

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
August 9, 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
		Tara Lown
		Sean Hoffman

Absent		Bernard Bowen
		Randi Lee Penney

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

Presentation – Solar Panel, Bradley Park

Manager Revella commented that Bradley Park is the first area we are looking at for the potential of solar panels.

Richard Galbreth, Vanguard Energy, provided a proposal for solar powered energy system for the Bradley Park concession stand. The system would supply electricity to 33% of the concession stand, eliminating 2-3 electric bills. The system should be at full capacity during the summer months which coincides with peak usage of concession stand. The system will have a payback of 8-10 years based on current usage. The solar modules and the micro inverters have a 25 year warranty. Whenever the energy being produced is not being used by the field it will be fed back onto the grid and a credit would be received towards electricity usage. At night, when the solar panels are not producing, we would get that credit back. There could be months without electric bills at Bradley when there is no usage.

Trustee Hoffman asked about the 8-10 year payback.

Richard responded it's an estimate of the energy produced by the system and that would be the money saved every year.

Trustee Rumbold asked if he had an opportunity look at solar that was put in at Wooster's Grove; she commented that system was done poorly.

Richard responded yes he has seen it. He commented about the placement of the panels being in the shade and there are better locations that could have been used.

Trustee Leonard asked how often the panels need to be cleaned.

Richard responded in the northeast, cleaning is not needed. The rain we get is enough to wash them off.

Mayor Maher asked for clarification of the cost. Total cost is \$8,999.95 with a total savings over 25 year period to be \$18,229.63. Total return on investment of \$12,379.68 based on a possible NYSERDA contribution of \$3,150.00, he asked what that means.

Richard responded the NYSERDA contribution is an application process which takes 3-4 weeks to complete. That money goes directly back to the town by NYSERDA after the system is fully installed and inspected.

Mayor Maher clarified that the Village would make the initial investment of the \$8,999.95, but would be reimbursed the \$3150.

Richard responded the total investment would end up being almost \$6000.

Manager Revella asked about the permit costs in the proposal and what permits would be required.

Richard responded it depends on what the town rules are.

Manager Revella commented the Village wouldn't pay for their own permits. That cost would be eliminated.

Trustee Lown asked if Richard is seeing a trend by other municipalities going this way.

Richard responded we are trying to push municipalities, they are currently working with the Town of Wappingers Falls, but have not talked to any others yet.

Trustee Lown commented then there haven't been any installations for municipalities yet and Walden would be the first.

Trustee Hoffman asked where the company's current installations are.

Richard responded we have 2 current installations, both 3 hours north and they are private.

Mayor Maher asked the Manager if he has gone over the rate increases seen for the past few years because this proposal is based on a 3% electricity rate increase.

Manager Revella responded our charges have decreased in the past year due to our conservation and making sure there is no waste at Bradley Park; in the past, heaters had been left on.

Mayor Maher commented then we are looking at a return on our investment in about 5-6 years then with the NYSERDA incentive. There are a few things we may want to research and figure out a bit more; rate increases and maybe a 5 year projection.

Trustee Rumbold asked if the 25 year warranty is limited. She asked about a warranty on the installation.

Richard responded the modules are warranted to put out 80% of their rated output after 25 years. On the inverters, its 25 year warranty; if they fail they will be replaced. The warranty on the installation would be 5 years.

Trustee Leonard asked for a value on the kilowatt-hour that we would be reimbursed.

Richard responded it would be net-metered, a credit would be received. If the system overproduced electricity in the course of the year, the Village would receive a check at wholesale rate which is \$.02-.03 per kw-hr.

Mayor Maher clarified this is a 25 year savings plan, the initial investment would be \$8,999.95, but with NYSEDA contributions and not having to pay for permitting it would be approximately \$5500.

Helen Schoonmaker asked why it is considered partial and not 100%.

Richard responded because we are using the rooftop of the concession stand and there isn't enough space to go 100%; it's much cheaper to utilize the rooftop of a structure that is already there.

Kevin Dowd asked if there is anything unique about this system compared to any other system.

Richard responded no, Vanguard is using similar panels to any other company that is on the market. We would like to work with the town and are providing the lowest rate possible.

Mickey Millspaugh asked if the power being generated is going directly to the utility lines versus a storage facility. He commented the use is restricted due to the hours.

Richard responded there is no storage. The power is going directly to the main panel of the concession stand and whatever is overproduced is going back onto the grid. NYSEG will put in a digital meter that would spin both ways. He commented they are in talks with the Walden Fire Dept about placing solar on their building.

