

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
February 18, 2014**

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	Bernard Bowen
	Willie Carley
	Sean Hoffman
	Edmond Leonard
	Gerald Mishk

Absent:

Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager
Marisa Kraus, Administrative Assistant
Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

Presentation – Valley Central School District - Budget

Dr Hooley, Valley Central Superintendent, thanked the Mayor and the Board for having him there. Start with some history of where we have been, Valley Central this time last year they were talking about an 8 million dollar budget gap. Couple issues in the district. In 2008-09 financial crises, NYS didn't have enough money to aid the school district. At that time Governor Patterson gave gap elimination adjustment. They went around and looked at school districts, went to the income tax forms where you put your school district in and used that to calculate the relative wealth of school district and then compared that to taxes. They concluded that VC wasn't taxing to the level that other districts do. They said that VC will get less aid and should increase taxes. That year and next 5 years, VC had 5.4 million dollars taken away from the budget. That money hasn't been fully restored at this point. Even this year, we have the Governor's aid package, \$799,000. Of that, \$701,000 was restoring part of this money. So we have an allotment of \$99,000 dollars in aide. The Governor tells you that you have 3% increase in state aide. What we got was a restoration that was taken away 5 years ago. In the last 5 years we have lost over 24 million in aide and has been made up by either by tax payers, or by cuts or by Federal Programs. Some of you may remember that as the recession began, Federal money came to our district in the form of American Recovery Investment Act and we used that money to fill the gap. The following year there was the job fill and that was used to fill that gap but then after that, there was no federal money. In VC we have cut over 100 staff, lost bunch of personnel programs. Last year the 8 million dollar gap wasn't the sole problem of gap elimination and declining aide. There was an increase in the cost said by the state for retirement. That went up 2 million by the state. That is run by the state and the bill is delivered to us based on the rolling average of the stock market. Coming off that rolling average, that increase to

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a district of our size was 2 million dollars. There was an increase cost to special education to 1.5 million. We had spent the prior year, \$3.1 million in fund balance. Which is the money used for rainy day to support programs for students. We have another \$1.4 million in contractual obligation. When we began to build the next budget that \$3.1 million dollars that we had spent in the fund balance, we didn't have anymore. So all these contributed to the gap. The Board said we have an 8 million dollar problem, how are we going to fix this? First thing was the painful closing of Maybrook Elementary School. It saved the district about \$800,000 or .8 million dollars. We did get some restoration of the capital elimination to the .8 million dollars. There's a thing we call "breakage". It's where people retire and are able to hire younger, cheaper staff members to take their place. We had many people retire last year and that breakage saved 1.2 million dollars. By law we must hire back those people that have been laid off or those with the most seniority. But what that means is if they are hired back, they are at step 8 of their contract. We are not trading a 25yr veteran for a first year teacher, we are trading a 25 year veteran for a teacher with 8 years experience. The Board and I and administration have spent the last 5 years making cuts as far away from instructional program. Last year we eviscerated an early literacy program that was non quality. In addition to that, we cut almost all of the department chairs and supervisors except 5 major subject areas. Cut modified sports program. The Board then decided to pierce the cap. In order to pierce the cap you have to have a 60% vote to pass budget above cap. One point on the levy = 5k on the budget. We still had 2.9 million of programs and personnel to keep. We pierced the cap and it was a high number and the vote failed. When the vote fails, if you do nothing, you have a 0 increase the next year. They felt they should at least go out and get civil majority at the cap. In order to balance and fill the 8 million dollar hole, we had to cut the 2.9 million we had hoped to pierce the cap by. That is when we had to make the very difficult cuts of full time kindergarten, elimination of art, music and library, by certified teachers in those areas. It is required to have some levels of music but is not taught by certified teachers. We eliminated JV and modified sports. Extended some other cuts. Budget passed with civil majority and those cuts are in place. Now people are miserable. The Board wanted to try to help people understand. They formed a finance committee of members of the public and community. They have been to CABC meetings, have a background in finance. We have people there with young children that aren't even in school. We have someone who works for Nugent and Housing. We have Peter Rodin who is a retired business official for the VC Schools. Finance committee has done some of the work in getting out the word on Facebook and web page. We changed the CABC process, the results of that are on the schedule. You can see that instead of having 2 and half hour meetings, where people have to wait hours to ask questions, we build into our Board meetings various topics. So, you can see that on January 27th, the Board took up athletics, transportation and other requested items. On the 3rd, we took up the Governor's budget, special education etc. Those were all part of the minutes; there are also handouts that you can look at. Did it by a line by line system. Welcome questions and phone calls. The Board asked him to go out to community groups such as yours and also groups such as scouts and the swim team, PTAs to do presentations on this to help people to understand or can ask questions. We have the same meeting at 6 locations so that it is convenient for the vast majority to see it. We are at this point developing the budget and it won't be until March that they have a budget to share. His direct line at work is 457-3108. We answer all calls. He works a lot of Sundays. We understand that it is their job to communicate. Would rather do it by phone, it's quicker than email. Will do whatever he needs to.

Trustee Bowen asked where we are with the fund balance this year.

