

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustee
Meeting
January 13, 2009**

DARE Program

Trustee Norman moved to continue to do the DARE Program in Maybrook. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reimbursement

Deputy Mayor Matise moved to reimburse Ms. Schafer \$156.00. Seconded by Trustee Hurd. All ayes. Motion carried.

Senior Discount - Garbage

Deputy Mayor Matise moved to allow for the senior discount for owner occupied whether it's a single family or multi family, just the senior. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Joint Board Meeting

Deputy Mayor Matise moved to hold a joint board meeting with the Planning Board on January 21, 2009 at 8:00pm. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Police Consolidation

Trustee Rumbold moved to authorize the Village Attorney write a letter to the State comptroller about the assessment process. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matise. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Department Street Parking Review & Suggestions

Deputy Mayor Matise moved to have the Fire Chiefs' come into the next meeting to talk about Valley Avenue and also notify the residents on Valley Avenue. Seconded by Mayor Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of December 9th, 2008 and that the letter from Judge Ozman be included. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Norman moved to adopt the minutes of December 12th, 2008. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of December 19th, 2008. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes with the exception of Deputy Mayor Matise and Trustee Hurd abstaining. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of December 29th, 2008. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of December 29th, 2008, Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Millspaugh. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of January 7th, 2009. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matise. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Audited Bills

Trustee Norman moved to pay the audited bills of January 13, 2009. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Trustee Rumbold moved to hold an Executive Session pursuant to (105-f) Personnel Manager, 105-(e) PBA negotiations and 105-(d) Litigation, of the Public Officers Law. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hurd moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Meeting reconvened.

Adjournment

Trustee Hurd moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Millspaugh. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustee
Meeting
January 13, 2009**

Mayor Becky Pearson called the regular meeting of the Village of Walden Board of Trustees to order at 6:30pm.

On roll call the following were:

Present:	Mayor	Becky Pearson
	Deputy Mayor	Mary Ellen Matisse
	Trustees	Mary Jean Norman
		Richard Hurd
		Susan Rumbold
		Marcus Millspaugh Jr.
		Roy Wynkoop

Also Present:	James C. Politi, Village Manager
	Nancy Mitchell, Village Clerk
	Kevin Dowd, Village Attorney

Village Manager's Report

Manager Politi reported that the refuse pick up is going well. The staff hasn't heard of any complaints other than people forgetting to put out their garbage because the day was changed. We have received a couple compliments.

Manager Politi stated that the Board asked about Computel Consultants and to get an update.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked for an explanation to the estimate they've given for Time Warner owing the Village \$12,000 and Time Warner is willing to come up with \$5800. The last franchise agreement with them was 2001.

Manager Politi stated that they are disputing the number but are going back and forth.

Mayor Pearson asked Mr. Dowd where are we with that agreement.

Mr. Dowd stated that it took him some time to get in touch with Ms. Parks who is the municipal liaison. He now has draft agreements so he needs to call her to set up appointments to start the process of the franchise renewal proposal.

Mayor Pearson asked how long that agreement would go for.

Mr. Dowd indicated 10 years max. He needs to go over the draft agreement and then bring it to the Board and the Board would set a public hearing to allow input from the public and then the Board would decide whether to extend the franchise agreement. He hopes to have this late winter, early spring. He will be in touch with the PSC to see what the latest regulations are.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked if the agreement expired in 2001.

Mr. Dowd stated that he thought it was a little later than that. The PSC allows them to keep operating.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked what else Computel is looking at.

Manager Politi stated that they are trying to get through that process first.

Trustee Rumbold asked about the disputed amount.

Manager Politi stated that Computel's payment is 50% of what they agreed on.

Trustee Rumbold suggested the Village Attorney send Time Warner a letter.

Mr. Dowd stated that he has asked Ms. Parks to send the proposed draft franchise renewal agreement. Computel has been in contact with someone in Time Warner that has the authority to settle these issues. If its not settled they will bring it up in the renewal process.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that they took away the senior's discount of one free month.

Mr. Dowd stated that he did not hear that. That will be part of the negotiations. They aren't required by law to give a discount to anyone. In order to get the month for free they had to pay eleven months in advance.

Manager Politi advised the Board that he is gathering information to develop the RFP for an engineering firm.

Trustee Rumbold asked what the time frame is because there are some projects out there.

