

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
July 17, 2018**

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	Faith Moore
	Trustees	Brian B. Sebring
		Larry Kraus
		John Ramos
		Dan Svarczkopf
		Lynn E. Thompson

Absent:

Also Present:	John Revella, Village Manager
	Tara Bliss, Village Clerk
	Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

Presentation – LED Street Lighting – NYSEDA

Niklas Moran, Planner with Hudson Valley Regional Council, gave a presentation on LED Street Lights discussing and reviewing the energy and cost savings associated with converting Village street lights to LEDS. He provided materials for the Board to review. It can be a lengthy process but is a worthwhile process he explained. There is potential for shared services with other municipalities as well.

Trustee Svarczkopf asked if the first step is to figure out how much to replace our current lights, correct.

Mr. Moran replied yes you could do that as it could take up to 90 business days for NYSEG to get them. You have some time to inventory and do an audit of your street lighting. We can help you go around during that time frame and count the fixtures etc.

Trustee Svarczkopf asked why we want to purchase the old lights before we purchase the new ones.

Mr. Moran replied that you don't have to purchase them, you can pay the utility, but you have to pay for the stranded costs of the access. If you can decommission a few lights and he doesn't think they will charge you for that but generally if you want to change anything in the street light system you have to pay for the stranded costs. That has been a big contentious issue.

Trustee Svarczkopf asked once we take ownership of the lights let's say one is out and we don't catch it is there a legal responsibility on us.

Mr. Moran replied currently there are towns that have zero lights. There is only liability
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when you have been put on notice of an unsafe condition and you don't remediate it. There is no rule on how much light you have to provide, you could say you don't want any lights at all.

Attorney Donovan confirmed that we could be put on notice that is out and that it is creating a potentially dangerous condition and if we don't remediate the situation then we would be liable for it.

Trustee Svarczkopf replied he knows the bucket truck can sometimes be hard for us to get so he was worried about that liability.

Manager Revella replied that if we did a full conversion like we are talking about we would have to get our own bucket truck.

Trustee Kraus stated that if we spend about \$55,000 how much savings will we have.

Trustee Svarczkopf replied it would be we about \$35,000.

Trustee Kraus asked where the break event point would be, how many years down the road.

Mr. Moran said it depends on the utility territory, NYSEG has been looking like 5-7 years. It depends on the wattage as well, if you want to increase that to make up for some dead spots then your payback might be longer but in other territories it could be 3-5. The big cities is a shorter time frame.

Trustee Thompson asked what the advantage to implementing some of these programs once you are a clean energy community. If you go through some of these 10 steps how does that work? It makes you eligible for some sort of funding, correct?

Mr. Moran replied thank you, he was going to talk about that. The Green Energy program's 1st round of funding has been allocated already. The greatest thing about this program is that municipalities that are 40,000 and under don't compete with larger communities and cities. There are grants available but they are now \$5,000 cash grants with no requirements. Village of Goshen was the only Orange County community that got a big grant. County just missed it but did get the \$5,000 cash grant.

Deputy Mayor Moore thanked Mr. Moran for coming and presenting, she has no questions.

Trustee Sebring asked who does the study, how do you determine what lighting is required to take out dark spots, etc. who does that.

Mr. Moran replied whoever was awarded the contract to do the project would do a design and would drive around with photometers and do a sampling of generally 20% of the street lights. They talk to DPW and Police and come up with ideas with what they think people will be happy with and then engage the community.

Trustee Sebring asked how long the process takes between starting and getting a contractor and finishing.

Mr. Moran replied it depends on the territory. Central Hudson, his Village asked for a quote and they got one the same day. NYSEG says 90 business days which is not very

user friendly so it has been a process. He would say a year or more. If you get a purchase price, the project itself could be 3 weeks but you still have to wait for all the built in time frames.

Manager Revella asked about buying space on polls. Most of our polls are wooden polls, so we would be buying the fixture with the arm and the bulb, and paying someone to retro fit and still paying the power and still getting a savings.

