

## **WASHINGTON TOWN BOARD**

### **Meeting Minutes**

**August 14, 2025**

The Town Board of the Town of Washington held their regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, August 14, 2025, at the Washington Town Hall. The meeting was called to order by Supervisor Gary Ciferri, with the following present: Councilmen Robert Audia, Doug Giles, Michael Murphy, Joseph Rochfort, Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs, and Attorney for the Town Kyle Barnett.

Supervisor Ciferri opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Supervisor Ciferri invited Lee Reynolds to discuss the recycling project she is embarking on with the Millbrook Library. The project is called the Trex Bench Project. The project kicked off on July 1st and they have a year to collect 1,000 pounds of plastic. Once that is complete, the library will get a Trex Bench for their new Pollinator Garden. Ms. Reynolds talks about what a gem the Millbrook Library is and that it has had more than 7,000 visitors this year to date. We have a collection site at the Town Hall. Please bring any and all plastics.

Supervisor Ciferri thanks Ms. Reynolds for her presentation and time!

Councilman Giles informs the Town Board that we have until October 1, 2025 to appoint the Town Assessor for a new six-year term.

Councilman Giles makes a motion, seconded by Councilman Murphy to reappoint Lisa Evangelista as the Town of Washington Assessor for the next six-year term.

The vote is as follows:

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

Councilman Rochfort continues the discussion on the Killearn Road Project. Parts one, two and three of SEQR have been completed. Mr. Warner, Consultant from AKRF prepared, a supporting Negative Declaration. This Resolution basically adopts that Negative Declaration. The Town Board has considered various determinations including items such as water, traffic, noise levels, waste, pollution, any impacts on vegetation. Also, whether there's any designated critical environmental areas. The Resolution is consistent with the Town Scenic Roads objectives and the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilman Rochfort makes a motion to accept the Resolution adopting the Negative Declaration for the Killearn Road Improvement Project.

The vote is as follows:

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

### **Resolution adopting Negative Declaration for the Killearn Road Improvement Project**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Washington Town Board (the "Board") is the Lead Agency for the Killearn Road Improvement Project (the "Project"), which involves roadway repairs and improvements to Killearn Road, a 3.25-mile Town- designated scenic road, including gravel reclamation, drainage improvements, and widening in select areas;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has conducted a thorough review of the Full Environmental Assessment Form (FEAF) Parts 1, 2, and 3, along with supplemental information, plans, and studies, to evaluate the potential environmental impacts of the Project;

**WHEREAS**, the Board has considered the criteria for determining significance as set forth in Part 617.7(c)(1) of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) regulations and has determined that the Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment;

**WHEREAS**, the Project will not result in any significant impacts from changes in air quality, water quality, traffic, noise levels, or solid waste production, nor will it substantially increase the potential for erosion, flooding, or drainage problems;

**WHEREAS**, the Project will not result in significant impacts on vegetation, fauna, or habitats, and will not adversely affect any threatened or endangered species; **WHEREAS**, the Project is not located in a designated Critical Environmental Area and will not impair the environmental characteristics of such an area;

**WHEREAS**, the Project is consistent with the Town's scenic road objectives and wetland protection standards, and aligns with the Town's Comprehensive Plan;

**WHEREAS**, the Project will not impair historical, archaeological, architectural, or aesthetic resources, nor will it alter the community or neighborhood character;

**WHEREAS**, the Project will not result in a major change in energy use, create a hazard to human health, or substantially change the use of land, including agricultural, open space, or recreational resources; **WHEREAS**, the Project will not attract a large number of people, create a demand for other actions with significant impacts, or result in cumulative adverse impacts;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Town of Washington Town Board hereby issues a Negative Declaration for the Killearn Road Improvement Project, determining that the Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement is not required

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Town Supervisor, Gary Ciferri, is authorized to sign the Negative Declaration on behalf of the Board;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this Resolution and the Negative Declaration be filed and distributed in accordance with SEQRA regulations.