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Dr. Hooley said the fund balance is a confusing topic for a lot of people. In the fund balance, we have reserves that are stipulated by law that are voted on in public and are used to pay specific debts. We have depleted tax certiorari reserve, which is part of the fund balance. We have forms on website to see how we have gone down. It is a very clear decline on fund balance in the last 3 or 4 years. We are at the point that by next year if something doesn't happen and we get a tax certiorari request, we will have to take it out of the operating budget. Those reserves that make up most of the fund balance are very depleted. The appropriated and unappropriated fund balance, which are the ones that are available, are also much lower. We put it in this year's budget a 2 million dollar cushion. We are not allowed to have a contingency line in a school budget. There is no way to put a contingency in a budget so what you have to do is you put money in the budget in areas that you hope you won't expend it so that you have it in case of an emergency.

Trustee Bowen asked if their projected taxes for this year looking better.

Dr. Hooley replied that they're not there yet as it's too early in the budget process. We typically do that by the March meeting. But we haven't even talked about restoration or cuts at this point.

Trustee Bowen asked if that financial committee analyzed what the projected as to what they have used so far.

Dr. Hooley said that their job is advisory. We are looking at budget, as we do every month. You can imagine in a year like this, with all the snow, over time and salt it just completely skewed the budget. We build the budget with community and Board input. If we pierce the cap, it would be a different budget if we went under the cap. So, can't possibly talk about that at this point.

Mayor Maher added in regards to tax exemptions, for example, not having a cushion and taking it out of the general budget, does that mean Star exemptions?

Dr. Hooley responded that if he were to go to small claims court because he thinks his taxes are too high, they can assess it and go to court and collect his money this year out of the current operating funds of the district. There is no way to predict those. Never know how many are coming. The hard ones are the corporations that are saying they are over taxed. And when they have a lawyer, they say they want a rebate on taxes starting in 2009 going to 2014 and the total is \$250k. That money typically if you're a good school district and you have money in a fund balance, that money is in a reserve and you can pay. When you don't have that \$250k, that money will have to come out of the operating budget or the general fund or the fund balance. And if you don't have a fund balance of some size, you are in danger. And we are getting very close.

Mayor Maher asked about borrowing.

Dr. Hooley said that they would have to pay interest on borrowing.

Mayor Maher questioned what the debt limit looked like at this point. What is the percentage?

Dr. Hooley stated that the debt service is great. Just got a double A rating. But one thing that is going to hurt that is the fund balance. We have 3 million in outstanding debt. That's relatively low. In this atmosphere, you can't go out and ask people to bond and repairs.

Trustee Leonard brought up that the Board became aware that last year there was students in this area were being bused outside of the area to East Coldenham and Berea. For the cost of busing, what's the justification for that?

Dr. Hooley said that it was the capacity of the buildings. When Berea was built there was a prediction of where they would be pulled from. It's the Eastern side of the Village of Walden. There is not enough capacity for all the kids in the district. The hard part for people to understand is outside of Walden, are homes that would create an even longer ride thru Walden to Berea. So you take the houses that are further out into Walden and take some of the kids that are closer to Berea and send them to Berea but there are kids that might live in the Village of Walden. Same is true for Montgomery. There are Montgomery kids that go to Berea because there are kids that live way out in our district and you wouldn't want to drive them past Montgomery to Berea. It's more about drawing those lines. Other thing we can certainly do is redraw the lines. And we do that periodically which is unsettling to the community. It has not impacted class sizes dramatically. We have better sizes this year than last.

Mayor Maher wanted to recognize Matt Flanagan, who is a Village of Walden business owner, Flanagan Chiropractic and is a Valley Central Board member.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold stated that she served on the Board of education for 6 years and it almost sounds that it gives the impression that you find it almost impossible to have to work within that tax cap. When she looks online at the discussions, it's almost a given. Like, here's our tax cap, we're going to have to surpass that.

Dr. Hooley said the tax cap is a popular solution to a problem that can't be solved that way. So in this year, where we have had tremendous over time, no salt etc., any blanket tax cap is hard to manage. There are different ways that this could have been done. But what it would mean is the opportunity for students may not be available. Himself and all the other central office administrators, assistant and deputy superintendent, took zero increases. He froze his salary for 3 times over the course of his time there. Community should be proud of district. We are not a school district with a lot of fluff. VC does all the hearings and discipline hearings for drugs, alcohol, weapons, violence, are all done by him. Other districts hire outside lawyers. His secretary is his clerk. Others have separate. No strings to cut. Would say these cost savings have been in place and are not things can do without it. Our Business official went to a meeting, when we had 5.4 million in gap elimination, Washingtonville had 2.9. And that's almost 3 million dollars more and we are sister school districts. You will see other districts will be doing the same things we are doing.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold said that some constituents also asked that during the budget process last year, when we were talking about eliminating teachers, programs, why was there not also a concentration on administrative cuts.

Dr. Hooley said that what you will see this year is that taken up. Will tell you that safe schools and management of school is very important to parents. Discipline in the middle
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school and high school are fair and equitable. We have people in the halls to supervise have less issues. Don't want to be shorthanded to manage any crisis.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold mentioned while watching this process, people have said "trend" and can see this trend throughout NYS with school districts. What is VC doing? What have we done? Every budget it seems is a struggle. More is being cut. Looking at trends correctly, the writing is on the wall. A lot of people are feeling like we weren't prepared. Or we ignored the signs. Now in desperation, we're doing things just to pass a budget. So, what are we doing to prepare, if this trend continues for the next 5 years?

