

**Village of Millbrook  
Board of Trustees  
Minutes April 9, 2012**

**Call to Order** by Mayor Hurley at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance** led by Mayor Hurley

**In Attendance**-Mayor Hurley, Trustee Spagnola, Trustee Cox and Clerk Linda Wiltse, also in attendance Town of Washington Council members Karen Mosca, Al Debonis, Chief Ted Bownas, President Matthew Rochfort, Supervisor Gary Ciferri, Rescue Squad Captain Liz Baldwin, Council member Steve Turlettes and Recreation Director Warren McMillan.

**Rescue Squad**-Captain Liz Baldwin stated the Rescue Squad has several new members. They are attempting to keep the new members up with training and entered into programs. Most of the old members are staying. Mayor Hurley counted 18 active members. Liz stated it has been helpful having Northern Dutchess Paramedics training at the Fire House and centrally located. The training sessions attract several people from the surrounding Millbrook area. The Mayor commented on Transcare and the volunteer coverage. She added she was surprised about another municipality paying for full time professional ALS coverage and having that ambulance called out for mutual aid to another municipality. This is a very serious problem. The Chief commented that Dutchess County has no legal obligation to handle the problem. Millbrook has the ability to cover in this situation with volunteers. The Mayor asked Liz about Transcare's service. The Chief stated that for the most part if they have problems Transcare takes care of any issues quickly.

Liz stated she would rather see the volunteer BLS going out to Green Briar Home than the ALS ambulance. Basic Life Support = BLS, ALS = Advanced Life Support. The Mayor stated she wants to speak to the administration at Green Briar to request they have a nurse on staff. Liz suggested a councilor as a better alternative to a nurse. Green Briar is using the volunteers as a nurse service so to speak. They do not have any medically trained staff. Mayor Hurley stated she does not want to jeopardize someone else's health when the ambulance is on call to Green Briar. This is a poor use of resources.

The Mayor stated she is supportive of the Rescue Squad being visible at football games for example. She commented on how professional ambulance services work, the billing and the cost as it effects the budget and taxes. Liz put in a bid for a new ambulance. Clerk Linda Wiltse has received the ambulance specifications for the new ambulance via email. A new ambulance cost is about \$147,000. The 10 year old ambulance will be traded in. Council member Karen Mosca asked about the needs at Town of Washington's park for a second Rescue Squad site.

**Fire House**-President Matthew Rochfort stated the Air conditioning for the office space downstairs is being redone. They cannot get parts or service for the existing ac units.

The budget total requested is \$45,745. Matt stated they did receive a large donation from two residents to upgrade the electrical system.

Mayor Hurley stated the Building Committee has held a few meetings and information from these meetings went to the Board of Directors. Ed Loedy made a presentation to the Building Committee of preliminary drawings showing conceptually what the addition would look like at street level. It was determined there is no need for a public entrance and no need for a staircase going up to the second floor. The Fire Department spoke last year about an aerial apparatus which would not fit in the current bays. They feel they can cut into the hillside to accommodate the apparatus and make room for the Police Department in the smaller garage area on the upper level. Then all of the Emergency Services would be located in one building. The Mayor stated the Village is looking for office space there as well. Gary asked about the loss of parking spaces. Chief Bownas responded that the new bays would extend 20 ft deeper into the hillside causing parking loss to be minimal. Council member Al DeBonis asked what the soil consisted of on the hill and was told it is stone and shale. With the 2% tax cap the Town of Washington and the Village would have a difficult time assisting with this project. The Chief stated they are looking for more concrete plans before they go looking for donations. This addition would cause the House budget in the future to increase and the Village would have to absorb these costs.

The Village also needs to look at the Thorne Building for Village offices according to Mayor Hurley. The Mayor stated she feels this is a 3 million dollar project. She added that several Town of Washington residents want to see the Thorne Building as a cultural center. The Board of Directors does not have enough room currently in the fire house for their offices. Mayor Hurley preferred new wiring and computer technology as opposed to an 1890 building. Matt Rochfort stated the roof and floors are in good shape. He added they are upgrading the computer system and using funds raised by the Fire Department to pay for the upgrades. Chief Bownas stated the new smart phone technology is very useful. Mayor Hurley asked the Chief to clarify the Fire Company, the Fire House, the equipment and the Fire operations which are Village owned. The Chief gave a brief history of when they established the Fire Company. He added that Millbrook Hook and Engine Ladder Company #1 still exists and has a 501C3. Chief Bownas informed both Boards about the 2% tax on insurance premiums for companies not located in NYS. This amount is based on factors such as population for example. He added that these funds can only be used for the benefit of the Fire Department members.

**Firematic**-Chief Bownas stated the contractual expense for changes and reimbursement for cell phones went up some from previous year's budget. All hoses and ladders must be tested annually as per regulations. Apparatus maintenance is needed less on the newer apparatus. The new SCBA equipment has payments for another 2 years. They bought some turnout gear for the new members. In 2006 NYS passed an OSHA law where fire departments located in an area with a population under 1,000,000 people must have a bail out kit to make a second exit out of a burning building. Chief Bownas stated they had to do a needs and risk assessment first then they ordered the gear. He added the hoses are being replaced as they age and fails the pressure testing. Mayor Hurley stated the

insurance line has been raised. She added that contributions to the Fire Department are based on assessed values of property. The Chief asked the Mayor if she had spoken to the Town of Washington Board about raising the reserve for fire equipment. She responded no since NYS sets the reserve amount allowed. Mayor Hurley inquired about the Fire Department elections and the Chief informed the Boards of those who will be in office. Chief Bownas stated the small trucks are replaced every 10 years since they have higher mileage and the bigger trucks are on a 20 year replacement schedule.