Adopted by the Town of Washington  
Town Board on August 14, 2025.

**Highway Superintendent Spagnola reports the following:** Highway Garage is still dealing with the collapsed roof. Highway Superintendent Spagnola has been in touch with the Insurance Company. Mr. Spagnola has a Building Permit and an Engineer's report specific to the work that needs to be done. We should have those quotes hopefully next week.

In regards to Route 82, it is great that the road is repaved. The Town got 300 tons of millings out of it for free. That's about 6 grand.

We have installed about 1,000 ft of guide rail on three roads. Burbank, Stanford, and Butts Hollow. The job is complete.

The gas tank at the Highway Garage needs to be replaced. Highway Superintendent Spagnola is trying to do this job under Government Contracts. He is also Working on the Deisel Tank replacement.

The last item is shimming School Road.

**Assessor Lisa Evangelista reports the following:** The end of July and beginning of August, the office was under renovation with new floors and windows on the south side of the building. Assessor office set up a temporary office in the IT room, but there were many issues with the computer. IT has recommended that we replace that computer, and plan to put that in the budget for 2026.

The renovation went well and were back up and running as usual on 8/11.

There are currently eight SCAR and Cert/Article 7 cases that have been received.

Data Collector position is still open and accepting resumes. There are two potential candidates we are corresponding with.

Review of sales will be completed in August, and preparation for hearings will follow.

We are working on various summer tasks this past month. Kathy has been sorting through additional old documents, and determining what to keep and what to destroy.

Sales for June 2025 Town, outside village:1 Village:2 (Revised numbers for May: Town, outside village:7 Village:1) July 2025 Assessor site parcel reappraisal reviews: 12 Assessor sales reviews: 1

July 2025: Assessor site parcel reappraisal reviews: 12 Assessor sales reviews: 1

Data collector parcels/sites completed: Michael: TBD

**County Legislator, Deidre Houston attended the meeting and discussed the following:**

The County had their monthly meeting on Monday night and it was a pretty light agenda. Most of it was on consent. There was a discussion in regards to the Ag Exemptions Farmland Protection Board and the inclusion into the Ag district 21 for individual parcels. It's a two-month process. Councilman Doug Giles represents the Town of Washington on the Ag Farmland Protection Board. It's great to have a local Town Board member on that board. So, thank you Doug for serving on it. It's a compilation of different people and stakeholders across the county. There are a lot of farmers, people from the Soil and Water Conservation District, and people from our Planning Department for the County. This year there seemed to be more questions about what Ag and Farmland Protection does. Some towns came to advocate for some parcels to be included and some towns and villages came to advocate for parcels to be excluded. Based on the recommendations of AG and Farmland Protection Board. We, as the County Legislature decided that the Ag Farmland Protection Board is a standalone committee that advises the County Legislature. We took their list of inclusion and exclusion as true and we adopted based on their recommendations.

In regards to getting Route 82 paved, it was a community effort. I know that a lot of residents called Didi Barrett's office and NYS to advocate for the safety of our roads. So, thank you to all!

County Legislator Houston proposed a budget amendment for \$500,000 for a grant application process specific to Senior Centers in Dutchess County. Ms. Houston has felt like there hasn't been much done for the senior population in years. So, she advocated for a senior grant and her colleagues all signed on to the amendment. It was unanimous. We had \$500,000 and Ms. Houston encouraged Danielle to apply for the grant. The Town of Washington has been awarded \$56,000 at the Town Park Building to create a kitchen, a bathroom and to start senior program.

Supervisor Ciferri thanks County Legislature Houston for her attending and sharing her report.

**Building Inspector Jonathon Ialongo reports the following:**

**Building:**

1. In the month of July: 27 inspections and site visits were conducted, 11 building permits were issued and 1 building permit was renewed.
2. In the month of July: 4 Certificates of Occupancy were issued and 3 Certificates of Compliance were issued.
3. At the end of July, there were 7 expired building permits.
4. There was no fire inspections conducted in June.

