

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
October 5, 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
		John Elliott
		Patricia Maher

Absent: Lynn Thompson

Also Present:	John Revella, Village Manager
	Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk
	Dave Donovan, Village Attorney
	Elizabeth Skinner, Village Treasurer

Chief Herlihy introduced the new Full Time Police Officer Anthony Feliciano.

Manager's Report

Manager Revella: I attended the NYCOM conference up in Saratoga. Good conference plus good weather and good events, an overall good schedule. Went over a couple of different new updates. The cannabis law was one. Employee leave time, collective bargaining. Going over reconciliations and the audit process in the office. The Treasurer is finishing up her state audit report and following up with auditors to finish last year's audit. Going over rehab loans and general accounts, capital accounts and fixed assets. Went over staffing and projects with the DPW Super. We have a bunch of projects ongoing now, including the Olley Park Community Center and some upgrades at the sewer plant as well and some housekeeping type matters as usual. Harvest Fest, we had great weather and everything went well. Well attended. Was well put together. Hopefully, we have the eating contest next year. Went over the CEA items and reports with Trustee Thompson, along with some climate smart matters. Attended the Orange County Association of Towns and Villages meeting at the Captain's Table. Went over the county budget. I did get some updates from the DEC. We are on track for the riverfront park. Everything's been filed. October 12th, I think is the final date from their publication in order to meet their requirements under the law, so we can get that project out to bid. I also got an update from New York State DOT on paving, which will start, they said, early summer of 2022. Right now, they're slated to pave Route 52 from the Village border on 52 West, all the way through to East Ave and Route 208 from Coldenham Road through the Village down Ulster Ave to Albany Ave. If prices go down on blacktop, they will pave more. If they go up, they'll have to cut back a little bit. Also, we were able to receive an electronic vehicle charging station grant award. Once we get that official paperwork in, we can sign off on it and we can get that project started as well. That's slated to be placed in the Orchard Street parking lot. The outdoor soccer program is going well. The Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 30th from 6-8 and then Trick or Treat is the 31st from 6-8. The Building Department is working on permits, COs, lawn maintenance, inspections. Clerk has been updating Facebook and website. Finished the calendar, minutes, also attended NYCOM and has been updating on 207c and workers comp matters. I mentioned the Finance Department and some things they're working on, along with assisting in

filing the FEMA report from Hurricane Ida and some damage and expenses that the Village had to put out. DPW, besides the major projects, they're continuing to do meter updates, flushing, sweeping whatever they can get done with the amount of people they have and the time they have left before winter. And the police have been doing their special details and saturation patrols as time allows. They're work on staffing. We have another officer coming back from leave on October 20th, so we're almost fully staffed. Should be very helpful on our details.

Trustee Sebring: What's the timeline for the new senior center to start digging the footings and whatnot?

Manager Revella: They dug it down for the sewer and water. They have to clear a little bit more land in the back for a retaining wall and then the contractor should be coming in to get started on their part.

Approval of September 21, 2021 Minutes

Trustee Baker made a motion to approve the September 21, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 4 ayes. 2 abstentions (Deputy Mayor Carley & Trustee Elliott). Motion carried.

Public Comment on Business of the Board

None

Action Items

Intro Local Law 5 of 2021 - Towing

Manager Revella: Everyone should have received a copy of the report from Sgt Werner regarding the need for the update. It really correlated with their commercial vehicle traffic details they've been doing lately. They got some updates on when those situations occur, what allows us to make those tows from those situations. Those suggested updates are in that memo and the ones that our attorney put into the local law.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I just got to go back and go through it with the updates just cross it, because supposed to try to start looking at the policies.

Mayor Ramos: To continue discussion on this, I agree with the Deputy Mayor Carley that after receiving Sgt Werner's input on that, that we hold off until next board meeting where we can make a decision on the accepting of the local law.

Manager Revella: Do you want to set a public hearing now for next meeting?

Attorney Donovan: Up to the board. Not under any time constraint. You can set the public hearing now. If you want to wait, I don't think the world's going to end between now and then.