Dr. Hooley wanted to point out that in the year that they were given the gap elimination, 5.4 million dollars, the state determined that we were low on administrative cost. And that brought back some of the money because they had more than 5.4 million dollars planned to deduct from us. Although it may seem that we are heavy in administration but we are not based on the number of kids we serve. In this year, we are doing a 5 year projected budget, this is election year, the budget prediction is going to be wrong. Trying to predict budgets in this state is tough. But we will go ahead and try. We are one of the few districts that created a revenue strain when we have reading recovery program. We have collected from other districts by doing the training for the extensive reading program. That reading program is now cut. Consolidated our out of district busing. Looking for those all the time. Other suggestions, people have suggested 2 tiered busing, where they put the middle school and high school on the same buses. We would need 25 more buses for that.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if we still do anything with distance learning.

Dr. Hooley stated that it has not been viable for us but are in a process of looking at other options for that. The trick about that is the new common core, there has to be a tie to the teacher and students for testing. He believes they will do something called credit recovery, where if students do not pass the class, they can come during evening high school or online. That may expand over time. Distance learning is more of a cost than revenue.

Trustee Hoffman asked what we are looking for in terms of restorations. And how does kindergarten tie in with the governor.

Dr. Hooley said that if you build a foundation that is strong with kindergarten then you are doing the right thing by the community and school district. Last year graduating class was the first half day kindergarten, and it has paid off handsomely especially with early reading. When they tried to get full day kindergarten, there was also money from the state to encourage it. That money went away. And he would be willing to bet that that's what is going to happen with pre-k. It is a stupid notion that we would fund pre-k when finances are tight. That being said he thinks that there is a lot of concern of what is lost in the budget, hopes that people would see that we're going to have to restore some things. When you don't spend fund balance and live within your means and you manage tightly, but when you extend the fund balance it causes you to have a hole next year. We will probably be in a much better place in going forward this year. Preliminary numbers as we begin this process is there looks to be about a million dollar gap between revenue and expenditures.

Trustee Hoffman brought up that he mentioned the cooperation of other municipalities, is there anything that this Board can do to help you specifically?

Dr. Hooley said that someone brought to his attention, we have a system to make phone calls to our families and our system is based on student population. And other municipalities have Code Red. Everybody says; go out to bid for this. Some point in the future it would make great sense to go with Code Red. We want to reach out to all voters but we can't just use that system to reach out to parents because then you're not giving everybody the same opportunity. We tried to work on the finger print system. Could get machine but was not able to work that out.

Mayor Maher suggested a follow up meeting with Manager Revella and Trustee Carley.

Dr. Hooley agreed.

Trustee Carley thanked Dr. Hooley for coming. The information is beneficial. How effective are the community meetings?

Dr. Hooley said the test is the vote. Last year was impossible to leave the budget the way it was. Everybody has a reason for why the budget failed so the Board felt that we had to change it and we won't know how effective until the end.

Trustee Carley questioned how we compare to other districts both financially and education wise.

Dr. Hooley said the Mid-Hudson School Study Council compares 58 schools at a variety of measures. And it distills every procure spending. Let's say the cost of sports. What they do is they take the number of kids and cost of that program and you look at it and it's fractional. Special Education cost might be \$17 per child. That's because you have taken the cost of Special Ed and divide it by the whole population. Get a measure that is control by size of district, then you can compare schools on any topic. Even in cost for employees. We get low minimum, lowest per pupil cost in the county when it comes to how much money we spend to educate a child. It's a complicated report to understand. We compare favorably. Return on the investment. The test scores in some regents are terrific, routinely in the 90s passing physics which is much better than other districts. There are a lot of different ways to look at this and he is happy to sit down and go over this.

Trustee Carley brought up that when he was running for school Board, one of the things that kept coming up was the notion of consolidating school districts. Has that been another option?

Dr. Hooley said the Commissioner of Education made no bones about the fact that he believes that is the solution. Several hundred districts in the state, some are small. Worked in one that was K-12 with 800 kids and the neighboring school district was K-12 with 350 kids. That 800 student school district is now probably at 400 and the 350 student district is probably 200 or less. We had graduating classes with 44 kids. Those school districts because of the law of the state had to vote to consolidate. In certain parts of the state it makes sense but there are a lot of places that are so rural that the bus trip between 2 consolidated school districts would be a big deal. Our closest neighbors are Newburgh, Middletown, Washingtonville, Pine Bush. He does think it's going to happen at some point. 700 is a lot of school districts especially when some are quite small.

Trustee Leonard said that a number of them attended the town budget meeting and as a result, became aware that there was a 4 million dollar increase in the tax base this year alone for the town, which affects your tax base. This trend has to do with the 10 year tax abatement on the factories/warehouses. So we'll see our tax base go up. Last week at NYCOM, the controller announced that they were up to 173 billion dollars, which is much higher than they ever been, so he indicated that there should be some relief with the pension. Which is a burden for all municipalities. They want 3000 municipalities to consolidate. Find out that we are a very diverse state. Once size does not fit all.

