

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
February 2, 2016**

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

On roll call the following were:

Present:

Mayor	Sue Rumbold
Deputy Mayor	Sean Hoffman
Trustees	Brenda Adams
	Edmond Leonard
	Gerald Mishk, Jr.
	Brian Sebring

Absent:

John Ramos

Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager  
Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

Mayor Rumbold thanked the Village Manager, Village Board, employees of the Village and citizens of the Village of Walden for their support over the last few years during her husband's illness and after his passing. There are no words to thank everyone for their love and support and it has meant a lot to both of them and even more to her now.

Manager Revella introduced Heather Lloyd as a Part time dispatcher with our Police Department.

**Hearing – 21 Valley Avenue**

Manager Revella stated there was no one from the property in attendance tonight.

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, explained that as of this afternoon there has been no change to the condition of the property. There is some furniture and mattresses on the property. There has been no correspondence from the owners of record.

Trustee Sebring made a motion authorize the Building Department and the Village Manager clean up the debris at 21 Valley Avenue and any charges associated with it be charged to the property owner. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Village Manager's Report –**

- Had the opportunity to meet with baby Bliss. All are doing well and happy.

- Met with Dean Stickle and the prospective buyer for the house at 24 Ulster Avenue which was a former adult living facility. They want to do another adult living facility there. The building has been abandoned for some time now but is a possibility in the near future.
- Went through all the Frontier bills with Frontier regarding overages and found several areas where they owe us credits that they have now applied to our account making them all accurate now.
- Heard back from workers comp company regarding our appeal and it tentatively looks like we will be getting a reduction in our rates. Once we get that he will let everyone know.
- Finalized the remaining employee evaluations. All employees are done now. Slight hiccup in the police department which we are ironing out now and all employees should be done there as well.
- Rectified a few issues with water in the roadways. One was a clogged storm drain on Linden and a few minor water breaks. We've been good this year.
- The owners are making great progress on 1-5 Orange Avenue so been working with the Building Department on that.
- Property maintenance issues have been consistently being remedied prior to coming to the Board so that is good.
- Water bills are getting done now.
- All W-2s and 1099s have been sent out.
- Will be starting this week on the 2016-2017 budget.
- New Walden Quarterly came out and did a final edit of that.
- Met with the Town and Chief regarding animal control in the Town.
- Met with Pattern for Progress regarding status of our Farmers Market, potential Dog Park in the Village which we've been contemplating for some time which hopefully will come to fruition, as well as a community garden.
- Had problems at Bradley Park over the past few weeks with Criminal Mischief. There has been 2 occasions where people were driving through the fields intentionally causing damage to the fields. A second party was caught in the act as there was a police officer in the parking area when they were doing their acts.
- New calendars are out.
- Attended with a few other Board members the Association of Towns, Village, and Cities meeting which was good. Had a presentation from the Orange County Chamber of Commerce about keeping it local.
- Went on site visits in the Village of Monroe, Town of Chester, and Village of Kiryas Joel DPW facilities looking at options of various ways to set up the building for our own building that we will be looking at developing this year.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman asked about the credits due from Frontier. Are you also making any ground on the Electric overcharges?

Manager Revella replied yes, we've found that we are able to withdraw from the agreement without notice and we are due a 25% credit.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman saw in Chief's report his data about snow storms and asked about documenting charges incurred for snow removal. While we haven't had a lot to report he wanted to be sure that was being tracked.

Manager Revella replied yes every department has been keeping track of that including Parks, Police, and DPW; overtime, salt usage, material, everything. He was planning on presenting it at the end of the season.

Trustee Mishk asked about the issues with the landlords noted in the Building Inspectors report. Any closer to addressing that legally?

Manager Revella replied yes. He is currently following up with 14 Riverview. There were a few others he would be following up on; the basemen stairs on 39-43 Main Street. There were some DOT issues at that location they are working on. 1-5 Orange Avenue is making a lot of progress as well.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman added that his understanding was that they did an initial permit that has been closed out and then they applied for a subsequent building permit.