Trustee Leonard asked if Vanguard would service the panels, etc as needed.

Richard responded yes.

Village Manager's Report

- patching potholes and washouts
- repaired water break near Bank St.
- went over plans for water treatment building near well #4, waiting for approval from County
- several discussions with DEC, Engineers and Operators regarding sewer treatment plant, odor mitigation at the plant, added materials to the system to reduce any possible residual odors.
- Coordinated tree maintenance with NYSEG
- Continue to camera sewer and drainage lines on Westwood, Walnut and Rifton.

- Continue trimming trees
- Building Dept busy serving Notices to problem properties around the Village
- Discussed Biomass contract with Village Attorney
- Been shutting off water due to unpaid bills; almost all are paid and current or payment plans are in place. Received over \$30,000 in the two days. Some haven't paid their bill in over 11 years.
- Met with Rec Coordinator and Little League president about senior girl's team – on agenda.
- Company has repainted lines on the Square, Main Street, Grant, Elm and Hepper Streets. A few still need to be done.
- Met with Rec Coordinator and State Parks Dept regarding current grant application which includes amphitheatre. Working on closing out previous grant award from 2007-2009 to receive final payment.
- Coordinated with Town of Montgomery regarding Code Red System; our contract is signed and we're waiting on them.
- Meeting with Building Inspector, Village Attorney, Mayor, and Trustee Hoffman regarding absentee landlords and their buildings in the Village
- Graduation for the SYLA program was wonderful; kids were enthusiastic about program and their project landscaping the handicap section of Wooster's playground. The kids designed the signs.
- Received bids for water tank fences; it'll be added to the action items on the agenda.
- Conference with Village Attorney about using temporary employees to get skilled workers without having to outsource as much under prevailing wage law.
- A reporter from the Times Herald Record who also writes for several magazines toured the Village with the Mayor. Discussed some projects going on around the Village and branding the Village.
- The 6K on Saturday was well attended as well as the Senior BBQ.

Trustee Rumbold asked if all the meters are in now.

Manager Revella responded no, they stopped while doing the water shut-offs on unpaid water bills. Some weren't able to be shut-off due to valves needing to be replaced. They should be back on meters on Monday. The best guess on how many more meters that are needed is 80 and almost all of them have to do with replacing valves or plumbing in the house.

Trustee Rumbold asked if the police do a foot patrol of the playground area at Wooster's Park. She noted that damage has been found and assumed it was done at night.

Manager Revella responded he didn't know. When he has gone on ride-alongs with the police they would ride around the whole back with a spotlight and one could see all the way through the park.

Trustee Lown commented a nice job was done on the weeding out front.

Trustee's Committee Reports

Energy Efficiency Committee/DPW liaison – Trustee Leonard

Trustee Leonard commented the salesman was here for the hydraulic press equipment. The mechanic needs to determine what sizes of hoses and fittings are needed. We will be

doing our own hydraulic hoses to save money. He added he is also pursuing a credit card for the Village.

Shared Services Committee/Police Dept. liaison – Trustee Rumbold

Trustee Rumbold commented she met with the Chief and Manager Revella and the discussion went well. Regarding shared services, she has been doing research online and wasn't sure if she had the right to ask for more specific information from other municipalities.

Mayor Maher responded email first and use Village stationary.

Youth & Senior's Initiatives Committee – Trustee Lown

Trustee Lown commented the Youth Employment Program graduation is Thursday, August 11th at 7pm in the Bradley Assembly Room. The 14 students and businesses that participated will be acknowledged as well as the speakers that presented at the education and leadership skills workshops. Light refreshments will be served following. The students will do presentations of what they have learned in the program and at the workshops.

Building Dept liaison – Trustee Hoffman

Trustee Hoffman met with the Building Inspector, Village Attorney, Manager and the Mayor to discuss past practices and options for dealing with problem properties and reporting statistics. We discussed reporting what is outstanding, similar to the water meters.

Action Items

1) Septic Exception SBL 315-3-5.2

Manager Revella commented the Engineers have reviewed the system and it's operating well. They have no objection to the Board issuing a sewer waiver to the owners of the property.

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve the septic exception. Seconded by Trustee Lown.

Trustee Hoffman asked if it could be explained why this property requires an exception.

Manager Revella responded it has been present for some time and they are a certain distance from the sewer mains. There are other properties that have this exception.

All ayes. Motion carried.

2) Award of software contract – KVS

Manager Revella commented we received bids for new financial software. Trustee Bowen and office staff have reviewed the proposals. The financial proposals were reviewed by himself and the Clerk. All bidders were reviewed on certain criteria. It was narrowed down to two and both companies provided demonstrations.

