

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees  
Special Meeting  
October 3, 2007**

Mayor Becky Pearson called the Village of Walden Board of Trustees special meeting to order at 7:00pm.

On roll call the following were:

Present:	Mayor	Becky Pearson
	Deputy Mayor	Ellen Matise
	Mary Trustees	Roy Wynkoop
		Mary Jean Norman
		Jose DeJesus
		Edmond Leonard

Absent:	Trustee	Richard Hurd
	Attorney	Kevin Dowd

Also Present:	James C. Politi, Village Manager
	Anthony Lamendola, DPW
	Jeff Holmes, Police Chief
	Robert Lynn, Fire Dept.

**Village Wide Parking Concerns**

Dr. Bojsiuk stated that he put his garbage cans out tonight, but he doesn't know if they will be picked up tomorrow. He doesn't understand why he was taken out of the program.

Mayor Pearson stated that when she spoke to the manager about this and they are talking about commercial businesses, that area is not considered commercial district but it was apartments in a commercial district.

Manager Politi stated that anything that has a commercial component is out; it's strictly residential pick up. It pulled in the bigger buildings that had five or six units, but they are all residential. Anything that has commercial in it is on their own. If you bring all commercial in you will be bringing in Spence and Ampak and then all the variations would come in and it would get confusing. It's evolved over time into strictly residential, a per unit price that the board arrived at for strictly residential.

Trustee DeJesus asked if they will be picking Dr. Bojsiuk's garbage up tomorrow.

Manager Politi stated yes.

Trustee DeJesus suggested this be extended another quarter so the board can look at this further. The issue is one apartment and one store front.

Dr. Bojsiuk stated that he produces less with his apartment and store front than he does with his home. He thought it was a great program right from the start.

Mayor Pearson stated that the reason she remembers the garbage program being started is so that there weren't garbage trucks in the village all the time every day of the week.

Manager Politi stated that it was also started because of people not paying their garbage bill and the garbage being left.

Manager Politi stated that first you're going to go by the case by case basis, if that is what the board wishes to do.

Deputy Mayor Matisse suggested they amend the clause saying the use of dumpsters for more than four units, at the manager's discretion to say that you can also do it the other way.

Manager Politi stated that lets take a Main Street property that has five units in it, he can not go into our program, but he will be able to use a dumpster because he has five units. Now you're starting to get into ten or twelve garbage cans, so yes it is worth while and it is one building, one owner. He'll be able to go over to a dumpster. The other question is snow birds. This may impact the contract.

Dr. Bojsiuk suggested that keep it on a volume basis which would keep it reasonable for everybody.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that they don't give the village a limit.

Trustee DeJesus stated that in some communities they give you two large garbage cans and that is all you use.

It was the consensus of the board to put this back on the agenda.

Trustee DeJesus moved to extend garbage pickup one more month for Dr. Bojsiuk and to have it on the agenda as a discussion item for the next meeting. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matisse.

Dr. Bojsiuk asked that the yard waste be addressed, prior to the program there was a compost pile behind Bradley Park and he would like that back.

Manager Politi stated that if he is out of the program he wouldn't get yard waste pick up. He will see if they can extend him.

All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Accept Bid for Lafayette Street Sidewalk Improvements**

Manager Politi stated that the one approval the board had to wait for was the county. We have the go ahead from the county and also the attorney's letter states that all legal documents have been reviewed and approved. The engineer has reviewed the bid packets which are all in place. Upstate Concrete and Masonry Contracting, Inc. from Monroe was the low bidder and everything is in place.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked where the village's share, \$4,500. comes from.

Manager Politi stated that is the village's share. Some will be in kind.

Deputy Mayor Matisse moved to award the bid for the Lafayette Street sidewalk improvements to Upstate Concrete and Masonry Contracting, Inc. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Review Village Parking Requirements and Concerns**

Manager Politi stated that this is where the discussion of Albany Avenue would fall.

Mayor Pearson stated that the first is on street parking which isn't limited to Main Street and downtown that is all streets village wide. She knows Albany Avenue is a major problem.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that the forty foot wide streets are the problem.

Mayor Pearson asked if they were going to widen streets.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated no. She suggested they go through the narrow streets where there have been previous issues and look more closely at the on street parking, direction of traffic flow on those streets. The streets are Albany Avenue, Locust Street, Valley Avenue, and Clinton Street. You have to look at what the problems really are.

Trustee Norman stated that half these people have driveways that they don't use. Walnut Street is a nightmare.