Mayor Maher said that there has been talk about new law that the Governor signed about Veteran exemptions. Is that going to have a significant effect?

Dr. Hooley said they had a very kind gentleman that addressed the Board and shortly after this was opened up to school districts and municipalities. We asked to put it up to referendum. Problem is when you're given an abatement to one group that increases the cost for other groups and we have held off on that with some of the other groups that have approached us locally. However, in the case of Veterans, there is a lot of support for what they have done for this country. It's very hard to deny. Given our budget problems and dramatic focus on the budget this year, we said to the public and in the minutes that we would take it up after this year's elections. We have to have it done by March and didn't want to rush and do that. We said publically that we would take it up after the vote, probably June or July. And that will be ready for the next vote. So this year, we are not going to consider it but we will take it up for public comment at a later point.

Mayor Maher questioned if that was something, if voted on after the budget was adopted, would he pass it retroactive.

Dr. Hooley said he didn't think so. That they have to have it done by March 1st in order for it to effect this election. We said this election is such a wildcard and we are so anxious, that we are not going to complicate any further by misquoting what everybody's taxes are because we didn't have time to calculate what the abatement would be, etc. So, we're going to put it off until after the election for the 2015-2016 budget.

Becky Pearson, 167 Walnut St, wanted to confirm the cuts were to kindergarten, music, art and library

Dr. Hooley said only with this year.

Becky asked if it was also only JV and modified sports, all sports or just football.

Dr. Hooley replied all sports. Most of them were restored. Booster Clubs formed to raise money to bring them back.

Becky asked how much money it really costs to have a sports program.

Dr. Hooley said that they were able to raised 50k to restore JV. Reason they did that was they purchased no equipment for any sports. Otherwise the bill for JV would be 100k, uniforms, basketballs, equipment, etc. Modified is about 80k and again they were able to raise a small part of that. The boosters did that but we can't sustain that year after year.

Most people in VC that were involved in this fundraising spent more than they would have spent on their taxes.

Becky brought up administration cuts; you cut teachers, programs, classes, whereas growing people need that for their brain. Don't follow that logic. Are you really trying to put those back into the budget for this year?

Dr. Hooley stated that they prepare a budget that they will talk about the cost of it and the Board will have to make the decision. It's a different Board every year to some degree. But we have cut sports and some have been restored. Don't want to predict what decision the Board will make. We try to lay everything out but there are certain people that will say for the cost 180k to involve that many kids in an after school program. And many people would say that is good bang for your buck. There was not a thing that was cut that any thinking person would think that it was a good idea, these people were miserable.

Becky asked about the people in the hallways. Are they administrators? You can't find volunteers to be in the hallway?

Dr. Hooley said they have hall monitors. But in a crisis like a fight in cafeteria, you want people that have dealt with those and have experience. Every district has teachers and administrators that aren't to the level that we want them to be. We have for a very long time in VC taken a hard line for people who have underperformed. We have been sued and we have prevailed. We have gone after people that have not worked to their capacity. He thinks the average tax payer would be proud to have found people wanting to be there.

Becky brought up code red, would it be possible to contact the school Board to work together. Maybrook closing saved 800k, now what? Still own it?

Dr. Hooley said they use it for offices. There will be classes there. There is also some movement to do some renting. Trick is to have bonds that you can only rent a certain percentage of the building. They are proceeding carefully. Also using it for meetings.

Jessica Metzger, 4 Gracewood Ct, says that school education is the number one concern, but the safety of our children while they're in the school receiving their education, knows that the district has done a great job sending some of the teachers to some programs, are you receiving any money reimbursement?

Dr. Hooley stated for safety training, the best has come from Orange County Executive. And that has been in the form of grants of 20k for 3 years. It has been a little tricky with that, training for administrators for hall monitors and greeters. We are in the throes of technological improvement so that the doors could be connected to a camera at a reasonable fee. We already have the camera.

Jessica knows that district does work with our local PD, are you receiving any state aide? What has the governor done?

Dr. Hooley said he is a pretty hands on superintendent and is not aware of anything that came their way.

Jessica asked where are the allies. We have made great steps with our liaison to the district. Are there other Boards in this area that have liaisons to the school Board?

Dr. Hooley said that he was not aware of any.

Jessica thinks that maybe some recruiting is in order because these little things that we can save money, finger print machine. Code Ed vs Connect Ed. Little things will help if we work together. The folks sitting at the top are not doing anything for us.

Trustee Mishk said that it may be prudent that we meet collectively as a Board and other towns once maybe twice a year with the school Board to hash out these ideas and thoughts of trying to combine resources and saving money.

Trustee Carley asked if there has been a joint meeting in past.

Dr. Hooley said not that he's aware of here. There might be a way to do it though representatives with 3 Board members. To help with the minutes.

Trustee Mishk thinks it's a good idea.

Mayor Maher thinks a full joint Board meeting would be something the public would appreciate. Wouldn't mind entertaining it a bit more.

Trustee Mishk added that he was talking about one time. This isn't the first time hearing first hand what goes on in the school Board.