Mayor Ramos: Any discussion points forward them to the Village Manager prior to the meeting, where we can continue to discuss it during the public hearing.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to set Public Hearing for Local Law 5 of 2021 – Towing for October 19, 2021 at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Overlook at Kidd Farm – Discussion of Planning Board Requirements

Jerry Jacobowitz: My family has owned a piece of property on Coldenham Road for more than 55 years. We undertook to have it approved for a development in accordance with the zoning. And

with some changes that previous boards made in the zoning that would facilitate a project of this kind. With the Mayor's permission, I placed on your desks a package of 6 items and I'd like to touch on those because I see faces here that are new that may really not be totally aware and familiar with everything. I think it would be helpful if I could share with you some of the information that has been developed over the approval process. They're lettered A-F on it. With me here tonight is my daughter, Marcia, she's my trusted advisor and so she's here also because she's involved with this project as well. On March 15th of this year, we received what's called a Conditional Final Resolution of Approval of the Development Plan for this property. It's good for 6 months. The 6 months were up September 15, 2021. The board approved an extension of 90 days to take us to December 14th, 15th thereabouts with the approvals. Now, when the Planning Board passed their resolution, it was with conditions. The conditions laid out things they wanted done before they would give the final OK and sign the plan. We've been working on those. We've made tremendous headway. We're almost home free. In the list that the Planning Board reviews, to decide whether they're going to grant an approval. There are 4 things that affect you. You as a board, you have the power and the authority. We brought those to the attention of the village on August 7th and August 10th of 2020. They didn't get acted on formally, some were informally addressed, but not formally. The Planning Board does not have in its records something from you that confirms that you said yay or nay or whatever it is you did say. 1 of the things we're asking for tonight is for you to grant a motion approving what the Planning Board approved as to 3 things. Those 3 things are laid out in the email to your attorney, Mr. Donovan. It's item D in the pile. That lays out the 4 things that the Planning Board needs from you. 1 is a bond estimate. That's the amount of bond that has to be put up to guarantee the completion of facilities on the property. That was prepared by our engineers given to your engineer. Your engineer reviewed it. They made changes between them. It went back to the Planning Board. They approved it. But you have the final OK on the bond. The 2nd item is that our plan includes 20 affordable housing units. There to be spread out among the project. They're not to all be in 1 building or in 1 section. The plan that the Planning Board approved, a copy of which came to your board, shows each unit that's going to be the affordable housing unit. *referred to the packet* the 3rd item is technical, which is that there are certain things going to be conveyed to the village. Easements and a deed to a street. It's required that those documents be approved. They've been reviewed by your attorney. They are acceptable. The decision about whether it's to be a public street or not a public street or an easement is up to your board. The Planning Board has recommended that what we've offered for easements for drainage and easement for covenants and a strip of land that's going to be a street should be accepted by the Village. If you approve it, you're not accepting it. You're not going to accept it until after it's built. When it's all built, you'll get a certification from your engineer, your attorney, and then you'll decide to accept it as a public street or as an easement. But the forms have to be approved now because they're going to be reflected on the plans that get signed and get filed in Goshen. There's 1 item that is in transit, which goes to your attorney, which is the preliminary certificate of title, from a title insurance company guaranteeing that the easements and the deed are good. They were provided earlier, but they're out of date. But you'll get another update before you actually act on it. That 3rd item is that you approve the offers of dedication. You're not accepting the offers of dedication, you're merely saying we approve of it, subject to our decision later, whether we're going to take it. The Planning Board approved them, your lawyer approved them, and your engineers approved them. We need you to formally take that action. *referring to packet* the B thing, this is a large project. The Planning Board recognizes that it's not going to all be built at the 1 time. They have approved it to be done in sections. This colored map shows you the sections that it will be developed in. The sections have been determined based on the utilities, the roads, the drainage, the excavation. All of those kinds of things go into why there's a configuration that's shown on this colored map. As part of each section, on the same 2 maps, we have identified where there are recreational activities, open space that will be part of the approved plan that must be built as part of this project. If you look at F, bottom part of it, it identifies what the on-site recreation facilities will be and which section they are in. So, that whatever is in a section, has to be built in that section before you go to the next section.