Mr. Lynn stated that one of the problems is parking near intersections. Albany Avenue near Bergen is an example. When they did Valley Avenue there was no thought to widen that street, you could widen that a foot on each side which would have helped everyone.

Mayor Pearson asked Mr. Lynn if the fire department would go the wrong way on a one way street.

Mr. Lynn stated that if it's an emergency one way doesn't matter. There is also a problem with hydrants not being marked and someone parking in front of the hydrants. The curbs need to be marked.

Chief Holmes stated that marking the curbs on Main Street has worked out well.

Mr. Lynn stated that the biggest problem is during the winter when snow is piled up around the hydrant. One side of the street parking isn't going to alleviate that too much.

Manager Politi asked that they deal with dry weather first.

Mr. Lynn stated that the biggest thing they could do is parking in front of hydrants.

Chief Holmes stated that it is 30 feet from the corner, which would be a lot of work. The board wouldn't have to enact legislation because it's in the vehicle and traffic code. If you want to extend it further in problem areas that is where you would need to put it in the village code.

Mr. Lynn suggested that they pick the problem areas and start there first.

Manager Politi asked the board if they minded the granite being painted.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that in the residential areas it's mostly asphalt. When people come home from work the roads are jammed. After six or seven o'clock you can't find an empty space. She has seen people's car parked into the intersection. She suggested a trip around the village and highlight the problem areas. There are a lot of houses that have been divided up into two, three apartments and they park in the street. West Main Street, until they put in the timed parking the people from the apartment were parking all up and down the street, then the timed parking went into affect and they haven't been on the street.

Manager Politi asked the board what they thought about removing parking on any streets, other than Albany.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that you have to go out and identify it first.

Mr. Lynn stated that the problem streets are Albany, Bergen and Valley.

Chief Holmes stated that Albany Avenue has always been a problem. Valley Avenue and the side streets are a problem. Maple Street was always a problem. Pleasant Avenue and Bergen have been an issue. They've cleaned up some of it on Elberton and then there is Walnut around the curve another 30 or 40 feet and then it widens up.

Mayor Pearson stated that the people on the left don't have a driveway.

Chief Holmes suggested the board address those five or six problems right now.

Trustee Norman stated that there is a problem on Seeley Street.

Chief Holmes stated that a lot of the residents on Locust Street are upset with what the village does during the winter months. He didn't mention anything on the west side of the village because that is growing. He suggested they come up with a plan for Albany Avenue.

Trustee Wynkoop suggested the board take a ride around the village on their own time and make a list.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that North Street is going to become an issue if the day care goes in there.

Trustee Leonard stated that they don't need a lot of parking, its only the staff that will be parking there.

Chief Holmes suggested they stay with the core areas the fire department had the issue with.

Mayor Pearson stated that one of the concerns with a resident on Valley Avenue was the side of the street they park on now, the left side, when they get out of the car they pull up further because of the snow banks.

Mr. Lamendola stated that they have to park further from the curb when it snows to get the passengers out.

Mayor Pearson stated that it's easier to let someone out and pull in and park on the right. There are more parking spaces on the right.

Chief Holmes stated that when you do the no parking from here to corner you will be losing two spaces.

Manager Politi stated that they've adapted the fleet to fit the street.

Chief Holmes stated that when they were talking about making that street one way there was a lot of public present and they were the ones that helped the village decide what side of the street to put it on.

Manager Politi suggested polling the residents on Valley Avenue.

Trustee DeJesus stated the same thing was supposed to have been done with Albany Avenue last year. They talked about sending a letter.

Mayor Pearson suggested Albany and Valley be polled.

Chief Holmes stated that the traffic counters are working very well. They did a count as well as a speed count on Albany Avenue from July 30 to August 6; both directions in that amount of time there were over 10,000 cars that traveled that road in one week. The speeds weren't there where they were telling them. They said the counter was too far down the road. They will redo it moving the counter further up the road. The average speed is between 19 and 21 miles per hour.

Mayor Pearson suggested they put the counter on another street and compare. Put it on Walnut Street.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that during July there is Little League.

Chief Holmes stated that Little League is done then.

Trustee DeJesus asked if they can have no parking for a couple days and then do the count to see what the speed would be then. He believes the cars show the traffic down.

Chief Homes suggested they let the residents know and do it for a full week.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked if in the future could they open up access to the park off of Bradley Lane and make the road that is there now foot access, having all the cars go by way of Bradley Lane. This wasn't a heavy park usage time. Imagine when Little League is on.

Chief Holmes asked when the board wants to do this.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that they should do it when there is something happening in the park.