Dr. Hooley said they are very paper heavy. They get a good deal on that. Little things that are stupid. Suggest to have a summit like this and have everyone come with ideas.

Trustee Mishk suggested to at least offer the opportunity.

Manager Revella said he will reach out to set up meeting.

Hearing – 5 Hiddenview Drive

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, reported the abandoned vehicles but received a note today from Joe, who resides with Rosanne Piccalomo, left him a note that the 2005 Chevrolet Impala (silver) would be registered by the end of next week and that the Toyota Pick up would be gone in the next 2 weeks. Jay would like to push this to 2 weeks and if he can get this done, fine. If not, we continue. He sounded sincere on the phone.

Manager Revella mentioned he came up before the meeting to apologize for not being able to make it due to a prior engagement, work related that he had to attend to.

Trustee Mishk asked if this was the property that had cars removed and it came back.

Trustee Hoffman asked if he wanted the Board to take action in 2 weeks.

Jay replied to return in 2 weeks.

Trustee Hoffman made a motion to continue the hearing on 5 Hiddenview Drive until March 4, 2014 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as could be heard. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Village Manager's Report

- Received letter of interest from Zac Pearson to be a Planning Board alternate. Should Mr. Pearson come to the Clerk's office, take the oath and sign paperwork, he will be the new Planning Board Alternate Member.
- New owner Packaged Lighting. Embrace him in our community.
- Lots of snow, removal, snow emergency. Tomorrow removing again. Warm temps coming.
- All catch basins will be cleared.
- Dais plan for this room is completed. For Board and for court. Basic plans to make it happen. Getting base bids.
- Renewed bulk storage permit.
- Bids for Xerox for some new copiers for Village Hall.
- Follow up DOT pedestrian bridge project.
- Good demo Lexus program for the PD. Save money in the long run.
- New proposal from Frontier for a new phone system. Will save money annually.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold thought that when the plan for the room was discussed, it was not in any way going to be fixed to the floor.

Manager Revella said that it was discussed but wasn't the final word from the Board.

Trustee Carley said it was brought up, but no one said it was final.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold remembered that Mickey Millsbaugh came to the meeting and said that we should not have anything that is permanently affixed to this floor that cannot be moved. She is not in a favor of anything being affixed to this floor. It has to be movable.

Manager Revella said that was a suggestion.

Trustee Hoffman suggested we wait to the bids come back to see what pricing and either execute a change order with the engineer or before we make an award, we can reject all bids.

Trustee Leonard said that he brought in a wood anchor, uses standard bolts and could easily be reassembled and disassembled.

Trustee Mishk wanted to be clear that the stage was going to be permanent. Discussion came up in regards to the mobility of the desks. That's what he understood. Can tell you that if you want to make the stage movable, not going to fall under the price that we have allowed for this.

Mayor Maher agrees with Deputy Mayor Rumbold, thought that was what they discussed last time and was the final discussion.

Trustee Mishk said that maybe didn't make it clear enough. It was after Mickey spoke that he suggested that they make the tables. Produce it elsewhere and move it. If you're going to make a modular stage, it's going to cost the amount of money in that grant itself. Close to triple the price.

Trustee Leonard said a concern was the carpet. It's fairly old. And that's one of the reason we wanted it to disassemble in case we wanted to replace the carpet.

Mayor Maher asked what the options now are.

Trustee Hoffman said that one is to just cancel the bid out right. Another is to get the Engineer to issue an addendum for an alternate price to the bidders. Lastly to receive the bids, see what they are and possibly do a change of order. Need to give Manager Revella direction.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold thinks they change the order to see what the price is. She wanted it to be modular and mobile so if we needed this room for something it can be taken apart.

Mayor Maher thought he was saying that as well.

Trustee Hoffman recommended getting the benefit of pricing of an addendum.

Manager Revella said that it is an RFP.

Trustee Mishk asked that if everything is made modular, there comes a time to break it down. Store it where?

Manager Revella said it is big components. There is nowhere else to put them in this building. We could stack them in a corner maybe.

Trustee Leonard said if they're going to be modular and mobile, they can be built offsite.

Trustee Hoffman made a motion for an addendum to the RFP for the Dais. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of the January 21, 2014 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to approve the January 21, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Minutes approved.

Approval of the February 4, 2014 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to approve the February 4, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Minutes approved.

Trustee Leonard gave the corrections for February 4th. On pg. 11, first sentence is incomplete. Pg 5 insert "think" to Attorney Donovan sentence.

Trustee's Committee Reports

Town of Montgomery & DPW liaison – Trustee Leonard

No Report given

Village Clerk & Village Treasurer Liaison – Trustee Bowen

No Report given

Police Department Liaison – Deputy Mayor Rumbold

Report given under Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Planning and Zoning Boards as well as the Building Department Liaison – Trustee Hoffman

Report given under Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Recreation & Parks Department and School Board Liaison – Trustee Carley

No Report given

Village Justice and Library Board Liaison - Trustee Mishk

No Report given

Public Comment on Business of the Board

Mary Ellen Matise, 21 Clinton St, stated she did see the plans yesterday and she has an objection to the ramp with the way it's designed. Understands the Judge wants to be elevated but couldn't the ramp have been in the back.