The recreation activity facilities are all indicated here which sections they're going to be in. There's a clubhouse with a swimming pool, a dog run, a playground that is in number 3. There's a basketball court in number 1. A gazebo in 6. Another gazebo in 6A. Playground in section 1. Basketball court there. Open space in sections 2 and 3. Those are all on site and are the responsibility of the developer to provide those. No cost to the village. It's not something you're funding. That leaves number 4 on the list. Open space, parkland, public benefit. You have a law in the village. It's Item E. It makes provision for parkland and other open space. The B paragraph applies. "If the Planning Board determines a suitable park or parks of adequate size cannot be properly located on a subdivision, plat or otherwise not practical." They have approved the development of recreational facilities on the site. However, "the Planning Board may require as a condition of approval of any such plot, a payment to the village in the amount to be determined by the Board of Trustees for each lot in such plat, which constitute a trust fund to be used by the Board of Trustees exclusively for neighborhood park, playground or recreation purposes." What the Planning Board said to you is we have approved all of these facilities on site, but we think there's still some room for a contribution to be made to the Village's Trust Fund for park land and recreation. But it's not the Planning Board's power. You have that power to do that. That's the 4th item that we need the Village Board to be part of and to help make some decisions so that we can get back to the Planning Board before December 19th and be able to satisfy that condition on their checklist. There's a budget that was provided to us by the engineering firm. It was an email from Mr. Ross Winglovitz, who's the engineer of the project and he provided us his best estimates for the cost of construction of the improvements that are to be made on this property for recreation and open space. The budget is there, you add it all up, and it's a big hunk of money. The purpose is to provide the facilities for the residents of this project so that they reduce the demand that there would be on the village's facilities. There's still some room for the village. We have a proposal that we've been thinking about and how to make it work. I think in fairness to transparency, everything has to be transparent, what we are proposing is that for your trust fund, a payment of \$50,000 and for a public benefit contribution, another \$50,000. The reason that we're suggesting it that way is because as you heard my recital and as you've read yourself your own code, paragraph B, it limits what you can do with the money. By giving a public benefit contribution, there are no strings attached and you then have the power and authority to use it whatever way the majority of your board decides.

Manager Revella: Would it be okay if the board addresses, at least, 1-3 now? They may need some time to discuss the 4th item because this is new for them.

Jerry Jacobowitz: Okay.

Attorney Donovan: I'll go through items 1-3. Number 1 is the bond estimate. The bond estimate was provided by Ross Winglovitz to the Village Engineer. I have spoken to John Queenan. He has approved the bond estimate. Number 3, deeds and easements. They were prepared some time ago. Reviewed by my partner, Rob as the Planning Board Attorney. I reviewed them as well. They're all fine and acceptable. Item number 2, the affordable housing, this deals with the location of the affordable housing units. I have a very distinct memory, although it's possible my memory is so good, I remember something that didn't happen. But it seems to me that probably around the time that the board adopted the local law, reducing 20% to 10% affordable units, the board approved the location. Marisa worked diligently going through minutes, couldn't find it. The reality is that you really can't be moved. They're already located, the buildings are designed around them. They're there. The 10% number is there. The Village Board does need to approve the location. I thought you did it. It's fair tonight or at some point in time to give that. I think it's fair to go through 1-3. You should get a letter from John Queenan and you should get a letter from me. I'm telling you, I spoke to Mr. Queenan and I'm going to give you a letter. I think the affordable housing that you did. I think all that is fair because I think it's all these things are taken care of. Number 4, the Planning Board has made a determination and I think I circulated or had Marisa circulate the resolution of

approval that says "because parks of adequate size to meet the village requirements cannot completely be properly located at subdivision plat is referred back to the Village Board has provided the village code for the Village Board to make a determination as to the monetary contribution". You've heard from Mr. Jacobowitz as to that proposed contribution. You should probably reflect on that, but I don't have an issue with you acting on items 1-3.

Trustee Elliott: How many units total are there?

Manager Revella: 204 townhouse units and 4 commercial lots, which could be 1 big building, could be 4 different buildings, just depends how it's split up.

Trustee Sebring: I was on the Planning Board when this was starting up and I do remember the changes to the number of units for the affordable housing. I agree with 1-3. Those being strategically located throughout the whole plan is acceptable to me.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I agree with it also, but just for clarity, how many affordable housing units?

Manager Revella: It's 10%, so 20.

Mayor Ramos: Phases. I see we have colorations yellow, orange and red. What are the phases? I know the Planning Board has it, but I was just curious.

Marcia Jacobowitz: Coming in from Rte 208 is 1. Coldenham Rd side is 2.

