

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
June 28, 2011**

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

On roll call the following were:

Present:	Mayor	Brian Maher
	Deputy Mayor	Sue Rumbold
	Trustees	Edmond Leonard
		Bernard Bowen
		Randi Lee Penney
		Tara Lown

Absent

Also Present:	John Revella, Village Manager
	Lori Pinckney, Village Clerk
	Kevin Dowd, Village Attorney

Mayor Maher indicated that Trustee Bowen and Kevin Dowd, Village Attorney will be arriving late. He introduced Anita Vandermark from the Walden Community Council.

Anita commented she was happy to assist in the selection of the scholarship winner from the Valley Central seniors. She was inspired by what was written. She announced the winner of the \$500 scholarship as Matthew Latka.

Matthew read his winning essay.

Mayor Maher read the essay of another participant, Rachel Zalesky's, essay and thanked Anita, Mary Ann, Matthew and everyone who participated.

Mary Ann Landolina commented there were many essays that had nothing but nice things to say about Walden and how heartwarming it was to know that the youth feels that way.

Matthew's father thanked the Walden Community Council for thinking Matthew is worthy of the award.

**Village Manager's Report**

- prepped and paved Penny Lane for dual access to Olley Park
- reviewed work at Olley Park comfort station
- installed drainage at Wileman Ave and Cherry Street
- met with residents on Grove St regarding drainage; discussed possible solutions
- CDBG Committee met re: funding for next year
- Ongoing meetings re: Buddhist event
- Contract negotiations on CSEA, next meeting July 8<sup>th</sup>
- Orange County Citizens Foundation meeting to discuss Village Square; planning and funding ideas
- DPW repairing catch basins and trimming trees
- Using a soil sifter at village garage; now have usable soil/clean fill

- Chief, Rec Coordinator, Mayor & Manager met with residents re: Alfred Park to discuss concerns
- Removed damage sidewalk areas; will be ongoing
- Orange County Transportation Council meeting with DOT, MTA & Metro North; going over TIP programs – available on county website
- Bid opening for sewer cameras; 2 lowest bidders came and did a demonstration.
- Electrical upgrades at Olley on pavilion and for the aerator; DOH gave us 100 on grading
- Met with Lovell Safety Group; coming in tomorrow to provide tips for workplace safety.

Trustee Rumbold asked for a timeline for the East Main Business Directory getting installed. She asked if the attorney drafted the letter to NYS regarding lack of maintenance.

Manager Revella responded the business directory contract was signed today; the engineer has to confirm we have sufficient depth. He believes Kevin wrote the letter to NYS; Kevin did write a follow-up letter to company regarding the fluoridation and a response was received; the representative of the company advised they are trying to provide the information.

Trustee Leonard asked about the meeting with the Chinese Delegation and what was discussed.

Manager Revella responded there were about 30 major corporations and community development, chamber of commerce members from Shandong Province in China that came to New Paltz to discuss business and investment opportunities. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday to see potential areas in Walden.

## **Trustee’s Committee Reports**

### **Shared Services Committee – Trustee Rumbold**

Trustee Rumbold commented the Governor will probably get the 2% property tax cap.

Mayor Maher added with some type of mandate relief. He read some background information, including that a local governing body can enact a local law to override the property tax cap, which is good for one fiscal year and must be approved by 60% of the total voting power.

## **Action Items**

### **1. Olley Park Payment**

Manager Revella commented the project is moving along quickly; the only thing left to finish is a small punch list and the overhead doors. The engineers assess it as another 40% complete, which will bring the total project to 75% complete and authorized for payment.

Trustee Rumbold asked if the engineers discussed something about the baseboard heat. It was mentioned to put two small ones near some pipes. She recommended the manager talk to the contractor about doing it now.

Manager Revella responded it was not discussed; it was talked about in the spec. We aren't planning on having a year round bathroom facility, but we do have the option to put them in the bathroom. The amount to approve is \$59,799.60.

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve payment for Olley Park in the amount of \$59,799.60. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Motion carried.

## **2) Sewer Plant Payment**

Manager Revella commented he wanted public knowledge of the second portion of the sewer plant payment; \$391,000.

Trustee Rumbold approved the sewer plant payment in the amount of \$391,000. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Motion carried.

