

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
January 3, 2017**

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

**Public Hearing – Local Law 1 of 2017 – Truck Routes**

Trustee Ramos made a motion to open the public hearing for Local Law 1 of 2017 – Truck Routes. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mary Ellen Matise, 54 Gladstone Avenue, commented that in 2008-2009 when they came and reworked the traffic lights the fellow who came from DOT asked where all the trucks come from. There are still things that need to be addressed with the traffic lights that might alleviate the truck situation, but keeping the trucks off our delicate streets and infrastructure is wonderful.

Trustee Leonard made the motion to close the public hearing for Local Law 1 of 2017 – Truck Routes. Seconded by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Adams made the motion for Negative Declaration under SEQRA for Local Law 1 of 2017 – Truck Routes. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Adams made the motion to adopt Local Law 1 of 2017 – Truck Routes. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Hearing – 20 Lafayette Street**

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, reported that photos were taken this afternoon at 2:10pm and the original notice was for miscellaneous debris and a refrigerator which is now gone but the other items remain including wood, tires, plastic which needs to be cleaned up. No correspondence at all has been received from the owner.

Manager Revella stated that the owner is not present tonight.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to authorize the Building Department and Village Manager to take action to get the miscellaneous debris at the property located at 20 Lafayette Street cleaned up and any costs associated with said clean-up be charged back to the property owner. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All Ayes. Motion carried.

### **Village Manager's Report**

- Tree City USA application has been submitted, would be our 12<sup>th</sup> year in a row.
- We got word that we did receive the Orange County Tourism grant for up to \$4,999 for Harvest Fest application that was submitted, still waiting for the official letter however. We can submit multiple applications for all our events which we will do.
- Main Street lighting proposals were reviewed with our Engineers. They have a contractor that came in and spoke to us about options which some are expensive and some are moderate plus we have a local artist that is a much lower cost but are still working on that option.
- Minimum wage effective 12/30/16 paperwork has been taken care of for those employees it affected including for Civil Service.
- DARE graduation was wonderful and Trustee Ramos was the keynote speaker which was very nice.
- Attended both the Leadership Day and Harvest Fest meetings which were back to back. Hope everyone can attend, as they will be great events.
- Had a few snow events which weren't too bad. Guys worked for 12 hours and then sidewalks for another 3 hours. Only took 4 hours to clean up down town one night with the least amount of interference with traffic.
- NYS Public Service Commission confirmed they received our complaint about staffing at our local NYSEG station. Will be having a meeting this week to make changes with higher up NYSEG staff to meet needs of our community.
- Inventory is done and doing evaluations now.
- Timeline was updated for the Ulster Avenue Sidewalk Project with DOT construction and payout should be completed by September 2017. Since the railroad will not let us put the bridge on their property, we were able to get funds originally granted for the pedestrian bridge moved to the Ulster Avenue project for drainage work that needs to be completed in that area. First \$800,000 is fully funded but the \$400,000 is a 25% match, so it's not that bad.
- Had a few water breaks two big ones on Ivy Hill Road and Main Street as well as a small one on Ulster Avenue which were repaired.
- Drop boxes have been ordered for the Police Department's pharmaceutical drop offs.

Trustee Mishk asked if the chickens were cleaned up yet on Wileman.

Manager Revella replied he thought they were removed but he got word that they are back as a resident called and complained that they were hiding them.

Trustee Adams asked if the situation with the water on Wileman Avenue with Mr. Merring is done.

Manager Revella replied that we did testing but didn't find anything to warrant any work. So it is off the table for now unless something changes at which point we would need to readdress.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman asked if we can use the existing \$800,000 for Ulster Avenue as a portion of that 25% match for the \$400,000.

Manager Revella replied no, but we may be able to use funds already expended as a match.

Trustee Leonard added that the situation on Wileman Avenue when the hydrants were flushed they had discolored water but didn't know they had been flushed which may have been part of the problem.

Mayor Rumbold asked when the new DPW facility is completed, will there be any space to do more inventory storage. Will we need to discuss during budget time to supply that area or is that normal supply and we just now have a space for it.

Manager Revella replied yes. We started to but it was hard to organize in the space we had there but in the new building it should be better organized.

#### **Approval of December 6, 2016 Minutes**

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the December 6, 2016 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

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

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

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

Trustee Ramos reported that Valley Central school board meetings are January 9<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> and the school calendar will be out at the next meeting for them to approve it. Recreation Department has basketball sign up going on which is great with numbers at 137 total and counting.

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

Deputy Mayor Hoffman reported that he met with Dean today and he was away on vacation last week. We discussed the 73-77 Main Street tank removals and Overlook Farm project that was on the Planning Board agenda.

Manager Revella confirmed that the tanks were removed from 73-77 Main Street.

##### **DPW Liaison– Trustee Sebring**

Trustee Sebring reported that the DPW has been busy plowing and salting as well as snow removal on Main Street and 3 water main breaks. 2/3 of roof is already installed.

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

Trustee Adams reported that she hasn't been able to meet with Kelly until next week. She asked about the evaluations for the Clerk and Treasurer which John has been doing in the past. Would the Board want her to sit in on them as a representative of the Board?