Jerry Jacobowitz: The facilities in number 2, can be built by the time you get the first building permit in 3. These are interchangeable.

Marcia Jacobowitz: 3 right now is to the left of 2.

Jerry Jacobowitz: Let me also explain another part of this. The 3 sections in the middle are interchangeable, but as part of section 1, before too far in 2, there must be a water line run from Coldenham Rd through the property and out to 208. That is going to become the village's water main.

Manager Revella: I think it's easier to explain they have phase 1 and 2 need to be in that order. The other ones don't necessarily need to be in an order because the infrastructure needs to be done before you start phase 3. The water main has to be in before phase 3. That's why those are more interchangeable. They may mix 3, 4, 5 and 6 around, depending on how the development goes. Correct.

Marcia Jacobowitz: Correct.

Jerry Jacobowitz: 1 other variation that leaves up in the air, sequence is that the pink one over here, that could be a senior citizen. It could stand alone as a senior citizen project. Whether that's marketable tomorrow or in 2 years, nobody's really sure that, but it gives the opportunity to do that if the market is going to support it. If the market is there for seniors sooner, that section is going to get built before a different section because there's a market for a product that's not otherwise available. The Planning Board allowed that in the phasing plan that they adopted.

Mayor Ramos: Now, at what point when we get to phase 3, you mentioned that it's interchangeable. How would we know which spot you're going to start with phase 3?

Jerry Jacobowitz: You folks still have the hook. We go in now for section 2, we have to provide the bond. The bond gets reviewed the same way as the bond will be on section 1. You get to say yay or nay to the bond. Without the bond, you can't go forward with the section. Then the question is, is there any interest in any of the street or any easements that then have to be turned over to the village? And if there is, you get to review that and have a yay or nay before it can go the next step. That's going to be true with all 6 sections.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve items 1, 2 and 3 in the letter of April 22, 2021. Addressed to the Village Attorney. Submitted by 845 Area Code, LLC. Signed by Marcia Jacobowitz. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sweeney's Outdoor Cafe

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve Sweeney's Outdoor Café request. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Becky Pearson: 167 Walnut St. *Read her letter into the minutes - attached* the first letter is about our form of government, which I still think you are not following. The second one is open meetings because none of the discussion is happening in open public. I attached open government and executive session information for you all to read as well, because there's maybe things talked about in executive session that may not supposed to be. Right to know is really good too. My whole point is open government. Willie said, transparent, but when you're trying to shut somebody up because they're saying things that you may not want to hear. It's just amazing to me. Hopefully, you read this. Please put it into the minutes, Marisa. I've talked about it for so long, and I believe you're trying to hide things that are happening that shouldn't be happening. When you're wanting the secrecy and not to be out in the public about it, then we're going to keep questioning. Thank you very much.

Manager Revella: Would the board like those letters made part of the minutes?

Attorney Donovan: A written communication that's been submitted to the board is automatically part of public record. You don't need to take any action.

Brenda Adams: 31 Valley Ave. I have to agree with Attorney Donovan. I said in most of those meetings regarding the townhouse and they were to distribute the affordable housing throughout the project so as not to have any one building appear as low income or however they wanted to phrase it at that time. So, your memory is right. I tried to look through my pages real quick to find it, but it's I couldn't real quick to give you. The second thing I would like to address to the board is, enforcing the no parking here to corner. When you come off of Ulster Ave on any one of the side streets that come down towards the Valley, often there's somebody parked on that corner which makes you swing out and if a car is coming up that hill real fast, it's a head on. The other spot and I'm sure it's all over town, but I know where I travel most, is coming out of Valley Avenue onto Route 52 to East Main St. I know what they're doing there, they're dropping their bottles off it's a business, but you still can't see around it. And if somebody comes up 52 to go in Valley real quick and you're in the way, it's an accident waiting to happen. If they could just start enforcing that a little more. Especially with the snow coming on because it becomes out in the road even further.

Trustee Sebring: The bottle place that was on Valley Avenue in 52, they moved next to the ice cream stand. That place is closed down.

Brenda Adams: That's a good thing, but that building will be rented again. And the last thing that I

just wanted to mention, I'm just going to add a little bit to what Becky said. I watched the last meeting online, and that was a terrible display. It did not show open government. It showed 2 Trustees in an argument. Nobody else seemed to say anything. I guess you were all too intimidated to stop it. Even Mayor, you had the gavel. You could have shut it down. I bet you could slam your hand down hard enough, though, if you wanted to.

