

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
June 15, 2021**

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

On roll call the following were:	Mayor:	John Ramos
Present:	Deputy Mayor	Willie Carley
	Trustees	Brian Sebring
		Cheryl Baker
		Lynn E. Thompson
		Patricia Maher
		John Elliott

Absent:

Also Present:	John Revella, Village Manager
	Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk
	Kelly A. Kelly, Village Treasurer
	Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

Chief Herlihy introduced Robert Montanaro as the new Sergeant.

**Officer Montanaro:** I just want to thank Chief Herlihy, Manager Revella, the entire Board, I really appreciate you believing in me and I don't take it lightly. I appreciate the opportunity. I look forward to serving the community for many years. Thank you.

**Public Hearing – Local Law 2 of 2021 – Snow and Ice Removal**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to open Public Hearing – Local Law 2 of 21 – Snow and Ice Removal. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott made a motion to close Public Hearing – Local Law 2 of 2021 – Snow and Ice Removal. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Hearing – CDBG Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining**

Trustee Sebring made a motion to open the Public Hearing – CDBG Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Becky Pearson:** 167 Walnut St. Can you explain the process of what happens, if you're awarded this?

**Manager Revella:** They'll go through the sections that have been permitted for the use of the funds, which is a small section of downtown. We'll advise the area that the smoke testing is going to happen because it's going to cause a lot of problems. When we do smoke tests, any illegal connections, smoke will be billing into the building. It'll set off fire alarms. That's why the Fire Department will be on notice. The building owners have to know in case it does go off. You blow the smoke into the sewer line and it comes out where it comes out. If the sewer line is connected to the property and there is a water trap, the smoke will not pass through. It only passes through areas that are illegally connected. Once we smoke test and find the problems, we go back and try to find the solutions.

**Becky Pearson:** What is the cost?

**Manager Revella:** We are asking for a 3 year, \$375,000. \$125,000 a year.

**Mayor Ramos:** When was that last done in the Village?

**Manager Revella:** We've never smoke tested the Village.

**Mayor Ramos:** Are we going to give the residents far enough advance notice?

**Manager Revella:** We'll have months advance notice. It'll be a big deal, we'll blast it everywhere.

**Becky Pearson:** What kind of smoke is it?

**Manager Revella:** Nontoxic colored smoke, so you know where it's coming from.

**Trustee Sebring:** Does it stain anything?

**Manager Revella:** No. It's not supposed to.

**Trustee Sebring:** Do they have to disinfect their plates and cups and stuff after?

**Manager Revella:** It shouldn't go in the house. It'll dissipate on its own.

**Trustee Thompson:** Does the owner have to be present?

**Manager Revella:** Doesn't matter if they are or not, the lines are the lines.

**Trustee Thompson:** If they're not there, they'll get some type of notice from the Village that they failed the smoke test?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** How much time do they get to correct whatever the issue is?

**Manager Revella:** We'll have to talk about that with our attorney and DEC. It's a violation of the code.

**Attorney Donovan:** You would issue a notice of violation. You have the ability to give them some time. There's not a set period of time. Once the enforcement period starts, it continues on. The idea behind the smoke test, people that have illegal connections that are contributing to the I&I in the systems. It's important that they're identified and be remediated.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm assuming it be something reasonable. If it's a very serious problem that's going to take a lot of time and money to fix, we will try and be very fair to these people.

**Manager Revella:** We can't be too fair because the DEC it is not very fair to us. That's why we're getting violated, because these people are dumping water illegally into our sewer system. So, we need to be careful. I'm sure we will try our best.

**Mayor Ramos:** The block that we're looking at is pretty much dated back in the old days, correct?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. One of the oldest sections.

**Mayor Ramos:** Back then there was no direct connection to sewer.

**Manager Revella:** Everything went into 1 system. Storm water and sewer water went to the same system. It was separated in the 30s and 40s, but things could have been missed or people could have made connections later, unbeknownst to the Village.

**Becky Pearson:** What if there was something wrong with the sewer line going to your house?

**Manager Revella:** Whatever problem we find, we have to explore it, we don't know.

**Attorney Donovan:** It's never a good idea to speculate.

**Manager Revella:** If you don't have an illegal line connection and smoke comes in your house, I don't know how it would be possible because your trap would stop the smoke. That's whole point of having a trap.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Illegal connections, what does that mean? Somebody actually dug into the ground and connected to the sewer?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. More commonly, its sump pumps. People have some pumps in their basement because of the water in their basement and it's just easier for them just to connect to the sewer line and just pump it through, usually without a trap. That's why the smoke comes back through.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Based off the diagram that we have here, we keep talking about the blocks, but to me, are we going to tell the public exactly which streets? Is it the highlighted ones here, or is it just one particular?