Mayor Rumbold asked about the bills that are in question, was that a gradual increase or all the sudden there it was.

Manager Revella replied that it gradually became noticeable over a 4 month period of time.

#### **Approval of the December 15, 2015 Minutes**

Tabled as the minutes were not available.

#### **Approval of the January 5, 2016 Minutes**

Tabled as the minutes were not available.

#### **Approval of the January 19, 2016 Minutes**

Tabled as the minutes were not available.

#### **Trustee's Committee Reports**

##### **Town of Montgomery & Library Board liaison – Trustee Leonard**

Trustee Leonard reported that he met with Ginny and asked her the cost per household vs the cost in the town. In the Village it is \$49 and in the Town it is \$23 which is a major discrepancy there. Ginny has pursued the Town to get more money there at their budget meetings and got nothing. They are going forth with an increase this year and will be in the paper shortly. Their Board meeting is tomorrow at 7:30pm.

Mayor Rumbold commented that the Library we have is the best around, not bragging, but that's how she feels. No question that the Board and the Manager are big supporters of our Library. As elected officials we have to voice our opinions about things that affect our tax payers' taxes. What she doesn't understand is the reluctance on the part of the Library Board, which is a separate entity from the Village Board, to accept this kind of discrepancy or the willingness of the Library Board to ask our taxpayers for an increase for their budget and in essence the residents are subsidizing the usage of the Library for Town residents. The Town of Montgomery is very diligent when they sit down to work out figuring out the A Fund and what to charge the Villages. The Library might want to figure out the cost of Town residents and submit a bill to them like they do with us. Just wondering if the Board would be willing to express their opinions so that Trustee Leonard can bring that with him to the meeting tomorrow night. She is not willing to ask our taxpayers to pay more in order to subsidize Town resident's usage of our Library.

Manager Revella added that he feels it would be a good idea to express your encouragement of pushing the Town for more funding a little more than they are. They do a great job in asking for funds when they go to each budget meeting.

Mayor Rumbold explained that the Director does go and in essence begs for more money and they don't do a thing. She just hopes that their Board considers that especially when they are asking our residents to pay more for Town resident's usage when there is such a disparity between Town and Village residents and what they pay for usage. They mentioned that all the funds go directly to the usage at the Library at their budget meeting but they didn't mention that we pay for the upkeep and the electric, and other operating costs that they didn't consider that at all.

Trustee Mishk suggested we send an open letter to the Town and then put it in the newspaper addressing this issue. Taxpayers might not realize that.

Trustee Leonard thought that a reporter was going to write an article about it.

Trustee Mishk stated that he felt putting it in writing that way it is in our words and not up to the interpretation of a reporter.

Trustee Adams agreed and spoke about an unserved area and whether the Town of Montgomery reached that group. She just wanted to make sure any letter would not come off as threatening.

Mayor Rumbold replied that was not the intention. It's like charging the people that live in the Village of Walden more if they are Village residents and half if they live in the Town.

Trustee Adams agreed. She felt that the Director might want to look at going back to her RCLS years, the Town of Montgomery supplemented the Village of Montgomery Library by 50% and they are not giving us equal amounts, so she might want to look at that and make sure it's not a disparity there.

### **Recreation & Parks Department and Valley Central School Board Liaison – Trustee Ramos**

Trustee Ramos reported that the Board of Ed met on January 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed a lot about the budget coming up. Had a couple resignations due to retirements as well. He with Mr. Bliss and they discussed the yearly projects for 2016-2017. Things look great for the coming year. Also wanted to send out a congratulations to the Bliss family on the birth of their new baby girl this morning.

### **Planning and Zoning Boards as well as the Building Department Liaison – Deputy Mayor Hoffman**

Deputy Mayor Hoffman reported that he met this morning with Dean and they spoke about the Planning Board meeting coming up specifically 98 Gladstone Avenue and 12 Edmunds Lane. There is no Zoning Board meeting this month. Also talked about 24 Ulster and 14 Riverview that the Manager previously mentioned. He also wanted to point out that Dean included his end of year report which was a little different than last year. It can now list the total fees by type of permit. If anyone wants a copy let him know. Potential request for a code change for solar might be coming soon.