Manager Revella explained that in the past Bernard sat in on them so he has no problem with it.

The Board agreed.

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

Trustee Mishk reported that he met with Chief today and he reported that they are down 3 cars right now, one from an accident sliding on the ice and 2 with mechanical issues all being worked on. Started interviewing Part time officers and would like to hire 4 more officers to alleviate overtime. We also need dispatchers as well but have not gotten many applications.

Mayor Rumbold read the community events into the minutes.

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

None.

### **Action Items**

#### **Introductory Local Law - Clothing Drop Boxes**

Mayor Rumbold explained we just got this draft and would like to table for discussion at this time to allow for more time to review it and we asked the Building Inspector for his comments on it.

#### **Village Website Proposal**

Rod Freeman, Small Biz Up, explained we redesigned the website in 2010 but haven't done anything since then. We have had about 25,000 visitors every year roughly looking at 3 pages during their visits. The number of cell phones that are accessing websites is increasing and our current design is not updated for that, it wasn't designed for that at that time. He is suggesting a refreshed updated look and to make it more responsive. There are other things that need to be done as well. We upgraded the hosting over a year ago and moved to Go Daddy at no cost to the Village and we have better customer service there. He reviewed his spreadsheet that he broke down to what he highly recommends which are more enhancements for protection and security to make it as strong as possible and what we should do which are more about responsiveness and then nice to do would be about further securing the site and giving it its own server to enhance additional protection from hackers. Currently Village pays \$3,200 per year and if we did all of these it would increase to \$4,380 per year which includes hosting, email, storage, and any maintenance necessary.

Trustee Mishk asked about the shared server with Go Daddy and if it would be more easily hackable that way.

Rod explained it would be so many different users could use the same IP address. It wouldn't be more easily hackable it's more about spam control. It's more about security stuff to protect you from that and what others can see.

Trustee Mishk is concerned about links opening a back door to allow people to gain entry and we are storing police information on there.

Rod replied it would actually be a lower risk in terms of the Police Department as we don't store anything from the Police Department website on the Village website. He doesn't host the Police website. He feels technology is advanced and we are using a good network provider to protect things like logins and passwords and making it difficult for a robot or computer to log in and hack our site, that's where the focus is. It would be more secure if we had our own server because then its stand alone and easy to trace if it does happen.

Manager Revella stated that the police website is on a server downstairs, not managed by us and not linked to our server up here.

Trustee Mishk is concerned about taking payments by credit card for water sewer billing and the rec department registrations and someone getting that information.

Manager Revella explained those are done on a 3<sup>rd</sup> party software not on our server, it's just a link to their site from our website, they have all the data and we are protected via contract on that information. That is not housed on our server.

Trustee Mishk asked about the cost of getting our own server.

Rod replied in the 10s of thousands of dollars. That would be a big infrastructure cost to pull that off.

Mayor Rumbold explained that an upgrade is a great idea and something we will discuss further at budget sessions.

### **Fire and Safety Inspections**

Manager Revella explained this is something we have been talking about for a few months now. We implemented in our landlord registry some changes to inspections. Current state and Village code both mandate to inspect multifamily dwellings with 3 or more units every 2 years but we would like to consider doing that every year instead. It may reduce the risk of fire to have more frequent inspections. There is an exemption for single and 2 family homes in the state code. Commercial or industrial use is automatic, not exempt.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman clarified that we would be doing more than what the state requires with this change.

Mayor Rumbold asked if we have enough man power to do this.

Manager Revella replied that is another question. He has had some offhand discussions with the fire district who does have personnel that may be able to assist with this but have to discuss with the building department and see what they can handle and not handle and see what is realistic. Right now the Code Enforcement Officer and the Building Inspector both have the credentials to do this at this time.

Trustee Mishk asked how we are with these inspection now; are we up to date.

Manager Revella replied it we are not up to date, it is difficult to keep up with.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman added that the administrative side is what is difficult.

Trustee Mishk asked if coupled with fire district people we could spread it out over the year. They may be able to do weekends as well which would also help.

Attorney Donovan stated that is an issue he would have to look into. There is oftentimes a mix up about who is in charge for lack of a better phrase. The law is clear that it is the Building Inspector who has the authority, not the fire department or anyone else.

Manager Revella clarified that if we would be looking to do this they would need to be part time or temporary employees of the Village if we needed the help from the Fire Department, not representing the Fire Department.

Trustee Mishk explained that it is a liability to us if we don't keep up and we aren't keeping up now. We could probably keep up with it if we spread it out over the course of a year.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman explained he doesn't think we aren't keeping up with it, it is just difficult to keep up with.

Trustee Mishk stated that between the Landlord registry and inspections, the Building Inspector is overworked already in his eyes. If we had part time or temporary help perhaps we could take some of that burden off of him.

Manager Revella explained we would delve into this more with Building Inspector and Attorney and bring back to Board at a later date.

### **Public Comment**

Mary Ellen Matise, 54 Gladstone Avenue, said she got an email about grants from John and he asked if she had any ideas. Working on the comp plan is her suggestion; the one that was updated in 2012. Let's do some strategic planning to develop a 5 year cultural plan. Right now people just sponsor events here and there and only brings out the local people to events. There is no general plan in place with all the stakeholders and organizations input. We would need Board input and have the Manager call a meeting and see what we can do to make our Village exciting like others.