Manager Revella said that was discussed today. The court and Building Inspector requested that today.

Becky Pearson, 167 Walnut Street, commented that she is trying to understand, are the plans for the Dais going out to bid?

Manager Revella replied yes by RFP.

Becky asked without the Board knowing what it looked like.

Manager Revella replied that we brought the pictures to the Board before.

Becky asked if it was discussed at a meeting and the Board approved.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold clarified that she just didn't know it wasn't mobile.

Becky stated she wanted to read those minutes.

Manager Revella said to go on the website and search "dais".

Action Items

Knights of Columbus Car Show

Carl Schneider, 229 East Main St, stated he was back again for the 4th time. This year's event will be Saturday, July 12th with a rain date of July 19th. The Village will be named additional insured and they will take care of set up and clean up. They do not need a stage. They request permission to put signage on the Village entrances.

Manager Revella made him aware that there is a new policy for event signs. The form is on our website.

Trustee Hoffman asked if he has spoken to the Chief.

Manager Revella stated that the Chief made plans for this.

Trustee Bowen made a motion to approve closing off the square for the Knights of Columbus Car Show to be held on July 12, 2014 with a rain date of July 19, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. 5 ayes. 2 abstentions (Mayor Maher and Trustee Mishk). Motion carried.

Request Waiver Fee – Hudson Valley Honor Flight

Mayor Maher recused himself.

Manager Revella said the fees would be the signage fee \$100 and \$50 fee. He believes this has happened one other occasion and he doesn't think it's unprecedented but he doesn't recall the outcome.

Attorney Donovan said that you need to be consistent. If it's a not for profit, then when future not for profits ask for similar waivers you have an obligation to grant as well.

Trustee Mishk feels we have to take this on a case by case basis. We are talking about an organization about Veterans.

Manager Revella stated the sign fee is \$100.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if this has to be done immediately. Would just like to know what kind of money we're talking about, what fees we are waiving.

Manager Revella said the site plan can come up for next time.

Trustee Hoffman said we are trying to move forward on precedent. Make the application and have waiver in hand.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold suggested this be tabled for 2 weeks.

Set Public Hearing – LL#3 of 2014 Landlord Registry

Trustee Mishk said they have a draft of the law. The only thing that he saw and might add is the need to setup a sticker system. Where tenants would have something for who to contact if the property is not up to code. The sticker system puts it out there for everybody. To make sure a registered prop is abiding by the code.

Trustee Carley asked if the sticker will be on the house.

Trustee Mishk said on the house, or the door, somewhere so everybody can see it.

Attorney Donovan stated that he doesn't see any prohibition with the sticker being put up. No issues with making the modification. Just needs to be published in time.

Trustee Carley questioned that the sticker means this house has been inspected and it's meeting the codes, etc. If a house doesn't have a sticker, what does that mean?

Trustee Mishk said it could mean a couple things; he's not following the law or he hasn't registered his property.

Trustee Carley thought that based on earlier conversations, we couldn't force anything like that.

Attorney Donovan clarified that the provision we have now is that if the property owner consents, the Building Inspector can go in and do an inspection. Couple cases without probable cause, the Building Inspector can't do an inspection. When tenant vacates, supposed to notify the Village. Either we need to get a warrant or some other reason he needs to get into the unit. Sticker equals the property is in good standing. No sticker means there has been no inspection.

Trustee Mishk added that the sticker is just to tell the tenants where to go if the landlord is not abiding by the law.

Manager Revella said the point of a registry is to make sure its code compliant. Hence the sticker.

Trustee Leonard asked if we have the authority to remove sticker upon violation.

Attorney Donovan said it depends the extent of violation. The Code isn't going to say anything about removing the stickers. Don't know if you want to put something like that in the code.

Trustee Bowen asked why would you want to remove it.

Trustee Leonard said if it's not up to code.

Trustee Mishk clarified that it's not an inspection sticker. It's an informational sticker. Contact numbers for the tenants.

Trustee Carley mentioned that if he's renting and he doesn't get a sticker, then you're messing up my money flow. A sticker that says that my house is not in code, but it is in code and I just don't want you coming in my house. I'm just looking at the other side.

Manager Revella said the sticker is the Village Hall numbers and has nothing to do with the property.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold added that it's for tenants that don't know where Village Hall is; they don't know if they have an issue, who to call. Some tenants that are too afraid to ask the landlord.

Attorney Donovan thought that there would be an indication that the Inspector had inspected it.

Trustee Mishk said that it would be an advantage to us. And wouldn't issue the sticker without inspection. Informational sticker so the tenant knows who to contact if there's a problem. It is a side advantage.

Attorney Donovan stated that it doesn't affect public hearing. Can have drafted tomorrow.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to set a public hearing for Local Law #3 of 2014 - Landlord Registry for Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as could be heard. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Accept Bid for Skid Steer

Trustee Hoffman made a motion to accept bid for New Holland Skid Steer Front End Loader from Larry DeGroat in the amount of \$2200. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Rumbold). Motion carried.

Walden American Legion Request

Bill Kiernan, Walden American Legion, is requesting permission to close Village Streets on Memorial Day to have the parade that we've had in the past starting at 9am, line up at approximately 8:30am. Start on the West Side and come through Main St, past Sohns, down Orchard Street and into Village Square. Also requesting a stage to be put up and would have a ceremony following parade as done in the past.

