

A Village Board Regular Meeting was held on Tuesday, May 19, 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG:

Mayor Bucco led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

MOMENT OF SILENCE:

Mayor Joseph Bucco observed a moment of silence in memoriam for Denis Curran, Hector Rosario, Kathleen McBride and Michael "Rocky" Stevens, who have recently passed. On behalf of the Village Board, and the entire community of Washingtonville, our thoughts and Prayers are with their families.

MAYOR JOSEPH BUCCO – ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Joseph Bucco stated the Village Events Committee announced all events are canceled until July of 2020. At this point in time, the Farmers Market will continue through July and August, and will be held at L. Vernon Allen Park.

The Washingtonville Senior High School Graduation Parade will be held on Saturday, June 27. Mayor Bucco commented the Village is in contact with Washingtonville Central School District regarding this matter.

The Mayor mentioned Washingtonville Central School District will be mailing voter ballots regarding the School Budget vote. An update will be provided when the mailing date is scheduled.

Mayor Bucco indicated all Phase Opening dates for the Village will be listed on the Village Facebook and Website pages.

The bathrooms at L. Vernon Allen Park and Woodfield Skateboard Park, and all Village playgrounds will remain closed until Orange County officials authorize a reopening date.

The Mayor reiterated the importance of continuation of social distancing and wearing of masks to allow phase openings to continue.

The Village Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) project is due for completion by the end of June. Presently, the project cost is \$750,000 under Budget.

Firemens Memorial Park is being decorated by the Village Beautification Committee in observance of Memorial Day on May 25. The Mayor expressed thanks to all volunteers who worked on this project.

The Village of Washingtonville has canceled the Fireworks display scheduled for July 3.

Mayor Bucco announced Monday, May 25 is Memorial Day in which we mourn those who have died for the United States of America, and remind ourselves of ideas,

MAYOR JOSEPH BUCCO – ANNOUNCEMENTS – (CONTINUED):

virtues and priorities for our Country. May the sacrifice of all those who lost their lives be a constant reminder of things that matter.

A National Memorial Day Remembrance will be held at 3:00 P.M. The Village Board is asking all of us to pause for one minute to remember and reflect on the sacrifices made by so many to provide freedom to us all.

DOG PARK REGISTRATION FORMS -VILLAGE WEBSITE:

Trustee Laudato reported Dog Park registration forms are available on the Village Website. The Village Board wants to remind all individuals who wish to use the Park to submit their application form and all required documentation to receive a dog tag for the safety of people and animals utilizing the park.

SIGN-UP GENIUS – POLICE DEPARTMENT - K-9 "JAX":

Trustee Sampson reported that JAX, a fifteen (15) month old German Shepard has joined the Washingtonville Police Department. Village K-9 Police Officer Handler Joseph Mendez and JAX returned to the K-9 Academy on May 4 and JAX is currently working on and doing well with agility training, article finds, early stages of tracking and beginning of detection and criminal apprehension. Trustee Sampson indicated many residents inquired about donations for K-9 JAX, and a list of supplies and equipment was compiled and will be placed on the Village Website through the Sign-Up Genius Donation Program.

Trustee Sampson made a motion, seconded by Deputy Mayor Lang and adopted to authorize the creation of a Sign-Up Genius Donation Program Link for K-9 Officer "JAX" to be placed on the Village Website, and to create a separate T.D. Bank Account for K-9 "JAX"; Signatories on the Account will be Mayor Joseph Bucco and Deputy Mayor Paul Lang; said Resolution passed by a unanimous vote of the Village Board. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 0 Abstentions.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS:

QUESTION NUMBER 1:

WHY IS THE VILLAGE MAKING IT IMPOSSIBLE TO HANG WASHINGTONVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE BANNERS?

Mayor Bucco responded the paperwork needed for Orange and Rockland Utilities Company still has not been completed by the applicant.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO WRITE YOUR RESPONSE ON FACEBOOK INSTEAD OF SPENDING THAT TIME MORE WISELY IN HELPING WASHINGTONVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE FILL OUT THE THIRTEEN PAGE APPLICATION?

