

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
April 20th, 2010**

Mayor Brian Maher called the special 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
		Richard Hurd
		Edmond Leonard
		Bernard Bowen
		Randi-Lee Penney

Also Present:	John Revella, Village Manager
	Nancy Mitchell, Village Clerk
	Jan Weiner, Village Treasurer

2010-2011 Budget Hearing Continued

Mayor Maher stated that the board has gotten the budget down to 3.3% from 5%.

Jessica Metzger stated that she sees the insurance agent here, will he be speaking.

Mayor Maher stated that he spoke to the village manager and the village manager was going to advise the board.

Manager Revella stated that he met with Keith Hunter today to discuss the villages insurance and the process for bidding the insurance. He would have bid the insurance but because of several claims it's almost impossible to get competitive bids. If we did bid we would have to show them our entire portfolio with the claim history which would leave a black mark on them. Selective knows our history and they are not raising our insurance. There are four other insurance companies that would not be able to compete at that price. The loss ratio is over 500%, due to several bad claims and the state of the skate board park would also cause difficulty due to the lack of an attendant and the lack of adherence to the rules and the condition of the park.

Mr. Hunter stated that the increase for the upcoming year is 4% over last year, to \$165,000. He further explained the insurance coverage and the claims history for the village. He also explained the workers' compensation policy. He also stated that the

village needs to address risk management issues and be as diligent as we can to avoid claims.

Mayor Maher asked Mr. Hunter if his conversation with the manager that the village is on the right track and now there can be an action plan to concentrate on those things.

Mr. Hunter stated that he would like to work on avoiding risks.

Mayor Maher thanked Mr. Hunter for his presentation.

Jessica Metzger also thanked Mr. Hunter and she hopes they can do this every year. She also suggested someone come in from Selective Insurance Company and give the village some tips. She also feels the village should be shopping for insurance. Ms. Metzger asked if the board plans on voting on the budget on April 27th.

Mayor Maher stated yes.

Ms. Metzger stated that one board member will not be present on the 27th and therefore won't be able to vote. She asked if the board made any provisions for that.

Mayor Maher stated no.

Ms. Metzger asked why not.

Mayor Maher stated that the village is on a strict time line.

The Village Treasurer stated that the budget has to be adopted by May 1st.

Ms. Metzger asked why they are not having the vote this week.

Ms. Weiner stated that she filed the constitutional tax limit on Saturday and it has to be 10 days prior to the budget being adopted.

Mayor Maher stated that he did speak to the person that wouldn't be at the meeting, they worked hard on the budget and a vote is a vote. If that person felt strongly enough that they wanted to be here they would have approached him and said can we have it on a different date?

Ms. Metzger stated that she feels it's important for each and every board member to be present when that budget is voted on. She also stated that in the past years she has attended the budget work sessions and in coming to the department head hearings this year there was not nearly the amount of time spent with the department heads as in previous years. There were times when department heads were here for a couple hours going line by line and having questions for them. Last night there were things brought up that were so disturbing to hear the board talk among themselves, having two or three

different conversations going on and not listening what someone had to say. Also, jumping the gun and talking about cutting a budget line by 25% to 30% and they didn't discuss that with the department head. She finds that very disturbing. There shouldn't be three different conversations going on at the table and the department heads not here to answer questions. It seems like they were flying through the budget. She asked the board to please slow down. They are putting things through a bond to bring the percentage down and she doesn't know what that is going to do for her as a tax payer. There are a lot of things that will affect this budget, hiring a new village manager. A week ago she asked the mayor where the board was with this process and he said he wasn't ready to make a decision and twenty four hours later we had a new village manager.

Mayor Maher stated that he did not say that. He said they were in the interview process.

Ms. Metzger disagreed and said Deputy Mayor Rumbold said that no one was ready to make the decision. The board said that. There is so much waste. The village placed an ad in the New York Times in excess of \$1,000 when the board knew their criteria was going to be hire someone who is a Walden resident. This is why she is asking the board to please slow down, haste makes waste. As a taxpayer she is not interested in a zero based budget, she is interested in a responsible budget. They can have a responsible budget by slowing down and going through the budget slowly and asking the proper people who have the answers, who have many, many, many years of experience. She respectfully asked that the board do this for our village. Not for just the voters who put them here but for the voters who pay property taxes, and who support what happens here in this village?

Lynn Schwandt asked how the board made out with the DPW Supervisor's increase.

Mayor Maher stated that as of right now it's the same.

Ms. Schwandt asked if the public will know before the budget is adopted.

Mayor Maher stated absolutely.

Ms. Schwandt stated that they were looking into a letter.

Mayor Maher stated yes, they are still looking into it.

Manager Revella stated that he found the letters they were talking about, but they weren't signed by either party.

Ms. Metzger asked if they were going to have another work session.

Mayor Maher stated that they have done a lot to cut this budget, and if they feel there is more that can be justified and responsibly cut they will call another one before Tuesday.

Ms. Metzger asked if anything has changed with the police overtime.

Mayor Maher stated no.

Ms. Schwandt asked if there will be a copy of the adopted budget before they vote on it.

Mayor Maher stated that he's never seen that done, they take it from their notes.

Mary Ellen Maise stated that she knows that the budget was started a lot sooner when she was on the board. There were many long meetings. They even took public comment during the sessions. There is no rush. It's not a requirement for all board members to be here to vote on the budget.

Ms. Metzger stated that she just feels that the group as a whole should be here when the vote takes place. Her comment was not toward that person.

Mickey Millspaugh stated that looking through the budget he found it very confusion, it was very rushed. He suggested that when the budget is put together the manager should put a pencil mark and comments on the page where the increases are. When everything calms down the department heads should start a plan for the coming year, so they can throw ideas by the manager and the mayor so there are no big surprises.

Ms. Schwandt asked if they were in favor of Trustee Herd's idea of taking the police car and putting it in the bond too and the same with the DPW truck.

Mayor Maher stated that he had conversations with the chief about several different issues including that. If they do make changes the public will know.

Mayor Maher moved to close the public hearing. Seconded by Trustee Hurd. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Mayor Maher moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Norman. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

Respectively submitted,

Nancy Mitchell
Village Clerk