Mayor Maher confirmed the road closures would be West Main St, Veteran's Memorial Park to Orchard. Then the square itself and stage set up for the ceremony.

Manager Revella said it's pretty set up. Not much logistically different. He has already discussed this and is in the budget with the Police Department.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if he had spoken with the local VFW.

Bill said he will be coordinating with them. Last year there was a problem and got lost in the shuffle. Will make sure it won't happen again. Will coordinate with other Veteran Organizations of the VFW and make sure everybody is included.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if there is a letter to amend for the stage.

Attorney Donovan stated that the letter doesn't need an amendment if the Board approves the request. That should be included in the resolution.

Trustee Hoffman wanted to confirm it was in the budget.

Manager Revella responded that the Chief mentioned that the Memorial Parade and Car Show events are allocated in the budget.

Manager Revella asked how many pieces of staging area they needed.

Kathleen Mahoney, Highland Ave, said it depends on how many people they can get to participate.

Trustee Leonard said he didn't remember it being a problem in the past walking down South Montgomery.

Mayor Maher mentioned that in the past they had a crossing guard there and there was still traffic from North and South Montgomery there.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold questioned if there was a cutoff date for people to sign up to participate.

Bill stated not as of this date.

Mayor Maher added that this will be Monday, May 26th at 9am.

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve the request from the Walden American Legion to have a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26, 2014 which would close West Main Street from Veterans Memorial Bridge up to Walnut Street as well as close Municipal Square beginning at 8:30am and would include a stage being set up in Municipal Square. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion

Overlook at Kidd Farm

Tabled

Public Comment

Nancy Lamancuso, 232 East Main St, brought up the snow removal. There have been issues on East Main Street, not just this storm but the past few storms. East Main runs parallel to 52 and don't have island divide. Terrible problem with snow removal there. Has been there for 6yrs. By the end of the season, we're worn out with the ice and snow shoveling. They come home and the state throws everything back. Across the street is East Ave and is plowed, sanded and salted. The other end of East Main where the island is, is plowed, sanded and salted. Don't understand why they don't come down past us.

Trustee Hoffman asked if the state does it or the Village.

Nancy replied no, there are 5 homes on East Main St. and she couldn't even get out of her driveway. This has happened before. Also, while out shoveling, she came down the side walk and the driver dropped the plow right behind her, startling her. There are gears, no need for that. She continued to clean and the plow came back and put snow back and she had to clean it again. Likes to be independent, but can't take care of the entire East Main St. There is an issue there. No matter if it's 6' or more. Within a stone throw it's taken care of. Would appreciate if the Board can help.

Dotty French, 236 East Main, resident for 19yrs, showed pictures from Sunday's snow. Walden Estates is clear. Live on Dean's block. Kept calling for someone to come plow. An ambulance can't get in. There would be no way a fire truck can get down her road. She knows the town is in trouble. Just wants her road cleared like the others. Likes living here but is getting to the point she can't do this much longer.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked if it's a case when the state comes with their plows.

Manager Revella said on some occasions, maybe. That's just the end of their route.

Mayor Maher said it's just the way the route is set up. It's on his radar.

February 18, 2014

Manager Revella mentioned the snow in the area becomes a problem because of the State, where they have to get the loader in to move it out of the way. Have to talk to Dave about that area.

Nancy added that she is not looking for it to be perfect. After the storm is over just come and clean it up.

Anita Vandermark, 76 Highland Ave, reported that at the recent Walden Community Council meeting they voted to hold the "Meet the Candidates" night on Thursday, March 6th at 7 pm. The people that will be running will receive a letter. Once you get the letter, please let her know how many will be in attendance.

Mayor Maher asked how she determines who is on the ballot.

Anita said she receives the letter from the Village. Any questions submit them to her.

Mary Ellen, 21 Clinton Street, announced that next Monday night February 24th at 6:30pm at the First Reformed Church, the Walden Woman's Club will honor Donna Jennings. She single handedly did the Walden Bucks. That's just one thing she does for the Village. It's a good opportunity for the Village to thank her. With regard to the Landlord Registry Law, she's not sure if it specified where the sticker is going to go. She also heard the meeting with Orange County DSS, suggested to call Ulster County too.

Greg Raymondo, 200 Orange Ave, brought up the handicap ramp placed at the side. So let's see if that happens, it's been more than 15 yrs.

Becky Pearson, 167 Walnut Street, added that she found the minutes about the Dais and it did say it would be mobile on the Oct 15th minutes.

Payment of the Audited Bills

Trustee Leonard made a motion to pay the audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Peter Sullivan, Village Treasurer, commented that the state has been working this fiscal stress monitoring indicator system for a few years. Last year, rated town and counties and now got down to the Village levels. They take annual update and rate us according to different factors. Levels of cash, debt. Assigned and unassigned fund balance. They crunch all numbers and award points in different zones. If you get points in the 45% of all the points then you're in the slight fiscal stress. If you get 55-65%, you're in the moderate. And 65% or over, you're in severe. Our score is 22%. We were only rated down slightly on assigned and unassigned fund balances and levels of debt. We as a group compares favorably. Mid-Hudson rate is 25%. There's a good indication that we had a good year.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Mayor Maher said Manager Revella recognized an individual that was out of the room. Very happy that the Packaged Lighting building has been purchased by Sam Cichon.