Mayor Bucco replied Facebook was the venue that our Village Board members were attacked on which is why the Village response was posted on the Village Facebook page. In addition, applicants always need to fill out their own permit paperwork.

WHY WAS YOUR REPLY FILLED WITH INCORRECT STATEMENTS?

Mayor Bucco stated as a Village Board we do not believe the response had incorrect statements.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS – (CONTINUED):

QUESTION NUMBER 1 – (CONTINUED):

IN THE MIDST OF THE COVID 19 PANDEMIC WHY DID YOU CHOOSE, AS MAYOR OF THIS VILLAGE, TO MAKE THIS ISSUE BECOME FODDER ON FACEBOOK?

Mayor Bucco commented this matter has nothing to do with the pandemic. It is an issue of improper permit paperwork. The Village Board is working very hard regarding proper Zoning and being sure all Codes and Ordinances are followed. To say that the Board should ignore Village Codes because we are in the midst of a pandemic is not fair to the Village of Washingtonville.

**** Mayor Bucco stated the remitter of the above questions wished to remain anonymous.

QUESTION NUMBER 2:

FROM VILLAGE RESIDENT VALERIE PRUNTY:

WITH REGARD TO THE VILLAGE WATER – SEWER BILLING MANY BILLS WERE NOT RECORDED AT THE MINIMUM 7,000 GALLON USAGE. WHY WAS THIS DONE?

Deputy Mayor Lang explained the last Village Water – Sewer billing was estimated due to Covid 19 pandemic. Some estimates fell below the 7,000 gallon minimum usage fee. The Water – Sewer Program estimate was based on average usage for the last six (6) months.

I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THE DECISION REGARDING THE VARIANCE REQUEST FOR THE STORAGE BUILDING AT MOFFAT LIBRARY TO BE UTILIZED AS A MEETING ROOM HAS BEEN IGNORED. HAS THE VILLAGE BOARD OR THE VILLAGE BUILDING INSPECTOR IGNORED THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS – (Z.B.A.) DECISION, AND IF SO WHY?

Village Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer John Terry stated on February 21, 2020 a meeting took place at Village Hall with Moffat Library Director Carol McCrossen and others in attendance. A request had been made to utilize the Moffat Library storage building as a meeting hall. After the meeting, I conducted an interior inspection and found twelve (12) items that needed correction.

Handicap accessibility; Fire Consideration; Smoke and CO2 Detectors; possible flammable insulation that was not covered; Furnace underneath a staircase not fire protected; fire blocking concerns; no bathroom facility; issues of disembarking with occupants, etc. I notified the parties involved, and have not received an answer since that time.

WHY DID THIS ISSUE OCCUR WITH THE WASHINGTONVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE BANNERS? AS THERE IS NO CONSTRUCTION BEING ALLOWED DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY THIS MATTER COULD HAVE BEEN EXPEDITED QUICKLY BY THE BUILDING INSPECTOR.

Mayor Bucco indicated it was his understanding that a Permit had been submitted to the Town of Blooming Grove and he requested a copy but to date has not received the paperwork from the Town. Ken Sullivan of Orange and Rockland Utilities informed me today the Village will receive a formal letter regarding the permit.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS – (CONTINUED):

QUESTION NUMBER 2 – (CONTINUED):

SINCE A PERMIT WAS NOT REQUIRED IN PREVIOUS YEARS THIS MAY HAVE SET A PRECEDENT OR AT THE VERY LEAST COULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELAY?

Mayor Bucco responded in the past, the Village Building Inspector never required applicants to fill out permits but Orange and Rockland Utilities Company does require documentation.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT MAKING LITTLE LEAGUE FILL OUT A PERMIT WAS A SLAP IN THE FACE AND MORALLY WRONG.