**Manager Revella:** It's the highlighted section, but we don't know what they're going to approve yet.

**Attorney Donovan:** I think it's important to know this is a public hearing. This is the project, we're going to ask for the project. You got to be awarded funding, though. Once you're awarded funding, you figure out what you're really going to do and then I assume, try and go out for bid.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The reason I was bringing it up, you have 5 different areas or lined streets and is it just the houses that's on the street or is it houses within that whole block?

**Manager Revella:** We don't know what sewer lines are connected to the main. We're going to be smoking the main. It could come out anywhere in that radius. We'll notify the radius.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to close the Public Hearing – CDBG – Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Orange County Transit**

**Anthony Mirando:** I submitted a written update to the Board a few days back on June 11th. On June 10th, we made another submission to the Planning Board. At our last appearance here and for the last Planning Board meeting, we received 3 questions regarding sound from the Planning Board engineers. We quickly jumped on that and provided a written response. But the Planning Board meeting is next week, so I don't have an update from that yet. We hope, because we also got a

response back in the State Historic Office, which told us they have no concerns regarding SEQR. We're pushing as hard as we can forward to complete SEQR. We received comments from the Department of Health a couple months ago. We provided a response. We've addressed all their comments to date. We haven't received anything back yet. However, they may be awaiting a SEQR determination. The only other update I can say is with the DOT, we've continued to follow up. We reached out twice beginning of June, as we have every month, actually provided copies of the emails to you and the materials we filed. We don't have anything else to add other than that they don't have comments yet. With that said, that's pretty much where we are. The only other thing I would like to add is just to start the discussion is, as you may recall, a few months back, we received the extension to connect to the sewer and water that only runs until August 18th. We think it's understandable now at this point that we could say it's probably impractical to think that will be connected by August 18th, given we're still before the Planning Board. We will, as part of our July update, likely be asking this Board for another extension.

**Trustee Thompson:** Thank you for doing your due diligence and reporting to us, reporting to the Planning Board and obviously doing as we asked and moving the project along.

**Anthony Mirando:** I appreciate that. And I appreciate the opportunity to come here each meeting. I think it's been very helpful.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I appreciate it and it appears to me that you're doing all the things that you're supposed to do, and I think it's commendable. Every Board Meeting you have the paper work we asked for and just want to back Trustee Thompson remarks and say, thank you. Appreciate it.

**Anthony Mirando:** Thank you. I appreciate that.

**Mayor Ramos:** I again reiterate what everyone has said. Your last correspondence with DOT was June 1st and June 3rd. Keep pressing them. Obviously, they're not an easy agency to deal with. I thank you for complying with what we requested for and look forward to seeing you in July.

**Anthony Mirando:** Absolutely and you'll have another report in the middle of the month.

**Mayor Ramos:** OK, thank you. Have a good night.

### **Manager's Report**

**Manager Revella:** I did go over some issues with special counsel on personnel and PBA matters. I've also been reviewing some retro calculations with the Treasurer. Went over the new year beginning balances and the pay scale changes as well. Went over some Edmunds entries with the Rec Coordinator. Met with DPW Super on personnel and covered a few days while he was off. We did open the bids for the Community Center with the Clerk and Engineer. Met with the Chief and DPW Super to go over vehicles, police vehicles, the new vehicle orders are in. Summer camp, flag football registrations are still open. Tennis program is over. Have a lot of park use requests and began updating the baseball fields at Bradley. Building Department has been working on COs, municipal reports, building permits, fire safety inspections, lawn maintenance. Clerk has been updating Facebook, the website and responding to FOILs. Also went through the insurance cards from our insurance renewal and attended the Mid-Year NYCOM conference up in Lake George. Treasurer is still working on audits, some bank recs and the PBA retro, going over vouchers and invoices. DPW, still working on maintenance, they're updating meters. We have an issue with the cell for some of the meters that are installed, will be offline once it goes to 5G. So, we have to get those all updated. Working on road repairs, updating catch basins, their updating the catch basins on Oak Street in anticipation of that road work coming up this summer. Police are working on their accreditation and policies with Lexipol and on special detail. They had a few successful commercial

truck details. Courts are open. They've been on a regular schedule. I went over some issues in the library with the Librarian. There are some repairs that she wants to work on. The Attorney's been helping out, waiting for some title reports to come back so we can do some notes and mortgages for the new rehab loans that came in. I'm not sure if everybody got a copy of our bids for the Community Center. Obviously, they're higher than expected. Just so the Board's aware, we're working on funding for the remaining balances. We do have funds for it, but we're short at the moment. But we're going to work on that so we can get that approved at the next board meeting we hope.