## **3) Resolution 1-11-12 SYLA Grant**

Mayor Maher commented this is the resolution approving the 2011 solutions agreement for the Walden Youth Employment Leadership Program, the County of Orange Youth Bureau and authorizing the Village Manager to execute the agreement. It's \$9800 in grant form.

Trustee Lown made the motion to adopt Resolution 1-11-12 SYLA Grant. Seconded by Trustee Penney. All ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Resolution adopted.

## **4) Resolution 2-11-12 Solutions Grant**

Mayor Maher commented this is the Youth Employment Program. The kids will be selected tomorrow at a meeting held 2:30pm. There are 18 positions available and we received 41 applicants. He mentioned all the businesses that are participating. This is for \$8000 in grant funding.

Trustee Leonard made the motion to adopt Resolution 2-11-12. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes. Resolution adopted.

## **5) Resolution 3-11-12 Budget Amendment**

Manager Revella commented this budget amendment finishes out the fiscal year; it cleans up the last week of the fiscal year. There weren't many changes; revenue still ends up being \$86,000 favorable, expenditures excluding a loan to sewer fund, \$31,460.00. The loan to the sewer fund is \$124,394.34 that has to be paid back to the general fund.

Trustee Rumbold confirmed the loan was made last fiscal year.

Trustee Penney moved to adopt Resolution 3-11-12. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes. Resolution adopted.

## **6) Approval Sewer Camera Bid**

Manager Revella commented there were 3 companies that bid. The two lowest bids were very close; \$39,000 and \$39,930, and both those companies were asked to demonstrate the equipment to make sure that it met the specifications under operational conditions. One of the cameras did and one did not; it could not go through the 6 inch pipes, which was part of the specifications so under those circumstances he recommended that as an unqualified bid and the bid should be award to the next lowest bid.

Trustee Rumbold made the motion to decline the apparent low bidder, TV Ferret. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Motion passed.

Trustee Lown made the motion to approve Eagle Equipment Inc. dba Pierce Equipment for \$39,930 for the Camera Bid. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Motion carried.

## **7) Resolution 4-11-12 Stop DWI**

Mayor Maher asked what our revenue was.

Manager Revella responded \$2791.00.

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt Resolution 4-11-12. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Resolution adopted.

## **Discussion Item**

### **1) Square Redesign**

Mayor Maher commented there was another meeting with the Citizens Foundation of Orange County to look at traffic studies and surveys to determine number of cars, which intersections are crowded. Discussions with anyone involved, people and property owners around the square were invited. This is their first project in Walden.

Manager Revella commented there was a firm there that offered traffic count equipment at no cost; it was determined to do the survey while school is in session or during an event.

### **2) Midge Norman Park**

Mayor Maher had an informal meeting with residents affected by the park changes. There were problems and concerns about how the process came about. There were postings in the paper and there were direct contacts months ago assuring individuals that some things maybe would or would not be done. There was not that same contact when the process was taking shape in the last few months. We were assured they were getting door to door and solicited their opinion and offered to get into the process. At this recent meeting, we learned that actually did not happen and would like to discuss as a Board some of the concerns.

Trustee Lown commented the overall feeling was the residents felt blindsided. One concern was the lighting; talk of cutting trees or use of a spotlight on the basketball court. There were major concerns regarding drug issues and "outsiders" that come into the park. It's more a policing issue. Ideas for improving the park included: a horse fence around the perimeter, no parking signs, benches on the side, a four way stop sign. Most residents were unhappy with the basketball court; one suggestion was a tennis court instead. Most were happy with the addition of swings for younger children.

Mayor Maher commented there are a few things we need to address. One is the process. The Board agreed to put in a ½ court, not a full court. That will be taking place soon and because the process went the way it did and residents were not informed the way they should have been, it is the board's duty and responsibility. He believes there should be a Board and Resident Committee to watch how this progresses; to watch this and re-evaluate if the basketball court does not work out and put in more ground games like

hopscotch, etc. He recommended the Committee consist of individuals that live near the park and individuals that are for it and Board members that may be impartial. It should be a combination of everyone, so all thoughts are heard. It's important for the Board to say, yes there was a mistake made here and to admit to that. We would like to correct that in the future, make sure that it won't happen again. Things will be done and people will be held accountable and as elected officials, we hold ourselves accountable for doing something that could have been done a lot better. He asked if the Board is okay with forming a Committee to watch it and see where it goes.