Peter Sullivan confirmed the process followed and Trustee Bowen agreed with the choice. He indicated homeowners will be able to see online bill payment status; it will save tasks by not having to perform entries more than once.

Manager Revella indicated they are the lowest bidder as well.

Peter indicated the upfront investment is \$41,575.00, we have budgeted \$25,000. There were three quotes obtained as part of the budget process and the low bidder that provided the lowest bid did not submit for the RFP. We were planning on using current hardware, but it is not sufficient, so that is an added cost. Additionally, when we did the RFP, it didn't include requisitions, purchase orders, budget preparations or the online payments, so that is an added cost.

Mayor Maher asked if we have this money in the budget.

Manager Revella responded yes, it would come from budgeted software line plus the money set aside by paychex.

Peter indicated the contract was submitted and reviewed by Kevin and found satisfactory.

Trustee Lown made the motion to award the software contract to KVS. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

3) Overlook Block Party request – Aug 27th, 12 - 8 pm

Manager Revella commented a letter was received; they are looking to close off a few sections of Overlook for a BBQ from 12-8. They would like a couple of barricades from the police. They have a consensus from the neighbors and everyone is invited.

Mayor Maher commented he spoke with the Chief and it seems everything is in order.

Trustee Lown made the motion to approve the Overlook Block Party request. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

4) August 21st Parade & BBQ for Sr. Girls LL State Championship Team, 4pm

Mayor Maher indicated the same parade took place two years ago, it would be the same route, ending at Bradley Park.

George Brown, president of the Walden Community Little League. He thanked everyone for all their support for the girls all-star team the last few weeks. We are planning on a celebration for Aug 21 at Bradley Park, following a parade from the Village Square. There will be a presentation, BBQ, hopefully a DJ. There will be hot dogs, burgers, a tent and chairs. They are looking at setting up signs at the entrances to the Village.

Mike Bliss, recreation coordinator, commented he's been discussing funding with Manager Revella and George. The Little League organization is having a tough time. He has reviewed his budget to see if he could help. It is within his budget to be able to help with signage and assist with the BBQ, but he would need Board approval. It is not a Walden Recreation thing, it's a Little League thing, but it's a great community event and he thinks it should be supported.

Mayor Maher asked if the stage was necessary, since it's pretty labor-intensive.

George responded we are only looking at using part of the stage and it would be beneficial, not necessary.

Trustee Rumbold asked if we are allowed to expend taxpayer dollars on something like this.

Kevin responded it is of questionable legality to spend public money on a not for profit. The use of the stage would be okay.

Mayor Maher asked about the signage.

Kevin responded the food or signage, if it's being paid for by Village taxpayer money, it is not permitted.

Manager Revella commented the celebration itself is where the possibility is.

Trustee Rumbold commented she recalls the discussion from last time

Mayor Maher asked if there is anything we can do.

Kevin responded we are not allowed to spend any taxpayer money for any not for profit. If it is a Village sponsored event or Village sponsored celebration, then that is different.

Manager Revella commented that is what he thought the request was for.

Kevin responded the way it was presented, the Village was supplementing it. There is a list of celebrations we are supposed to have, like 4th of July; this would be a special occasion. It's questionable, but as long as it is a Village sponsored event, you can get the insurance coverage and spend money.

Mayor Maher commented this could be viewed as a Village sponsored celebration and he has no problem calling it that, although it happened two years ago it doesn't happen often and it's definitely something we should be proud of.

Trustee Rumbold commented she doesn't know how to get around that, if it's a Village sponsored celebration then it's the Village that is paying for what happens during that celebration.

Mayor Maher responded the non profit could still donate to the Village for the event.

Kevin confirmed they could donate money to the event, similar to the Buddhist event. Other not for profits might have reasons to celebrate and could come back to you and say it should be a Village wide celebration.

Trustee Rumbold commented this was not something listed in the budget for the police so where is the money going to come from.

Mayor Maher responded he has spoken with the Chief two different times. The TLC event was budgeted for and that event was cancelled, this could be covered by those costs. He believes \$2200 was budgeted for TLC, but he doesn't know the exact number for this event.

Manager Revella confirmed that the Chief took into account there would be so many events during the year when he presented the overtime budget. Some of those events were discussed and how many personnel would be needed. Some of the things that were taken into account for those numbers are not going to occur this year so it's possible it could be covered by that money. He did not speak to the Chief himself before he left, but Brian did.

