

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
October 18, 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.
	John Ramos
	Brian Sebring

Absent:

Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager
Tara Bliss, Village Clerk
Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

Hearing – 22 Pleasant Avenue

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, explained there are numerous siding pieces missing and the house needs to be painted. Owner said in September 2015 that he would side the home in the spring of 2016. He sent another notice on July 22, 2016 and there has been no change.

John Rojas, property owner, explained that he did speak with Jay and he did have intentions to side the whole house this past spring. His wife took \$50,000 out of his account that he had saved in order to make the repairs to a number of homes that he owns on Bank Street and Valley Avenue. He still has the intention to side the house but he just doesn't have the money at the moment due to his pending divorce. He can cover the bare exposed pieces with aluminum for the winter and will side it in April. He'd like to do it right, he's already replaced the windows and the porch, he wants to fix the house up and wants to make it nice.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman asked if he foresees having the funds in the spring.

John replied yes it is the rental account and he would be ok to begin in April.

Trustee Adams made a motion to allow the property owner to install aluminum over all exposed bare wood from the missing siding at 22 Pleasant Avenue by October 31, 2016 and he is to apply for a building permit in April 2017 and begin the re-siding process or the Board will take action. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hearing – 98 S. Montgomery Street

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, explained there is falling down fencing and nothing has been done since the original violation from May 2015. Now there is also debris throughout the property in addition to the fence. There is no one present tonight representing the property.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to authorize the Village go in and clean up the falling down fencing material and debris scattered throughout the property at 98 S. Montgomery Street and charge any fees associated with the clean-up to the property owner. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hearing – 17 Bank Street

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, explained there is scattered debris throughout the property that needs to be removed. The bed and bed springs did get removed but no other changes since the original violation notice was sent. The owner or a representative of the property is not present tonight.

Trustee Leonard made a motion to have the Village go in and clean up the scattered debris throughout the property at 17 Bank Street and charge any fees associated with said clean up to the property owner. Seconded by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

Village Manager's Report

- Haunted Walking Trail started this weekend and has been well attended and we've received a lot of accolades.
- Had a DEC inspection at Sewer plant and pump stations. Only asked us to update manuals at each location which was good.
- Opened the Wait Street sidewalk bids which is on the agenda tonight.
- Met with Special Counsel regarding personnel matters.
- Had a good meeting with the Working Leader, Trustee Sebring, and the Engineers where we went over the details and preferences on things for DPW facility so it's going along well. Only hold up is NYSEG with the removal of the gas line they asked us to dig to make it go faster which we are ready to do, but they haven't come to mark it out yet so we can't dig it until they do that, so that's the hold up. Still on schedule at this point but if it takes much longer it will put us behind.
- Had a meeting with Counsel about the Human Rights complaint.
- Met with the Recreation Coordinator to discuss the breakdown of revenue vs expenses on programs.
- 14 Riverview Street residents have vacated the premise.
- Had a hearing for a Workmen's Comp matter that we were successful in winning which he will discuss in executive session.
- Met with some Gladstone Avenue residents that would like a speed hump even though our data did not indicate that one was needed there. Residents in the area are looking to get donations to put one in anyway.
- Got word from Senator Larkin that he has secured \$150,000 in grant funding for the Walden Riverfront Park: Marcus "Mickey" Millspaugh Riverfront Park and Boat Launch.
- 108 Ulster Avenue has requested an interpretation from the Building Inspector and we are working on our response.

Trustee Mishk expressed concern that there appears to be activity at 108 Ulster Avenue despite them not having permission to operate. Do we know if anything is going on there?

Manager Revella replied not that we are aware of.

Mayor Rumbold stated she is so grateful for Senator Larkin who has looked out for our community and helped secure these funds. The park has been underutilized and we are very grateful that he secured this for us to see this realized for our residents. The Millspaugh family helped get it to a point where we could dedicate it but this will put it at the forefront for residents to enjoy.

