

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
December 8th, 2009
Motions & Resolutions**

Introductory Local Law No. I-7 of 2009, “Vehicles and Traffic”

Deputy Mayor Rumbold introduced Introductory Local Law I-7 of 2009, “Vehicles and Traffic” and called for a public hearing on January 12th, 2010 at 6:30pm. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

NYCOM Legislative Priorities Review

Trustee Leonard moved to pass a non binding resolution to support the policy issues being discussed in the legislative priority meeting 2009. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Hurd moved to adopt the minutes of November 24th, 2009. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rumbold.

Trustee Hurd amended his motion to include the correction to page 21, paragraph 6. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rumbold. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Audited Bills

Trustee Norman moved to pay the audited bills of December 8th, 2009. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Session

Trustee Hurd moved to hold an executive session pursuant to 105-(e), PBA Negotiations and 105-(f) Parks and Recreation Personnel of the Public Officers Law. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Maher moved to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, December 15th, 2009 at 7:00pm. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
December 8th, 2009**

Mayor Brian Maher 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	Brian Maher
	Deputy Mayor	Susan Rumbold
	Trustees	Mary Jean Norman
		Roy Wynkoop
		Richard Hurd
		Edmond Leonard
		Bernard Bowen

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

Absent:	Kevin Dowd, Village Attorney, later present
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Presentations

Mayor Maher acknowledged a beautiful piece of art work, the Sam Phelps Service Award. This is an annual award that will be handed out at the Christmas tree lighting. The Fox Hill Community was the first recipients.

Mayor Maher stated that the Walden Sunshine Society awarded a picture by Ruben Aiello of the Fox Hill Community to the village.

Hon. Marcus "Mickey" Millspaugh was awarded a certificate for recognition of public service by Mayor Maher.

Appointment of Trustee

Hon. Bernard A. Bowen Sr. was appointed to the Board of Trustees by the Mayor and was sworn in by the Village Clerk.

Village Manager's Report

Manager Politi stated that the board was given copies of the inspection by the Department of Health of our water department. It went quite well. There are things that

we need to do. We are working on our tanks. The statement made by Keith Miller is that the village's water system has made great strides under the direction of Mr. Perna. Fred Perna is our water operator and he is going well.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if the manager has had any thoughts about #4 regarding the retirement of one of the employees.

Manager Politi stated that there is someone in our ranks to cover this until they cross over. Our system is a Class IIB system. The license you would have would be B which is ground water; A is a treated water system. You also need to have a Class C licensed operator as well is a IIB. The IIB is the lead, the C is if you had 1,000 people and a D license is a distribution license.

Trustee Leonard asked if they were going to make sure they don't get manure dumped within 70 feet of the well.

Manager Politi stated yes. He also stated that he has included in the Board's packet a copy of Introductory Local Law I-7 of 2009, "Vehicles and Traffic". He also gave the board a copy of the snow emergency policy.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if the snow emergency policy would be posted on the web site, the information about radio stations.

Manager Politi stated that this is our internal. They can put that on.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold stated that last year there was an issue with a citizen whose car was towed because there were back to back snow emergencies. She asked if they were changing anything as to the way they notify.

Manager Politi stated no, your snow emergency kicks in when there is two inches of snow. There was that back to back storm, but that was an unusual circumstance.

Trustee Leonard asked if they were going to break the snow emergency into two parts like they did last year, where Main Street would get plowed first and then the emergency would be cancelled there but the rest of the village will remain in an emergency until it's done.

Manager Politi stated yes.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if there was an update on Ronk.

Manager Politi stated that he handed it out before the meeting and emailed it as well. The report stated that the owner and his associates have applied for a building permit to demolish the front and rear porches of 36 Sherman Avenue. Once issued they will be removed and placed into dumpsters. When done the building will be secured. This is being done on private funds and not taxpayers monies.

Mayor Maher asked about the shed, will that be incorporated in it.

Mr. Dowd stated that will be a separate unsafe building proceedings.

Trustee Leonard asked about the \$150,000 from the county for the water and sewer, has it come in yet.

Manager Politi explained, when the water and sewer funds come up short we relevy those on your taxes, so you will get a portion of those coming in with the taxes. You have gotten a great portion of that. There is a long delay if someone repeatedly does not pay. It takes a year and a half. When the new tax bills come out those are levied on that tax bill so its part of the billing you get.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold stated that the board had discussed last year about being more aggressive about what to do if someone doesn't pay.

Manager Politi stated that they are doing good with collection right now. It's not a big issue at this point.

Mayor Maher asked for the details regarding the lights on the bridge.