Manager Politi suggested doing it Tuesday/Wednesday.

Trustee DeJesus stated that for it to be valid you have to do it the same times and days.

Chief Holmes stated that he would like to do it for a full week.

Deputy Mayor Matise suggested the village go door to door and explain this and then send them a letter.

Trustee DeJesus suggested just a letter.

Manager Politi stated that if he's going to survey Albany Avenue and I live on Albany Avenue I am going to tell you I want to park on it. What's driving us to push it away, the emergency services or is it traffic flow. He has to have a reason to send it to them.

Mayor Pearson stated that she wouldn't give up her parking.

Deputy Mayor Matise suggested the manager say its part of a village wide survey of streets.

Chief Holmes stated that it's a combination of getting around the corner from the side streets, Pleasant Avenue, Bergen Avenue, trying to get through. If you have the cars in front of Townsend's house you're not going to get through. We're not talking seasonal we're talking daily. You have congestion points on Albany Avenue.

Trustee DeJesus stated that you have to be honest with the residents. You can tell them its issues with safety and speeding.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that they should invite their comments.

Mayor Pearson stated that there is a t coming down to Walnut Street. You're going to tell all those people up there not to park there.

Chief Holmes stated that it's not a major problem because the streets are a little wider. You're not looking at every t intersection.

Mayor Pearson suggested they put the parking on the other side of the street.

Trustee Norman stated that you're still going to have the same problem.

Chief Holmes stated that you wouldn't have the problem with the t.

Mayor Pearson asked if the problem is people have to stop and wait or is it with the ambulances.

Chief Holmes stated that right now it's a combination.

Mr. Lynn stated that the fire departments problem is the intersection.

Manager Politi stated that could be the other question, no parking on the other side of street. He further stated that he will work with the chief marking out corners and making sure the signage is complete.

Mayor Pearson asked if they were looking at Valley Avenue and Albany Avenue to start with.

Manager Politi stated that he would like to go into the Valley Avenue neighborhood and across the street make sure the signage and markings are in place.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that she would do that on all the forty foot wide streets because the corners are impossible.

Chief Holmes stated that he will sit down with DPW and Mr. Lynn. He stated that what they tried to enact was, there is a section of law where you can't park within so many feet in front of an apron of a fire house. They wrote the ticket and it did get defeated in court. The state law is very general. There is case law and for a situation like that it has to be enacted as a village code or town law. You're looking at taking three or four away from in front of the Historical Society. That is New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law. The judge says it has to be enacted on a local code.

Mr. Lynn stated that the commissioners were supposed to get together with the village to enforce parking in their bay.

Chief Holmes stated that they are getting into that when they get to fire lanes.

Mayor Pearson stated that as a village they wouldn't have to use 200 feet they could use any size they wanted. We could say fifty feet which would give them the turning radius to get out of there instead of taking 3 spaces away.

Mr. Lynn indicated that one space would help them.

Trustee DeJesus stated that he feels they can do one space.

Chief Holmes stated that he will take a look at that.

Mayor Pearson asked if there were other fire lanes they need to address.

Chief Holmes stated that he gave the board a memo on fire lanes and handicap parking. When you look at the village code there are only specific areas that we have designated as handicap. There were two designated areas for fire lanes, Thruway and Squire Village. When you're on the planning side of it by code and law you're supposed to have so many handicap parking spaces and fire lanes. A lot of these are on private property. Other communities have hit the strip malls, and fast food areas.

Mayor Pearson asked if at the time the planning board says a property owner needs so many handicap parking spaces at that time do those property owners know who will enforce this.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the planning board was under the assumption that the police department will enforce that.



Manager Politi asked if the board wanted him to solicit the businesses and at the planning level as well.

Trustee DeJesus suggested that the planning board be informed that it's not enforceable by the police.

Chief Holmes stated that the code enforcement officer can cite them under the building code.

Mayor Pearson asked if this would also be for fire lanes.

Chief Holmes stated yes.

Manager Politi stated that he will write letters to businesses informing them of their option for both fire lanes and handicap parking.

Mayor Pearson stated that they met regarding snow removal and business parking and the lifting of the snow removal emergency. The main issue was lifting the snow emergency as quick as we could. The second issue was residential streets. There is a new outreach which will be on our web site that will have a headliner across the top. We will still use the hot line. Mike Ciardullo will be doing a magnet that we will be sending out to residents. The radio information was the same. She never realized how long it takes to clear the streets.

Chief Holmes indicated that the law has always been based on DPW's time to be out there clearing the streets.