Approval of October 4, 2016 Minutes

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the October 4, 2016 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee's Committee Reports

Town of Montgomery & Library Board liaison – Trustee Leonard

Trustee Leonard reported that he had nothing new at this time.

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

Trustee Ramos wanted to give kudos to the Rec Dept and their volunteers and staff that have put together a great haunted house. It is PG 13 and is scary! The costume contest went well and was hard to judge as everyone was a winner. Valley Central Superintendent Xanthis is official and he has invited him to be a part of his strategic planning for the next 5 years and they have a meeting next week. The plan is to hire another assistant superintendent which will be an interim position with existing funds from within the budget.

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

Deputy Mayor Hoffman reported that he met with Dean and reviewed 14 Riverview Street and is scheduled to go down there tomorrow to check on the status of the clean-up. Also discussed the potential litigation matter from the human right complaint as well as 108 Ulster Avenue. There will be a Planning Board meeting tomorrow which is the same agenda as the October 3rd meeting that did not happen.

DPW Liaison– Trustee Sebring

Trustee Sebring reported that he met with Fred today and they are trimming the trees on the side of the road in preparation for the winter, installing water meters, and street sweeping. The shell of the old building is almost gone and the floor is 1/3 of the way gone but again we are waiting on NYSEG as John stated earlier. Not one of the lights in the Maple Street parking lot is working.

Village Offices Liaison – Trustee Adams

Trustee Adams reported that she met with Kelly to review the budget resolution from last meeting. Kelly has already been looking for areas of the budget where we can improve and has already begun to pull out codes to better detail in our budget.

Police Department and Justice Department Liaison – Trustee Mishk

Trustee Mishk reported that he met with Chief today and he reported they are looking to replace 1 Police car for next budget. Doing research at this point as we are reluctant with October 18, 2016

the issues we've been having with the Fords due to their impending issues with their engines at the moment. The budget line for repairs for the Police cars has been used up for the year already so working on figuring that out. Received Stop DWI grant. Trick or Treat is all set and No Shave November is all set up. The Judge wants to get going with the Scoff Law program to recover the funds on the old parking tickets. Was considering a per diem employee to help enter all these tickets into the system which is up for discussion this budget season.

Mayor Rumbold explained that she talked to Mrs. Phelps class about government and its role here in Walden. She suggested the class discuss with Mrs. Phelps some ideas of laws that would benefit the Village residents and come up with one that she could bring back the law to the Board to see if the law is something we would take action on. She read the community events into the minutes.

Public Comment on Business of the Board

None.

Action Items

Postpone William J. Larkin Jr. Pavilion & Play Area Dedication Ceremony until spring

Mayor Rumbold explained that we have asked the Senator to postpone the Park Dedication since we couldn't get our electrical contractor to coordinate with NYSEG in time to get the electrical service installed prior to the event. We will get together at a time in the future to hold the dedication.

Resolution 15-16-17: Exempt Properties

Manager Revella explained that this is so we avoid paying taxes on our property outside of our Village which is really the wells.

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve Resolution 15-16-17 Exempt Properties. Seconded by Trustee Adams. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 16-16-17: Budget Transfer

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve Resolution 16-16-17 Budget Transfer. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Wait Street Sidewalk Project Bids

Manager Revella stated that we recommend tabling this topic at this time as we are trying to work with the county for additional funds but we don't know when we will get the answer from the county. Instead of rejecting at this time we can wait another 2 weeks to find out if we get an answer so this will be on the agenda again next meeting.

Trustee Ramos made a motion to table the Wait Street Sidewalk Project bids. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Introductory Local Law #9 of 2016 - Police Disciplinary Law

Attorney Donovan explained that we've discussed this a few times as you recall Trustee Mishk brought this to the Board. This law would allow the Board to enforce issues with Police disciplinary issues as opposed to whatever is set forth in the PBA Agreement. Last meeting he had a question and wanted to be sure that the Village does indeed have this

authority and based on his research he concluded that it Village does. He proposed a draft local law but would suggest that we table this due to disciplinary rules that may have to be in place prior to or simultaneously with this law. He recommends we discuss with labor counsel first and then bring it back to the Board when they are ready.

