

**Board of Trustees of the Village of Walden  
Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 6:30P.M.  
One Municipal Square  
The Agenda**

As authorized by law, the January 18, 2022 Village Board meeting will be conducted remotely and ***physical attendance by the public at the meeting will not be permitted.*** As further permitted by law, Village Board members may participate in the meeting from remote locations. Physical attendance at such remote location shall not be permitted by the public.

The public may view the meeting live by logging in to the Village's Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/villageofwalden> if desired.

Public comment will be accepted at the meeting when permitted through the Facebook Livestream. Written comments will be accepted for a period of **five (5)** days following the meeting. Written comments may be submitted by email at [mkraus@villageofwalden.org](mailto:mkraus@villageofwalden.org) or by regular mail to 1 Municipal Square, Walden, NY 12586.

**PLEASE CHECK THE VILLAGE'S WEBSITE FOR ANY CHANGES TO THE FOREGOING DUE TO ONGOING AND EVOLVING RESTRICTIONS RELATED TO THE PANDEMIC**

1. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call
3. Village Manager's Report
4. Approval of Minutes – December 21, 2021 & January 4, 2022
5. Business of the Board of Trustees
  - A. Discussion – Ambulance District
  - B. Discussion – Police Reform
  - C. Discussion – Building Code – Dates/Times Work Can Be Performed
6. Payment of Audited Bills
7. Correspondence
8. Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees
9. Executive Session – Personal History of a Particular Employee
10. Adjournment

**DRAFT**

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WALDEN  
AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF WALDEN TO BE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED TOWN  
OF MONTGOMERY AMBULANCE DISTRICT  
RESOLUTION NO. 10-21-22**

**WHEREAS**, the Town of Montgomery (“Town”) has previously authorized the appropriation of funds for the preparation of a map, plan and report that was to determine, *inter alia*, the boundaries of a proposed Town-wide Ambulance District (“District”) and the associated costs to a typical one or two family home; and,

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to New York State *Town Law* Section 209-b, the Village of Walden (“Walden”) has the authority to authorize its inclusion in the District by way of resolution which resolution is subject to a permissive referendum under Article 5-A of the New York State *Village Law*; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Walden Board of Trustees (“Trustees”) have reviewed the subject Map, Plan and Report of the Town-wide District, which proposes to incorporate the entire boundaries of Walden thereby calculating Walden and the service to be provided to Walden residents’ into its estimated costs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Trustees find that the Map, Plan and Report is satisfactorily completed and further find that the inclusion of Walden into the proposed Town-wide District is in the best interest of the public’s health, safety and general welfare; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to New York State *Town Law* Section 209-b, the Trustees wish to adopt this resolution memorializing their express consent to be included within the proposed District’s boundaries and to commence the permissive referendum period associated therewith.

**NOW, THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY**

**RESOLVED**, that the Trustees hereby expressly consent to Walden’s inclusion within the boundaries of the proposed Town of Montgomery Ambulance District and further consent to the Walden’s inclusion in the associated Map, Plan and Report; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk is hereby directed to publish a notice of adoption of this resolution, which resolution is subject to a permissive referendum as provided by law; and it is further

**RESOLVED**, that the Village Clerk provide due notice to any party required under law upon the expiration of the referendum period.

Motion to adopt by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_. The vote was \_\_\_ ayes to \_\_\_ nays with \_\_\_ abstentions. The Mayor declared the resolution adopted on January \_\_\_, 2022.

**CERTIFICATE**

The foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Walden at a meeting held on January 18, 2022. Public notice was given and the meeting was conducted in full compliance with the New York State Open Meetings Law (Public Officers Law, sections 100-111). Minutes of the meeting will be available as provided by law.

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
December 21, 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	Lynn Thompson
		Brian Sebring
		Patricia Maher
		Cheryl Baker
		John Elliott

Absent:

