

Town of Washington  
Town Board  
Minutes  
September 11, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, September 11, 2025, at the Washington Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Ciferri with the following present: Councilmen Michael Murphy, Doug Giles, Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs, and Attorney for the Town Hannah Atkinson.

Supervisor Ciferri opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Highway Superintendent Joseph Spagnola reports the following:** The gas tank at the Highway Garage needs to be replaced. The materials for this project will be under contract with Sourcewell. The labor for this project is under a county contract. The boiler is being replaced and should be complete by Friday.

In regards to the emergency roof repair at the Highway Garage, we have the building permit, the insurance company was there, as well as the engineers. Highway Superintendent Spagnola would like to get the roof fixed sooner rather than later, especially with winter around the corner. Mr. Spagnola received one quote for this job and it was not prevailing wages. Mr. Spagnola explains that there is an Emergency Statute by Municipal Law Section 103 Subdivision 4 which basically, says that you don't have to go to bid, and this situation is an ongoing emergency. Every time it rains, water pours in the building making this a safety issue. The Town Board agrees that this qualifies as an emergency repair and will wait to hear from the Town Attorney if we need to use prevailing wages.

Councilman Murphy makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Giles that the Town Board agrees to the emergency repair of the Highway Garage, with the understanding that we have to wait on the answer regarding prevailing wages.

The vote is as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri	Aye
Councilman Audia	Absent
Councilman Giles	Aye
Councilman Murphy	Aye
Councilman Rochfort	Absent

Highway Superintendent Spagnola is working on the Highway Departments 2026 Budget. Mr. Spagnola is also looking to hire one or two new employees, as he might have two retirements coming up next year.

The Oak Summitt Bridge Replacement project is anticipating going out to bid in Spring 2026.

**Bookkeeper Petrone reports the following:** The reconciliations for the checking and savings accounts, including New York Class are complete through July. Ms. Petrone is in the process of working on the August bank reconciliations and has provided the Town Board with the current Bank of Millbrook and New York Class balances. The Transfer Station invoicing receipts are posted. The monthly revenue from the Justice Court has been received through July. Court Clerk Mckenna D'Attore has been on vacation and will submit the August report when she returns to the office. The Building Department's August report has been submitted. Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs is working on the Town Clerk's monthly report and will submit it shortly. The Budget timeline has been provided to the Town Board. The Budget meeting schedule is as follows: Monday October 6th, the 20th, and the 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

Tim Collopy discussed the 17% increase in Property Taxes in the Village compared to the no tax increase for outside the Village. Mr. Collopy is asking if the Town Board/Bookkeeper have looked into improving the equity of the allocation between the Village and Town residents? Bookkeeper Petrone contacted Maggie Burns at the County and was told that since the Village has less properties than the Town, but more tax-exempt properties the Village tax rate is higher.

Councilman Murphy adds that the Auditor from the NYS Comptroller Office has sent us recommendations regarding the fund balance, which may help guide us in a more proportionate fund balance. Bookkeeper Petrone suggested that Mr. Collopy reach out to Maggie Burns for further assistance in this matter. Mr. Collopy notes that Bookkeeper Petrone is using the right tax formula, but is concerned the allocation of fund balance is the issue.

**Assessor Lisa Evangelista reports the following:** There are eight Small Claims Court cases, including one that is Article Seven. Ms. Evangelista will keep the Board updated through this process. The Sales reviews are complete. Assessor Evangelista and Councilman Giles met with a local vendor in regards to the pending Re-evaluation that the Assessor's office will be conducting. Both Councilman Giles and Assessor Evangelista were impressed by this vendor. They can start in the Spring and estimates that it would be a two-year process. There is at least one more vendor to meet with. Ms. Evangelista will discuss this in further detail at next month's meeting. Ms. Evangelista will be attending the Fall Conference the first week of October. There were four sales outside the Village and one in the Village. August numbers are as follows: 47 reviews for reappraisal, and 43 for sales. Michael was nine and nine for partials and sites.

**Recreation Director Szalewicz reports the following:** On August 20<sup>th</sup>, the Senior Center hosted a senior breakfast. Dutchess County Executive, Sue Serino was in attendance, along with Dutchess County Legislature & Financial Chairman, Will Truit. Also in attendance was Town Supervisor Gary Ciferri, Councilmen Doug Giles, Bob Audia, Michael Murphy, Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs, Deputy Town Clerk Kristen Beaumont, Village of Millbrook Mayor Peter Doro, and his staff. There was also about 25 to 30 members of the community. Ms. Serino announced that the Town Of Washington Recreation Department has been awarded a \$56,000 grant to make more improvements to the Turletes Park Building. Between this grant of \$56,000 and the previous grant, we have a total of \$219,000 that has been put into that building. There was some trenchwork done at the Town Park so we can have water year-round. We need to satisfy