Manager Politi stated that the State did come in and inspect the wiring. He doesn't know what they did, but the village went down and put a few bulbs in and all of a sudden they worked. Going forward those lights are the villages' responsibility. The first fix was a design flaw, so they fixed it and going forward they felt that they had fixed the problem so the village will have to maintain those lights.

Mayor Maher stated that when he spoke to DOT they did put it in those terms, but he did say he would come down and inspect it. He asked if they reported back to the manager.

Manager Politi stated that he received a call and a letter, he pulled out the sheet where the responsibility was laid out. There are 10 lights on.

Mayor Maher asked if the one light is still out on Main Street.

Manager Politi stated yes, it's the ballast. It's been ordered.

Trustee Leonard suggested they have spare ballasts.

Manager Politi stated that he did have some but they burned out. We need to make another application.

Mayor Maher asked about the solar lighting at Wooster Grove if we were in danger of losing the grant.

Manager Politi stated that we are not. They can now install the two bases that have to go in.

Mayor Maher asked for a time line.

Manager Politi stated that it will be at least four weeks.

Mayor Maher stated that he knows there has been an explanation of how the village lost the grant money for the Ulster Avenue project.

Manager Politi stated that the village hasn't lost it, it was delayed.

Mayor Maher asked if that project was set for the spring of 2012.

Manager Politi stated that its 2011.

Trustee Bowen asked about the lighting of the west side like they did on Main Street.

Manager Politi stated that they located 10 red banners for the poles on the west side. To light the poles individually you would have to meter each pole.

Public Comment

John Revella, 16 Church Street thanked the village and residents and those who were inconvenienced on Thursday for the traffic pattern. It was a very successful event and it was a lot of fun.

Dennis Wageman stated that since 36 Sherman Avenue came up again he is still amazed at what is going on. He was speaking to someone and they told him about a building in Newburgh that was condemned over a year ago. It was a commercial building. He went down to take a look and sure enough it was condemned, it has stop work orders, it's a bakery and they are still open and operating. He also stated that he has said before that he pays \$600 for trash removal. How would the board members feel if everyone in their family was paying \$600 a year for trash removal? He is still doing it and he still is one guy. It's not a good situation. He had a bag of cans and bottles that he picked up from the corner of Ulster Avenue and William Street. Every day he sees the block watch sign. The William Street half block watch. He asks, what has that block watch done for him and the answer is absolutely nothing. The drunks still come down and throw their trash on the corner. His tax dollars paid for that sign that went up. His tax dollars is paying for whatever is going on with the block watches. He can find out

nothing about them. He was excluded from the block watch and his wife was excluded from it. Something should change and if not he wants his own half block watch for the other half of William Street.

Brian Sebring, 84 East Avenue asked about the ice skating rink at Wooster Grove.

Mayor Maher stated that the rink won't hold water so it will not be open.

Manager Politi stated that they will give it a try.

Mayor Maher stated that they went to Olley Park and Orange County Park to see if they could do something at Olley Park in the future, maybe build an ice skating rink.

Becky Pearson, 167 Walnut Street thanked the Mayor and Board for the award in honor of her father. She also stated that the light and wreaths on the poles are all out.

Manager Politi stated that they are looking into it.

Introductory Local Law No. I-7 of 2009, "Vehicles and Traffic"

Mayor Maher stated that this is for Valley Avenue and East Main Street, no parking here to corner to solve the blind spot.

Manager Politi stated that this will take in one hundred and four feet from the corner of Valley Avenue and East main Street going east. It will include the driveway by Dr. Bojuik. The owner of the building is aware of the new law and he is fine with it because he has a parking lot behind his building.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold introduced Introductory Local Law I-7 of 2009, "Vehicles and Traffic" and called for a public hearing on January 12th, 2010 at 6:30pm. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Motion carried.

NYCOM Legislative Priorities Review

Manager Politi gave the board a list of legislative priorities that he received at the NYCOM conference. They break them out into their committees. One is environment and energy, another employee relations and public safety, finance committee and government operations of community development. Within all those polices that they have been lobbying for. At the last meeting the manager asked the board if they wanted to review those and back them up in some way. If there are any the board sees that they would like to see the manager write letters to the state representatives and let them know they are behind them or just take the group as a whole.

Trustee Leonard stated that this is a good year because they are all up for reelection. They will be more willing to listening to the villages request and maybe they

will get some of these things enacted. None of these require any money. They will be going over these at the winter legislative meeting.

Mayor Maher asked if Trustee Leonard thought they should take individual issues or support it as a whole.

Trustee Leonard stated that he feels they should take all the prioritized issues and print them up and send them off to Assemblywoman Calhoun and Senator Larkin.