Mr. Moran replied yes if you are purchasing you have energy efficiency.

Manager Revella said it seems like a lot of paying there.

Mr. Moran replied that in NYS the utilities have been asking for a pole rental fee for the arm. In other states contractors say it is paid through with the system costs and fees that is a negotiable fee and is a nominal fee.

Manager Revella asked when the next round of funding will be out.

Mr. Moran replied that the Clean Energy Program has nothing definite now. NYSERDA is looking for ways to refund the program and have folks apply for grants again. He can say it will be soon as the program goes till next September.

Manager Revella asked what NYSERDA does.

Mr. Moran replied we have a cost calculator when you put in the street light system into it you get an idea of how much the savings would be. Transparent cost savings. Conservatively estimates so you can see what you are looking at. Try to do projects 400 lights or above but can do some less than that.

Manager Revella replied that we are close. Have you found that when you do these that the head itself needs to be retrofitted for the LED bulbs or lens needing to be replaced, is that part of the cost as well?

Mr. Moran replied yes part of the cost is saving the light bulb and recycling it and taking all the brackets and recycling it or throwing it away which apparently are valuable things that are not too expensive to dispose of fixtures. It is part of the design cost which is included in an itemized list.

Village Manager's Report

- Met with Village Clerk and Village Attorney to discuss agenda items and follow up. We discussed the status of updates to Village codes relevant to water and sewer with DPW Superintendent and the Police Chief. Hopefully will have some drafts at the next meeting for the Board to look at and see if the Board would like to move forward and we can give explanation as to why we feel it is important and beneficial to the community.
- Meeting with Trustee Thompson to review building department matters.
- Meeting with Recreation Coordinator to review status of parks and programs, maintenance of the parks, and also the lawn cutting for property violations.
- Conducted CSEA negotiations with negotiating committee. Discussed areas of proposals that are accepted or denied and countered. We will be going over more in exec so we have some clear answers for the next negotiations meeting.

- Meeting with Treasurer to discuss year-end adjustments. Discussed some bookkeeping as well so that she is ready for the auditors to come next month.
- Conducted interviews for Youth Employment program that is going full throttle now in all the different locations. The youth and employers have been giving positive impact so that is great.
- Attended OCTC Meeting to obtain Ulster Avenue approval and discussed local projects.
- Met with Clerk to review some personnel matters as well as a few Board members as well as our Counsel.
- Followed up on litigation with a resident at 154 West Main Street that we sent to our Special Counsel.
- Got our report from Lovell our workers comp carrier which was very favorable regarding our cost savings.
- Shared Services we did get our updated list of ideas for shared services. Some communities want to remain anonymous but we don't want to. Hopeful we will get a report at the meeting next Thursday.
- Will talk about the bids that came in for Pine Street Pump Station which is on the agenda tonight.
- Had a few water service line breaks.
- Met with Special Counsel Golden to review hearing materials, review of personnel matters, review of CSEA negotiations status, and discussed Village policy updates.
- Reviewed with the Village Planner the last few chapters of the Comp Plan so we can have those revisions in place soon so the committee can review them soon.

Deputy Mayor Moore asked about the public comments made at the last meeting where there were holes at Veterans Park; were they looked into.

Manager Revella replied yes and it was undetermined.

Deputy Mayor Moore asked how many kids are registered for summer camp this year.

Manager Revella replied it was 350 as of Monday but it changes every day.

Mayor Rumbold asked about the storm damage. We filled out all that paperwork and sent it in, where are we at with that.

Manager Revella replied we don't have a response from FEMA yet for potential reimbursement but all the paperwork is in.

Mayor Rumbold asked if we know when to expect that.

Manager Revella replied no. It goes to the County Emergency Management who sends it all into the State who sends it into Federal and then we get an answer.

Mayor Rumbold asked if that has all been completed, was it all sent in to state and fed.

Manager Revella said the County did for sure but not sure about the state.

Mayor Rumbold asked if there was a way to check and see where the state is with their part.