### **DPW Liaison– Trustee Sebring**

Trustee Sebring reported that the new sweeper was used today, did a number of roads including Valley Avenue. Glad to have it. New police car is in service and all set. Fred told him to ask you about the letter and if it was written, that you would know what he was mentioning.

Manager Revella replied he didn't know but that they could talk about it after the meeting.

### **Village Offices Liaison – Trustee Adams**

Trustee Adams reported that she met with Peter and reviewed adjustments and looking at codes that were overspent and where the money would be to offset those expenses. From the original one some were changed. Met with John and Peter and have a good handle on it which is up for action tonight. Right now there is an authorization that was confirmed at the Board meeting that like codes can be reallocated amongst themselves without problems. She would like to ask the Board since it's been agreed they can move like codes; do you feel there should be a maximum amount of those transfers? Peter has used \$2,500 maximum amount to move within the department. She feels it should go in the minutes that this amount is ok with the Board and should go in writing as to what can be moved without Board authorization within categories.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman asked if the ability to adjust would that still require action by this Board at some point.

Trustee Adams replied that was the second part of her question. She feels it should be in writing somewhere for 2 reasons, one to know where the money is spent greater than it was planned and secondly to know where the money came from in writing to know where there might be some cushion in the budget. She feels this information might be of some value to the Board. When she brought it up before, whether we approve the whole budget or line items she was told we approve the grand total of the budget and there can be some movement around as long as it doesn't exceed the budget.

Manager Revella clarified that there is a bit of difference with a modification any time a line is overspent it needs Board approval before it can be moved within a budget year. She is talking about if a line is not overspent a, say we have 2 lines in the same department that are both \$10,000 and one is at \$5,000 and we want to move \$3,000 from that to the other account in anticipation of something, in other words it isn't over budget.

Trustee Adams stated yes that would be a good example. Can you do budget adjustments without the Board approval no matter how small the amount within categories?

Manager Revella replied that we bring every budget adjustment that goes over budget to the Board no matter how small it is.

Trustee Adams stated she is looking for the guidelines for these adjustments within category.

Peter Sullivan, Treasurer, stated that he would like the Board to approve the policy that he has been following to move funds \$2,500 or less within Departments. It can't be moved between departments just intra-department.

Trustee Adams feels that all movement within line items should be brought to the Board and would like it in the minutes.

Manager Revella stated that in the past they only did these modifications once per year and now we do it every few months.

Trustee Adams stated that she is talking about the adjustments that are moving within categories not like what is before us tonight as that is between departments.

Peter Sullivan, Treasurer, stated that just this past year we started this policy and would like this policy approved by the Board.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman suggested a written policy and the Board would adopt it if they saw fit.

Mayor Rumbold asked if that policy could be drawn up for the next meeting.

Trustee Adams continued about the General Fund paying many bills for the Sewer Fund due to cash flow issues. The Manager is looking at how we can move some money between Water and Sewer so we aren't short on cash. Also revenue is coming in and Peter feels we are doing well but if you notice he is still projecting a change for year-end figures. He is going to work up how we can save some money between now and year-end.

#### **Police Department Liaison – Trustee Mishk**

Trustee Mishk reported that he met with Chief and the new car is in service. The parking tickets are in the design stage. The storm drill last week went down well. Currently the Chief and the PBA are working on a policy for HR 218.

Mayor Rumbold read the community events into the minutes.

#### **Public Comment on Business of the Board**

Becky Pearson, 167 Walnut Street, asked about where the DPW building was proposed to go and the proposed Dog Park location.

Manager Revella replied the DPW facility will be at the current DPW location and the Dog Park would be at Olley Park.

#### **Action Items**

##### **Hearing Request – 64 Maple Street**

Tabled as the property has complied with the request.