**Emergency Preparedness Local Law**-Mayor Hurley stated that in regard to police reserves the Village does not have the ability, funds or time to provide. The language reserving the right to create police reserves was removed from the local law proposed. The Mayor added the language stating hiring a director and having them keep up with the laws and responsibilities was also removed. The Board did reserve the right to create the position in section 7. The Board also worked on the language covering the commandeering of private equipment or facilities and how those parties affected would be compensated. The Mayor asked for any additional language amendments since both the Village and the Town of Washington have to pass the same exact law. She added she is prepared to introduce the law to the Village Board during the meeting tomorrow night. Council member Steve Turlettes stated they have declared a state of emergency in the past but that does not necessarily mean they have to enact this local law. Mayor Hurley stated the local law is only for major disasters. The Town of Washington will introduce the local law on Thursday at their meeting.

**Tennis Courts**-Council member Mosca asked about approaching Tribute Gardens for funding toward a third tennis court. The Town of Washington is concentrating on the new field at the Town of Washington Park. Three quotes were provided to the boards for review. Karen asked about the conflict with Dutchess Day School and the Village residents using the tennis courts. Warren McMillan stated Dutchess Day School uses the courts 4 to 5 weeks per year. Trustee Spagnola expressed his concerns and stated he was not for having the Millbrook Central School District build a third court and having a priority for usage. The Mayor and Warren will meet and bring the plan to both boards. The Steve Hanson fund was thought to be used for tournaments, racquets and repairs in relation to the tennis program. Trustee Spagnola stated the tennis courts frost problem is what is causing the heaving and cracks. They should look into drainage around the courts. Council member Turlettes stated the courts are 17 years old. He added that it makes sense to knock down some of the trees over the south side of the court.

How do the Village and the Recreation program exist in the Village Hall? Mayor Hurley informed the boards the Village is considering leaving this building. Tribute Garden donations for the purchase of the Village Hall have been directed toward other projects. She asked the Town of Washington board if they are considering buying this building. Currently there is no contribution from the Town of Washington for electric, heat, cleaning, telephone or television. Trustee Spagnola has offered to put one oil tank for heating the gymnasium as an option. Supervisor Ciferri asked where would the Village offices move to. The Mayor responded perhaps the Fire House or the Thorne Building.

Use of building was discussed by the Recreation Dept., the Historical Society and the Village offices.

Steve commented on consolidating local government and if there will be a large savings. Many residents feel this way. No personnel numbers would be reduced Mayor Hurley stated. She added the two governments are so very different and their needs are very different. Council member Mosca asked about long term solutions such as moving to the Fire House.

**Thorne Building**-Mayor Hurley stated the Thorne Building is of joint concern. The building is now vacant and the Village does not have the capital to renovate it. The Village Board is attempting to obtain clear title and determine how they can bring the building back to be a positive destination. The Village is still under contract with the Thorne Project as lease holders. The best thing for the Village residents may be to sell the building. The Board is considering creating a foundation to run the building. The Board wants it to be an inspiration to attract people to the Village. Supervisor Ciferri asked about when the lease expires. Council member Debonis asked about a time limitation to begin the project. The Village is committed to getting on the right path and they are looking to move forward.

**Historical Society**-Village and Town of Washington Historian David Greenwood stated the Village and Town of Washington have every parcel documented with prior owner and historical significant information. He also spoke about several historical items recently made available. The monthly meetings and the dedicated staff whom work on these items and assist people searching family history are greatly appreciated.

**Water Committee**-The Water Committee has been working for the past 2 years. Howard Schuman will speak on the Water Committee's findings and recommendations. The Mayor spoke about the water shed area and the 3 zones it encompasses. Howard stated the 1992 law came about in an effort to protect the Village's water supply and to deter the Dutchess County ash dump proposal. He added that several points in the law were not enforced and required reports which were not submitted. The aquifer is the Village's only supply of water. They are trying to prevent contaminations from happening. The existing law cannot be altered or changed. The solution is for the Town of Washington to cooperate with the Village to make their own local law and to protect the water supply. This would be a mutual effort and the Village would do all the work and provide all of the reports. The upside and benefit for the Town of Washington would be to provide a Town wide water ordinance. Council member Mosca asked about protecting the Town of Washington private water source as well as the Village's aquifer. Trustee Spagnola asked if the Dutchess County Board of Health has some jurisdiction over these matters. Howard responded yes but the Village must enforce the laws.

Mayor Hurley stated there may be cases where farms are contaminating with waste storage and solutions can be provided. The Village should send out questionnaires as to the use of property in the water shed area. The committee has looked at alternative water sources. Howard stated there have been advances in technology the Village could put to

use. He commented on more contamination prevention examples. Trustee Spagnola stated the deep rock wells are very expensive but cheaper than a second aquifer. Howard stated the new local law will protect and preserve what we have. The Committee is looking for a liaison to join the Water Committee. Russell Urbin Mead from Chazen Engineering has been a great source of valuable information. He has also submitted several recommendations of prohibited uses to include in the local law.

Mayor Hurley received information that the former Bennett College property owner and the developer have severed ties. They no longer have an agreement in place. She discussed the court proceedings and where the Village currently stands. The taxes were paid after 3 years of unpaid taxes to the Town, the Village, Dutchess County and the Millbrook Central School District.

**Adjourned** at 9:51 p.m. with a motion made by Trustee Cox. The motion was seconded by Trustee Spagnola. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda T. Wiltse  
Village of Millbrook  
Clerk/Treasurer