Manager Revella replied that he will ask the state.

Approval of June 19, 2018 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the June 19, 2018 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Svarczkopf. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee's Committee Reports

Village Offices Liaison – Trustee Svarczkopf

Trustee Svarczkopf reported that the office has collected 92% of taxes. We are narrowing down that software and are down to 2. We are taking time to make a big decision so we make the right choice as it is difficult to reverse it. We are currently applying for a \$50,000 cyber security grant and we realized we could probably roll in the Police Department server which is about at the end of its life along with Wi-Fi in this building and get the serving that we need for this software and get it paid for with this if we get the full grant. Applying hopefully tomorrow if we get the quote. Summer Youth Employment Program started and is going well. He met the kids the other day. We have an intern in the Finance Department named Anthony as well as one in John's office.

Town of Montgomery & Library Board liaison – Trustee Kraus

Trustee Kraus reported that he was not able to meet with Ginny. Hope to have something for next time.

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

Trustee Thompson reported that she was away and didn't get to meet with Dean. They talked briefly on the phone. She is trying to work out a date to shadow him to see what his job entails and will schedule that for next week. She had some questions for our Code Enforcement Officer but she understands that he is unavailable due to an injury where he is out of work for a few days so she will follow up with that. She wants to follow up with Dean on the Fire and Safety inspections. His report indicates that those that were non-compliant with the Landlord Registry were at the court level and one didn't show up so that one will be getting his full attention if they don't appear for next court date and he will be going ahead with legal action. Nothing has been sent out yet regarding the abandoned properties so we'll be going over that too.

Police Department and Justice Department Liaison – Deputy Mayor Moore

Deputy Mayor Moore reported that she met with Chief Holmes twice and he was on vacation last week and again next week. All cars are currently in rotation and operational. We discussed his budget status and where he is with that, time off, National Night Out staffing and Harvest Fest.

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

Trustee Ramos reported that he spoke with Mr. Bliss a few times. Camp registration was 350 but it was 353 as of this morning. Camp is doing really well the past few weeks. Staff has been phenomenal no issues kids are having a great time. Had good weather it has been hot but they had the slide and of course the lake. Have had 100% on all health department inspections for the County so the Park is doing phenomenal. Nothing for school board as they are transitioning now.

DPW Liaison– Trustee Sebring

Trustee Sebring reported that Fred is on vacation this week so he didn't get to talk to him but from his previous report they have been sweeping on a regular basis, repairing many

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catch basins that were in bad shape, they had guys working with mechanic on and off, Water Department put in 18 new meters and they replaced many shut off valves that were leaking and have been fixed.

Mayor Rumbold stated she was in contact with Supervisor Winchell and he said they are having a meeting on Thursday night regarding the audit they have done. There will be a full presentation on that audit. She would like to ask the Board if they would mind sending a letter to the Town regarding the Hill Street Bridge to find out if they have engineering done or if there is a plan to fix the bridge. They do have the panels but seems to be some sort of question on what they will do with the panels. She doesn't know if they have a plan. She would like to have the Manager draft a letter asking them what their intentions are with that bridge. She is asking if anyone has any questions on it.

Manager Revella added that it would be a strongly worded letter not just a how you doing letter.

Deputy Mayor Moore asked how long it has been out of commission at this point.

Manager Revella replied over 6 years.

The Board unanimously agreed to have the Manager write a letter to the Town of Montgomery regarding what their plan is for the Hill Street Bridge.

Mayor Rumbold read the list of community events into the minutes.

Public Comment on Business of the Board

Mary Ellen Matisse asked about the code revisions what codes you are looking at revising.

Manager Revella replied tree maintenance, water service lines, and commercial vehicles where can park etc.

Becky Pearson asked about the Ulster Avenue sidewalk bid, did you put it out to bid right now.

Manager Revella replied that right now we are doing the bond resolution. We can't bid until they approve the bid documents but we are approved to go out to bid.

Becky said in the resolution it says you might get \$1.42 million so we are possibly liable for \$300,000 or more.