##### **Hearing Request – 65 Capron Street**

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, explained there is a large amount of debris in the back yard that we would like to get removed.

Trustee Mishk made a motion to set a hearing for 65 Capron Street for Tuesday, February 16, 2016 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Resolution 39-15-16 – Designating Election Inspectors**

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve Resolution 39-15-16 – Designating Election Inspectors. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Budget Modifications**

Peter Sullivan, Treasurer, explained that these are the year-end modifications based on projections made that are based on last year's figures.

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve Resolution 41-15-16 Budget Modifications. Seconded by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Garbage Contract**

The Mayor read a letter from Michael J. Ciardullo about commercial garbage.

Manager Revella stated that the bid request would have options and the Board does not have to go with those options if they so choose which would include commercial garbage services. He doesn't feel taking this option away from other businesses who might be happy with it would be prudent. He feels we should wait until we receive the bids and show the businesses what they get. When it comes down to awarding the option would be there.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman clarified that the bid request would be structured with residential, commercial and residential, and commercial and he would make the board aware of those costs to take into consideration when awarding the bid.

Trustee Leonard asked how many commercial accounts we have and how many complaints we've received.

Manager Revella replied over 100 and not many. We've received more for residential services.

Trustee Leonard stated that he knew there was opposition earlier but in the past we had all different kinds of companies coming in and out of the Village and we had no way of controlling or making them compliant. With little to no complaints it's hard to just make a big change.

Manager Revella doesn't think it hurts the Board to leave the option in there and then put it out to the public to find out if there are more complaints. This is the same process we went through last time.

Trustee Mishk asked if the businesses could opt out.

Manager Revella stated that would be an issue for the bidders as they wouldn't know what they were bidding on. He thinks it's prudent of the Board to consider and leave the opportunity on the table at least as an option.

Attorney Donovan stated that if you want the bidding process that idea kind of collapses the whole process.

Mayor Rumbold stated that she's not 100% sold on the same company doing residential and commercial pick up. She's had to deal with both services and it caused her agita. At least when they hire their own company if they don't like the services they can fire them so she understands where they are coming from. It's a pain in the neck. She sees where he is coming from. The girls in the office have better things to do than call the garbage company. Let's try to get some feedback and see what the businesses say.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman asked if he anticipated a lot of problems or complaints if we were to reverse their decision and transition back to them getting their own companies.

Manager Revella stated that cost would probably be an issue. Some may be thankful for the price reduction but some may not. It can't hurt to ask, we could put a letter in with the bills. We always do our contracts for one year with options for year 2 and year 3. Usually if we have complaints year 1 we take care of them and then don't have them after that.

Trustee Mishk made a motion to authorize the Village Attorney to draft the request for proposals for the garbage contract. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Knights of Columbus Car Show 7/9/16**

Paul Plate of the Knights of Columbus asked the Board to approve their 6<sup>th</sup> annual Car Show for July 9<sup>th</sup> with a rain date of July 16<sup>th</sup> the same as last year in the square from 9am-4pm. We expect in attendance of about 100 cars and approximately 500 visitors and car owners.

Trustee Leonard made a motion to approve the Knights of Columbus Car Show for Saturday, July 9, 2016 with a rain date of Saturday, July 16, 2016 from 9am to 4pm in Village Square. Seconded by Trustee Adams. 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Trustee Mishk). Motion carried.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **Interview Dates for Village Treasurer Position**

Manager Revella explained we had 13 applications and Trustee Adams and he went through them. We need to schedule interview times as it is a public meeting, perhaps interviewing about 4 applicants if the Board would like. He encouraged the Board to look at the applications as well to get a good feel for those they would like to interview.

Trustee Leonard made a motion to set the interview dates for the Village Treasurer position for Wednesday, February 17, 2016 and Thursday, February 18, 2016 at 6:30pm. Seconded by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Public Comment**

Becky Person, 167 Walnut Street, asked about the dog park and where it is proposed to be.

Manager Revella replied at James Olley Park as well as a community garden. Exact locations haven't been determined yet.