Trustee Rumbold responded that's part of the budget and if you are not going to have an event then that money is absorbed from use of other overtime issues. She doesn't see how it is called extra money.

Trustee Lown responded it's not extra, it was appropriated for one thing and it's going to be utilized for something other.

Trustee Rumbold asked Mike how much he is anticipating coming out of his budget.

Mike responded he has a meeting tonight at 8; estimating with the Senior BBQ it was approximately \$500. George and the Little League are doing some fundraising too.

Trustee Leonard commented this would have to be approved tonight.

Trustee Lown asked if \$500 would be a safe estimate.

George stated he would be surprised if it was that much.

Trustee Rumbold commented she is all for it, she's just worried about setting a precedent.

Mayor Maher responded it is a precedent worth setting and if other non profits want to come here with a reason to celebrate and giving each one time of day is enough and we make a decision based on our budget and based on the event whether or not we do it.

Trustee Lown commented we need to support our youth.

Trustee Rumbold commented we are talking about taxpayer money. She is proud of the girls and that is not the issue. She asked about the league being called Walden/Walkill. She asked if Walkill has been helping too.

George responded 5 girls come from Walkill. There was a shortage of players from both Walden and Walkill, so we took their 5 players and our 7 players. He responded that Walkill has been helping out as well. The community has been so wonderful as well and the hotel and food has been covered these past few weeks.

Mayor Maher asked if anyone would like to make a motion to have the Village sponsor a parade on August 21st and BBQ for the senior girls championship team at 4pm, to have the route approved last time by the Chief leading to Bradley Park with an amount from the Park and Rec dept not to exceed \$500.

Trustee Lown made the motion to approve the Village sponsored Parade & BBQ for the Sr. Girls Little League Team, with an amount not to exceed \$500. Seconded by Trustee Hoffman.

Kevin confirmed this is a Village sponsored event.

Trustee Rumbold asked if there is a policy in place as a Village or a Board what the criteria is for a Village sponsored event.

Kevin responded then it becomes subject to your own discretionary decisions, so that others asking for sponsorship by the Village, there is no problem deciding if it fits within the criteria already established. There really isn't a policy; you're creating a policy by your acts.

Trustee Hoffman – aye

Trustee Lown – aye

Trustee Rumbold – aye

Trustee Leonard – aye

Motion carried.

5) Turn the Town Teal

Trustee Lown commented September is Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month, it is known as the silent disease. The Corinne Feller Memorial Fund headed by Nicole Feller Lee was approached by this campaign last year in the Village of Montgomery. They put up teal ribbons to promote awareness and they are trying to expand this year. It would be great to support them, there is no involvement. Nicole's committee makes the ribbons and will put them up on Main Street as well as the Village Square. They would take them down as well. The ribbons would be offered to any businesses on Main Street or in the area if they wanted to. Literature would be provided explaining what the ribbons are for. Nicole is asking for the Village's support.

Mayor Maher commented there are places the ribbons can and can't go.

Kevin responded the ribbons can go on private property, trees or fence posts, that would be no problem. The problems are when signs or ribbons are put on public property. This is a great cause; that is not the question. There are other organizations who are not as altruistic or properly motivated that want to use the Village signposts or lights to put up something that symbolizes something that could be offensive to some people and if you give approval for this, it opens it up to others. The Village could designate a specific spot.

Trustee Lown commented she believes Nicole would be putting them on the trees, not the signs or lamp-posts.

Mayor Maher asked if they could be put on trees; is there an ordinance.

Kevin commented to stay away from signs. He commented he was not consulted on this in the Village of Montgomery last year.

Trustee Lown responded the Town of Montgomery approved it.

Mayor Maher asked the Board their opinion.

Trustee Hoffman responded he is okay with trees and confirmed there was no lettering on the ribbons.

Trustee Lown commented they are put on Sept 1 and off Oct 1st.

Trustee Rumbold commented businesses should be focused on first.

Mayor Maher responded the businesses will respond. He thinks there is a difference between the ribbons and signs. He commented he doesn't have an issue with the trees.

Trustee Lown made the motion to approve Turn the Town Teal with ribbons on trees. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

6) Surplus Jeep Cherokee - \$1500 minimum

Manager Revella commented this is the former dog catcher vehicle.

Trustee Lown motioned to surplus the Jeep Cherokee. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold.

Trustee Rumbold asked if the dog catcher is still catching dogs.

Manager Revella responded an old police car is being retrofitted.

All ayes. Motion carried.