Manager Politi stated that he is moving quickly. The RFP's are advertised and he can call firms and mail them out. The critical needs are covered right now.

Manager Politi stated that there were two library board seats that came due and John Cappello and Elizabeth Michella are filling them.

Manager Politi also advised the Board that the Tin Brook pump station could go on line right now. There are still some things to finish up. The Route 208 Project is taking a little longer because of the frozen ground. Stantec is on site for inspections.

Mayor Pearson asked if the manager went out to see what Trustee Millspaugh brought to his attention.

Manager Politi stated that cover issues are standard; you can dispute that with the engineer. It's a standard issue, but they will probably take that off next time. Water is critical to have four feet, sewer is not as critical. If they dispute that and want the cover over it they can tell them to put a cover over it.

Manager Politi stated that the village handbook is being reviewed as well as the workplace violence prevention program. Once the staff does their review it will be brought to the Board. Safety training is also going on. We will have the safety training with the Villages of Maybrook and Montgomery and the Town of Montgomery which will help reduce the cost. The Department of Labor was in and we did well with that.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked if the staff has finished their NIMS training.

Manager Politi stated that staff is finished other than if someone new has come in.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked if the clerk has all that information.

The Village Clerk indicated that she did.

Manager Politi stated that the Board had asked for a little more break down in the Building Inspector's report. He asked if the format he's using is moving in the right direction.

The Board indicated that it was.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that she liked the other spread sheet better. She also asked about the dog control officer, was anyone filling in while he was out sick.

Chief Holmes indicated that the town did.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that she saw the Chief today, good job on that money from the Youth Bureau. We are getting \$6,000 instead of \$1800.

Manager Politi stated that the last couple years we've been able to help out with the DARE program in Maybrook. The Chief does that program for them. It is full reimbursement for his time. The question came in with the Town being able to help Maybrook in some way, so there may be more play there. DARE is now a 10 week program. If there is interaction with the Town his time out of the Village might be 7 weeks.

Mayor Pearson asked what the fee is they collect from Maybrook.

Chief Holmes stated that it would be his hour rate, three hours per week for the 10 weeks.

Mayor Pearson asked if that covers Officer Trinidad.

Chief Holmes stated that if she goes it's her rate.

Mayor Pearson asked if the Village gets reimbursed for mileage.

Chief Holmes stated no.

Trustee Norman moved to continue to do the DARE Program in Maybrook. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Rumbold stated that she questioned the Stantec bill for Ponds at Riverside. Stantec will be billing the developer.

Presentation-Central Hudson Gas & Electric-Transmission Line Route Design

Mayor Pearson stated that Central Hudson wants to change the transmission line routes coming through the Village. The manager, Trustee Millspaugh and she met with them about proposed other routes that may be accessible to us Coldenham Road being one of them. She wanted them to come before the Board and explain the other route.

Karl Schoeberl, Central Hudson explained that Central Hudson was last here a little over two years ago. At that point in time they were starting the study of alternatives to rebuild the existing 69 KB line that currently runs through the Village of Walden. One of the things that were mutually agreed upon was that the existing route through the Village of Walden doesn't make sense to rebuild on that route because of the encroachment that's occurred. They held open house in January 2007 to solicit public input. They also held open house in the Town of Montgomery. They gathered input and submitted applications in April 2007. He explained the proposed route which takes the line through as few numbers of properties as possible and puts it in an area that is relatively unseen.

Mayor Pearson stated that when they looked at the Coldenham Road route, even though there are poles there they may have to shift them back.

Mr. Schoeberl stated that they could go on either side of the road, but the general consensus after their review would be to keep it on the north side of the road. There is a distribution line that runs along Coldenham Road and one of the advantages would be that you're taking advantage of the existing corridor and would minimize the amount of clearing that would have to happen.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that there is a planned development on Elm Street and this would impact the development.

Mr. Stickles stated that there was approval for three lots.

Mr. Schoeberl stated that their next step is to get back to the Town of Montgomery Planning Board with any revisions. They would like to come back to the Village of Walden with a revised route.

Mr. Schoeberl stated that at the road crossings, Edmunds Lane and Elm Street, they can do some screening to soften the impact of clearing.

It was the consensus of the Board to stick with the proposed route through the Big Apple Circus Property.

John Olsen stated that they didn't finish the discussion of how they crossed Coldenham Road. There are a number of variations that could leave trees or take trees down, could impact houses or not impact houses. It might be a good idea to meet out there for an hour and figure out the critical part of the route. Planning Board members should also be there.