Introductory Local Law #10 of 2016 – Truck Routes

Attorney Donovan explained that the idea behind this is that we were looking to establish a specific route for heavy vehicles would traverse through the Village. You have about 65 roads with weight limits on it now but it is not resolving the heavy truck traffic issues through the Village. So Police Department developed a specific route.

Manager Revella added that our current code says “except local delivery” on those weight limits. So this attempts to implement this idea.

Attorney Donovan stated that he needs the assistance of the Board for the appropriate routes as he does not live in Walden is not certain of the exact route that would be best for this. Alleviates a heavy truck from traveling on any street they would like but there would still be an exception for local delivery but they would need to start out on this specific route not just drive anywhere they wish as they do currently.

Manager Revella explained that we don't have control over State or County roads so they would not be included in our law, so we need to take that out. The roads would include Woodruff Street, Grant Street, Elm Street, and Oak Street which would be denoted with signage. Will need to clarify the specific details in the next draft with the comments and assistance from the Board.

Public Comment

Beth Keator, 37 Riverview Street, looking to find out when the clean-up would be finished on 14 Riverview Street. Does the property owner have a time limit for the repairs?

Manager Revella replied yes it is outlined in the resolution.

Beth continued that there is still an issue with the Animal control Officer Anne for the Town of Montgomery, she is clueless. She told her to be at court on October 11th, she went and was not on the agenda and when she talked to her about it she told her she never told her to be at court. It's a shame those dogs are still not licensed or vaccinated and sad that they are going to be a problem for someone else, somewhere, and wanted it to be recorded somewhere.

Mary Ellen Matise, 54 Gladstone Avenue, suggested that when you do the truck routes maybe you can take care of the buses going up Scofield Street at the same time. She asked if there was an update on the STAR information she gave at the last meeting.

Manager Revella replied that has already been taken care of.

Trustee Ramos added that the STAR program meeting is Wednesday with the Superintendent and the School Tax Collector. He will report on that at the next meeting.

Payment of the Audited Bills

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

Correspondence

None.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Ramos wanted to pass on his sincere gratitude to the personnel in Rec & Parks, Sarah, Anthony, Calista, Mike, Chris and everyone who is giving their all to make our community great. On October 6th the National Parks and Rec Department award went to a community in Franklin IL which is a great community, but he knows we do the same things here and we can get this award and recommends come January we fight hard in our application next time.

Trustee Adams asked if we got a response from the Town of Montgomery about the Rec Dept. fees and will we get the original agreement funds in the meantime.

Manager Revella replied that we sent the request for the check but have had zero response.

Mayor Rumbold asked if we should attend another meeting as this is very disappointing news.

Manager Revella replied yes, likely.

Trustee Mishk said he knows we are flushing hydrants this month; are we affected by the drought.

Manager Revella replied no, not at all.

Trustee Mishk stated he had a check from the Knights of Columbus donation towards the Rec & Parks Haunted Walking Trail. It's not much but we really wanted to donate towards a great community activity.

Mayor Rumbold also gave kudos to the crazy guys who Mike got together and designed the haunted trail, they are great. Over 1,000 volunteer hours have gone into it and it is just outstanding. The Senior PBA Dinner was fabulous once again and she thanked them for their event. Don't forget the Veterans Day Ceremony on November 6th at 1pm!

Executive Session

Trustee Sebring made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person, review professional consultant proposals, as well as potential litigation as it pertains to the Human Rights Complaint received from Hamond and to enter into attorney client privilege to discuss the interpretation request from 108 Ulster Avenue. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Motions & Resolutions**

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