**Trustee Thompson:** Have we secured any of that grant that was in question for the Community Center?

**Manager Revella:** No.

**Trustee Thompson:** Is it off the table?

**Manager Revella:** It's impossible. Senator Skoufis tried to re-secure and it was impossible.

#### **Approval of June 1, 2021 Minutes**

Trustee Baker made a motion to approve the June 1, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. 2 abstentions. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

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

**Jennifer Muehlen:** 42 Alfred Place. In regard to the discussion on motorized vehicles, I wasn't sure if the Board has talked to any of the other towns like Wallkill, to whether or not you're going to ban them on the Rail Trail.

**Manager Revella:** They're already banned on the Rail Trail.

**Jennifer Muehlen:** Perfect. That was my only question. Thank you.

#### **Action Items**

##### **Local Law 2 of 2021 – Snow and Ice Removal**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to adopt Negative Declaration. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Baker made a motion to adopt Local Law 2 of 2021 – Snow and Ice Removal. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

##### **Resolution 26-20-21 – CDBG – Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining/Resolution 27-20-21 Federal Fair Housing**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-20-21 – CDBG – Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 27-20-21 – Federal Fair Housing. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Discussion – Motorized Vehicles**

**Manager Revella:** We were waiting for some feedback from a couple of municipalities that we haven't received yet, so I'm not sure if anybody else had received any feedback yet back from other places.

**Trustee Baker:** I spoke to the Village Manager and the Police Chief for the Village of Tarrytown in regards to their local law. 1 of the questions I had asked them is this was a proactive or reactive reason why they have it. \*inaudible\* They were finding they were having a lot of biking accidents with regular bicycles and an e-bike shop opened up on their Main Street. So, to prevent adding to the accidents, they pass it on those particular roads, according to the Police Chief there they have not issued any tickets and the court verified that they haven't processed that. It seemed the age range for the popularity of the bikes is different than here. Here I'm seeing a lot of young kids using it. Down there it seems to be more seniors using them as mobility devices. They're not having the same issue and they also don't have sidewalks like we do here. I also reached out to Suffolk County because on the books, it shows that e-bikes are banned. I did speak to the County Clerk there. She did verify that they are still banned there. Their primary reason is that they were having a lot of regular bike accident and because of the age that set with children. Their concern was with the continued accidents. So, it's a safety measure.

**Trustee Maher:** I feel the same. The only instances in our Village where I have seen these electric scooters being used are with kids on the sidewalk. I haven't seen anyone driving them on the road. I would be in favor of banning that. I think that's something that we should discuss. I don't think it's safe, but I do feel that that's something that we definitely should make a decision on sooner rather than later. There's so much that goes into regulating, a lot of time, a lot of resources and I just feel that it's overall quite dangerous. I know that they are banned for use on the sidewalks in New York State. So, we cannot say that they are allowed to be used on the sidewalks or certain areas because that's not allowed. However, with children, anyone under 12 is allowed as far as the New York State bike law goes. So, if we were to adapt that bike law to e-scooters for children, I think that would be reasonable. I would hate to say we don't allow that and then where would the kids go to use their scooters unless we start to designate a certain area of parks where just children can go and use their scooters. But I think that's something we should definitely keep discussing.

**Trustee Elliott:** Do we know if we have a problem with that in the Village?

**Mayor Ramos:** It's becoming more prevalent.

**Trustee Baker:** Sunday night, I had an individual approached me. He was knocked off his bike because of a child on an electric bike that blew through a stop sign and rammed into him or just about rammed into him and the kid just kept right on going on the sidewalk. That's not the first time someone approached me with it. There have been a few instances where there have been problems.

**Trustee Elliott:** I think we definitely have to talk about it and figure something out. What that is, I'm not sure yet.

**Trustee Thompson:** I think we should not reinvent the wheel. I think we should follow the law and the law says they should be banned on public sidewalks. I don't know how you would designate a certain neighborhood for the scooters, because I'm sure that would not be very popular with the people who live in that particular neighborhood and if it's a safety issue, it would continue to be a safety issue in whatever neighborhood you choose. And I don't know, where would you think you would put them in one of our public parks. We have a lot of small children that enjoy the parks. We have a lot of elderly people who enjoy the parks. Do we really want kids on the electric scooters zipping around the parks? I don't know. That's something I'm not sure about.