Manager Revella replied that is correct.

Becky said it doesn't say you are going to get the total.

Manager Revella replied that if the project costs less they don't have to contribute as much. He believes it is 15% not sure of the exact number.

Becky asked about the resolution for your budget transfers ending May 31, 2018. The Administrator for Recreation and Treasurer get overtime?

Manager Revella replied that is all the employees in that particular department, it's just the name of the line item.

Becky asked about the well head protection are you sending a letter on that as well.

Manager Revella replied that the Supervisor is working on that already.

Action Items

Park Use Request – Waiver to serve alcohol - 8/5/18 1-5pm at James W. Olley Park

Peter Millspaugh was present for the application to hold a baby shower and to be able to have alcohol present not serving it.

Trustee Ramos made the motion to approve the Park Use Request Waiver to serve alcohol for the 8/5/18 1-5pm Baby Shower at James W. Olley Park. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Moore. All ayes. Motion carried.

Temporary Event Sign Request – Freedom Road Bible Church Soccer Camp

Deputy Mayor Moore made the motion to approve the Temporary Event Sign Request from Freedom Road Bible Church for their Soccer Camp. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 5-18-19: 2017-2018 Year End Budget Adjustments

Deputy Mayor Moore pointed out that the year ended under budget even with the adjustments.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve Resolution 5-18-19: 2017-2018 Year End Budget Adjustments. Seconded by Trustee Svarczkopf. All ayes. Motion approved.

Award Bid – Pine Street Pump Station

Manager Revella stated that the bids were opened and reviewed. We received 4 bids and all met the requirements. The lowest bidder is PK Songer who has done some private work in the Village before. They were concerned about meeting the timeline of the County but that has been worked out and the engineers recommend going with the lowest bidder in this case for \$394,000.

Trustee Svarczkopf what this was going to do.

Manager Revella replied that it was to rehab the entire station.

Trustee Svarczkopf asked how long it would be down for.

Manager Revella replied probably about 3 months. It would be bypassed during that time. This project plays into our consent order so it will help us.

Trustee Ramos made the motion to award the bid for the CDBG-DR Pine Street Pump Station project in the amount of \$394,000 to PK Songer Plumbing. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Bond Resolution 6-18-19: Ulster Avenue Sidewalk Project

Deputy Mayor Moore made the motion for Negative Declaration under SEQRA for Bond Resolution 6-18-19: Ulster Avenue Sidewalk Project. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Ramos made a motion to approve Bond Resolution 6-18-19: Ulster Avenue Sidewalk Project in the amount of \$1,725,000. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion approved.

Resolution 7-18-19: CDBG Valley Avenue Sewer Main Lining Project

Trustee Svarczkopf asked how they were being lined. Are they being replaced and another one pulled behind it?

Manager Revella replied no. They actually go in and coat the interior of the line that solidifies and makes it a good line inside the old line.

Trustee Svarczkopf asked if this is because we think leak there.

Manager Revella replied it is because the line is so deep if there were leaks it would be very costly. We know there is infiltration because it is a very old line and it is clay material which naturally has an absorbent material so the water does infiltrate in the gaps. Also, there were issues further down the line so we believe it will happen farther up the line as it progresses, it has some large cracks.

Trustee Svarczkopf said he knew there were about 3 or 4 laterals broken over the last year on that street. Does this project have the ability to break those as well as it is being done?

Manager Revella replied no because as it coats it cuts the lateral out of the main as it goes. It doesn't coat the lateral just the main but will cut out a hole for where the lateral is. This is also part of the consent order doing this as well as the smoke testing.

Trustee Svarczkopf asked if the line would be turned off, how long the houses will be without water.

Manager Revella replied they won't be without water, it is a sewer line not water and they would be put on bypass the entire time.

Trustee Ramos made the motion for Negative Declaration under SEQRA for Resolution 7-18-19: CDBG Valley Avenue Sewer Main Lining Project. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Moore. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Moore made a motion to approve Resolution 7-18-19: CDBG Valley Avenue Sewer Main Lining Project in the amount of \$75,000. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion approved.