5. There are 2 cases of fire inspections being overdue, or having failed previous inspections.
6. There were no new Building Only complaints received.

Zoning:

1. In the month of July: 8 municipal searches were requested and completed.
2. 4 site visits were conducted.
3. 1 FOIL request was received and completed in July.
4. No new Zoning complaints were received in July. A complaint about multiple violations of the Town of Washington Zoning Code, NYS Fire Code & NYS Property Maintenance Code on Tinkertown Road was resolved in July. The complaint has been closed.

**Recreation Director Danielle Scalewicz reports the following:** We have received notification from the office of County Executive Sue Serino that we have been awarded \$56,000 for the Municipal Investment Grant. With this grant we will install a new bathroom, kitchen and replace the garage doors in the Turletes building located at the Town Park.

On Wednesday, August 20th we are offering a senior breakfast where County Executive Sue Serino will arrive at 10:00 am to announce the award. In addition to Sue Serino and County Legislature Deidre Houston, a few town board members will be in attendance along with Millbrook Mayor Peter Doro and his staff, Town of Washington Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs and Deputy Town Clerk Kristen Beaumont.

The following recreation Resolutions have been approved by the Town Board:

Town of Washington Town Board

Town Board Resolution 8001/2025

Re: 2026 Town of Washington Summer Camp fees

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Washington intends to operate summer camp programs for three 2-week session; and

**WHEREAS**, there will be changes in fees due to the changes in hours offered to residents and non-residents of the Town of Washington; therefore be it;

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Washington hereby approves the following 2026 Summer Camp Hours

Session one 6/29-7/10 9 am-3 pm Resident rate \$297.00/Non Resident \$356.00

Session two 7/13-7/24 9 am -3 pm Resident rate \$330.00/Non Resident \$396.00

Session two 7/27- 8/07 9 am-3 pm Resident rate \$330.00/Non Resident \$396.00.

Early drop off Session one 7:45 am - 9 am Resident rate \$62.00/Non resident \$75

Early drop off Session two 7:45 am - 9 am Resident rate \$69.00/Non resident \$83

Early drop off Session three 7:45 am - 9 am Resident rate \$69.00/Non resident \$83

Late pick up session one from 3pm - 4pm Resident rate \$50/ Non resident \$60.00

Late pick up session two from 3pm - 4pm Resident rate \$55/ Non resident \$65.00  
Late pick up session three from 3pm - 4pm Resident rate \$55/ Non resident \$65.00

MOTIONED BY: Councilman murphy SECONDED BY: Councilman Audia

Date: August 14, 2025

Roll Call:

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

Town of Washington Town Board Town Board Resolution 8002/2025

Re: Appointment of 2025 Town of Washington Recreation Assistant

**WHEREAS**, there is a vacancy for the position of Recreation Assistant(P/T), for a maximum of 25 hours per week; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Washington hereby appoints Abigail Hackbarth as Recreation Leader (P/T), for a maximum of 25 hours per week, with a probationary period of six months, at the rate of \$22, starting August 18, 2025, therefore be it;

**RESOLVED**, the Town Supervisor and Town Bookkeeper are hereby authorized and directed to file any and all documents necessary to effectuate the intent of this resolution.

MOTIONED BY: Councilman murphy SECONDED BY: Councilman Audia

Date: August 14, 2025

Roll Call:

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

Town of Washington Town Board

Town Board Resolution 8003/2025

Re: Lease for Toddler Program

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Washington intends to operate the Toddler program located at Lyall Church, 30 Maple Ave for 10 months - September 1, 2025 through July 1, 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, there will be an increase of 5% in the rent, therefore be it;

**RESOLVED**, that the Town Board of the Town of Washington agrees to the 5% increase in the rent From \$525 per month/\$5250 per 10-month period to \$551.25 per month/\$5512.50 per 10-month period

MOTIONED BY: Councilman Rochfort SECONDED BY: Councilman Giles

Date: August 14, 2025

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

Camp: The Last day was August 8<sup>th</sup>. Camp 2026 planning how that will work out with programing for 9-3. We had the ice cream social/artshow/slideshow -100 ice cream scoops. We made the announcement of full day at all shows, parents were happy Some asked if they could still do half day.