Trustee Leonard commented he heard a recommendation of lowering the height of the basket for the basketball court to keep it geared for younger kids.

Trustee Rumbold responded she recommended that previously and was laughed at.

Mayor Maher responded having been around basketball all his life, the lower hoop could be a draw for older kids that might want to horse around on a hoop that was lower. That could have an adverse effect as well.

Trustee Leonard commented he sees it as an issue of not what is done in the park but how we enforce our rules in the park.

Mayor Maher commented there are two issues. The first was the process, it could have been a much more inclusive process and secondly, it is a police enforcement issue. Hopefully these issues have been addressed and the police will do their job and it's important for the residents to report things.

Trustee Penney agreed that the lighting needs to be looked into. She drives by there every day and it is a very dark area.

Mayor Maher responded that relating to the specific issues that were brought up, he asked the cost of a spot light.

Manager Revella responded a light cost approximately \$350 and NYSEG needs to evaluate the light that is already there; it doesn't function properly all the time. The four way stop signs are on order. The actual stop signs are there, but it doesn't say 4 way stop.

Mayor Maher asked if the Board was comfortable putting the spot light in there.

Manager Revella responded there is a similar light at Wooster for the outside basketball courts. The light would be directional, so it wouldn't be directed at the residents.

Trustee Bowen commented we don't necessarily need a bright light.

Mayor Maher recommended the Board take a ride up there at night.

Manager Revella responded he was up there a few weeks ago, it took over an hour for the light to come on and it didn't stay on, it went off again before he left; there is something wrong with the sensor.

Mayor Maher responded lets look into how bright a light is needed and where it should go and bring it back to the next Board meeting.

Trustee Lown recommended the Manager contact NYSEG.

Trustee Rumbold recommended the light be directional.

Mayor Maher asked about the parking issue.

Manager Revella responded we would have to make sure that the section along the fence be a no parking zone. He asked if that was in the code.

Trustee Leonard asked if we are using all the property that is there.

Manager Revella responded no; we are not really using the dog-leg.

Kevin responded it is not in the Code.

Trustee Rumbold asked if there are any recommendations from the Chief.

Mayor Maher responded he was at the meeting; there was nothing he objected to regarding everything Tara mentioned.

Manager Revella responded he agreed about the lighting.

### **Public Comment**

Frank Petliski, 2 Harvard Drive, commented he lives directly across the street from the park. He commented the people who don't live there, don't know how the residents feel. He has lived through the drug use and the beer bottles. He has literally picked up crack vials; there are people at the park until 10, 11, 12 or 1 in the morning. The kids would urinate in the park or in the resident's bushes; the kids were drink from a resident's hose. He commented it's been emotional and stressful; the drug use, the alcohol use, the loud noises, the screeching of the cars, the stop signs are a nice thing, but its not going to work. It is his understanding there was woman from S. Montgomery St, who wanted the basketball court, it's nice, but she doesn't live there. He commented let them play in your own back yard or Wooster Grove or Bradley Park or the High School. The bigger kids have access to parks but the little kids don't. He commented again that if you don't live there, then you don't know how the resident's that live there feel. He stated Mike Bliss came to his house with all the neighbors, and told them that a basketball court will not go in at the Park. Mike then called 2 weeks later and told him the idea of a thick rubber mat for playing hopscotch will go in. He saw some people measuring the courts and found out what was going in and to read in the newspaper that the basketball court is going back up. He commented it's a nice park and a nice place, but he does not want to go back through the drugs, alcohol, speeding and swearing. There is no supervision of the big kids and they have no regard for the people that live there. In the summer, he couldn't even use his back porch; it affects his quality of life. He believes it's a great thing to dedicate the park to the past trustee, but it doesn't need to have a basketball court. He commented about the garbage in his yard and his neighbor's. The full time person will police the park, but not his property or his neighbors. Let's approve the park for little kids. He commented that unless

you live there and have been through it, you don't know. He thanked the Board for their time.

