

**WASHINGTON TOWN BOARD
MINUTES
OCTOBER 24, 2022**

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held a special meeting on Monday, October 24, 2022, at the Washington Town Hall. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Supervisor Gary Ciferri with the following present: Councilmen Robert Audia, Michael Murphy and Councilwoman Leslie Heaney, Bookkeeper Lois Petrone, Recreation Director Danielle Szalewicz and Town Clerk Mary Alex.

The purpose of the meeting is to continue to review the proposed 2023 Town Budget, specifically the Recreation Budget. The Board welcomed Recreation Director Szalewicz. The discussion involved both recreation and park and pool revenue and expenses, summer camp and lifeguard salaries, programs, rental fees for the Village gymnasium, a new preschool program and utilizing the MyRec Software program for tracking revenue and expenses.

Recreation Director Szalewicz had the opportunity to have a Recreation Commission meeting, which included a discussion about program costs and summer employee salaries. Their recommendation, which is in line with the discussions the Town Board has had, includes a step increase in pay of 25 cents per hour for each year an employee returns to work. The budget reflects the increases. In addition, Recreation Director Szalewicz recommends hiring adult staff members to be program leaders and the camp director. These numbers are also reflected in the budget. Recreation Director Szalewicz also discussed the rental fees for the pavilions.

Recreation Director Szalewicz provided the Town Board with a copy of the current budget with LMC Basketball. The contract allows them to have unlimited use of the village gymnasium outside of recreation programs. Recreation Director Szalewicz expressed that the fees for this use do not align with fees that Town residents are paying for programs such as pickleball. The contract has been forwarded to Attorney Battistoni for his review, along with a proposed revised contract.

As the Board was aware, Recreation Director Szalewicz has operated a preschool Circle of Friends at Lyall Church for many years. Recreation Director Szalewicz offered to bring the preschool program into the Town's Recreation Department to be operated at the Camp Building at the Town Park. The Board members were presented with a proposal to do so, which included information on revenue and expenses. The Town Board welcomed this idea with enthusiasm. A discussion ensued on building requirements and funding sources which includes CDBG funding, ARPA money and recreation fees from subdivisions. Recreation Director

Szalewicz advised that the building improvements would also enable senior citizen programs to be held in the building.

The Town Board authorized Bookkeeper Petrone to add the preschool program to the budget and to increase the expense line for additional senior citizen programs. The Board was appreciative that Recreation Director Szalewicz has been using the real data from the MyRec software to determine program participant numbers and expenses.

In other business, the Board discussed the application of a special use permit by the Dutchess Land Conservancy (DLC). Building Inspector Finley determined that based upon the information presented, they do meet the requirements for an educational entity and do not need a variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals. Councilwoman Heaney volunteered to follow up with representatives from the DLC regarding a payment in lieu of taxes.

There being no other business, on a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Audia the meeting was closed at 6:50 PM. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri: AYE

Councilman Audia: AYE

Councilman Murphy: AYE

Councilman Rochfort: ABSENT

Councilwoman Heaney: AYE

Mary Alex, Town Clerk