

12/8/2020
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**Village of Wesley Hills
Board of Trustees
Board Meeting, Online Zoom Meeting
Tuesday, December 8, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marshall Katz, Mayor
Ed McPherson, Deputy Mayor
Howard Richman, Trustee
Marion Ben-Jacob, Trustee
Ruth Ivey, Trustee

MEMBERS ABSENT:

None

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ben Selig, Village Attorney
Donalee Berard, Village Treasurer
Camille Guido-Downey, Village Clerk

Mayor Katz called the meeting to order at 7 pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item #1

Resolution #131-20

Approval of Minutes of Regular Meeting: November 10, 2020

Howard Richman made a motion to approve the Minutes of November 10, 2020, seconded by Marion Ben-Jacob. Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

Item #2

Resolution #132-20

Resolution releasing escrow funds with respect to 4 Soundview Drive

Marion Ben-Jacob made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Howard Richman:

WHEREAS, pursuant to an Escrow Agreement between the Village of Wesley Hills and Rifki Eichorn dated October 4, 2018, the said Rifki Eichorn deposited with the Village of Wesley Hills an escrow deposit in the sum of \$1,500.00 in order to guarantee that certain conditions set forth in the letter of the Village Engineer of the Village of Wesley Hills dated September 14, 2018 were completed; and

WHEREAS, the Village Engineer of the Village of Wesley Hills on November 23, 2020 confirmed that the work required by the aforementioned Escrow Agreement has been satisfactorily completed,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that said Rifki Eichorn are entitled to a refund of the aforementioned escrow deposit in the sum of \$1,500.00 less the sum of \$250.00 to be retained by the Village of Wesley Hills as for an administrative fee and the sum of \$520.64 in outstanding related professional fees, and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk be and the same is hereby directed to forthwith refund to said Rifki Eichorn the net sum of \$729.36.

Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

Item #3

Resolution #133-20

Resolution approving the contract between Orange & Rockland Utilities and the Village of Wesley Hills for cost sharing for paving of Kentor Lane & Earl Court

Howard Richman made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Ruth Ivey:

WHEREAS, the Village of Wesley Hills and Orange & Rockland Utilities Inc. have reached a cost sharing agreement to cover paving of Kentor Lane & Earl Court and Orange & Rockland will contribute to the Village of Wesley Hills the sum set forth therein,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village hereby agrees to said cost sharing agreement with Orange and Rockland Utilities and the Mayor's signature on same is hereby approved nunc pro tunc.

Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

Item #4

Resolution #134-20

Resolution approving the establishment of the position of Assistant Village Attorney

Howard Richman made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Marion Ben-Jacob:

RESOLVED, that the Village of Wesley Hills hereby establishes a new additional position of Assistant Village Attorney.

Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

Item #5

Resolution #135-20

Resolution approving abstracts of audited claims

Ruth Ivey made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Howard Richman:

RESOLVED, that the general fund claims #18006 through #18062 in the aggregate amount of \$65,916.26 as set forth in Abstract #12/20 dated December 8, 2020, a copy of which abstract of audited claims is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, are hereby approved.

Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

Item #5a

Resolution #136-20

Resolution approving transfer of funds

Ruth Ivey made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Howard Richman:

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RESOLVED, that the transfers in the aggregate amount of \$110,414.00 as set forth in Abstract #12/20 dated December 8, 2020, a copy of which abstract of audited claims is made a part of the Minutes of this Board, are hereby approved.

Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

New Business

Acceptance of resignation of Joe Moskowitz as Planning Board member effective December 2, 2020.

Mayor Katz accepts the resignation of Joe Moskowitz as Planning Board member effective December 2, 2020.

Discussion

Mayor Katz stated that he has provided Chairman Brown with a name of a replacement and he is waiting to hear feedback. Mayor Katz hopes to have a replacement name for the January meeting.

