehensive Plan Review Committee Update
The 08/26 meeting went very well. Residents received 3 minutes to speak. There were approximately 20 people present, with 75 on the zoom call and about 25 people spoke in total. A survey will go out to all Town residents that will be done through an RFP. The next Public Forum is scheduled for September 15, 2021, 7:00 PM.

Deputy Supervisor Turletes:

- There were no additional public comments
- Claims approved for payment as presented
- Councilman Murphy made a motion to close the meeting. Motion seconded by Councilman Audia. All were in favor and the meeting closed at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully Submitted:



Mindy Moore, Deputy Town Clerk