Camp show - 40 parents

Soccer:Very low numbers 35 registration is still open.

Casino Trip: Sunday, August 17 we leave at 8:30 and come home at 6pm. We receive \$20 gambling credit and \$15 food credit

Basketball: open for registration online.

Millbrook Marathon has asked to have their event at our park on April 12, 2026. We need to have a contract made for that.

Park: The pool has had many upgrades: tables, grills, building, sign, and more.

There is a committee working on a master plan for the park. The pool closes this Sunday August 17th 6pm, it will start draining the next morning.

Facility rentals: Saturday, August 16, Sept 13, September 27th, Sept 28th, and October 4th.

Danielle and Matt are working plans for upgrades for the town park, soccer fields and town hall. We are budgeting for 2026.

**Groundskeeper Matthew Purcell reports the following:**

Sand Filter Fence:

Fence at 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'

**Pool Closing:**

On August 18th pool was drained  
There were no issues draining the pool

**Soccer fields:**

Three soccer fields have been painted for the 2025 season

**Estimates for budget:**

Have put together list of projects for next year  
Met with Director Szalewicz to go over and approve projects for next year's budget

**Camp Building Roof RFP:**

The roof on the camp building needs to be replace  
I have put to together a request for proposals  
Need permission to go out for bid.

Town Board will meet with Matt to discuss Camp Building roof repairs.

**Animal Control Officer Tony Debonis reports the following:**

Mr. Debonis has received quite a few calls regarding dogs running loose. Luckily, all of the dogs except one have returned home. That dog was seized and housed at HVARs and was not claimed by the owner. The town had to pay \$500 to HVARs for medical treatment and housing for the dog. The dog was eventually adopted. Happy ending!

**Town Clerk Chrissy Briggs reports the following:** The Town Clerk's Office brought in \$8,777 for the month of July. We are entering our busy season with issuing Hunting and Fishing Licenses. Municipalities are required to have their websites and email address domains changed from .org to .gov. We are .org right now and in the process of transferring. Community Day is September 20<sup>th</sup>. We are going to have a Town of Washington table with Town information, Recreation and Senior programs.

**Bookkeeper Petrone is absent. Town Clerk Briggs presents the following Budget Amendments to the Town Board**

<b>2025 Budget Amendments for Board Meeting - 8/14/25</b>		
<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
11104.01.000.00	Justice CE	-\$1,045.00
1104.01.000.15	Justice CE - Conferences	\$1,045.00



Note: Amendment to cover the cost of the court Clerk's conference expenditure		
<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
71104.01.000.33	Park & Pool Improvements Expense	\$43,540.50
2705.01.0000.00	Donations Revenue A/c	\$33,595.84
1000.01.000.000	A Fund, Fund Balance	\$9,941.66
Note: Amendment to cover the cost of the emergency septic work at the Park		
<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
71104.01.000.33	Park & Pool Improvements Expense	\$12,004.22
2705.01.000.00	Donations Revenue A/c	\$12,004.22
Note: Amendment to cover the emergency well work at the Park		
<b>Account</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Note: Grant work at park		

On a motion made by Councilman Murphy, seconded by Councilman Audia the Town Board approves the Budget Amendments.

The vote is as follows:

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

**Councilman Michael Murphy reports the following:** The Justice Court brought in \$6,650.00 for the month of July and, \$18,754 year to date.

In regards to the Ethics Committee, there has been no activity. The Committee is planning for the mandatory education that has to take in 2026.