Mayor Maher asked if the board should pass a resolution to support, a non binding resolution.

Manager Politi stated that would be well worth it.

Trustee Leonard moved to pass a non binding resolution to support the policy issues being discussed in the legislative priority meeting 2009. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Request for Parking Access – 11 Orchard Street

Manager Politi stated that the Bartlett building on Orchard Street there is property behind the building and they are looking for off street parking that they could offer if they were to sell it. They would like to gain access to that property through the village's parking lot on Maple Street. It would be for those on staff. It would make the property a little more viable on the market for lease or for sale. They would like to know if the board is supportive of their idea. The one stipulation would be, as long as we don't lose a parking space. He thinks that it can be done.

Mr. Dowd stated that there are always liability issues. The manager is worried about losing a parking space, but also you have to think about traffic going through your parking lot that may interrupt the flow of traffic within the parking lot. You would have to see a design. Then out of consideration you may want her paying into village to give her that access. There are a series of issues legal and otherwise that should be thought about before the board says yes. You may want to see a plan first.

Manager Politi stated that we currently do that through the Orchard Street parking lot.

Mr. Dowd stated that the village has a right of way through Related Management. You would have to give them an easement. The question is you're now giving an easement to a private property owner to better their property. There is a question of consideration and also liability issues when people are driving through. You're concerned about losing space and you also have to be concerned about the flow of traffic in and out of that parking lot to the lot that Mrs. Bartlett is talking about.

Mayor Maher asked the attorney to address those concerns to Mrs. Bartlett and have her come back to the board.

Manager Politi stated that he sees it as a benefit for that building.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked, what if there is a big truck and now its riding through our parking lot. She would like more information.

Mayor Maher asked the manager to look into this further and the board will make a decision upon findings.

Trustee Bowen stated that if it's a liability issue can a liability statement be added to that reply.

Mr. Dowd stated that if the village gives her an easement in that easement would have to be a liability version and indemnification.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold stated that until the business is sold they don't know what kind of vehicles you're talking about going in and out of there. We are assuming a car, but we don't know if it will be a car.

Trustee Leonard suggested this be put on the agenda in January.

Web Site Upgrades for Citizen Access to Events and Services

Mayor Maher stated that this was something that was brought to their attention by the village's web site coordinator. He has been very creative in finding ways to make our web site more accessible, create features that allow residents who can't always make the meetings to become more informed. He helped him out with starting the mayor's blog which now has a section about village issues. He wants to create a data base as phone numbers, emails and he will disburse to these emails phone numbers, events and awareness of events. This is another mechanism that can be put into place to make people more aware of what is going on.

Manager Politi stated that people would have to sign on the get the announcements.

Mayor Maher stated that the entire service is a one time fee of \$260 to set it up.

Trustee Bowen stated that it is a good idea except for those who do not have access to emails. If you're going to do the phone and emails it's great.

Mayor Maher asked the manager to get him more information on the price.

Manager Politi stated that he will get the information.

Mayor Maher indicated that this can be an action item on the next agenda.

Public Common on Business of the Board

Richard Casper stated that he was late getting to the meeting, but would like to let the board know that the Walden Little League is hosting a breakfast with Santa on December 19th at the Walden Baptist Church from 8am-11am. It is \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children or seniors.

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Hurd moved to adopt the minutes of November 24th, 2009. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rumbold.

Trustee Leonard indicated that there was a correction to Page 21, Paragraph 6, change could to could not.

Trustee Hurd amended his motion to include the correction. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rumbold. All ayes. Minutes adopted.

Audited Bills

Trustee Norman moved to pay the audited bills of December 8th, 2009. Seconded by Trustee Hurd.

Trustee Leonard stated that it cost the village a lot of money for the damage to the generators. It is from the mice. He spoke to Fred about this. Are they going to put the bait traps in there?

Manager Politi stated that he will put the bait traps in there and foam the lines.

Trustee Leonard stated that he saw where they recommended to replace the generators too.

Manager Politi stated that they are starting to age. They will be tending to that during budget session.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold stated that she thought the village paid someone to come and do pest control.

Manager Politi stated that he asked the same question. He asked Gentech who services the generators and they said it is very common. They run into this constantly. Sometimes the foam works and sometimes it doesn't. You have to put steel wool behind and that works too. They will also try the high pitch sonic.

Trustee Leonard stated that there seems to be a furry of aerobics bills and Zumba class bills, can we consolidate the bills and write one check instead of four.