Dan Sullivan, 8 Harvard Drive, agreed with everything Frank has said. He commented that a year ago, the resident's were assured by the Parks Commissioner the basketball court would not go back in there. He listened to their concerns and he agreed with them. A year later, instead of notifying all the local residents about the plans to go ahead with it, the residents were left in the dark, which he finds incomprehensible. He understood something was in the paper and something was posted to the website, but the resident's were assured there wasn't going to be an issue so why would they constantly check up on it. The Board had already approved it and the resident's hadn't heard one word about it until the article in the paper. It was a complete shock. He commented he has put up with the drug use, the cars, alcohol use and garbage for years. It has been so peaceful up there since that basketball hoop came down. The park is being used by smaller kids, it's been nice. He commented that is not a location for a basketball court, it is surrounded on all sides by homes. It is not the place for it. It was explained to the resident's last week, that when the Board voted on it, the Board was told there were no issues with any of the local residents. That was a lie, there were issues. He asked the Board to re-visit the whole issue, that vote was taken based on false information. The resident's did have issues. The basketball hoop came down for a reason and let's not go back to that. He commented just like the Square Redesign, every single person that might be affected should be brought into the room and we were left in the dark, completely. He recommended the Board have another vote. He commented nobody who lives around that park wants it. He asked the Board to reconsider that vote and talk to all neighbors. He said it was brought up the other day that someone was supposed to come around and knock on all doors, did anyone ever figure out who that was supposed to be. No one from the Village ever came around and asked their opinion, except for when they had the meeting Mr. Bliss and that was requested. Nearly a year ago, they were assured that basketball court was taken off the table, and here we are a year later and someone was lied to, he feels the residents were lied to, or the Board was lied to.

Janet Polubjak, 5 Harvard Drive, commented her house is the entire back of the park. She commented there are 5 – 6 parks in Walden. She mentioned the Martin Besdesky Park in Walden and she went by it and it has houses on both sides and swings with things for kids. Bring on the little kids and their parents, the games from them. She commented that is summer, hearing the kids have a good time. She will not say the other words, think of all the words you don't want to hear and that is what she will hear every day. The kids are not bad kids; it'll change their quality of life. The kids could go to Wooster to use those courts, or go to Bradley Park. She commented either the Board was lied to or the residents were lied to about somebody going around making sure its okay. It goes through, a done deal and will be revisited in a month or two, but it was based on a lie. She asked how can you continue as a Board to okay this without complete, 100% facts.

Jay Wilkins, 10 Harvard Drive, commented that in the past when the court was there, kids from Pine Bush, Walkill, from all over the area show up. The older kids actually push the younger kids out of the park. He commented he spoke to Midge months ago and he knows she would love to have kids at that park. He recommended lower the hoop height for children not adults. Children's park would be great. He commented that cars would park with their headlights shining on the park, so they could play. There were all kinds of

problems, screeching tires, swearing. A children's park would be fine, if it has to have a basketball court, then lower the hoop.

Kris Fox, 17 Alfred Place, commented her house is directly across from the slide at the park. She agreed with everything that has already been said. She would like it to be a children's park. The older kids are able to get to the other parks and the little ones are not. She witnessed everything that has been said, it was a huge meeting place for the teenagers, the garbage, the swearing, they would park in front of her yard. She asked the Board not to put the basketball court up and agreed that additional lighting would be great.

Diane Sandbothe, 90 Liberty Street, asked about the property purchase to be discussed in Executive Session.

Mayor Maher responded it will be discussed in executive session and it'll be discussed in public when it is put on agenda as an action item or a discussion item.

Annie from the Buddhist Temple on Edmunds Lane thanked the Board for all the support and assistance during their opening ceremony last weekend. She read a letter from the Venerable Khenpo Kalsang Gyaltsen addressed to the Mayor and the Board. She presented a plaque of the Tibetan tradition of the eight auspicious symbols. She described each symbol and their meanings.

Becky Pearson, 167 Walnut Street, commented regarding the square redesign that there wasn't much discussion. She asked about the funding and mentioned she received a call from Steve Flickenschild who wrote a letter concerning the redesign. She read: Mr. Flickenschild of 6 Linden Drive is for the redesign of the square, but at this time it is not the right time due to funding. There are publicly owned buildings in such a state of disrepair it doesn't warrant spending Village finances on the Square. He mentioned the Route 52 pump station, needing floor and walls fixed; the Municipal Building, the walls from leaks, the band around the top of building; the retaining wall on Main Street. He recommended the Municipal Building be fixed first; that is the pride of the Village and the center of the Village. In addition, Becky mentioned the bricks are in for Memorial Park. Orders are still being accepted. Regarding Alfred Park, she asked about the fence going up and if a gate will be installed and if so, will it be locked.