Mayor Bucco replied the Village Board never asked for the banners to be removed. The Town of Blooming Grove removed the banners on their own. Presently, the Village is waiting for application paperwork from Washingtonville Little League to be submitted so it can be forwarded to Orange and Rockland Utilities Company who require this paperwork.

I WAS ALSO TOLD THERE WAS A REQUEST FOR MONIES FROM WASHINGTONVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE WHICH COULD OPEN THE VILLAGE UP TO A LAWSUIT.

Village Attorney William Frank explained there is a permit application fee and no other cost to the best of his knowledge.

WHAT VOLUNTEER BOARDS STILL EXIST IN THE VILLAGE OF WASHINGTONVILLE AND WHICH ONES HAVE BEEN DISBANDED BY THE VILLAGE BOARD.

Mayor Bucco commented no volunteer boards have been disbanded by this Village Board. The Planning Board members resigned on their own. The Village Board had asked the Planning Board to have a work session meeting prior to their regular meeting so applicants would know what is required by the Village to move forward with the permit process. After the request for the additional meeting, resignation letters were received from various members of the Planning Board. The Village Board is receiving Letters of Interest for volunteer boards. It was my understanding that the Village Board could act at the Planning Board but Village Attorney William Frank indicated New York State Law does not permit the Village Board to be the Planning Board.

MANY OF THESE ISSUES WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED IF THE VILLAGE BOARD HAD KEPT A CREDENTIALLED BUILDING INSPECTOR AFTER THE FORMER TOWN BUILDING INSPECTOR LEFT INSTEAD OF HIRING A PERSON WHO DOES NOT HAVE CERTIFICATION.

HOW MANY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCIES WERE ISSUED IN 2019 AND HAD TO BE REINSPECTED AS ONLY A LICENSED BUILDING INSPECTOR CAN SIGN OFF ON C.O.'S. I AM CONCERNED ABOUT POTENTIAL LAWSUITS.

Mayor Bucco stated he had several conversations with the New York State Code Office and both the former and present Building Inspectors have the necessary credentials. Certificates of Occupancy can only be issued when Building Permits have been executed and complete. There are three-hundred (300) open Building Department Permits dating back years. Each Permit has to be closed out or it will appear on a Municipal Search when an owner sells their home.

PUBLIC QUESTIONS – (CONTINUED):

QUESTION NUMBER 3:

FROM VILLAGE RESIDENT STEPHANIE SECOR:

WHY DOES THE VILLAGE BOARD DEEM RECOGNITION BANNERS AS ADVERTISING WHEREAS IN 2018 AND 2019 THEY WERE NOT. ORANGE AND ROCKLAND UTILITIES COMPANY STATED THEY ARE NOT ADVERTISING BUT SPONSORSHIP BANNERS.

Mayor Bucco indicated his latest conversation with Orange and Rockland Utilities was today, and O. & R. is working on language revision. It is up to Orange and Rockland to inform the Village of their decision if the banner is considered advertising.

WHY DID THE VILLAGE BOARD LODGE AN OFFICIAL COMPLAINT WITH ORANGE AND ROCKLAND UTILITIES COMPANY TOWARDS WASHINGTONVILLE LITTLE LEAGUE:

Mayor Bucco responded the Village of Washingtonville never filed a complaint with Orange and Rockland. The question was asked via e-mail, and you are being told things that just are not true. The Village Board is not against Washingtonville Little League. We support the League but we cannot take public money and pay for an entire utility bill which first came up regarding refrigeration costs at Woodfield Skateboard Park. Also, the Village cannot allow Little League to store items in the multi-use building which is eventually going to be well-housing for the Village public water supply. The Village pays for the dumpster presently at Woodfield that Little League utilizes, mows the grass, replaced the decayed yellow ribbon around the entire area so the Village Board has saved Washingtonville Little League monies. Woodfield Skateboard Park is a Village Park being used by Little League and there is no cost for Little League to play on the field. It was brought to my attention that people were asking why the Village Board is charging Little League to use the field. This is not true. The Village Board never asked Little League to pay for field usage.

