

A Village Board Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. at Village Hall, 9 Fairlawn Drive, Washingtonville, New York.

PRESENT:

Mayor Joseph Bucco, Deputy Mayor Paul Lang, Trustees Richard Calore, Valerie Laudato and Laurisa Sampson.

ALSO PRESENT:

Village Clerk Christine Shenkman.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Joseph Bucco led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

PUBLIC HEARING – INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW – “TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE – 2020 – 2021 FISCAL YEAR”:

Mayor Joseph Bucco read the “Notice of Hearing” regarding the adoption of Introductory Local Law entitled “Tax Levy Limit Override – 2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year” which Local Law would authorize the Village Board to override the two percent (2%) Tax Cap mandated by New York State General Municipal Law Section 3-c for the 2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year. A complete copy of the Introductory Local Law is available for inspection at the Village Clerk’s Office.

Deputy Mayor Lang made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to open the Public Hearing regarding the above stated Introductory Local Law; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

Mayor Bucco stated the Village Board will now receive audience comment:

There being no comment:

Trustee Laudato made a motion, seconded by Trustee Sampson and adopted to close the Public Hearing regarding Introductory Local Law entitled “Tax Levy Limit Override – 2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year”; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

Deputy Mayor Lang made a motion, seconded by Trustee Laudato and adopted that:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Washingtonville wish to adopt a Local Law to override the limit by the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village of Washingtonville, County of Orange, pursuant to General Municipal Law Section 3-c, and to allow the Village of Washingtonville, County of Orange, to adopt the 2020-2021 Village Budget for (A) Village Purposes; (B) Fire Protection Districts and (C) Any other Special or Improved District Governed by the Village Board for the Fiscal Year 2020-2021, that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the tax levy limit as defined by General Municipal Law 3-c;

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing was held on January 21, 2020 at 7:00 P.M. to assist in the Village of Washingtonville’s consideration of adoption of said Local Law and the Public Hearing was closed on January 21, 2020;

PUBLIC HEARING – INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW – “TAX LEVY LIMIT OVERRIDE – 2020 – 2021 FISCAL YEAR” – (CONTINUED):

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees has considered the matters that were discussed at the Public Hearings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Washingtonville hereby adopts said Local Law Number 2 of the Year 2020 entitled “Tax Levy Limit Override – 2020 – 2021 Fiscal Year” which Local Law would override the Tax Levy Limit established by General Municipal Law 3-c within the Village of Washingtonville, with respect to the 2020-2021 Village Budget, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk, be hereby directed to enter said Local Law in the Minutes of this meeting, and to give due notice of adoption of said Local Law to the New York Secretary of State.

Mayor Bucco submitted said Resolution for a vote, and the results were as follows:

5 AYES 0 NAYS 0 ABSTENTIONS

Mayor Joseph Bucco declared said Resolution adopted.

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED VILLAGE BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2021:

Deputy Mayor Lang made a motion, seconded by Trustee Laudato and adopted to open the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Village of Washingtonville Fiscal Year 2020 – 2021 Budget; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

Mayor Bucco stated the Budget Public Hearing will remain open, and additional comments, concerns or issues will be addressed at the January 28 Budget Meeting.

Discussion took place regarding Multi-Fund Budget Items which include Village Hall; Municipal Services including Attorney, Engineering and Insurance Services; Shared Services; Special Items; Law Enforcement; Public Safety; Code Enforcement, Building and Fire Inspectors; Department of Public Works – D.P.W.; Highway, Streets and Parks; Youth Recreation Programs; Culture; Village Historian; Celebrations; Zoning and Planning; Sanitation; Community Environment; Employee Benefits and Debt Service.

In addition, the Village Board reviewed the Water and Sewer Budgets which include Water and Sewer Professional Services, and other Budget line items.

Mayor Bucco explained the Village Board has been working on the creation of a Zoning Comprehensive Plan.