Public Comment

Stephanie Uszenski said she was sorry the code enforcement is not here. She asked how many chickens have been removed from the Village since hers were.

Manager Revella replied 1 house on Coldenham Road since then that but only one location has been reported. Not sure if removed but were cited for goats and chickens.

Stephanie asked how many noise complaints or odor complaints the police department has received about chickens.

Deputy Mayor Moore replied she does not know but is happy to get a number for her for the next meeting.

Stephanie stated that she has a neighbor who looks for things to complain about, all sorts of things. So her thing is that the issue isn't chickens, the issue is people. To allow chicken keeping is to turn those with chickens who will never be present here as she is the one that took the bullet, no one else will come here and risk prosecution; to turn them into law abiding citizens again. For those of us who want to do so legally. She doesn't think there are that many of them that the Village will be overrun, and have PD chasing chickens from the streets. All the chickens, and personally she knows of no one, all the chickens that she knew about still exist so the Village was not aggressively going after chicken keepers. The other chicken keepers live in fear and her family has been deprived of the joys of chicken keeping. First they are great pets and her family misses them. They eat kitchen scraps and produce great eggs. Every day was like Easter for her kids. Even her teen kids would race outside and see how many eggs there were in the morning. We ate less processed foods and more eggs in the process. Always under supervision they were out in the yard and they ate the ticks and bugs in the yard and they go into their coup when it was dark. You could almost train them like dogs, they would never go off the property when I trained them they knew where they could go. A small flock of fewer than 6 hens is quieter and produces less waste than one dog. She had some articles to share with the Board, some are about facts and myths of chicken keeping. Historically chicken keeping in times of war was encouraged by the government. Many municipalities have added backyard chicken keeping as a permitted use on residential properties in their zoning as of 2011. 93% of US cities allowed backyard chicken keeping. There is an upper Manhattan apartment that sold for \$1.2 million and a tiny urban chicken coup was part of its selling feature. She has cute pictures. This is not smelly big industry, this is our beloved pets and most people will care well for them. Just in yesterday's newspaper was that Cornell Cooperative Extension advertising a chicken keeping seminar. It is here, it is here to stay, and it is not a bad thing. Our zoning was specifically excluded. Also there would need to be changes made to the zoning for the distance a coup has to be from homes. It is here to stay and if Walden can manage it appropriately she feels it would be a blessing to the community that A-we don't have scoff laws and B-people can do it legally. Right now it is not fair that if you have good neighbors you have chickens and if you don't you don't have them.

Trustee Thompson thought we mentioned that we used to have zoning that allowed chickens, she is not familiar with that.

Stephanie replied that historically governments supported it but this was in the last century. It was back in the day in Walden and zoning was intended to protect the community from hazards.

Trustee Thompson said she understands and she grew up in Montgomery near Anthonisen's chicken farm that was not pleasant on a hot summer day. But she also knows how many chickens lived there, she is obviously not looking for that amount commercially. She just wanted a little information about what she had.

Stephanie replied that the proposed legislation that was tabled a few years ago was hens only and fewer than 6. She had 3 traditional hens and 1 Bantam which is a tiny chicken and no rooster. It was the perfect back yard community.

Manager Revella replied that chickens were banned for noise and violence.

Mary Ellen Matise added that until we revised the code in 2008/2009 we still had a code that allowed all animals except pigs. That goes back to someone who lived near Hepper Street whose pigs ran wild and people couldn't stand it so they banned it. It was allowed until then. She thanked Larry for his quick action on the sink hole on Ridge Avenue.

Becky Pearson asked about National Night Out. She hasn't heard anything about it.

Manager Revella replied yes it is happening. We are a partner \$1,000 and most committee is mostly made up of Walden people. The goal was to rotate locations.

Becky asked how involved Walden is.

Mayor Rumbold replied very. She added that when we started the committee about opioid it was suggested to do it on the school campus and we figured we'd try a new location.