Resolution #137-20

Resolution approving a refund to Municipal Data Services for fee previously paid for an onsite violation search with respect to 27 Sherri Lane

Ruth Ivey made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Marion Ben-Jacob:

WHEREAS, on or about November 19, 2020 Municipal Data Services requested a full violation search with respect to 27 Sherri Lane, Spring Valley, NY and

WHEREAS, on or about said date Municipal Data Services paid to the Village of Wesley Hills a fee in the amount of \$150.00 for said search, and

WHEREAS, said Municipal Data Services later requested only a records search,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Village Clerk is directed to refund to Municipal Data Services the sum of \$150.00.

Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

Semi-Circular Driveway Discussion

Mayor Katz stated that the Planning Board has provided this Board with a resolution noting their recommendations for the law. Mayor Katz requested Ben Selig to have Doris Ulman update the proposed local law and next month the Village Board will set the public hearing.

Resolution #138-20

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Resolution approving the contract with Engie Power & Gas LLC and the Village of Wesley Hills for a commercial electricity program for the Village of Wesley Hills

Howard Richman made a motion to approve the following resolution, seconded by Ruth Ivey:

RESOLVED, that the commercial electricity agreement between Engie Power & Gas LLC (Engie) and the Village of Wesley Hills, New York for 34 months, a copy of which is made a part of the minutes of this Board and the same is hereby approved and the execution of same heretofore by the Mayor is likewise approved, nunc pro tunc.

Discussion

Mayor Katz stated that this contract is to set the Village's electricity accounts as commercial accounts and lock in a fixed lower commercial rate. Mayor Katz stated that he saw the County of Rockland's announcement and contacted them for the Village to join.

Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

Donalee Berard presented the monthly financial reports and stated that the Village is six months into the year, and we are on target. There are a few lines that we need to keep an eye on and should be reviewed. Ms. Berard stated that later this month she will do her first run on the draft budget.

Mayor's Report

Orange & Rockland Meeting

Mayor Katz stated that he attended a conference call today with Ruth, Ed and 11 of O&R team members to discuss the Village's memo on O&R's handling of Tropical Storm Isaias. Mayor Katz stated that O&R was apologetic and offered several reasonings for the way things worked out. Mayor Katz stated that O&R is making enhancements to their system and contracted for an additional 100 bucket trucks.

Ruth Ivey stated that she felt that the meeting could have been more productive and feels that the Village should investigate having a substation in the Village. Ms. Ivey stated that she looks forward to the meeting with the Mayor and the Village's O&R representative.

Mayor Katz stated that in January O&R will send their vegetation representative to the Village to discuss their process.

Ed McPherson stated that the meeting was eye opening on O&R's processes and the \$1 million in enhancements to the system with the new switches O&R is making. Mr. McPherson stated that he was pleased that O&R explained the main electric feeds into the Village.

Upcoming Meetings

- Wednesday, December 9, 2020 – NYCOM Legislative Meeting
- Friday, December 11, 2020 – personnel issue

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- Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – Rockland County Highway Superintendent, Charles H. "Skip" Vezzetti Re: Spook Rock Road Dam/Bridge
- Tuesday, December 22, 2020 – Rockland County Shared Services annual vote
- Tuesday, December 22, 2020-Workshop 7pm
- Tuesday, January 5, 2021-Regular meeting 7pm
- Tuesday, January 19, 2021-Workshop meeting 7pm

Ace Hardware

Village Clerk is working on the final information from Ace Hardware for the bear proof cans available for purchase by residents of Wesley Hills.

Timber Trail Drainage Complaint

Mayor Katz stated that the office received a complaint about drainage on Timber Trail due to nearby construction. The Village Engineer inspected the property and determined that the drainage is not related to nearby construction.

Updated Employee Manual

Mayor Katz stated that the Village Clerk has updated the employee manual and would like comments back as soon as possible.

Village Clerk's Report

The Village received 27 complaints which were property maintenance and zoning issues. Village Clerk stated that the staff has been on hold about local law violations as appearance tickets can not be issued as the Court is not holding local law court.

Howard Richman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ruth Ivey. Upon vote, this motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,
Camille Guido-Downey