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

**Orange County Transit**

**Anthony Mirando:** We submitted another update for Orange County Transit with respect to the permitting and work being pursued for the sewer and water connection of the property. Some good developments over the last couple of weeks. The Planning Board process has been complete. We did get the signed site plan set from the Chairman and the applicant is working with the Building Department to pursue some level of work that was approved as part of that site plan. There are no changes at this point to the Village DPW process or the County Health process because those were complete subject to actually completing some of the sewer and water connection work. We did get a response from the DOT around Thanksgiving. I would characterize it as a preliminary approval with comments. We are responding to those comments, which were not significant. Zach Peters, our engineer, is doing a resubmission to them with cleaned up plans that address some of the notes they asked for. And then we are going to file updated permit documents. What happens is they give their comments, we respond and then we file formally the permit application to hopefully get the highway work permit so that we can actually proceed with work within the right of way. The only thing that's a little bit in flux right now is Orange County Transit trying to retain a contractor who's capable of doing this work and who's available to do the work. Obviously, with the winter time, there's some lag there. In the meantime, they have proceeded with doing some landscaping work around the property, starting to remove some vegetation so they can replace some of the broken fencing, put up some of the esthetic materials along the eastern property line. That's all being pursued. Also, there is you may know that there's trailers on the property that were being used for Orange County Transit. Those are should be removed relatively soon. I don't have a date yet, but definitely after the New Year because they're finishing up with the building department, finishing up through a building permit, some internal renovations so they can shift their office space to one of the other buildings. So the next couple of months, I think there'll be a lot of changes over there. I'd just like to say thank you to the Mayor and to the rest of the Board, whoever assisted with help in getting a response from the DOT. We came in just under 12 months.

**Mayor Ramos:** Please thank the Senator. It was us that asked the Senator to intervene and give the

DOT a little nudge. I'm pleased to hear that is progressing.

**Anthony Mirando:** Absolutely. We're grateful for that. I should also add my colleague Allison Fouser was here last month. She's here with me tonight. I'm asking her to come with me now because we may be handing off month to month, but I'll always be the contact. If I'm not here, you can always reach out to me and I'll get information as quick as I can.