**Trustee Baker:** Another thing to consider, New York is very behind the ball compared to other states in regards to dealing with e-bikes and the issues. And looking at other states a lot of municipalities and communities have banned them for anyone 16 and under. So, you're eliminating that under age because you can't expect a 9 year old to have the maturity and the responsibility that

someone that 16, who is going through their driver's license or an adult. Speaking with Suffolk County, Tarrytown, you're not seeing the issues of improper use with the adults using it. It's with the kids which you expect. Their primary goal is to have fun. I understand that. Would I be comfortable giving my car keys to a 9 year old? You can't ride on the sidewalk, but you're ok on the road. Even my car is locked at 30 miles an hour. No. Just because it's on 2 wheels doesn't make it any safer than a 4 wheeled vehicle. There's a lack of maturity and responsibility at that age. My thought is allowing them for adults. But anyone under a certain age, they're just not permitted. To follow your point, you don't want to have a big congregation of them all in 1 area where that can create an unsafe environment, both for the rider and for those that are around in that park.

**Trustee Thompson:** But where would you want the older people to ride them? It's still a problem wherever they ride them.

**Trustee Baker:** They are permitted to ride them on the shoulders of the roads like many bike riders do.

**Trustee Thompson:** If I read the paperwork right, you can't just ride on the shoulder of the road. It has to be marked out or you have to have a designated bike path and how would we handle that on Rte 208 and Rte 52? We can't touch them. They're New York State roads.

**Trustee Baker:** They're not permitted to be on roads that are 55 and over.

**Trustee Thompson:** But we have roads in the Village that have parking on 2 sides. Where are you going to ride a scooter? Where's the designated area going to be?

**Trustee Maher:** It's only permitted on streets that have the bike path. Which we don't have any. So, the legislation that was passed in August of 2020 states that they are allowed on the road. That's what I'm saying I'm in favor of banning that. I don't think that's a good idea.

**Trustee Thompson:** Neither do I.

**Trustee Maher:** Children under 12 are typically who I see on our streets riding these on the sidewalk and the majority of the time they're with their parents. That's the only issue I have is now do we tell all these parents and their children, they can't ride their little scooter anymore? I'm not talking about the class 2, class 3 scooters. I'm talking about little children on their scooters. That's something I think we should consider.

**Trustee Sebring:** I've thought about the motorized scooters that can go 16 miles an hour and there was a segment on Channel 7 Eyewitness News tonight where a doctor from New York City had said that with these motorized scooters, they're seeing a lot of head injuries, broken bones, scrapes. With somebody using motorized scooters, they don't belong on a sidewalk. But if they're on the road, sometimes they make a sudden turn to the left or right, and if there's a motorist behind them, who's going to be at fault that somebody creates an accident or they hit that motorized scooter? Even though you may have required helmets and other safety equipment, but that's not the problem. The problem is that the younger kids, even under the age of 12, they want to do it as long as they see their siblings do it. They may have the balance and they may not have the balance, but I don't think it belongs in the Village at all. But we should still look into it with more information. So, when we do make the decision that we have pretty much down with facts about them.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I echo what everybody else is saying, we should look into it further. I always like to err on the side of caution. I always think about, when I was younger, birds of a feather flock together, and when kids get together, they started doing certain things and challenging

each other and the systems and all that stuff. We know that's going to happen. Just how do we manage it and what is the amount of risk we're going to take in order to get it done? You don't want to stop play and people having fun, but at the same time, you can't have reckless behavior and things that will cause a person to injure themselves, even though they want to have fun with it, but we know it's not legal or it's not right. I don't know how to go about looking into it deeper because it is what it is. I guess the age limit is a major factor. We talk about the young people, but I can see teenagers getting just as crazy just because they get adventurous with it.

**Mayor Ramos:** We do have to look at it more deeply. I know it took Department of Motor Vehicles nearly 2 years before they even decided on creating this law and Senate passing it. It's a real safety issue on West Main Street itself. I believe we've had 12 in the past 2 and half years. We've had 12 rearview mirrors taken out on the sides of the cars. Just imagine if we have a bike or a scooter in between that car and a parked car. Believe it or not, the streets aren't wide enough. They are not, especially with two cars parked on the side. You have a commercial motor vehicle traveling westbound. You have a passenger car or another commercial vehicle traveling eastbound. To allow these types of scooters or motorized bikes to ride in conjunction with the flow of traffic is disastrous for us in the Village. Even on our Village streets, where the speed limit is 25. I was a young kid, so I am not going to do 25 miles an hour on a motorized unit. So, we're going to have issues with that. Our streets aren't that long where they're going to have a street run getting a good ride. We have blocks, we have stop signs. I feel that we need to take this a little bit deeper and continue this dialog, do our homework. I've spoken to Mayor DeStefano and City of Middletown. I've spoken to Town Supervisor, Mike Sweetin, in the Town of Warwick, who has pretty much the same geographic locations that we have with Village streets in abundance. And they also have a problem with their bikes, too. They are also in agreement that they have an issue with it and they have not seriously addressed it. But luckily for them, they haven't had any serious incidents where any serious physical injury or death. But they are working on that just as we are. I think if we dialog all together, as the Association Towns and Villages that are in that loop, we're going to finally get our answer. But it's not going to be now. We do have to work on it relatively quick because summer time is coming.