Shane Exley said wanted to discuss the future of the skate park. Garrett didn't follow through.

Manager Revella stated that we do have a meeting with the group that was here last time at 5pm on July 24th about the skate park at Bradley Park.

Faith Moore, Executive Director of OCRDAC, gave out information about a SONYMA Spruce up event that RDAC is hosting and administrating in the Village of Walden. SONYMA spruce up last year spruced up 150 homes, 5 vacant lots, 5 parks, a school, an outdoor classroom, and a playground between municipalities in Albany, Troy, Buffalo, Newburgh and Brentwood. It brought together over 470 volunteers to do so and they came to her as Executive Director of RDAC and asked her to host an event in Orange County she figured what better place to do that than right here in the Village of Walden. It will be held on September 21st. We are looking for volunteers and sponsors. Sunny May is a sponsor and a few banks as well and we are hoping that our community banks will really sponsor. We want to focus on Main Street and the Skate Park. SONYMA is happy to do so and SONYMA wants to be able to focus on what the Skate Park needs as far as materials and volunteers to get it where it needs to be. So she wanted to make you aware and hope to see you on September 21st all day 9am to 5pm. She will be working with Building Inspector to identify people off of Main Street that might need some assistance. The meeting is July 24th at 5pm at the Skate Park but she won't be able to attend. Trustee Ramos and Trustee Svarczkopf will be attending and she is hoping that he will be able to share that information. She has the money to buy the supplies she just needs people to come that day and do the work that needs to get done.

Payment of the Audited Bills

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

Correspondence

Trustee Thompson had email and telephone correspondence from Potsdam NY about removing fluoride from their water. They were following what was happening here and have invited the Mayor and herself who are going up there on July 26th to hear what we did and how we did it to get ours out.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Manager Revella explained that he, Trustee Ramos, and the Rec Coordinator were able to get a tour of Polich Tallix facility on Edmunds Lane to see what they are doing now and where their projects are headed. They had projects ranging from the size of your hand and some sizes bigger than a building. We went through the whole process of how they make the molds out of wax, the dipping, the finishing, and the different artisans there doing the artwork, the Oscar statues were being prepared for next year's event. They also became a sponsor for Harvest Fest and Music in the Grove and will have a write up about that in the Harvest Fest pull out that gets handed out at the event. They are happy to be here. Will be giving small tours up to 10 people a few times this year to get community members through there and will be an active participant at Harvest Fest and plan on displaying items at the event.

Mayor Rumbold commented that Wooster playground was power washed and stained by about 20 Bruderhof students who came and helped and did a great job and in record time.

Manager Revella added that het mulch was delivered today so we will begin adding that tomorrow.

Deputy Mayor Moore thanked the Treasurer for her hard work and diligence closing the year out and answering numerous questions on her behalf. She thanked the Village Clerk for a successful start to the Summer Youth Employment Program.

Trustee Svarczkopf stated that Wooster Grove looks great. He was wondering if we could look into a few playground pieces that are missing. There is a tire swing and rungs and handles that are missing.

Mayor Rumbold added that we are not sure if can be replaced. If the tire swing can't be done we will find an alternative item to go there.

Manager Revella wanted to add that we did apply for a Walden Savings Bank credit card as opposed to Citibank cards we have been having problems with. Also we found a way to open up a different investment account to get max interest rates.

Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Moore made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss PBA & CSEA Collective Bargaining Negotiations and potential litigation 154 West Main Street. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

Deputy Mayor Moore made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Trustee Svarczkopf. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
July 17, 2018
Motions & Resolutions**

Approval of June 19, 2018 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Moore made a motion to approve the June 19, 2018 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Svarczkopf. All ayes. Motion carried.

Park Use Request – Waiver to serve alcohol - 8/5/18 1-5pm at James W. Olley Park

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Deputy Mayor Moore made a motion to approve Resolution 7-18-19: CDBG Valley Avenue Sewer Main Lining Project in the amount of \$75,000. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion approved.

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