7) Valley Avenue Block Party

Kate Connolly, 36 Valley Ave, asked permission for a Block Party on Sept 17th from 10-5. They are asking for the street to be blocked off from Williams to Woodruff. This is their third year and every year it gets bigger. They have signed petitions from area neighbors.

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve the Valley Avenue Block Party. Seconded by Trustee Lown.

Manager Revella added with a rain date of Sept 18th.

All ayes. Motion carried.

8) Fencing Bid Award

Manager Revella commented we received the bids for the fencing around the water tanks. The recommendation from the Engineers is to reject; they are too high.

Trustee Lown moved to reject the fencing bids. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold.

Trustee Hoffman asked if we will be bidding again and changing the scope.

Manager Revella responded we did change the scope; they are reevaluating the fencing, we might not have to request for proposals for sealed bids and be able to solicit the bids in written form due to the amount if we do one tank's fencing. We would solicit the bids from the same companies and possibly some others. The proposals went out with recommendations from Homeland Security, a 6 foot fence with barbed wire or an 8 foot

fence. Perimeter amount was questionable, so we are evaluating that. Instead of doing three tanks this year, we will only do one and hopefully budget next year for the other two.

All ayes. Motion carried.

9) Olley Park Payment

Manager Revella commented we had left off 25% of the final price. Engineers have evaluated the project, went through the punch list and are recommending that another 20% be paid.

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve 20% payment for the Olley Park comfort station. Seconded by Trustee Lown.

Trustee Hoffman asked if anything is retained.

Manager Revella responded 5%.

Trustee Rumbold asked if the sink issue was rectified and at whose cost.

Manager Revella responded yes, it was replaced at their cost. Other items on the punch list were also taken care of, including the garage door sensor being installed.

Trustee Rumbold asked how much is left to pay.

Manager Revella responded \$7,474.95 which is the 5%, unless he provides a maintenance bond.

Trustee Hoffman confirmed we will hold that 5% for one year.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion Items

1) Possible 9-11 Ceremony

Mayor Maher commented he met with Reverend Jim VanHouten about a 9-11 ceremony held 9/11 at 7pm in the Square to honor Walden's first responders. Walden was one of the only communities that was invited to respond to 9-11. There were not a lot of communities with DPW's that went with trucks to help and Walden got that call and answered without hesitation. This ceremony would be to honor those individuals some of which have passed away and commemorate them. He spoke with the Chief, it would be okay to shut down the Square and the cost would not exceed something like \$700.

Trustee Lown asked what the plans are.

Mayor Maher responded Rev. VanHouten is getting together with other clergy and those that were involved 10 years ago. We would like to do certificates on behalf of the Village, costing less than \$100. The sound system will be donated, the ceremony would honor those individuals, there will be some prayers, one of the local schools might perform 1 or 2 pieces, then a candlelight vigil. The Chief recommended the Square be closed from 6:30 – 9 pm, although it should be done by 8:30.

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve the 9-11 Ceremony. Seconded by Trustee Lown.

Trustee Hoffman asked that it doesn't interfere with any other events around the County.

Mayor Maher responded that was his chief concern as well.

All ayes. Motion carried.

2) Cross Street – possible One-Way Street

Manager Revella commented he spoke with the Chief and concerned residents. It would be beneficial in both aspects to have the one way go from South Montgomery towards 52 on Cross Street due to sight constraints and width constraints.

Mayor Maher asked if the other street would be one way as well.

Manager Revella responded no, that would be both directions. One way signs at top and bottom with do not enter signs would be needed.

Mayor Maher asked if a local law would be needed.

Manager Revella commented something could be drafted for the next meeting.

Trustee Hoffman asked to see some information on that intersection from the Chief.

Kevin commented the draft for the stop signs is available now and this can be added to it.

3) Water Board/Commission

Trustee Hoffman commented he brought it up due to the many disputed bills lately. This could be a means or method of dealing with disputed bills more efficiently.

Mayor Maher responded that it could save some time at the meetings or possibly give some discretion to an employee, it could create a more efficient process.

Kevin responded state law allows Villages to have a Water Commission and historically the Village of Walden had one. Those Commissions were organized to oversee the water system, not necessarily for issues of bills. Sometimes these Commissions tend to become political. If it's the issue of the bills themselves, then possibly delegate authority to the Manager, with a dollar amount on it, so the Board wouldn't see a dispute about a \$7 fee for example. A committee could be set up to make recommendations on the higher amounts in dispute. A Water Commission is really set up to oversee the water system as a whole.

Mayor Maher appreciated the comments. He wouldn't mind seeing more research and proposals based on what Kevin recommended.