Mayor Joseph Bucco stated the Village Board will now receive audience comment:

Sean Hegarty of 4 Belvoir Drive questioned why the Electric Budget line item has increased, and Mayor Bucco reported Utility costs rise every year.

Mr. Hegarty also asked if there is a need to purchase a dog for the Police Department since the Sheriff’s Department, and other Municipalities have dogs. Village Police Chief Brian Zaccaro stated the following are reasons the Village Board has decided to purchase a K-9 Police dog. In the event an incident occurs at School the dog can be brought on scene immediately; the dog serves as a crime deterrent; a K-9 dog will foster good public relations at community events.

**PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED VILLAGE BUDGET – FISCAL YEAR 2020 – 2021
(CONTINUED):**

Mr. Hegarty further questioned what items are included in the \$20,000 purchase price for the K-9 dog, and Chief Zaccaro stated the fee includes initial payment for the dog; installation of kennel for Police Vehicle as well as a separate kennel; medical; food; training; Veterinarian costs, and overtime for Dog Handler.

Henry Ponti of 87 Capital Drive requested clarification regarding the present Village General Fund Budget, and the fact there are no expenses deducted in the Contingent Personnel and Contingent Payroll line items.

Mayor Bucco explained the Village Police Department Contract has recently been settled, and Retroactive Pay expenses will be deducted from these Budget Account Codes. The Village Police Dispatcher and Department of Public Works – (D.P.W.) Contracts are in negotiations, and Retroactive Pay will also be paid from these Budget Codes.

Mr. Ponti questioned the reason for Personnel Service and Salaries being deducted from the Water and Sewer Fund Budgets, and Mayor Bucco explained the General Fund dictates the Village Tax Rate, and Water and Sewer Fund expenditures do not affect the Village Tax Rate.

Michelle Dillon of 13 Highgrove Drive stated the Village Board should separate from the Town of Blooming Grove and volunteered to carry Petitions regarding this matter. Ms. Dillon indicated the Village residents pay huge taxes to the Town which is unnecessary because the Village has their own Police Department, Department of Public Works (D.P.W.), Water and Sewer Departments.

Mayor Bucco explained that Trustee Laudato and the Mayor met with the Village Attorney regarding the following steps needed to be taken concerning this matter:

- 1) Need Five (5%) Percent of Village Voters who are eligible to vote for Governor to agree to said separation.
- 2) Need approval of Two-Thirds (2/3) of the Orange County Legislature.
- 3) Agreeance of Five (5%) Percent of Town of Blooming Grove residents to allow the Village and Town to separate.
- 4) Agreeance of Village residents through a Village Election process.

Marie Theodule of 12 Highgrove Drive stated it has been almost one year since she filed a Tax Grievance with the Town of Blooming Grove Assessor, and to date still has not received an answer.

Mayor Bucco indicated the Village Board will contact the Village Attorney for additional information regarding this process.

There being no further public comment:

Mayor Bucco stated the Budget Public Hearing will remain open until the January 28 Village Budget Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT - HGTV EXTREME MAKEOVER CONTEST:

Trustee Sampson reported the Village of Washingtonville will be competing in the upcoming HGTV Extreme Makeover Contest which shall take place on Saturday, February 1 at 11:00 A.M. at L. Vernon Allen Park. All residents are encouraged to participate in picture taking by a local drone owner.

RESOLUTION – APPROVAL OF PUBLIC ASSEMBLY PERMIT - HOT CHOCOLATE RUN:

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Trustee Laudato and adopted to authorize the approval of a Public Assembly Permit to Brian and Barbara Felter for the Hot Chocolate 5-K Run – Walk to be held on Saturday, February 2 between 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.; a \$15.00 Admission Fee will be charged, and all proceeds will be donated to Samaritans for Suicide Prevention; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

ADJOURNMENT:

Trustee Calore made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lang and adopted to adjourn the Tuesday, January 21, 2020 Village Board Regular Meeting; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

**CHRISTINE SHENKMAN
VILLAGE CLERK**