A site meeting was scheduled for January 22, 2009 at 10am.

John suggested a meeting be set up with the Big Apple Circus.

Public Comment

Diane Sandbothe, 90 Liberty Street thanked DPW for the work they did on Liberty Street. She also stated that there are two oil trucks parked on Madison Street for over a year. Both trucks have license plates.

Mr. Stickles indicated that they have been cited and the next step is taking them to court. There is no oil leaking.

Lynn Schwandt, 143 N. Montgomery Street commented on the Mayor's letter to the editor, on the health insurance illegal buy outs, did the Mayor or present members of the Board take the buy out.

Mayor Pearson stated yes.

Ms. Schwandt asked if she was going to pay it back since she feels it's illegal. How is that going to be resolved?

Mayor Pearson stated that it has been resolved. The Board adopted a local law that makes it legal to have taken the buy out. What happened was it was before the Board and you would think we have an attorney and a manager, but no one seemed to know how it got in there. When we came on board and say you can take this buy out you think things are done legally and it wasn't.

Ms. Schwandt stated that the way it sounded in the paper was it was illegal but you folks took it.

Mayor Pearson stated that they didn't know it was illegal until they did some research.

Ms. Schwandt stated that in regard to the police contracts the Mayor has been to some of the meetings, the Village Manager and council too, it was in the paper that the Mayor made it sound like she hasn't ever been to anything.

Mayor Pearson stated that when she became Mayor the first time she saw something happening, April she became Mayor and in May she was looking at bills, which is part of her job. She noticed attorney fees coming from a firm she did not know. She asked about it and was told it was fees for labor negotiations. A few times in executive sessions she talked about why the Board does not know what you're negotiating and how can you come to a conclusion in negotiations without the Board knowing? You can talk about a contract for a year without the Board knowing what is happening and when you come before the Board because the Board will make that ultimate decision whether the contract will move forward or not and it can be a years worth of work being done the Board says no. You can spend time on that project without the Board knowing what is happening. She expressed her concern to the Board members a few times and they felt everything was fine, it was moving forward, the Chief and the Manager make those decisions and ultimately it is the Board's decision to make.

Ms. Schwandt asked if the bill was just for the police department.

Mayor Pearson stated that she wasn't sure.

Ms. Schwandt asked if there was a retainer fee for the labor attorney.

Mayor Pearson stated that they do but they also pay extra.

Brian Mahar asked if the Central Hudson line was going to cost the Village anything and will the Village get any revenue from it.

Mayor Pearson stated it doesn't cost the Village anything.

Mr. Mahar stated that he enjoyed growing up in Walden and now coming home he sees a youth problem. He asked if there were any plans for the youth.

Mayor Pearson explained that the Village does have a youth department and youth programs. The Village would love to have him come and be supportive.

Faith Marroon stated that she is here to address the Board about the garbage discount. Because she owns a two family house and lives in it she can't have the discount. Her neighbor lives alone with his eight dogs that bark at her all the time. He has four overflowing garbage cans every week. She feels it's not fair. About the dogs, at one time a Board member made a comment that the Board has more to think about than barking dogs. She would like that Board member to come to her back yard and try to enjoy conversation and be annoyed by eight barking dogs. This Village needs to address the pet population and define what a kennel is and not allow a kennel in a residential area.

John Revella, 16 Church Street stated that in regard to the presentation by Central Hudson he heard comments about the impact on residential areas. If there is already an existing line going down Coldenham Road how would more wires on the poles cause an impact. Why are we creating another path of power lines? That's another visual impact and it impacts future development. He hopes this isn't the final decision and he hopes there is more public comment before the final decision.

Anita Vandermark, 76 Highland Avenue stated that she would like to compliment the DPW on the great job they did during all the snow storms. With regard to the garbage, the new company is doing a great job. People in the community should be happy with the discount they are getting initially without the senior discount.

Ed Bates, 3 South Way stated that he is concerned with the bulk pick up. He understands the need but doesn't understand the bulk of it. He doesn't like the way people put it out and putting it out too soon. He feels there should be some kind of regulation as to how much you can put out and the order you put it out. He also dislikes people riding around the Village and going through the piles and throwing everything around. No one has the right to go through his property. People come around at 10:30 at night to go through his stuff. He also commented on the snow on Main Street and that people have to climb over snow banks to get to the businesses.