Becky asked it would all fit with little league there too.



Manager Revella replied little league is at Bradley Park. But yes we have lots of room.

Becky commented about the budget transfers that she is happy they all wanted to see them as they should see where the money is going and why it is going to other places. If you do see it is the same accounts going over all the time, like the Mayor commented during the discussion, someone needs to hold the department heads accountable. She has a budget and is not allowed to consistently go over it. It could be easy to just raise taxes as government can do that so she's grateful they are being conscious of it. She saw steps being built on Ulster Avenue; is it part of the sidewalk project there?

Manager Revella replied no, that was someone trying to sell their home.

Becky asked for the update on the Ulster Avenue project.

Manager Revella replied that the surveying boundary line got approved today. We have a meeting set up for Thursday to work on the timing. As of right now we are still scheduled for fiscal year 2016 which ends October 1<sup>st</sup> so they have to have the bid out by September. The state is trying to push it into the next fiscal year but he is pushing them to keep it in this year and will continue to fight about that.

Becky asked about the garbage contract and if the Board was still considering the Village doing garbage like the Village of Montgomery does. Is that still a consideration?

Manager Revella replied that we did look into that and at the time the numbers just weren't feasible. We'll continue to look at it and if it is feasible in the future it is something we will consider.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman stated there is a tremendous up front cost associated with doing that.

Becky replied yes, there is, but there would be a long term benefit to do it that way.

Manager Revella added that at that time based on the prices it was not something we could do. Perhaps if the numbers come down we can do it in the future.

Becky asked if the problem with the garbage has to do with the garbage cans they use which is unsightly as people leave them everywhere, on their front porches, on the road, on the side of their homes. At one point they weren't seen and now they are everywhere. She thinks it makes for prettier neighborhoods when they aren't seen. It's not a garbage company issue it's an issue for the people to take care of their cans but maybe the Board might want to consider putting that back in there. She knows there are some homes that are just fine, it's the people who don't care that are the problem who just leave them anywhere.

Deputy mayor Hoffman asked if she was asking different enforcement for different people.

Becky replied no, she gets it, she understands, but she also looks at the Village as a whole and what it looks like. Just really something to think about. It was done to alleviate the negative way the Village looked at the time so it might be something to look at again.

Trustee Sebring commented that he understands both sides, if you don't have the cans there could be garbage all over the place and some people might not even use cans, just put bags out on the ground and animals can get into them.

Becky replied that on her street the garbage truck driver gets out of the truck and puts the can on the back of the truck so what's the point of having those types of toters if they aren't using the arm lift. It may be less expensive but he's not even using the toter because of the trees, it could be because of cars, and it happens all over the place. Maybe there are streets that they use the arm lift but the Board might consider not putting the toters in the bid at all.

Trustee Leonard stated that they use the arm lift on his street, it takes the driver about 40 seconds to do the whole street.

Becky asked if the toters were included in the bid.

Manager Revella replied yes, everyone has toters. They do about a third of the Village with the side arm only.

Becky asked if there were smaller toters.

Manager Revella replied yes.

Becky understands the point about the Library and agrees that Village residents should not foot the bill for Town residents. Why can't the Library charge a higher fee for a Town resident instead of increasing taxes?

Mayor Rumbold replied that she would have to ask the Library, they are a separate entity. The Town determines that figure, it's not like they are being billed. Her question to the Town is if you have these statistics then why don't they figure out the cost and give us a bill. For some reason that she doesn't understand, the Library simply accepts the amount they are giving them. Why not if they are providing a service don't they bill the Town for services rendered? Why are the Town residents paying the same rate as the Village residents?

Becky asked about the recreation sports she noticed that some of the programs don't cover their costs. She saw that in the budget modifications. Are we not charging enough?

Manager Revella replied that only happens with Summer Camp, the rest of them do cover their costs.