Manager Revella responded it is a perimeter fence; it is not a chain-link fence, more like a horse fence.

### **Approval of the Minutes – June 14, 2011**

Trustee Rumbold moved to approve the minutes from June 14, 2011. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Minutes approved.

### **Payment of the Audited Bills**

Mayor Maher clarified the motion would be to pay all the bills except the Verizon bill that was questioned by Trustee Rumbold.

Trustee Penney moved to pay the audited bills, except the Verizon bill. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees**



Trustee Leonard thanked Annie for their generosity and hospitality that was shown to the Village Officials during the opening ceremony.

Trustee Rumbold commented although she had a previous commitment and couldn't attend, she heard how wonderful it was. She had spoken to the Chief and it's a testament to what can happen when people work together and share ideas to make something of that magnitude as comfortable for everybody as possible. She thanked Annie and everyone in the Village that was involved; she feels it was done very well.

Trustee Lown agreed with Trustee's Leonard and Rumbold. It was very exciting to be part of something of that magnitude in the Village. She reminded everyone of the Ivy Hill Block, between Northern Avenue and Northgate Drive, on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup> will be holding a community-wide block party from 1-6 pm. All are welcome. Bring a dish to share. She thanked Manager Revella, Mike Bliss and the Lanc & Tully for overseeing the Olley Park Comfort Station for all their hard work and dedication to that project.

Mayor Maher wanted to acknowledge the passing of David Cocks who has been a mentor to the Mayor and a pillar of the community. He commented about an old opinion editorial from 1998 where David Cocks and Derek Wynkoop started the Walden Community Council and instilling a sense of pride in Walden. He commented he feels sad for anyone that didn't get to know Dave and he will miss him very much.

Trustee Lown reminded everyone of the Harvest Meeting tomorrow night at 7pm at Walden School of Music.

Kevin Dowd updated the Board regarding two items. He wrote a letter to the company that will supply the fluoride for our water. A second letter was sent and he received a phone call. He is expecting correspondence and will share it when received. The second item is the Taylor Biomass Project. He has been working on the contract for Walden and Montgomery. He has sent three emails to Mr. Rollins regarding questions on 30 different sections of the contract. He hasn't heard anything back. It was his understanding that everything except the price was negotiable. It is his opinion at this time that the contract is not in any shape to be signed.

Manager Revella responded if anyone on the Board wants copies of the emails from Kevin, just let him know.

### **Executive Session – Property Purchase & Personnel 105(f) Parks & Recreation**

Trustee Lown made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss property purchase and Personnel 105 (f) Parks & Recreation. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Reconvene**

Trustee Rumbold made the motion to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Meeting reconvened.

### **Adjournment**

Trustee Lown moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
Motions & Resolutions  
June 28, 2011**

**Olley Park Payment**

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve payment for Olley Park in the amount of \$59,799.60. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Motion carried.

**Sewer Plant Payment**

Trustee Rumbold approved the sewer plant payment in the amount of \$391,000. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Motion carried.

**Resolution 1-11-12 SYLA Grant**

Trustee Lown made the motion to adopt Resolution 1-11-12 SYLA Grant. Seconded by Trustee Penney. All ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution 2-11-12 Solutions Grant**

Trustee Leonard made the motion to adopt Resolution 2-11-12. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes. Resolution adopted.

**Resolution 3-11-12 Budget Amendment**

Trustee Penney moved to adopt Resolution 3-11-12. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes. Resolution adopted.

**Approval Sewer Camera Bid**

Trustee Lown made the motion to approve Eagle Equipment Inc. dba Pierce Equipment for \$39,930 for the Camera Bid. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Motion carried.

**Resolution 4-11-12 Stop DWI**

Trustee Rumbold moved to adopt Resolution 4-11-12. Seconded by Trustee Lown. 5 ayes, Trustee Bowen not present. Resolution adopted.

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Trustee Penney moved to pay the audited bills, except the Verizon bill. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

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### **Adjournment**

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