Bonnie Schafer, 76 Valley Avenue stated that she wrote a letter to the Board regarding when she parked her car in the Orchard Street parking lot during a snow storm the Sunday before Christmas and according to the web site she had 24 hours from the end of the snow emergency to remove her car. When she came home on Monday less than 24 hours after the emergency was removed her car was gone and she had to pay \$156.00. She would like the \$156.00 refunded to her.

Mayor Pearson stated that this also happened a couple years ago and they asked the Chief what the policy was and he indicated they would have 24 hours unless it was

posted. Ms. Schafer went to work the next morning because she knew she would be home before the 24 hours was up and she could remove her car.

Trustee Hurd stated that they shouldn't have towed anything until 6:45pm the next day.

Manager Politi stated that there was another storm coming in right behind it. It was 19 or 20 hours those signs were out there. We have that ability through the police department and the supervisor of public works to keep moving and get the parking lots open because there is another storm coming.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked if they would change the web site.

Ms. Schafer stated that she checks the web site constantly.

Trustee Hurd stated that not everyone has a computer.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked how many cars were towed out of that lot.

Manager Politi stated five in the lot and three on the road.

Trustee Wynkoop asked if they could run the plate number and notify the owner that we are changing.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked if Ms. Schafer had off street parking.

Ms. Schafer stated no.

Manager Politi stated that we will stay at 24 hours. The snow may start piling up if there are back to back storms.

Mayor Pearson stated that if most of the cars were out of the lot and maybe four cars were left, could they plow around them.

Manager Politi stated that you can't do it that way.

Deputy Mayor Matisse moved to reimburse Ms. Schafer \$156.00. Seconded by Trustee Hurd. All ayes. Motion carried.

Village Budget Development Time-Line & Meeting Dates

Manager Politi gave the Board a time line for the budget. The budget packets will go out to the department heads and they are to be return to him on February 5th. From February 5 to February 19 is his review. The budget is presented to the Village Clerk on March 20th for distribution to the Board and then from March 20th forward is the Board's review.

Senior Refuse Collection 20% Discount Review

Trustee Wynkoop stated that they are seniors and they meet all the requirements.

Trustee Hurd asked the Board to remember that they are cost shifting.

Manager Politi stated that if they go into rentals how will he know that it's a senior citizen. He asked if it mattered who the tenant was.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated no.

Manager Politi stated, as it stands right now it's a single family owner occupied with at least one of the owners being 65 years or older. When we get into a two family home now you're going to have a rental side. He asked if they want to give the discount to the owner of the building.

Mayor Pearson stated yes.

Manager Politi asked if it mattered how many apartments they had.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated no.

Trustee Hurd stated that you might want to stick to the owner.

Deputy Mayor Matisse moved to allow for the senior discount for owner occupied whether it's a single family or multi family, just the senior. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that the garbage bills went out before the application procedure went out and her feeling and intention is that anyone who paid so far should be given credit on their next bill. It should be retro to January 1st.

Mr. Dowd stated that people who are not seniors are paying a rate and now when you start going retroactively giving discounts to the seniors you're going to have to go back and retroactively charging.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated no.

Mr. Dowd asked how else you are going to be able to make up the money.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that it's already calculated.

Mr. Dowd stated that that Board knew there was going to be a delay because there was no way you could catch it up on January 1st, the date of the contract.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that the regular rate is not going to change.

Mr. Dowd stated that if you're going to give a retro active discount to the seniors you would have to off set that revenue.

Manager Politi indicated that it should be okay.

Deputy Mayor Matisse asked the manager to find out and if in fact that is what the Board voted on, \$73.50 and \$60.00 and we will be able to cover the cost for this quarter then it be retro. She asked for an answer for the next meeting. She asked if the manager did a press release to the paper telling people they need to come in and apply if they don't receive it in the mail.

Manager Politi stated that he did talk to the paper and he will again.

It was the consensus of the Board to have the manager see if this can be done financially.

Joint Board Meeting Date

Mayor Pearson stated that the Planning Board is requesting the joint board meeting be at their meeting on January 21, 2009 to discuss the development on Coldenham Road.

Deputy Mayor Matisse moved to hold a joint board meeting with the Planning Board on January 21, 2009 at 8:00pm. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold.

Mayor Pearson asked if the Planning Board approves the minutes before the meeting or after the meeting.