Mayor Ramos: I'd be afraid to set off the alarm.

Brenda Adams: It was very bad karma and it didn't represent open government. I will add that to Becky's comments. I couldn't believe what I saw. Thank you.

Payment of Audited Bills

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

Correspondence

Trustee Maher: No correspondence other than the email from John.

Mayor Ramos: I had 1 correspondence and I just received it not too long ago prior to the meeting. The water and mud accumulation on Oak Street from the new development there. It's gathering in some of the drainage.

Manager Revella: Fred addressed that with the contractor today. You also got the letter from the IDA.

Mayor Ramos: I have to congratulate the people of the Village of Walden and our board. The PILOT for Falcons Rest has been rescinded. They are no longer looking for the PILOT for this project. Although there are a couple things that they're going to look for, but that's another battle to come up soon. The PILOT is now withdrawn and we can continue on with that project when it comes to fruition. Thank you, John. Thank you board members and members of the community who if it wasn't for our due diligence and speaking at these meetings, I believe the IDA made a just decision and for the betterment of the Village of Walden and I thank you.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Baker: I just want to reiterate that our Harvest Fest went off very well. Well attended. Our 1st Annual Doggie Parade had some adorable pups, all were while deserving. I did want to give a shout out to several of our local businesses that were very generous in their donations for our prizes. Calculated Confection, Empanada Nirvana, Sweeney's, Guido's, Margarita's Unisex Salon, Ozman Law Firm, Mayor Ramos, Mixture Signs and Anna's Nails. That's just a small sampling of the businesses that really helped make our Harvest Fest a success. Thank you to all of them.

Trustee Sebring: I'd like to say that the Harvest Fest went on real well. Had an excellent day. There were a lot of vendors there and then food vendors up on the top. Kudos to the whole committee that put that on.

Mayor Ramos: Harvest Fest went very well. We had a beautiful day. I spoke to pretty much all of the vendors. They did a phenomenal job showcasing their goods and they were truly happy that we didn't have any rain and the amount of people that attended. I have to convey that the Village of Walden at whole did a wonderful job sending off one of our sons, Steve Nicoli. Our candlelight vigil, our funeral arrangements and an escort to his final resting place. He's going to be truly missed at the Legion. He's going to be truly missed as a family member and as a friend. Thank everybody who attended and it was a rough couple of days.

Executive Session – Personal History of a Particular Employee

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

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

Discussion regarding the Town of Montgomery IDA and Falcon's Rest.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
October 5, 2021
Motions & Resolutions**

Approval of September 21, 2021 Minutes

Trustee Baker made a motion to approve the September 21, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 4 ayes. 2 abstentions (Deputy Mayor Carley & Trustee Elliott). Motion carried.

Intro to Local Law 5 of 2021 - Towing

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T salary

Please
Add three
letters into
minutes.
Thank you

Clerk

becky pearson <waldensladymayor@yahoo.com>
To becky pearson

12:02 PM 

Reply Reply all Forward Delete 

Let me first address deputy Carley's words from the last meeting where he spoke about a hostile environment and hostility toward the new treasurer . As he and I had discussed previously, the issue isn't about the person ...the new treasurer ...the general public doesn't know this person, or any qualifications to do the job. That's what the mayor and the board are supposed to do ,vet the best possible person for the position ...my concern was always about the procedure . Even if it is true that the mayor can select a new treasurer on his own and fill the position ..I still believe ,because of our law ,Art 15a ...discussion should have happened as a board concerning salary ,hours worked , training possibilities etc. It was agreed upon at the last meeting but the attorney and the VB that we are working under Art 15a ..yes.. which is about the manager form of government...that was established in the 60's but we are also a home rule village ,we have established our own laws ..we are not dependent on NYS. With that said our code clearly states in 56.3 that the manager hires and fires all employees except the clerk, attorney and treasure ...they SHALL be appointed and salary or compensation set by the board of trustees . The word SHALL doesn't mean maybe ..it means it will ...that didn't happen . There was no board discussion on the position at all ..what the salary should be, if you wanted the position to stay full time or change to part time or work from home and is it allowed to work from home and other issues that you may want to talk about . That didn't happen ...the attorney stated that the position would have to come in at the same salary . If not the board would have had to discuss the change ..the potion isn't at that same salary. So.....now what to do ? The Mayor and the board in my eyes didn't follow our Most all of what the attorney was reading and quoting was from new village law 4-400..we don't follow that ..in our law ..56.3 ..again... it states the Mayor and VB SHALL appoint and salary set by the board of trustees .