The Recreation Area Strategic Planning Committee will be meeting next Thursday. The teams have been working and touring the grounds for two months now. Councilman Murphy will report on the Committees recommendations and priorities at next month's meeting.

Councilman Murphy discusses budget preparation. Mr. Murphy is suggesting that discussions involving budget lines of salaries and titles be moved to the beginning of the budget meetings. This would alleviate some of the pressure on Lois to go back and redo all the budget papers and submission to the Town Board.

Next July 4<sup>th</sup> the United States will be turning 250 years old. Councilman Murphy reached out to the Town Historian, Peter Devers. Mr. Devers mentioned that The Historical Society is working on doing something for the celebration. The following is one idea: Daniel Northrup was born in 1773 and died in 1855. He was the Supervisor of the Town of Washington for over 20 years. As Supervisor, he was on the Dutchess County Board of Supervisors representing us in the County. He was also the Superintendent of Washington Schools for about the same time period. He was also, a New York Assemblyman for one term. Northrup's gravestone is in the cemetery behind St. Peter's Church, along with his wife's and many family members. His headstone has been broken near the base and is now propped up. He was arguably the most important community leader in the early 1800s. It might be a nice town project to restore his headstone and perhaps add a bronze plaque telling a bit about him.

**Councilman Joseph Rochfort reports the following:** The ZBA did not have anything on the agenda for last month. The next meeting is August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilman Doug Giles reports the following:** The Planning Board met on August 5th. There were three items on the agenda. Killlearn Road, Alexander and Renee Casertano, and the Weston Hotel Partners. The Planning Board has an ongoing discussion of escrow fees and costs associated with the Planning Board. The working theory now is that for smaller projects the Planning Board will not ask for comments from the consultant, which will eliminate some of the costs. There is a \$500.00 fee for every application. The larger projects will use AKRF recommendations on how much to put into escrow to start with. We have been doing a bit of a deeper dive and have found multiple applicants dating back a couple of years where we are still owed money at the Town of Washington for Planning Board applications fees that haven't been paid yet. Lisa, our Planning Board Secretary is working hard on this now. She has a good system. Lisa has collected about half of the money. We're down from about \$39,000 that was owed to about \$17,000. Lisa is also monitoring another issue, which is a lag in billing from AKRF and to a lesser extent Vanderwater. The billing cycle runs two months behind.

**Councilman Audia reports the following:** There was a flood in the Court Room Record Room, which was caused by the air conditioning unit. It ended up being a plug drain and caused no damage. It has been brought to Mr. Audia's attention that there is an issue with a tree by the Bailey property in Mabbettsville and also in the old McLaughlin house. Highway Superintendent

Spagnola accompanied Mr. Audia to assess the situation and to see if the trees are the responsibility of the Town. It looks like the trees by the Bailey property belong to the Town. Councilman Audia presents the contract agreement for the Tedesco House and the Fire Department. The agreement states that the house can be torn down and be used for training by the Fire Department.

Councilman Audia is looking to replace the windows in the Clerk's office. He will get a rough estimate and will look to put it in next year's budget.

Councilman Audia met with Welsh Sanitation and Royal Carting about new compactors at the Landfill Mr. Audia will follow up at next month's meeting.

Resident Howard Schumann is glad to see some consideration to residents doing smaller projects through the Planning Board, as the fees can be very expensive.

On a motion made by Councilman Rochfort, and seconded by Councilman Audia the Town Board entered into Executive Session at 7:40 pm for Attorney Client Privilege.

The vote was as follows:

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

On a motion made by Councilman Rochfort and seconded by Councilman Audia the Town Board exited Executive Session at 8:10 pm.

The vote was as follows:

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

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

The vote was as follows:

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

On a motion made by Councilman Audia and seconded by Councilman Rochfort the Town Board closed the meeting at 8:15 pm.

The vote was as follows:

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

Date: September 23, 2025

Christine Briggs

Christine Briggs

Town Clerk

Millbrook, NY