AS ACTING BUILDING INSPECTOR IN 2019 MAYOR BUCCO, THERE WAS NEVER A MENTION OF ANY VIOLATIONS OR CITING OF CODES THAT BANNERS VIOLATE ORDINANCES. WHAT CHANGED IN 2020?

Mayor Bucco replied "I was never the Acting Building Inspector."

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Village resident Stephanie Secor stated I do understand the Village of Washingtonville did not ask Little League to take the banners down. The Town of Blooming Grove removed the banners because Washingtonville Little League did receive an e-mail from Orange and Rockland Utilities Company indicating a complaint was lodged by Mayor Bucco and Deputy Mayor Lang stating that Little League was advertising, and not sponsoring. Can you explain this because as Little League we are not going to allow our banners to be present in the Village if we are having a complaint lodged against us by our own Mayor and Deputy Mayor who in fact made a comment about the look of our banners.

Deputy Mayor Lang questioned where did the information come from that there was a complaint being lodged with Orange and Rockland Utilities, and did O. & R. give the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's name as lodging a complaint?

PUBLIC COMMENT – (CONTINUED):

Stephanie Secor commented Orange and Rockland Utilities notified Little League of the complaint and stated it was Village Ordinance.

Deputy Mayor Lang explained he never lodged a complaint with Orange and Rockland. With regard to your second statement, I did make a comment to an individual about the banners but I was referring to how the banners looked when they were hung last year because they were not hung in a uniform way.

Mayor Bucco responded he had e-mailed Orange and Rockland Utilities regarding the question of does O. & R. allow advertising to be hung on their utility poles? This was not lodging a complaint. It was only asking a question. I spoke to Ken Sullivan of Orange and Rockland at 3:30 P.M. today and he informed me that O. & R. is revising their policy regarding banners being hung on their utility poles. Mr. Sullivan also indicated one requirement will be banners have to be placed ten (10) feet away from utility pole lines. The Mayor reiterated the Village Board never asked for the banners to be removed.

In addition, Mayor Bucco stated in the past he received a phone call from Town of Blooming Grove Highway Superintendent Wayne Kirkpatrick in which Superintendent Kirkpatrick informed the Mayor he was removing the hardware from the utility poles because the Town needed it elsewhere. Mayor Bucco reiterated to Superintendent Kirkpatrick the Village is not asking the Town to remove anything from the utility poles.

Stephanie Secor indicated Mayor Bucco mentioned he does not have information with regard to Little League's permit. I personally spoke to Village Building Inspector John Terry at Village Hall who told me he does not know how to fill out the application. I read the paperwork three (3) times and did not see anything on the permit application regarding hanging banners on poles. I called Mr. Terry who said he will speak to the Mayor and call me back on Monday, which he did not. How is Washingtonville Little League supposed to fill out a permit for the first time in three (3) years that is unknown to us.

Village Building Inspector John Terry commented Scott Davies has submitted Orange and Rockland Utilities paperwork, but not the permit application. Mr. Davies has to obtain permission to hang banners on the poles from other Utility Companies who share the poles with Orange and Rockland. Mr. Davies still has to provide information to the Village.

Village resident Glen Uller requested the Village Board remedy the situation of a home on Capital Drive that is an eyesore to all Village residents. Mayor Bucco commented the Village Building Inspector is presently working on this matter.

Village resident Anthony Cioffi of Cardinal Drive questioned is there a result regarding the winner of the "HGTV Hometown Makeover Contest", and Trustee Sampson indicated there has not been a response from HGTV as of yet. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, many things are on hold.

Village resident Dot Magnelli of Lincoln Drive expressed concerns regarding renovation of Village Hall and privacy issues for residents of Lincoln Drive since Village Hall is a two (2) story building with many windows that look down on residents properties. Mayor Bucco indicated all privacy issues will be addressed during the renovation process.

ADJOURNMENT:

Deputy Mayor Lang made a motion, seconded by Trustee Calore and adopted to adjourn the May 19, 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