Kevin recommended a committee of the Board, maybe 2 or 3 Board members with the Manager, created specifically for this purpose.

Trustee Hoffman asked if this committee would also handle refuse bill disputes.

Kevin responded yes, this could be another committee to hear disputes, investigate the disputes and make recommendations to the Board.

Mayor Maher commented this will be discussed further.

4) Stop Signs

Manager Revella commented there are a few stop signs around the Village that need to be put into our Code to they can be patrolled properly. Gracewood Court, Alfred Place, Galloway, Evergreen, Blossom and Spruce Courts would be included.

Kevin commented he drafted the local law. Gracewood Court was cut off when it printed.

Manager Revella commented there is another section in the Village that he'd like to discuss with the Chief before we make the recommendation. There is an issue at Hidden View and Evergreen.

Mayor Maher commented then we will wait.

Kevin commented there was a problem with enforcement with the Courts. Right now our Code has the ability for the Chief to issue no parking signs when there are projects around the Village and the Judge raised the issue there is no fine attached to it. We would adopt the law to make sure there is a clearly defined penalty when those temporary no parking signs are posted.

Mayor Maher asked the Board if the numbers were acceptable. The fine would be not less than \$35 or more than \$250.

Kevin clarified these are the same fines as in the Snow Emergency. If we are adding Cross Street into this, then we could introduce it at the first meeting in September, have the public hearing and adopt the local law at the second September meeting.

5) Main Street Crosswalk

Mayor Maher commented this came up with many residents, seniors and members of our commercial district about a possible third crosswalk on Main Street by Millspaugh. There are positives and negatives; we do have a long Main Street and it would provide another crossing, it could also be difficult since it could cause more traffic build-up on Main Street.

Manager Revella commented the proposed area would be by the Related Management Building where there is currently no parking to cross Main. We would need approval from NYS DOT.

Trustee Hoffman asked if we would need depressed curbs as well.

Manager Revella responded we would probably need depressed curbs.

Trustee Rumbold commented that if cars yield to pedestrians there like they do at the Hess Station, she'll be picking pedestrians up out of the road. They don't stop, yield, nothing.

Mayor Maher recommended getting advised by the NYS DOT and to discuss it at the next meeting.

6) Credit Card

Trustee Leonard provided a handout on the credit card proposal. It gives a great overview on the cards, it is a state program. There are many built-in protections. He would like to see it approved tonight since it will take some time to complete the process. We would have to submit an application to the State, it is a 10 year contract and it would be with Citibank.

Kevin commented that as long as it is carefully monitored, there should be no problems.

Peter commented it is a State contract so it relieves us from the RFP process. It provides a travel card and a purchase card. It is a good way to buy smaller items without using purchase orders. There is a rebate portion of the program that many larger governments are using to build up a rebate. We might grow into that. There is a credit check that is done and since it is a State program there are many training materials available, with sample policy and procedures also supplied.

Mayor Maher commented he would take the blame for this not getting on as an action item. The biggest concern from the last meetings discussion, it would be approved based on the card being used for specific individual things.

Manager Revella commented we have called Albany to get some sample policies for the use of the credit card.

Mayor Maher commented for motion purposes, it would be approved based on the discretion of the Village Treasurer or Manager for its use.

Manager Revella recommended the discretion of both the Treasurer and Manager; you'd want that double coverage.

Trustee Lown asked about the travel card and who would have possession of it.

Manager Revella responded the cards would remain in the Treasurers office or the safe and be signed out to an individual for a specific purpose. The travel card would be used for a conference at a hotel and would be approved.

Trustee Leonard commented the Chief has stated that hotels are less apt to take purchase orders now. The treasurer could access at any time all transactions online.

Mayor Maher has spoken with Trustee Bowen and he was in favor. He clarified the motion with Kevin.

Kevin clarified the motion is to approve this credit card system subject to a policy in place.

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve the credit card subject to a policy. Seconded by Trustee Lown.

Trustee Rumbold asked about hacking.

Manager Revella responded there are safeguards in place.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Helen Schoonmaker, 7 Westwood Drive commented that she was approached by the seniors regarding the crosswalk. The beauty parlor downstairs from them closed and now they are walking across the street to get to the other beauty parlor. She attended the senior BBQ and it was great. She commented about the group that waited on her being very polite and extremely helpful. She thanked the recreation department. She asked about the celebration for the girls softball team and if a business could donate. She asked if the electric poles could be decorated with the teal ribbons.

Manager Revella responded any business could donate money for the celebration. He also responded that the Village doesn't own the electric poles so that would be up to the electric company.