Mr. Leonard stated that it depends on the Chair.

Mayor Pearson asked that Mr. Leonard relay a message for him because she received the minutes and there is a quote in there that is not accurate.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Harold Brilliant Letter Review

Mayor Pearson indicated that this will be discussed in executive session.

Organizational Chart

Manager Politi stated that he needs to get a program to put this into a flow chart a little better.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that she was told that the manager used to go to the planning board meetings in the past. She was wondering if he monitors the boards once he makes the appointments.

Mr. Dowd stated that he's never seen a manager at the meetings.

Mayor Pearson asked if the cleaner is a DPW employee.

Manager Politi stated in the budget yes, but he works in this building.

Mayor Pearson asked who his supervisor is.

Manager Politi stated that he is under the manager.

Police Consolidation Time-Line for Referendum

Mayor Pearson stated that the committee has a meeting tomorrow at 7pm.

Mr. Dowd stated that this board must take action by local law to abolish the police department and when you do such a local law by statute its subject to permissive referendum but the way this board has discussed it they want a mandatory referendum so the entire village can speak. You have to adopt that local law and have it in place to be on the March ballot no later than March 1st.

Mayor Pearson stated that this is just a question for Mr. Dowd for a time line if it was going to vote.

Trustee Hurd stated that the committee hasn't even come back to the board.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that they need to have an informational meeting.

Mr. Dowd stated that they can hold a special election anytime which would give you plenty of time to have public informational meetings and hearings before they even got to the local law.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that there is no way he's going to do away with the police department until the public gives them some guidelines.

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that it's about a three month process.

Mr. Dowd stated that if you adopt a local law that is subject to a referendum within 60 days of a general election you must hold it on the general election. If you have a local law adopted anywhere in the next ten months it's a special election within 60 days of adoption of the local law.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that we have never gotten any commitment from the Town of Montgomery, what they are looking for and how it's supposed to happen. It has to be the public that decides and we have to give them the time.

Trustee Norman stated that being out doing her petitions the residents of this village are very upset over this consolidation. One gentleman said, if the mayor doesn't know anything, I don't know anything and after reading the article that Chief Amthor put in the paper it sounds like it's a done deal. The people of this village know nothing about this consolidation. We need to have more than two meetings for the residents.

Trustee Hurd stated that the committee has spent a lot of time exploring this and it was his impression that they would come back and give the Board a lot of information to digest. It was that information for this board to consider if there was any reason to think about consolidating. To discuss a time line is premature at this point.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that no one has said if this was going to save money, cost money or what it's going to be.

Trustee Rumbold stated that there have been good discussions. They looked at other departments how they've done it. This is a fact finding mission. The committee she joined was to look at consolidation for many different reasons and that is how she approached it. There are many reasons to look at it. It's an old idea that has been talked about. What they need to look at is the inevitability of municipalities have to discuss and explore the feasibility of combining services. When you look at services for municipalities you have to look at the diversity of your tax base. The Village of Walden really doesn't have a diverse tax base at this point. We've lost the majority of our manufacturing. We have some small businesses. The prospect of attracting manufacturing gets less and less. You have to look at where you get the income to pay for the services that your municipalities need. The last thing you want to say is here's the level of service that we need and here's our ability to pay. So you have to explore ways to join forces with other municipalities to be able to provide the same level of service or improve it without breaking the bank and that is what they are doing. The public needs to have a voice.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that they don't have any information for the public yet.

Trustee Rumbold stated that they have a formula from 1985. She asked Carl Hailstorm why they did a feasibility study in 1985. He said that Walden and Maybrook asked him to do a feasibility study. There was also one done in the 1960's and if you compared the two studies they are the same. The foundation is the same. The only thing that changed is the size of the departments and the cost of running them. We may lose a lot of our officers to attrition because we have a certain ability to pay, affordability for salary and benefits and career opportunities. When you look at consolidation you're saying if we create a bigger department is there a route to a need for better pay, better benefits, advancement of career, so you don't lose people to attrition or municipalities that are richer than we are. She is looking at the total package.

Trustee Norman stated that when there was information presented to the public there wasn't any public here. Trustee Rumbold has the facts, but the guy on Wait Street doesn't have the facts. So when are we going to open up and say to the public these are the facts it's your decision. It's time to bring this out to the public.

Trustee Rumbold stated that there will be a meeting tomorrow night with the attorney's and the plan is to have public meetings in the month of February.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that so far the Town is very closed mouth about what they are looking for. They want a big police station.