Mayor Pearson stated that it takes six hours to do her section, Walnut Street area. Some of the suggestions were if the plows come through and clear it up one more time and it stopped snowing then they can lift that quicker on Route 208/52.

Chief Holmes stated that the snow emergency will still be on for the rest of the village and the business district will be designated as Routes 208 & 52 and the Village Square.

Manager Politi stated that the easiest way to do that is through the web.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that traditionally the police try to minimize the traffic on the streets, not just the parking.

Chief Holmes stated no, they don't stop the flow of traffic. The DJ's state on the radio that it's a state of emergency when it's a snow emergency. The dispatchers call the stations and let them know it's a snow emergency.

Mayor Pearson stated that the last part of that was to try and call off the snow emergency as soon as possible and practical when most of the streets are done. If there

are a couple key streets they haven't gotten to that are tighter they may close down those streets, turn off the emergency and get to those streets.

Chief Holmes stated that the snow emergencies during the past 2 years have run 10-12 hours.

Trustee Leonard stated that it wouldn't be a bad idea to put those reasons on the web. He never realized how long it takes to clear the roads. He asked if the web site is being listed on the monthly calendar.

Trustee Norman stated that when you come out of the Medicine Shop you can't see to pull out with all the cars parking on the street. Also, when you come out of Valley Avenue to Route 52 you can't see to pull out. The traffic on Main Street was backed up forever the other day. She asked what the problem with the light was.

Chief Holmes stated that it's the sensor on the light for Main and Walnut Streets.

Trustee Norman stated that it was Main and Bank Street.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that cars block the road by John Street.

Mayor Pearson asked about the hydrant on Oak Street.

Mr. Lamendola stated that it will be done in a couple of weeks.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked if handicapped parking has to be timed if it's in a timed zone.

Chief Holmes stated yes unless you specify what it's for. You can designate it any way they want, but it gets confusing.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that people asked about it in the square.

Chief Holmes stated that handicapped doesn't mean you can park there as long as you want.

Deputy Mayor Matise suggested a little sign, stating the time limit and place it on the handicapped parking sign.

Trustee Norman asked about the parking in front of the municipal building. She doesn't feel its fair for a police officer who is on duty all day to have his car parked there. day. There are people trying to get into the building.

Chief Holmes stated that parking has been a problem for a long time.

Manager Politi stated that a memo went out that employees are not to park in front of the building.

Trustee Norman suggested that a part of Orchard Street be designated for employees or tear down the building and have a parking lot.

Manager Politi stated that the businesses paid for that parking lot, so they wouldn't like that.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that they can park in the Oak Street or the Maple Street parking lot. The sight distance is bad when cars park in front of the building.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the village bought the house on Scofield Street for parking.

Manager Politi stated that we needed the other house to do the parking and now there is a space problem in this building so we decided to keep the house for storage.

Trustee DeJesus stated lets fix it. He asked why we can't have employee parking in the Oak Street lot.

Manager Politi stated that we can. It comes down to two or three cars. They have already found parking. He recommends keeping the building.

Mayor Pearson suggested they take the tree down and get some more parking.

Manager Politi stated that there is only three feet of property when you get to the corner of the driveway.

Deputy Mayor Matise suggested going off of Andrews Court.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that people park in front of the Walden Savings to use the ATM and it is dangerous, the no parking sign is missing. She would like to go through the code and see where the no parking signs are missing.

Mayor Pearson asked about the street sweeper, how often they do residential areas.

Manager Politi stated that what the directive was and what they've been trying to do is every morning the street sweeper is to hit the business district, Main Street, Municipal Square and Orchard Street. Then they hit a neighborhood.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked that the old yard sale signs come down and the cash for your home signs.

Trustee DeJesus stated that the speed signs on Valley Avenue are too high.

Manager Politi stated that they are seven feet to the bottom and that is the code.

Deputy Mayor Matise that the employee parking for the post office, if they park a SUV you cannot see cars coming up Orange Avenue and also if they don't trim their hedges you can't see. She would like a letter sent to the post office asking if they could limit that spot for a compact car. There is a height limitation

Trustee DeJesus stated no, that is their property.

Deputy Mayor Matise also asked about parking on sidewalks and parking on two way streets and blocking driveways.

Chief Holmes stated that they've been ticketed.

### **Special Meeting**

Trustee DeJesus moved to hold a special meeting on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 7:00pm for CSEA and PBA. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matise. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Adjournment**

Trustee DeJesus moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mitchell  
Village Clerk