Brenda Adams, 31 Valley Ave, commented the credit card policy should include something about the bill always being paid on time to avoid interest.

Anita Vandermark, Highland Ave. thanked the Village for weeding. She thanked everyone for the BBQ and concert: the parks dept and the youth movement. She commented regarding the little league celebration that she will put it in her column in the paper if anyone can make a donation. She announced the Community Council picnic is Weds at Olley Park at 6pm. The Walden Youth Employment Graduation is Thursday the 11th and Aug. 13th is the Mason's Chicken BBQ at Town of Crawford. Aug 17th is the book signing for David Lustig at the Walden House. Also on Aug 21st is the Be the Movement backpack giveaway at Wooster's Grove from 12-3, donations are being accepted for that as well.

Lynn Schwandt, 142 N. Montgomery, asked what was wrong with the sewer plant and if it has been fixed.

Manager Revella responded they were transferring sludge to the new system, it should have taken a maximum of two days and it ended up taking eleven with the new aeration. Odor control substances had to be added. He believes we are over the hump, any future odors in the future should be minimal; he can't guarantee no odors in the future.

Trustee Rumbold asked if we send out Notices letting residents know there could be an issue.

Manager Revella responded he sent out Notices last summer letting residents know the work that needed to be done with a timeline. Sometimes the residents call or stop in and he has stopped at peoples home to discuss it. The DEC does that same.

Jessica Metzger, 4 Gracewood Court, asked if the Comptroller's office published their report yet.

Manager Revella responded no, it hasn't been published yet and we don't have a timeframe.

Jessica asked for the public comment portion prior to the action items be brought back; she will bring this up at every meeting. The questions she had include, action item #1. She asked if this property has had the exception before or is it a new property.

Manager Revella responded it had the exception before, the property is 200 Orange Avenue.

Jessica asked about action item #4, the girls little league celebration. She commented she is very proud of the girls, however she strongly opposes the use of any public funds or any circumventing of this Board to appropriate public funds for this. Several years ago, her child was in little league, it cost \$135 to participate and she either paid an additional \$40 or worked the concession stand. There is a lot of fund raising that goes on plus what the Village already does for the little league. It is setting a precedent and when you circumvent the system to appropriate public funds to this, it does not sit well with some of us in this audience. She appreciates the questions raised by Trustee Rumbold. This event is taking place on Aug 21st and police is now needed. No one has asked about scheduling. Her husband happens to be the scheduler and this event is taking place in 12 days and the Board is not having another meeting until September. She asked why there is only one meeting in August.

Trustee Leonard responded due to vacations.

Jessica responded so you are now going to put on a police department that is down to one Sergeant and a Chief that is away on vacation 12 days to schedule people to come in for a parade and no one has brought that up.

Mayor Maher responded the police dept has been in the loop and the Chief. I'm sure the Chief has put plans in place; we have his approval and we talked about budget concerns and manpower.

Jessica responded this Board does not meet in August because of vacations. She is not speaking for the Chief, but if she was sitting on the Board there are questions that she would ask. She reiterated that there should be a public comment portion prior to the action items. She would like that put on as a discussion item for the next meeting. She asked about the credit card and why are you considering a larger corporate card. She recalls a few months ago, when the Board graciously waived a second mortgage on a property at the request of Walden Savings Bank. She would like to think that Walden Savings Bank or another local bank would like to offer the Village some credit. If the bill is paid each month, there should be no problem with the interest rate. She complained this item was not even on the Agenda and there were other items not on the Agenda. She asked about Alfred Park. There has been nothing done. She missed the past three meetings and it's her understanding there were some local residents that have spoken to the Board regarding their concerns. She knows that some of those that came and spoke were personally invited to attend the park and recreation meeting and they didn't show up. They were invited to another meeting and didn't show up. It is hard to get the public involved and they get involved when they are upset about something. She stated Mike Bliss personally went to them and asked them to come to the park & recreation meeting and she doesn't know why anyone is back-pedaling saying something was done or they weren't informed. This Village has a website and there are Board meetings twice per month. She commented this has been going on for almost 2 years and when is work going to start.

Manager Revella responded there were some comments from the public that live in the area made to the Board and the Board thought it would be in the best interest to obtain a basketball hoop that could be locked in place or removable. We are looking for this type of basketball hoop. Until that hoop is replaced, it is not in the best interest to get any pavement until that is done.

Jessica responded there are other things that could be done. The only park on the west side is sitting there like an overgrown mess. She commented you voted on this, the budget is passed, you have the money, the work needs to be done.