Mayor Pearson stated that the reason they had the two chiefs before the Board was to give the Board the information and find the next step this Board wants to go in.

Trustee Hurd stated that he can't help but believe they will be discussing this for a long time. He has a feeling that this Board will say no at some point.

Trustee Rumbold stated that there is a lot of interest within the community to see a presentation and hear a presentation and that is the next step.

Trustee Rumbold stated that there was discussion about the Villages of Maybrook and Montgomery about assessment and she did see something in the newspaper about resolution. She would like this Board to direct the Village Attorney to write a letter to the comptroller of the State of New York to get clarification.

Mr. Dowd stated that he thinks this has been done by the Town Attorney. From what he's heard the Town Attorney has spoken to the comptroller and it is not in conjunction with the opinion that is talked about in the newspaper.

Trustee Rumbold asked if the comptroller has issued a legal opinion on that.

Mr. Dowd stated that the way he's been counseling his Board's and the way the Town Attorney has been counseling his board is correct.

Trustee Rumbold moved to authorize the Village Attorney write a letter to the State Comptroller about the assessment process. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matisse. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Department Street Parking Review & Suggestions

Deputy Mayor Matisse stated that the October 2007 meeting they talked about four or five different streets that need to be addressed. One was Valley Avenue. She would be happy to talk about Valley Avenue. The parking is on the east side of Valley Avenue and not on the west side. There are more driveways on the east side which eliminates parking spaces and also when you come down the side streets the fire truck has problem

with cars that are in the T's, which is against the state code. The discussion was to move the parking to the other part of the street and it wouldn't interfere with the fire trucks and also drivers could get out of their car easier in the winter when there is a snow bank.

Manager Politi stated that the reason the parking is on the east side of Valley Avenue is the flow of traffic coming in.

Trustee Millspaugh stated that if that satisfies the Fire Departments concerns then they should do that.

Trustee Norman suggested the Fire Chief and Assistant Chief come in and discuss it with them.

Trustee Wynkoop agreed with Trustee Norman and further stated that the homeowners should be contacted.

Chief Holmes stated that they looked at this when they redesigned that road so now they will look at it again. It is becoming a problem because there are a lot more cars down there.

Deputy Mayor Matise moved to have the Fire Chiefs' come into the next meeting to talk about Valley Avenue and also notify the residents on Valley Avenue. Seconded by Mayor Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment on Discussion Items

John Revella, 16 Church Street asked if there is a limit of the amount of cans you can put out for garbage.

Manager Politi stated that a two year contract was awarded and they will stay with rear load.

Mr. Revella asked if the senior discount would affect the other residents that don't have a discount.

Manager Politi stated that it's already taken care of.

Ms. Schwandt stated that she knows the Mayor is really for the consolidation and she will wait until the public meetings to comment on.

Mayor Pearson asked how Ms. Schwandt knows that.

Ms. Schwandt stated that it's all around. She also stated that she is glad she is not on this board after the comment about closed minded Board members. She would have taken offense to that. Everyone doesn't have to agree with what he or she says.

Mayor Pearson stated that closed mindedness is that the whole year they talked about the police negotiations they didn't want to listen that they needed to be able to have a say and to see what was happening. It took a year before they got the manager and the chief to come in to tell the Board what was happening.

Trustee Norman stated that it was not a year.

Ms. Schwandt stated that it was the past PBA president who held up everything for his own reason.

Mayor Pearson stated that they should have gotten rid of him.

Trustee Hurd stated that Mike Heckle gave regular reports to the Board about ongoing negotiations.

Mayor Pearson stated that it took a year before Mike Heckle came to see the Board.

Trustee Hurd stated that it's a difference of opinion not being closed minded.

Mayor Pearson stated that you don't have to agree with her. If you have opinions say them. That is why we have open government and that is why you have every right to say what you want to say.

Jeff Holmes, 194 Wait Street stated because of protocol he didn't say anything when Trustee Rumbold was talking about consolidation. He thinks it's premature for exactly what is happening here now where the Board is battling back and forth discussing these things. A lot of work is being done by the committee. Tomorrow night both attorneys will be at the meeting. There will be a point where the Town Board will discuss where they want to go. You need to wait until the committee comes up with a time frame to do the public information. There is more work to do.