Deputy Mayor Hoffman stated that the level of detail is not something that is generally put into the comprehensive plan. It is really an overarching broad plan and is not meant to be specific about events, sponsors, etc. These are broad reaching goals not individual goals with objectives on them.

Mary Ellen stated she understood but it could be a separate more detailed plan that could tie into the comp plan. Local groups are struggling and need the help. Once you have a plan you have a focus with input from all the local stakeholders/organizations to draw more people into our local community.

Lynn Thompson, 34 Riverview Street, she has had her suspicions for quite a while in her neighborhood with illegal activity going on with controlled substances on one end of their street. The police have said they are watching the activity in the neighborhood. Last week it was disturbing and she shared with Sue and Jerry that she witnessed a drug deal go on right in her back yard. She lives at the corner of Prospect and Riverview Street. She was shocked and it was very disturbing. She called the police but didn't think to video the interaction as she wasn't sure about the expectation of her as the resident was. The same

time the next day the same thing happened again involving a parked car and a woman who got out of the call and then went into 15 Riverview Street. It's troubling and concerning for young children. She feels there could be better education on the severity of the situation in our Village and about what is going on and what to do. Who should she speak to about that or is there a presentation that can be given to the public for general knowledge and what the community can do to help. Neighborhood watch idea was brought to Chief a number of years ago and he had said we were basically already doing that without the formality and encouraged us to continue communication and watching and encourage kids to participate in DARE. There is no follow up to the DARE program in the Middle School. Whatever is going on in town has finally impacted her and it was disturbing.

Manager Revella stated that a Sergeant will be coming to see her talk to her and to discuss what she might have seen and to help educate the neighborhood without getting into details or compromising any investigations but there is activity going on and hopefully can help show what kind of documentation is needed and come to fruition to get it under control. We do have shared services with other departments and we do use them more frequently than we think, state police stop here almost every night to help share information.

Trustee Ramos added that there were workshops given on several workshops for parents and kids. Last one was called the social wall to cover substance abuse and the DA was there and the substance abuse task force there too. It's a parent workshop. There will be 5 workshops for the year but the last one was great but sadly wasn't very well attended. It is open to anyone to attend.

Lynn said she would try to rally the troops to try to come to one.

Trustee Mishk suggested that everyone get a notebook and document dates, plates, names, times, etc. that would help.

Trustee Adams stated that a neighborhood watch can be very effective. Did one on Valley Avenue and the side streets there and we received a packet that told us what to do and how to do it and it was very effective.

Becky Pearson, 167 Walnut Street, asked about the audited bills and asked what "NY 529 college savings" was and what the state comptroller's office payment for \$4,097 was.

Manager Revella stated it's a deduction from employee's payroll contributions they can choose to do if they want. The comptroller could be fines and fees for the court.

Becky added that about a year ago she spoke to John about Walnut Street that was recently paved a few years ago. Took some photos and we pay a lot of money for what gets done on our streets and it just doesn't seem like that should be happening only 5 years later. Not sure what you are getting for your money to our Engineer. Not sure if state roads are different than Village roads, but you are paying an engineer to look over this stuff. Pond Road got done as well and it doesn't have that and was done around the same time. We have roads here for some 20 years that don't look like that. Suggests you look at what money we are paying our engineers as they inspect things and she's sure there were notes taken about what was used and what happened. Doesn't want to have it

happen to other roads. Not sure if the hurricane caused some issue there as it was around the hurricane and the street was wide open with dirt. You will have to come up and tar it and fix it this summer. Is your engineer working for you or someone else?

Anita Vandermark, 76 Highland Avenue, added that the Walden Community Council will meet at Walden Savings Bank on the 11<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. We really need help with what we are doing for the Village.

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

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

### **Correspondence**

None.

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

Trustee Mishk commented about the house next to him, 64 Wait Street, still has an exposed hole, and the driveway is falling in, and the hole is expanding in the back yard. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> winter with it exposed. Looking to see it addressed as soon as possible as the hole is expanding and in a short time his driveway is going to be inside that hole. There is only some orange netting around it and the hole is covered with ply wood which is rotted now.

Manager Revella stated that the home is in contract to be sold.

### **Executive Session**

Trustee Ramos made a motion to go into executive session to vet issues regarding potential engagement with special labor counsel, discuss issues regarding the price with potential sale of Village owned property, litigation surrounding bankruptcy of Big Apple Circus, and the employment history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Motions Made After Executive Session**

Trustee Leonard made a motion to appoint Feerick, Lynch, MacCartney, & Nugent PLLC special labor counsel with regard to Village Police Related issues. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. 6 Ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Hoffman). Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard made a motion to appoint Burke, Miele, & Golden, LLP special labor counsel with regard to non-Village Police Related matters. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. 6 Ayes, 0 nays, 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Hoffman). Motion carried.

Trustee Adams made a motion to authorize the Village Manager to solicit costs for appraisal for certain Village property. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.



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