**Trustee Thompson:** I guess I have an issue. It sounds to me like everyone here is pretty much agreeing the same way about this. So, why do we have to keep talking and talking and talking about it? We could drag this on forever and you're saying that other municipalities already are having serious issues about this. The fact that we've had 12 incidents in a relatively short period of time tells me an awful lot. There's property damage there. Safety issues. I just don't see why we have to keep going and going on this. It sounds to me like the only major concern is do we want to set a limit for certain ages? I agree with Deputy Mayor Carley, I don't think your age has a whole lot to do with this. Teenagers can be more reckless than small children. Like Trustee Maher said, a lot of the younger children, their parents are out there with them. Even though they're on the scooters, they are getting a degree of supervision. The teenagers are not getting the supervision. They're going rogue. If they're going to misbehave on a scooter. It sounds to me like our big thing that we need to decide is do we want to allow them in our parks? Do we want to have a designated area in one or more of the parks to let the people, the children, and the adolescents ride their scooters? I think the rest of the discussion seems pretty clear that we really are not in favor of these on our sidewalks.

**Mayor Ramos:** I agree with you, but obviously legislation has to be passed through a local law or ordinance for us, and we want to be real careful on how we word it. Obviously motor vehicles is 3 to 14 and 18 and below. We pretty much have to kind of mirror their age top to allow these kids to ride. We don't want them on the street. I agree. Do you want them in the parks?

**Trustee Thompson:** I personally don't. But not everyone on the Board voiced an opinion about



that.

**Mayor Ramos:** We don't have any designated streets where they're abandoned, where we can set aside just like they do on the Sawmill Parkway on the weekends or where they leave it open to bikes and carts or scooters. We don't have that. This is why we're going to continue discussion, because we're at a conundrum.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm not saying that we shouldn't continue. But it sounds like we're pretty much on agreement of a large part of it. I just don't think we have to keep going and going. I think we should all do our homework and be ready to make a decision relatively quickly.

**Mayor Ramos:** I'm with you.

**Manager Revella:** I think that for the next meeting, if everyone gets their pieces together for what they'd like to see on the regulation part, I know Dave has the state law regulations that are already on the books. We can't supersede that, but if there are sections that we can regulate, we can do that part like age, location, designated areas, if you'd like to. But that's up to you.

**Attorney Donovan:** Did we have input from the PD?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. They've sent us the first information on that we got. We're not sure what to get feedback from on that. What do you want me to ask them?

**Attorney Donovan:** The reason I ask is because they're going to be enforcement. They're going to be writing tickets or not. I think it would be important to know what they think would be most beneficial for them in terms of what this Board wants to do. I think we should work with them whatever language the Board wants to implement.

**Manager Revella:** Absolutely. We need to condense it before I bring it to them.

**Attorney Donovan:** I don't know what they've said. You could say the Village Board is looking to regulate this. What tools do you guys need to do in order to do that? What would you like to see? Maybe you've done that already. I don't know. But if you haven't, I think it would be a good step to take.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I was thinking more of getting another opinion, like what are your thoughts, what are you seeing? We could have several unreported things that are going on that they see and at their discretion and saying let's not report this. Just their input, their opinion on the use of the device and ages. Like Trustee Thompson said, I think the big part we agree on, now with the details of the classes and so forth. Are we going to allow the fast ones, slow ones and ages?

**Mayor Ramos:** We're good for next meeting. We will dialog with the PD after we've assembled our aides to the PD and what they're looking for, what they need in order to enforce it. What I ask is that, Dave, this is a particular law. The V&T law has definitions of everything, even horses. So, I would like to have at the least, portion of the local law to read and clearly define what types of vehicles there are, what the ages are and then we can obviously piece together our little bits and pieces of our homework and get something resolved on July's meeting.