Mayor Pearson stated that they want the public to know. They don't have all the answers. They are still gathering. She hasn't formed an opinion. The public will have to make the decision.

Trustee Rumbold stated that she is in favor of gathering the information so the people of this village can make an educated decision about how they want to be policed. To not explore these ideas especially the economic climate that we are in now would be remiss of every elected official. Municipalities all over the state and country are all having the same discussions. Municipalities are going to have to have these discussions or they are going to go broke. You have to look at alternatives. She was elected to look after the taxpayers of this village and this is one issue that has to be explored. She is going to get the information and give it to the public the best she can and they can make their mind up. You make up your mind how you want to be policed and the Board will figure out how to pay for it.

Brian Sebring 84, East Avenue stated that with all the special meetings the Board has been having where were they notified in the paper.

The Village Clerk stated that they aren't published. The papers are notified that there are meetings.

Mr. Sebring asked if it was legal to have a meeting in Millspaugh's.

Mayor Pearson stated that was for the Animal Deli and she was the only sales person on that day and she couldn't leave. So everyone came to help that business out.

Mr. Sebring stated that he feels all meetings should be in the Municipal building.

Trustee Rumbold stated that she got the call that the Mayor was calling for a special meeting and it was in the middle of a snow storm, she was by herself and she asked if there was a problem meeting there. She didn't have a problem with that. It was done in an emergency to help a business and she felt that was more important to make the vote so that business could continue with its livelihood than where the meeting was held.

Mayor Pearson stated that if a Board member had a problem with that they would have said something to her.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that he received a call from the business owner. It was a matter of going out of business or setting up a trailer and they needed Board approval.

Trustee Rumbold stated that they were worried about getting a quorum.

Mr. Revella asked about the garbage bids and why the price went down.

Trustee Hurd stated that it was only a \$19,000 difference between the two bids.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of December 9th, 2008 and that the letter from Judge Ozman be included. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Norman moved to adopt the minutes of December 12th, 2008. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of December 19th, 2008. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes with the exception of Deputy Mayor Matisse and Trustee Hurd abstaining. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of December 29th, 2008. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of December 29th, 2008, Executive Session. Seconded by Trustee Millspaugh.

Trustee Hurd questioned the December 12th minutes, page 4, comment by Mayor Pearson.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that the Clerk is only putting down what is on the tape and it can't be clarified if it wasn't clarified at the meeting.

Trustee Hurd stated that he thought the Deputy Mayor voted no regarding lead agency.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that she doesn't remember.

Trustee Hurd stated that he thought the vote was five to two.

Trustee Rumbold stated that she would like the clerk to check.

All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt the minutes of January 7th, 2009. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Matise. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Audited Bills

Trustee Norman moved to pay the audited bills of January 13, 2009. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold.

Trustee Rumbold asked why all vehicle repairs including the police department go into the DPW line of the budget.

Manager Politi stated that the entire fleet repairs fall into the DPW line.

Trustee Rumbold stated that when she is sitting down looking at the budget process and she's looking at the police budget there is still a piece out there.

Mayor Pearson stated that there was a bill for cleaning the screen at the Tin Brook pump station.

Manager Politi stated that they had to make sure that was cleaned out.

Deputy Mayor Matise suggested a community wide education program about what you can and can't put down the drain.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mayor Pearson asked how the energy source meeting went.

Manager Politi stated that it went well. What he noticed first was our gas cost. He's sure he can save us some money. The electricity he doesn't feel he can save much on.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that she received an email from Scenic Hudson about the Greenway. The governor is trying to cut the Greenway program. He wants to eliminate the Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities council and the Hudson River Valley Greenway Heritage Conservancy and move everything to the Department of State. They are asking for success stories and our relationship with the stake holders in each project within our community.

Manager Politi stated that he received a call from Scenic Hudson they pulled up the grant. Anything from the Department of State, the Rail feasibility study and two other smaller grants as well as anything from the Greenway. They will take the information packet and meet with Senator Larkin. Scenic Hudson will be the lead and they will bring a few communities with them. He will follow up on that.

Board Comments

Trustee Norman stated that the new florist shop put their sandwich board in the middle of the sidewalk and people have to walk around it. She also spoke to the Building Inspector about dumpster enclosures.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that Wednesday night there is a meeting at the elementary school about bussing on the west side. She has talked to the residents on the west side and they are concerned about the areas that don't have sidewalks. She feels a letter should go to Dr. Hooley expressing their concerns. They want to cost shift to the Village having crossing guards but what good are crossing guards if you don't have sidewalks. It's too dangerous.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that he attended a meeting and they weren't prepared to listen to anybody. You're talking \$10,000 and they are saying they have to reduce 2.7 million from the budget.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that a letter would carry some weight.