Mary Ellen Matise, 21 Clinton Street, thanked the Village and Mike Bliss for the 6K Race in Ron's memory. She commented the Walkkill River has been designated an inland waterway and asked how does that impact us as an MS4 community.

Manager Revella responded it doesn't increase our responsibilities as an MS4.

Mary Ellen asked about the Pine Street boat launch, TLC and Mike were in contact with each other. TLC was going to volunteer. She asked about the meeting with State Parks and something was mentioned about the previous grant.

Manager Revella responded the prior grant wasn't closed out.

Mary Ellen commented about a meeting with the Fire Dept and Historical Society; if those buildings are not used then they revert back to the village. She asked if there are any ideas or will there be public input if they are reverted back to the Village.

Manager Revella responded we are getting the reports from the Fire District as to their condition and we'll make an assessment based on that. They are not planning on moving out any time soon.

Mary Ellen commented that the Olley Park comfort station is very nice. She commented about the demolition law and historic buildings. The silo foundation and flag pole were removed down at Olley so we disregarded our own demolition law. There is nothing left to say it was ever a farm and that is disappointing. She commented about the water commission starting in 1892 or 1893 and it was started to develop the water system. She believes after the Management system was adopted the water commission wasn't needed anymore.

Approval of the Minutes – July 26, 2011

Trustee Rumbold moved to approve the minutes. Seconded by Trustee Lown.

Trustee Rumbold commented that under the adjournment, it states Trustee Lown moved it and seconded it.

The vote will be for the minutes as amended.

All ayes. Minutes approved.

Payment of the Audited Bills

Trustee Rumbold moved to pay the audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Lown.

Trustee Rumbold commented the bills are still lacking descriptions. If this is a system of checks and balances, it would be nice to know what we are looking at.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Manager Revella commented that Kevin sent out a letter to Beazer and we have received a response. It is in the packets. Phase one has been reviewed and is up to specifications.

Kevin commented he had a call from the Engineer and Beazer will begin work on the punch list items next week.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Leonard thanked John Katonah for the sound system. He thanked Anita with her help for the Senior BBQ.

Trustee Rumbold thanked Trustees Leonard and Bowen for the BBQ. It was a great group of kids and commended their parents who taught them to be good citizens. She thanked the park and recreation dept for the summer program. It was a great success. She expressed concern about the damage at Wooster's Grove. We need to talk to the police department about possibly foot patrolling the area once in a while.

Trustee Lown commented how great the SYLA program was. She is excited about the graduation on Thursday. There are many great things going on in our community.

Trustee Hoffman congratulated Mike Bliss on the 6K race and the summer program. He commented the Walden police dept has certified personnel to help install car seats.

Mayor Maher reiterated everything already commented on. The Montgomery Youth Movement is great and the parents are greatly involved. The Senior BBQ was great and a great tribute to Midge.

Executive Session – Property Purchase

Trustee Hoffman made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss property purchase. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

Trustee Lown moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
August 9, 2011
Motions & Resolutions**

Septic Exception SBL 315-3-5.2

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve the septic exception. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

Award of software contract – KVS

Trustee Lown made the motion to award the software contract to KVS. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Overlook Block Party request – Aug 27th, 12 - 8 pm

Trustee Lown made the motion to approve the Overlook Block Party request. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

August 21st Parade & BBQ for Sr. Girls LL State Championship Team, 4pm

Trustee Lown made the motion to approve the Village sponsored Parade & BBQ for the Sr. Girls Little League Team, with an amount not to exceed \$500. Seconded by Trustee Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Turn the Town Teal

Trustee Lown made the motion to approve Turn the Town Teal with ribbons on trees. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Surplus Jeep Cherokee - \$1500 minimum

Trustee Lown motioned to surplus the Jeep Cherokee. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Valley Avenue Block Party

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve the Valley Avenue Block Party. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fencing Bid Award

Trustee Lown moved to reject the fencing bids. Seconded by Trustee Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Olley Park Payment

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve 20% payment for the Olley Park comfort station. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

9-11 Ceremony

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve the 9-11 Ceremony. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

Credit Card

Trustee Leonard made the motion to approve the credit card subject to a policy. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of the Minutes – July 26, 2011

Trustee Rumbold moved to approve the amended minutes. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

Payment of the Audited Bills

Trustee Rumbold moved to pay the audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Session – Property Purchase

Trustee Hoffman made the motion to go into Executive Session to discuss property purchase. Seconded by Trustee Lown. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

Trustee Lown moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

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