Manager Politi stated yes.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mayor Maher stated that he received a lot of correspondence regarding Christmas on Main Street, emails, phone calls and also voice mails. It's had a powerful impact. The business community is excited and they are getting more and more creative. The outside communities came in and said we want to go to Walden tonight. It has been great. He thanked the committee that put it together and the Chair Stepanie Faso. There are things they can do better and they will do better.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that it was the biggest crowd he's ever seen in the square. People hung around for a long time.

Board Comments

Trustee Norman stated that she was never as proud of this village as she was last Thursday. She thanked the committee and the recreation department. Three hundred children stood in line to see Santa. The music on Main Street was wonderful. She asked that they get the lights lit.

Mayor Maher asked that was going on with that.

Sergeant Schwandt stated that he is the investigating officer on that. Earlier today they found out that the electric to the Christmas tree and to all the wreaths was stolen. Also stolen was the angel from the top of the Christmas tree. They do have a suspect in mind and they are looking into it.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked how anyone got up on the top of the tree to steal the angel.

Pat Glass stated that it was right in front of the police station.

Billy Joe Brewer asked about the ice skating rink, will it be fixed this year.

Mike Bliss stated that there will be ice this year.

Mayor Maher stated that they are looking into improving that so they can do the entire ice skating rink or moving the rink to another area of the village.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that Thursday night was a tremendous night.

Mayor Maher stated that there are two Thursday nights left, this Thursday and the 17th which there will be a live nativity.

Mayor Maher stated that there is an election today for a fire commissioner. He encouraged the residents to go and vote. The polls are open until 9pm. He also encouraged everyone to get out this Thursday night on Main Street. He is very eager to find out who stole the angel and the lights. It seems that someone is trying to steal Christmas.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold stated that there is a for rent banner on Main Street, it hangs off the second floor.

Trustee Wynkoop stated that it looks like there is an apartment on the ground floor here in this square, next to the music store.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold stated that she attended the Christmas tea on Saturday, it was wonderful. The committee did a great job, the house looks beautiful. She thanked them for bringing the snow. She also stated that the food pantry is in dire need of donations. There are constantly new families signing up. She asked everyone to pick up a few extra things when they are at the store and drop it off. Also, there was a story in the paper about the problem we are going to have in 2011 with the pension funding for teachers. She hopes they are paying attention to our pension needs. She asked for a report from the treasurer. Then there is the MTA who are collecting money from our pockets and now they miscalculated how many millions of dollars. She wouldn't be shocked if they try to dip into our pockets again. She also stated that Christmas on Main Street was a great time.

Trustee Hurd stated he noticed someone present that is taping the board meeting. To his knowledge the board has no policy allowing or not allowing video taping of the meeting. He feels that this should be on the agenda as a discussion item.

The gentlemen that was taping stated that he's doing this for the mayor.

Mayor Maher stated that it's not something that he was thinking of doing on a regular basis, but it should be up for discussion as to whether it should be public. He has a lot of family members that don't get to see the meetings and he wanted to put something together for them.

Trustee Hurd asked that it be put on for the next meeting.

Trustee Leonard stated that DPW is working on a new playground and the skateboard park fence is destroyed, that should be on the agenda for the next meeting to replace it or take it down.

Mr. Bliss stated that fence has been replaced many times. He would like to install above the ground footings.

Trustee Leonard stated that he thinks they should train someone to post information on the web site so it would be more current. There seems to be a time line.

Trustee Hurd stated that they have discussed it before to have an active server page web site. It can be expensive, six or seven grand plus the maintenance of it.

Mayor Maher stated that he would like the zoning and planning board minutes on the web site. Patrick is quick about getting things on the web.

Trustee Bowen suggested an intern that is studying that in school can come over and work with the village.

Trustee Leonard stated that January will be six months into our budget, he wonders if the manager could give the board an update as to how they stand half way through the budget year.

Manager Politi stated that he will do an overview.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if there was a Historical Society link on the village's web site.

Mayor Maher asked that the web page be emailed to him and he will get it on immediately.

Trustee Bowen thanked the mayor for the opportunity to be part of the board. He would like to bring strength to the board and ideas. He looks forward to being part of the term.

Ms. Vandermark stated that she doesn't know if everyone has had the opportunity to come to the Walden House. They have been open since Saturday and tomorrow evening will be their last opportunity to see the house. The Community Council will be meeting there at 7pm. She would like everyone to come and see the beautiful ginger bread house that Deputy Mayor Rumbold did.

Executive Session

Trustee Hurd moved to hold an executive session pursuant to 105-(e), PBA Negotiations and 105-(f) Parks and Recreation Personnel of the Public Officers Law. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Maher moved to hold a special meeting on Tuesday, December 15th, 2009 at 7:00pm. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Mitchell
Village Clerk