Mayor Pearson asked the attorney if he has access to the state education law on transportation. There may be something in there that states that they may have to walk

down Wait Street to a bus stop but if the bus is going past that as long as there is room on the bus they may be able to pick up those children. They had Walnut Street as a mile and that is not true. She has to find out how they calculate that.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that it's a radius. The people were asking a lot of questions and they weren't getting answers.

Mayor Pearson stated that they may be able to set up bus stops along that major route. She will call the gentleman at the bus company.

Trustee Rumbold stated that there is an allowance in the law and its up to the school district, if they went past an area where there were students who normally would have to walk and the bus was not full, they can pick them up and transport them. There is no guarantee that they will get picked up.

Mayor Pearson asked about the child abuse law and sex offenders living near people and the children walking by those homes.

Chief Holmes stated that your level 2 and level 3 sex offenders are all on the internet. The Police Department notifies the school on level 2 and 3 so they are aware of where they are. They meet with the school and go over where they are every month. The law just says we need to notify, it does say how extensive you have to notify. It's left up to the school to notify parents.

Mayor Pearson asked about snow removal on the bridge. How can we use that to our advantage?

Manager Politi stated that the Village cleans it but there is always a delay.

Mayor Pearson stated that Coldenhill Road near Coldenham School is within walking distance and those children ride the school bus. As long as they are picking someone up at the end of that street they will pick up the children on the way through.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that its where there are no sidewalks that there is a real problem.

Mr. Leonard stated that there has been a huge increase in elementary children since they started busing on the west side.

Mayor Pearson suggested this go on the agenda for the next meeting.

Deputy Mayor Matise suggested the manager write a draft letter and they can discuss it.

Mayor Pearson asked the attorney to research the law.

Trustee Rumbold stated that you might want to look at the policy book, the transportation policy.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that the Valley Central budget work shops will start the beginning of February.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked if the attorney wrote the letter about the A and B taxes yet.

Mr. Dowd stated no because he had to do another letter.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked if he's sat down with Tara yet.

Mr. Dowd stated that he needs to sit down with the supervisor.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked about the energy audit for the municipal building. Are we going to move forward on any of the items?

Mr. Stickles stated that the energy audit said one thing and your safety inspection said another thing. The energy audit said to turn lights off and reduce the light usage and the risk management person said no.

Deputy Mayor Matise stated that there are other items that could be done.

Trustee Hurd congratulated DPW on the terrific job on snow removal. Also, the police department handled the snow emergency well. He also noticed that they are getting aggressive on speeders.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that whatever DPW is doing to the roads before a snow is fantastic.

Deputy Mayor Matise asked about the leaking roof in the municipal building.

Manager Politi stated that the flat roof is new and the old roof, when you get the ice built up it comes under the new roof and causes ice to form.

Mayor Pearson asked about insurance training.

Manager Politi stated that they will be doing training again.

Mayor Pearson stated that she did have a complaint about a mail box being taken off twice on Oakland Avenue.

Manager Politi stated that it's not our policy to replace mail boxes.

Mayor Pearson asked if the manager received the Day Care letter.

Manager Politi stated that Day Care is in contract with the Village and the County for the Community Development Fund and they would like an extension. The deadline is February 29th, 2009 and they want to extend it out. He talked to Joanne Fazzino from the County and all we need to do is write a letter. Progress has been made on building one with volunteer labor. They now need to focus on the house.

Mayor Pearson stated that they are looking for the money the village gives them and they would like it earlier.

Mayor Pearson asked where the manager was with the awards.

Manager Politi stated it will be the beginning of February.

Mayor Pearson reminded the attorney about Planning Board training.

Mr. Dowd advised the Board that he has a hand out about General Code.

Executive Session

Trustee Rumbold moved to hold an Executive Session pursuant to (105-f) Personnel Manager, 105-(e) PBA negotiations and 105-(d) Litigation, of the Public Officers Law. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hurd moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Wynkoop. All ayes. Meeting reconvened.

Adjournment

Trustee Hurd moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Millspaugh. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mitchell
Village Clerk