**Trustee Thompson:** Are we going to invite someone from the Police Department to appear here so we can all ask questions or is John going to meet with someone from the Police Department?

**Mayor Ramos:** I would suggest that John meet with them and have our information for our next

meeting to clarify. He can send it to us prior to the meeting.

**Resolution 28-20-21 – Budget Transfers**

Trustee Baker made a motion to adopt Resolution 28-20-21 – Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Bond Resolution**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve this as a SEQRA, Type 2 Action. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Maher made a motion to adopt Bond Resolution 1-21-22 - Various Water and Sewer Projects. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve this as a SEQRA, Type 2 Action. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Baker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2-21-22 - Various Capital Projects. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

**Becky Pearson:** A little confused on the motorbike thing. I hear scooters, I hear bikes, I hear hybrids, and it's including all of that? Are you going to are you going to separate them or are you going to keep them as one group? That's a question I don't know if you're going to answer, but that's OK. Again, I'm confused because I believe that it's considered like a bicycle to me. And if you're not allowed on the sidewalk now, why would you be allowed on the sidewalk later? I just know when my kids were little, if my boys were going to ride in the street, there was a parent outside all the time watching for cars. So, that is part of what we had to do. They did ride on the sidewalk as well because they were littler. But they were not allowed in the road unless some parent was out there with them. I think you're making it a little harder than it really should be. I just saw a woman on an electric bike tonight on Bank Street, older woman, which I thought was wonderful. You know, sometimes the older people cannot pedal as far, go as fast, but having an electric bike gets them out giving them some exercise, which is wonderful. I think that if you stick to the plan and just keep it as bikes on the road, just like now. Teenagers are on the road, on the sidewalk, they're everywhere. It's not like they're not on the sidewalk. Right now they're doing things, I guess, illegally. Is there an age limit right now in the traffic law for bicycles on sidewalks?

**Trustee Maher:** There is, 12 and under.

**Becky Pearson:** They can be on the sidewalks. 12 and over cannot be. I would just say leave it at that to make it simple. Then if you have to change it later, you change laws all the time. If you find that it's becoming an issue, you can always change it later. You can revise that section with the children's age or you just don't allow anybody on the sidewalk with electric wheel. That's just kind of simple.

**Jennifer Muehlen:** On behalf of the Wright family, I would like to thank the Town of Montgomery and Village of Walden Police Departments for their unwavering support during Sam's last trip past the Wallkill River, his rock at the Thruway Shopping Center and past his beloved Hudson Valley Conservatory and New Rose Theater. Chief Herlihy was beyond supportive and understanding. As for myself, I'm sure by now a lot of us have seen the Go Fund Me page that Dee Kelly has created. Taking the business aspect of the Conservatory out of the picture, I would like to talk about the nonprofit theater, The New Rose. Sam could have chosen to put that theater in any town. He could

have gone to the Village of Montgomery. He could have gone to Westchester anywhere. But he chose Walden because this was his home. All 3 of his children have set their roots here for their own families. He wanted to bring access to the arts and a little part of Broadway to our little Village. They put on ballets, plays and musical shows that bring people from all over into our community. These visiting guests shop at our stores, eat in our local restaurants and help Walden thrive. Are we as a community thinking about how we can help keep his dream alive? How can we give back to a man who gave so much to us? I know I personally will be trying to organize fundraisers to try to assist in any way that I can. Thank you.

### **Payment of Audited Bills**

Trustee Baker made a motion to approve Payment of Audited Bills. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

**Trustee Thompson:** I've received several letters. 1 was from the gentleman who was writing about the rehab loans. I received another letter from someone commenting on the Police Department. I received also 2 emails in regard to the Police Department. The gentleman, William Taylor, who wrote one of the letters about the Police Department, asked that it be put into the minutes.

**Trustee Elliott:** I received the same e-mails.

**Trustee Maher:** I also received the same emails asking for that to be a part of the minutes.

**Trustee Baker:** Same correspondence as the others.

**Trustee Sebring:** I received the same 2 about the Police Department and I received 1 from a homeowner here concerning his grass cutting. I let them the Manager read it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I received the same correspondence.

**Mayor Ramos:** I, too, receive the same correspondence from Mr. Taylor. I've also received correspondence from a resident, 59 Oak Street regarding fencing and a sidewalk issue. We lead her in the right direction and hopefully she can get that rectified soon.