Mayor Rumbold explained that we took a good portion of the children from the other Villages like Maybrook that closed their camp this year. We had over 350 kids this year and we had no clue until that happened. Next year we will be prepared for this. She made a personal phone call to the Town Supervisor who said he wanted to see that these kids were in fact Town residents. The Recreation Coordinator provided that documentation and they didn't give us any additional funding to cover the costs of the additional counselors we needed to hire to take care of Town children.

Trustee Leonard added they said they didn't get the paperwork 3 times.

Anita Vandermark, 76 Highland Avenue, asked if there were candidates out there for the election. She hasn't seen any or signed any. If she does get one how many can she sign?

Manager Revella replied that there are 4 positions available but we won't know the candidates until the 9<sup>th</sup> when they are due by. You can sign petitions for up to the 4 positions that are available taking care to know that some petitions may have more than one candidate listed on them.

Mayor Rumbold added that the candidates have to indicate which position they are running for, the 2 year or the 1 year.

Manager Revella explained he had 2 other points of business. Lisa Wade-Sebring has been appointed to the Planning Board as an Alternate. And the Blu Mango Grill LLC has notified they are renewing their permit for alcohol. Just wanted to make that part of the record.

Attorney Donovan added that the Town of Blooming Grove is having a public hearing on Solar panels which he knows is something the Board had talked about at one point.

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

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

### **Correspondence**

Everyone received the letter read tonight from Michael J. Ciardullo.

Trustee Adams received an email from Jose Perez who was complaining about dog poop in his yard and she referred it to Dean and John. It's in a neighborhood that has a home owners association so he's been told to speak to the homeowners association and she hasn't heard anything since.

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

Trustee Sebring commented that at the Association of Towns, Villages, and Cities meeting we were talking to the Town of Goshen and how they do their garbage pick-up themselves including the problems and issues they have with it.

Trustee Adams asked when the water quality report came out as she has a lot of questions and concerns from people who are worried about fluoride. A lot of concern about lead for their children as we are an older Village and wanted to know where to guide them.

Manager Revella replied that comes out in June. You can point them to our prior year's reports where they will see our lead amount is always very low and is required to use lead free. We add a phosphate solution in our water, it's like a coating, to make sure we don't get lead infiltration from any existing lead based fitting that might still be in the system. It's supposed to coat them so we don't get flaking or things like that into the water. We are required by law to test weekly. There are some that are even tested daily.

Trustee Adams asked about taxes. She's been approached by some people who are very concerned about our taxes because they are panicking over what happened at the school.

These are people who pay their bills, not people who are ready to walk away from their home. They work two jobs and are concerned about the tax future here in the Village. Both families are very active in the community and they are very concerned and she just wanted to relay that to everyone.

Trustee Mishk asked about Time Warner's franchise here. Do we have any say over that?

Manager Revella replied no but they are not a sole operated franchise. Any other company can come and franchise as well.

Trustee Mishk stated that he got a letter and is concerned that there is going to be additional costs associated with their going digital. Is there any way we can solicit others like FIOS?

Manager Revella replied that the reason FIOS can't come here is due to the fact that they don't own wires and Time Warner does. Not sure they are willing to put the cost in for the wires.

Trustee Sebring asked if there was any recourse to Time Warner. Is there no way residents can't have a way to voice their concerns prior to renewing our contract with them?

Manager Revella replied that we did voice those concerns prior to renewing it in 2011. The public service commission for the state really oversees those issues, we really don't have any control over what they have already granted Time Warner. Whatever agreement they made with Time Warner is what we have to accept. He reminded everyone to look through the applications for Village Treasurer.

### **Adjournment**

Trustee Sebring moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
February 2, 2016  
Motions & Resolutions**

**Hearing – 21 Valley Avenue**

Trustee Sebring made a motion authorize the Building Department and the Village Manager clean up the debris at 21 Valley Avenue and any charges associated with it be charged to the property owner. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Hearing Request – 65 Capron Street**

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**Budget Modifications**

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**Garbage Contract**

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**Knights of Columbus Car Show 7/9/16**

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**Payment of the Audited Bills**

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**Adjournment**

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