Sam said he found the building by accident and fell in love with it. Hope to bring it back to full functioning. Anyone that has a great idea for a business, send them his way.

Trustee Leonard thanked Trustee Carley for contacting Dr. Hooley. Seemed very productive. First time he has heard from the top of the Board of Ed directly.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold said there was a little glitch in reporting for our state of emergency for snow, they recorded for one and it didn't take so when people called, they got the information from the old storm and not the new storm. They have fixed the issue. Chief apologized for that. PD received their new uniforms and they look nice. Officers are happy. They were paid for by a gift and were at no cost to taxpayers. Snow issues, people are starting to realize that people need to get their car off the streets. She understands the public's difficulties with the snow, but has to say that DPW has endeavored to do a good job with the snow. Thanked the community for their patience. Doing a lot of clean up tomorrow.

Trustee Hoffman met with the Building Inspector today about what the building is going to look like. Not a lot of activity going on inside. 36 Gladstone has a police report and Dean wants to authorize possible boarding up of the property.

Attorney Donovan stated that will need a hearing.

Trustee Hoffman said the report said the door was open on an abandoned property.

Manager Revella said they have had a problem serving them. The property is under contract. We will keep trying.

Mayor Maher asked if they can notice tomorrow. We can have a special meeting.

Attorney Donovan said you need to go out and serve notice and schedule a hearing.

Mayor Maher said all they need is 4 members to do a quick motion.

Attorney Donovan stated will need to advertise the meeting.

Mayor Maher said that if it's important enough, we can do that.

Attorney Donovan stated that that's fine, he just wanted to make sure that we provide due process.

Trustee Bowen asked about the realtor.

Manager Revella didn't have any contact.

Mayor Maher will let them know about the special meeting.

Trustee Carley wanted to know of the follow up on fire horn.

Manager Revella said he is trying to set up a meeting but has not been able to because of the snow and because the Fire District is busy undergoing a State Audit.

Trustee Carley added in regards to the code red, the fingerprint machine, could we reach out this week?

Manager Revella said he will call tomorrow.

Trustee Mishk said this occurred twice at his house, the Town of Montgomery has hired a Part Time employee to assist the assessor, but he is doing his own inspections around the Village. He drove on his property twice and peered through his windows. Property that is being renovated and he has a vacant, open permit, he went to do an inspection and drove right on the lawn, and side swiped garbage cans. He would like the Village to address it. Don't need someone going around checking on what's going on.

Mayor Maher asked if he has legal precedent to do that.

Attorney Donovan said that they get noticed. Once a certificate of occupancy is issued, that gets sent to the assessors, the assessor goes out and looks at it, it goes on the property card. They are generally allowed if given access to give an inspection. But it's generally not done until after the c.o. is issued.

Mayor Maher asked if Manager Revella can call to the assessor's office.

Manager Revella answered yes.

Executive Session – Potential Litigation, Village Manager 105 F and Personnel of a particular person.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold moved to go into Executive Session to discuss Potential Litigation, Village Manager 105 F and Personnel of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

Trustee Mishk moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Adjournment

Trustee Mishk moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Hoffman. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
February 18, 2014
Motions & Resolutions**

Hearing – 5 Hiddenview Drive

Trustee Hoffman made a motion to continue the hearing on 5 Hiddenview Drive until March 4, 2014 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as could be heard. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried

RFP Addendum for Dais

Trustee Hoffman made a motion for an addendum to the RFP for the Dais. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Rumbold. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of the January 21, 2014 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to approve the January 21, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Minutes approved.

Approval of the February 4, 2014 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to approve the February 4, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Minutes approved.

Knights of Columbus Car Show

Trustee Bowen made a motion to approve closing off the square for the Knights of Columbus Car Show to be held on July 12, 2014 with a rain date of July 19, 2014. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. 5 ayes. 2 abstentions (Mayor Maher and Trustee Mishk). Motion carried.

Set Public Hearing – LL#3 of 2014 Landlord Registry

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to set a public hearing for Local Law #3 of 2014 -Landlord Registry for Tuesday, March 4, 2014 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as could be heard. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Accept Bid for Skid Steer

Trustee Hoffman made a motion to accept bid for New Holland Skid Steer Front End Loader from Larry DeGroat in the amount of \$2200. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Rumbold). Motion carried.

Walden American Legion Request

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve the request from the Walden American Legion to have a Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 26, 2014 which would close West Main Street from Veterans Memorial Bridge up to Walnut Street as well as close Municipal Square beginning at 8:30am and would include a stage being set up in Municipal Square. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Payment of the Audited Bills

Trustee Leonard made a motion to pay the audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Session – PBA Negotiations, Village Manager 105 F, Potential Litigation, and Personnel of a particular person.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold moved to go into Executive Session to discuss PBA Negotiations, Village Manager 105 F, Potential Litigation, and Personnel of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

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

Adjournment

Trustee Hoffman moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.