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

**Trustee Thompson:** I'd like to let everybody know what I've been working on for our Village. If anyone has gone down to Wooster's Grove, you've seen an area in the back that is staked off and there are tarps on the ground. That is the site for a project that the CAC is doing and we're participating because it's part of the Climate Smart Initiative. We'll be moving forward with that, you'll see the tarps coming off, you'll see it getting all yolk raked and then we're going to put a cover crop in. And in the fall, we will be planting the wildflower meadow there. We should be having a sign go up so people can know what's going on there. Hopefully you'll just see the process, how it's working and there's a few reasons for doing that. Number 1, it will reduce the amount of time that our Parks and Rec department has to spend on lawn maintenance because they won't have to mow the grass back there. Number 2, it's eco-friendly. Number 3, it provides a very diverse habitat for birds, butterflies, little creatures. And number 4, it's pleasant for the community to look at something like that. We chose that site because we get a lot of people that go to that park for the summer concerts and things. Hopefully it will raise some awareness and people can enjoy it and if it's a successful project, the CAC would like to incorporate it throughout the Town and some of the other Villages and Town parks. I've had several telephone meetings with Kate Schmidt from Orange County Planning in regard to Climate Smart. There's some interesting things on the horizon as they develop a little more I'm happy to share them with you guys. I listened in to a garden

webinar yesterday because I think our hope is at some point to start a community garden in Walden. Warwick and Greenwood Lake are very much involved with community garden activity. Very different from what the Town of Montgomery has. They actually have it engaging the entire community, whereas the Town has individual gardens for people in the community that want to participate. Hopefully I can share some of that knowledge and the people that are involved in it when we're ready to add that project to our community. If everyone has gone down to the Grove and they've seen the new little library there, it's a little different. Ginny is aware that maybe it needs to be tweaked a little, but people are already using it. It was full of books the other day, so I'm glad it's back.

**Trustee Elliott:** Congratulations to all the seniors that are graduating soon. Hasn't been an easy year to go to school. Congratulations to all of them.

**Trustee Maher:** I just wanted to thank you for bringing up Sam Wright and I think that we should definitely discuss what we can do as a community to help that fund. I know I'm excited to send my daughter to that Conservatory, she's starting summer camp there and it's something that I think so many of us hold dear to our heart. I also attended the Visions Hudson Valley Quality Communities Conference since our last meeting. It was a 6 part, 2 day conference. All about different types of ways that you can go about creating beautiful spaces in your communities, creating spaces going forward, keeping in mind diversity and equity. I think that's something that I'd really like us to look at with our new senior center and anything new we do going forward. If anyone is interested in learning more about it, I do have it posted on my Facebook page or you can go to Vision's Hudson Valley and all the conferences are still there. I found them very helpful. I learned a lot about grants that are available for our communities as well as how to go about creating greener communities.

**Trustee Baker:** On June 13th, we had a very lovely Flag Day ceremony at our Veterans Park. Attended by Trustee Maher, myself, Trustee Sebring, Mayor Ramos, Trustee Thompson. It was quite lovely, I thank Brenda Adams and Becky Pearson, thank you very much for doing that. It was a lovely ceremony. We had a pretty good attendance there. The only other thing I wanted to announce is that I completed my Hope Not Handcuffs training and received my certificate and I look forward to assisting those on the road to recovery.

**Trustee Sebring:** I attended the Town of Montgomery Board Meeting and at that time, Sean Meres, the Highway Superintendent, stated that he had talked to the Hamlet of Wallkill. They're going to get prices to seal the entire Rail Trail. Then they had the presentation that we had on the Hill Street Bridge. The representative from Nelson and Pope was authorized by the Supervisor Maher to bring back within 4 weeks what it would cost to replace both bridges to 1 currently out and the other bridge using the panels from the Tappan Zee Bridge. Whenever Brian gets back from his military duty and then probably a couple of weeks later, then maybe we'll find out what kind of cost it's going to be to replace both.

**Trustee Thompson:** Did they say that they're going to wait to see if they can obtain grant funding for that or they're going to move forward with it?

**Trustee Sebring:** They're going to see what the cost is.

**Trustee Thompson:** I thought they had some sort of an estimate.

**Trustee Sebring:** They did. But then you're going to have the cost of construction, bringing in the equipment to do what they have to do on both bridges and to be cheaper. So, that'll be a good firm price and then they'll probably go from there.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Trustee Baker and I, we discussed that we haven't heard anything back about the ambulance corps or anything like that. I don't know if you have any comment you want to make about it in particular, but just want to make it official that, no comments or feedback. We did look into it. Trustee Baker been looking a little bit more in other areas and I went through the Village. I was told that they had meetings before and they wanted to reunite and then nothing.