Sent from my iPad

Clerk

Open Meetings

becky pearson <waldensladymayor@yahoo.com>
To becky pearson

1:47 PM 

Reply Reply all Forward Delete 

Open Meetings

Sec 100 legislative declaration:

It is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that the public business be performed in an open and public manner and the citizens of this state be fully aware of and able to observe the performance of public officials and attend and listen to the deliberations and decisions that go into making of public policy . The people must be able to remain informed if they are to retain control over those who are their public servants . It is the only climate under which the commonwealth will prosper and enable the government process to operate for the benefit of those that created it .

The above Open Meeting Law requires you to openly discuss and debate policy and the effective carrying out of your management decisions . The only exceptions are for acceptable executive session concerns. With out public discussion and quietness I feel you condone secrecy or don't fully understand your responsibility to the public. It appears that you are overly dependent on the Village Manager and Attorney to lead. The Village manager is the administrator who is responsible to carry out your policy's and directives. I understand that this is his full time job and that you and we trust his judgment in running the day to day however you all answer to the people of Walden . In the code of ethics in your Village code book it says "in order to maintain public confidence the proper operation of Village government requires Officers and employees to be independent ,impartial,unbiased,and responsible to the people of the Village of Walden ."

Let us hear the debate, about ...the sewer issues, water dept , annexation, downtown revitalization,code enforcement , snow removable, personal use of public property, out of the ordinary occurrences, settling of complaints , condition of public property , department head reports ,and so much more . What I have noticed is that most of what's on the agenda has already been discussed amongst most of you already in privatehow do I know ..because most of the time things are put on the agenda , made a motion for and approved with out discussion...

The perfect example is the community center funding .. we didn't have enough to make it happen and there was absolutely no discussion on how and where the extra \$300000 was coming from ..should we still have it built , was there further grant funding available, could we do more in house to save more money..should we move forward knowing all the issues with the sewer plant and work that must be done to preserve our municipal building and library.....so I asked the questions.... The only answer was from the manager.....answers should have been coming from the Mayor and Village Board .. next thing you know there was a motion to approve village funds , a second and the vote carriedwhere was all the necessary discussion..behind closed doors..that is not open government...

Now I hear a rumor of a Park Coordinator assistant . Or is it secretary? I did see \$19000 put in the budget for what listed as assistant ..yes the manager has the right to hire ...but where was all the discussion on the position.... is part time, full time, where is the job description.. setting hours , salary , will overtime be allowed, what are duties and responsibilities of the position..how will be be sure no town work will be done on village time ,who will write the job description, I have been to most all the meeting and had heard ofmaybe ...a part time position for the recreation dept as a secretary..or assistant when the community center was complete .All those questions I just asked should have been discussed when you adding a new position to the Village of Walden tax rolls and spending tax dollars . Please if I'm wrong show me minutes to where all that was discussed and voted on . It was not in this public forum . You all talk about transparency..I don't believe that to be true ..we don't have open Government in Walden .

Sent from my iPad

Feedback

C. Welch

Confidential:

becky pearson <waldensladymayor@yahoo.com>
To becky pearson

2:21 PM 

Reply Reply all Forward Delete 

Confidential:

I was embarrassed sitting in the audience at the last meeting when a trustee was having her voice squelched when asking pertinent questions about a department head report. Since when did department reports become confidential ? These reports are prepared to give updated public information about the workings of the Village of Walden departments.. These report could be foiled and can't be hidden from the public ..unless it is personal. In my opinion it was to intimidate the trustee into not asking questions or saying something that some board members didn't want known. ...is that OPEN Government ? Doing research...an opinion from the Department of Open government states ...since a body may choose to conduct an executive session or discuss an issue in public ,information expressed during executive session or public discussion is not confidential. To be confidential a statue must prohibit disclosure and leave no discretion to an agency or official regarding the ability to disclose. Ex ..the privacy act which forbids disclosure

Sent from my iPad