The Department of Health's request to hire a Civil Engineer to recommend the best solution to make it potable water in that building. We are in the process of hiring a Civil engineer for that. Ms. Szalewicz will keep the Board posted on this matter. The Soccer Program has kicked off and games are located at the McMillan Field. There are approximately 70 participants, which is lower this year. Town of Washington Toddler Program opens this Monday with 12 registrants for our 10-month program. We still have available tickets for the September 27th Yankee game. October 7th is the grand opening of our Washington Adult Center Program. The Program will be on Tuesday, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00pm. Abby has been working really hard on making a great program for everybody. Abby also has the Dutchess County Mobile Health Bus coming to discuss flu shots, blood pressures checks, and how to keep healthy through winter. The programs will have a coffee hour, snacks, games, activities, and speakers. On November 11th, which is Veterans Day, the Recreation will be offering a free pancake breakfast to Veterans and a guest of theirs. We are offering a Paint and Sip on November 21st. Lisa Agnelli, The Town's Planning and Zoning Board Secretary happens to be a Paint and Sip teacher and will be teaching the class. Registration has opened for Gingerbread Houses online. The contract for Dutchess Day Basketball season needs to be looked over and signed. Supervisor Ciferri will look over the contract.

**Groundskeeper Matt Purcell reports the following:** The fence at the sand filter has to be extended. People and animals have been going around and behind fence. Extending fence in the water perpendicular from ends of fence by 4-0'. On August 18th pool was drained. Three soccer fields have been painted for the 2025 season. Mr. Purcell has put together a list of projects for next year and has met with Recreation Director Szalewicz to go over and approve projects for next year's budget. The roof on the camp building needs to be replaced. Mr. Purcell has put together a request for proposals and needs permission to go out for bid on this project. The Town Board will table this matter and continue the discussion at next month's meeting.

**Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs reports the following:**

The Town Clerk's Office generated \$5,166 in revenue for the month of August. The Town Clerk's Report is complete and will be submitted tomorrow. September 20th is Community Day and Kristen and I are going to be having a table representing The Town of Washington. The Clerk's Office is starting a record retention project. We will be looking to bring in a Shredding Company as the project progresses.

**Councilman Mike Murphy reports the following:** The Justice Court was closed this week and there is no report. However, Councilman Murphy did receive some financial statements from Bookkeeper Petrone. There was \$6,530 deposited in July. From that amount the State received \$3,040 and the Town received \$3,490. In regards to the Ethic Committee there are no updates. The Recreation Area Strategic Planning Committee met for the second time and it was on the grounds of the Town of Washington Park. The Committee took a thorough look at the pool as it was drained. They were able to examine the interior of the pool and the piping. There was an in-depth discussion regarding the aging of the property. The Committee then adjourned into the Turlantes Building and began to talk about what they have researched over the last couple of

months. What we begin to understand is that we have to get a good strategic look at the property. So, one of the committee members is going to try to access maps from the County and maps online and then develop a map just of the property so that when we start to strategize on what should be there, and what should not be there. Another thing to think about is the traffic flow surrounding the Park and Pool. Councilman Murphy attended Community Day and asked residents to re-imagine The Town Park. He asked the residents to write that they would like to see up at the Town Park on a stickie note. Once all the Stickie notes are collected, the Committee will put them on a board to review. The Committee wants to reassure the residents that the pool is not closing; we are just looking to improve it.

**Councilman Doug Giles reports the following:** The Planning Board met on September 2<sup>nd</sup>. There were two items on the agenda. First was the Killearn Road project. A resolution to approve all permits was adopted unanimously. The other item on the agenda was Beth Harris and her partner who bought 62 Old Route 82. The applicants had to go back in front of the Planning Board for a Special Use Permit to return to the prior use of the accessory building to use as a B&B. Before that, there was a very short discussion about a conflict of interest between Attorneys. The applicant used the attorneys to purchase the property. They signed a waiver. No conflict of interest. They moved on. They went over the checklist of paperwork that they needed. The current survey was accepted as a site plan since it was a pre-existing type two under SEQR. The Public Hearing is scheduled for next month. Assessor's office update. One of the things that we will be working on over the winter, is going over assessments and how many of them are legitimate and how many need to be looked at a little closer. The Right to Farm Law, Kyle sent suggested changes today, and I have not really had a chance to look at them. I think the best thing to do is to look at that and then table it before we schedule a public hearing on that.

**County Legislature Deidre Houston Reports the following:** The County Legislative meeting was this past Monday. Everything was on consent agenda but one item, which is an item of note. We hired a new Commissioner of Emergency Response. His name is Bill Beal and he was unanimously approved for the position. We start the County Executive Budget in in October and will spend a good six to eight weeks as a legislature going through it with department heads.

Supervisor Ciferri thanks Ms. Houston for her report and for her help and support with the Senior Center Grant.

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy, and seconded by Councilman Giles the Town Board will enter into Executive Session to discuss Attorney/ Client Privilege.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	Absent
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	Absent

Councilman Giles: AYE

On a motion made by Councilman Giles and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Town Board exits Executive Session.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	Absent
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	Absent
Councilman Giles:	AYE

There being no other business on a motion made by Councilman Giles, and seconded by Councilman Murphy the Town Board will review and pay claims.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	Absent
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	Absent
Councilman Giles:	AYE

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy and seconded by Councilman Giles the Town Board closed the meeting.

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Ciferri:	AYE
Councilman Audia:	Absent
Councilman Murphy:	AYE
Councilman Rochfort:	Absent
Councilman Giles:	AYE

Date: October 16, 2025

Christine Briggs

Christine Briggs

Town Clerk

Millbrook, NY