**Mayor Ramos:** June 8th, I attended the Patterns for Progress Breakfast to recognize our Special Counsel, Rick Golden for his community actions and just an overall gentleman and a scholar. Flag Day, I couldn't say more. I truly in my heart enjoy these those moments when you're standing in front of people. Between the older VFW guys and the younger ROTC. Just being amongst them makes me more proud that I'm an American and that I served my country with distinction and just watching everybody's eyes during the time of the ceremony. And we're gathering. Like I said in Memorial Day parade, our heartbeat is starting to jump and we need to continue that. We will be having a 9/11 ceremony. I'm gathering our thoughts with Reverend Van Houten because he is going to be away. So, we will have a 9/11 ceremony that will be determined date and location and time. Second, congratulations on our new angel, Hope not Handcuffs. Hopefully, we will do good in our Village with your representation. \*Read community events\* Thank our Clerk for sending us a few webinars coming our way. Some very interesting topics from NYCOM. I would enjoy watching some of those.

**Trustee Thompson:** Trustee Baker, can you give any information about the program you're doing for the CPR at the end of the month? Are there open spots for anyone that would like to go? Is it just for people on the Board? Is it for anyone who would like to go? I wasn't quite sure.

**Trustee Baker:** It's for Village Employees.

**Trustee Thompson:** So, we have to give you a definitive answer and give you a fee ahead of time?

**Trustee Baker:** You can pay at the night of the training.

**Trustee Thompson:** I also am remiss to not say thank you for such a lovely Flag Day and your park over there is spectacular this year. It looks wonderful.

#### **Executive Session - Personal History of a Particular Employee**

Trustee Maher made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personal history of a particular person. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Reconvene**

Trustee Elliott made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**June 15, 2021**  
**Motions & Resolutions**

**Approval of June 1, 2021 Minutes**

Trustee Baker made a motion to approve the June 1, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. 2 abstentions. 5 ayes. Motion carried.

**Local Law 2 of 2021 – Snow and Ice Removal**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to open Public Hearing – Local Law 2 of 21 – Snow and Ice Removal. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott made a motion to close Public Hearing – Local Law 2 of 2021 – Snow and Ice Removal. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to adopt Negative Declaration. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Baker made a motion to adopt Local Law 2 of 2021 – Snow and Ice Removal. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution 26-20-21 – CDBG – Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining/Resolution 27-20-21 Federal Fair Housing**

Trustee Sebring made a motion to open the Public Hearing – CDBG Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to close the Public Hearing – CDBG – Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 26-20-21 – CDBG – Smoke Testing & Sewer Lining. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 27-20-21 – Federal Fair Housing. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution 28-20-21 – Budget Transfers**

Trustee Baker made a motion to adopt Resolution 28-20-21 – Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Bond Resolution**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve this as a SEQRA, Type 2 Action. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Maher made a motion to adopt Bond Resolution 1-21-22 - Various Water and Sewer Projects. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve this as a SEQRA, Type 2 Action. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Baker made a motion to adopt Resolution 2-21-22 - Various Capital Projects. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Payment of Audited Bills**

Trustee Baker made a motion to approve Payment of Audited Bills. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Executive Session - Personal History of a Particular Employee**

Trustee Maher made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss personal history of a particular person. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

Trustee Elliott made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

# William J. Taylor

80 East Ave  
Walden, New York  
12586

VILLAGE CLERK  
VILLAGE OF WALDEN  
JUN 14 2021  
RECEIVED

June 12, 2021

John Revella Village Manager  
John Ramos Village Mayor  
William Herlihy Police Chief Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Village of Walden

I have lived in the Village of Walden for the past 35 years. In that time I have watched the village grow and prosper in many areas. One of the biggest areas of growth and one that the residents can be proud of is watching it become one of the most diverse communities in the Hudson Valley.

I would like to congratulate the village on the recent promotion within the police department in filling one of the Sergeants positions. Having the ability to choose between two outstanding candidates was no easy task. That being said, I would be remiss if I did not express my opinion on what I perceive as a missed opportunity.

Given the fact that there is still one vacant Sergeants position and the growing diversity within the village, filling that position with the other outstanding candidate would be beneficial. It would not only provide the village with the additional supervision within the department, but would also show our residents that we are not only aware of the growing diversity within the village, but we embrace it.

Filling this vacant position should not be a financial constraint in light of recent budget decisions. Having the unique opportunity to fill this vacancy with another exceptional highly trained officer is an opportunity that should be embraced for obvious reasons.

Thank you for your time and consideration regarding my opinion.

Sincerely yours,

William J. Taylor