**Presentation – Proposed Ambulance District**

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We are excited to be here in front of you. Want to thank Willie Carley and Cheryl Baker for sitting on the task force we created about a year ago to get all 3 Villages involved in this process so that when we got to this point, we have a little bit more participation and inclusion of all of the municipalities that could be impacted by this process. I just want to address it off the top, it was discussed that we potentially could have a last minute joint information session. Want to make a couple of things clear. That was in hopes of just getting as many folks in the room as possible in 1 place to collect information. There was no attempt in such a short period of time to force anyone to make a decision. We did talk about potentially having a quorum with all 4 boards. That would have been great, but schedules didn't allow it because of the holidays and a variety of other reasons. So, we've done a presentation to the Village of Montgomery. They have already passed the resolution signing on to the ambulance district. We did a short presentation to the Village Of Maybrook. We are going to have an informational presentation this evening and there is absolutely no expectation from us to have the Village Board take any action this evening. Our goal is to provide you with this information, make a presentation, do some Q&A and then we would allow you a couple of weeks to do some back and forth. Sylvie and I have made ourselves available. As most of you know, personally, this is something we're both very, very dedicated and passionate about. We're working together on it, and we're hoping to really be able to provide a ton of information to you this evening so that in a couple of weeks, potentially you'll be able to make a decision either way and perhaps we can all work together.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I'm a resident in the Town of Montgomery and I'm a Trustee with the Ambulance Corps. I have been a Trustee for almost a year now. I replaced a vacated seat that was previously held by Kristen Brown, which she vacated when she became Town Councilwoman and I filled her role in that place. This is a, I think, a great opportunity for the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps to have some fresh eyes on their Trustees. I have a background in health care administration and finance. That's what I do for a profession. So being able to give back to my community in a way that I love to do when I'm at work and now I can do as a volunteer is very meaningful to me, and I'm happy to be a representative for the Town of Montgomery. For tonight's presentation, Brian and I are going to tag team on the slide, so some are for him to talk about and some are for me. And also before we get started, if you could just keep a list of your questions towards the end, we'll go through and give everyone an opportunity to ask as many questions as possible that you have, if we are unable to answer them tonight, that's okay. If we don't have our information that you want specifically, we will get that back to you and our secretary from the Ambulance Corps is here making sure I don't miss any questions. First we're going to go over ambulance services in Orange County, kind of a state of affairs. Brian is going to talk about the tax district oversight, what that means for a municipality and then I'm going to go into ambulance services in Montgomery, what we currently have for services as well as our financial history and our financial plan for the future. We have some goals for our future operationally that I'm going to review and then we're going to talk about next steps together.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The papers you have in front of you are the actual presentation itself. After the presentation, I'm going to go over the report and that's going to be basically the tax impact for homeowners per value assessment. We also have a sample resolution that obviously would be tweaked based on what Dave says.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Summary of a presentation that I watched back in September of 2021 and it was presentation of our emergency services Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner to the Orange County Legislators Emergency Management Committee. I found that just very telling because they were kind of speaking on behalf of all of Orange County in that meeting and I summarized some of the key points here. The first few things that they said are that EMS in Orange County is struggling. Issues across the board are with finances, particularly revenue not being able to cover the cost of expenses due to expenses being higher than insurance reimbursement, limited advanced life support services. So not every Ambulance Corps has ALS or against life support, for example Town of Montgomery. So in order to get advanced life support, we've got to share ALS services and that creates an increase in response time and potentially a decrease in care as that happens.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Does everybody understand, by the way, we've done this a lot and it's worth repeating is anyone that needs a little bit more of a breakdown between what ALS services are and what BLS services are?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It's in the appendix what the differences are.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** If you don't have it in front of you and I know it's on social media as a business person who's watching or replaying, ALS is Advanced Life Saving support services. BLS is Basic Life Saving support services. Right now, Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps is only is able to provide BLS services. The creation of an ambulance district, one of the key factors is allowing an ambulance service and establishing one that can offer also ALS services. So, if you're having a heart attack, you don't have to wait for a private entity separate from our Ambulance Corps that is just a mile down the road or less, and it will help create a better response time in the future. Right now, mobile life does a very good job and do the best they can, but they're like everyone else. They're spread thin. So, to not have to rely on a separate entity to be able to do that right here in the Town of Montgomery is a huge, huge deal and it's very, very tough to put a price tag on it because you need it when you need it.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Yeah, definitely. In that meeting, the other thing they talked about is retention and recruiting of staffing for emergency medical services. It has become the exception to have a volunteer Ambulance Corps at 100 percent. That is no longer the normal situation in this area. I can think of one, which is Warwick, but everyone else is moving to a shared model of volunteer and paid. In itself, the career of an EMT is not particularly high paying and it's difficult for retention and recruiting of staff. At that presentation back in September the 2 funding options that the commissioners presented is for municipalities to assist in emergency medical services via tax districts or ambulance tax districts or funding through general funds. Trying to apply that to Montgomery would make, I think, the most sense to do a tax district and the reason why is because we have an industrial base that gets PILOTS and they are exempt from paying the full amount into the general fund because of that agreement. But they are not exempt from special districts. So, doing an ambulance district would spread that revenue into all of those companies receiving PILOTS. That is one of the major reasons we would move forward with a tax district vs a municipal fund, which may work for another Town if they don't have that type of PILOT arrangement. I put a few quotes in here from that meeting. The first one was the Commissioner saying the answer to this problem is to get a tax district, get it funded properly and move forward. One of the other ones, the other gentleman said municipalities have to fund the Ambulance Corps to make it work and that we have to educate our Towns. One of the reasons that Brian and I here are to provide education and ask the questions that you need to ask so that we can provide that education and then to finalize this slide, when I was writing it, the way I see that is this is a positive thing that you guys are letting us stand here and talk about it and we've been doing work behind the scenes on making sure that we plan for a tax district and you letting us talk to you about it is part of the next steps. I just wanted to

thank you for it and kind of acknowledge that we're all here for the right reasons and we are following what was recommended by the County by moving forward with these discussions.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** this is what we're thinking of doing. Creating a tax district for ambulance is not like creating a new fire district. It's not going to create a board of commissioners. The Town Board will oversee the taxing district. It's more similar of a water or special district in that respect. We'll put a budget together. It'll be itemized on your tax bill, similar to how trash for a Village resident and water and all that stuff are all different than their regular tax bill and everything else you put in escrow. So, you'll be able to show exactly how much you're spending on ambulance services. Similar to a fire district, but a much different kind of setup. Does anybody not understand the difference between it being more like a fire district and it being closer to the water and special district? Basically, the map planning report in which we might as well skip to right now does two things. It shows the map of what the tax district is going to be, which is the entire Town of Montgomery, including the three Villages. The most important page is the rates based on assessment. This is based off of the tax district taxing \$800,000 and that's every single business in every single home in the Town of Montgomery and it's incorporated Villages. When Sylvie spoke about how right now, large businesses in the Town on the NeelyTown road and other areas, they receive PILOTS and new industries that come in that are massive businesses like an Amazon or Medline that receive PILOTS, they pay 100 percent into ambulance districts. Just like they do for fire districts. Right now, Village of Walden taxpayers are paying for ambulance services through the Town of Montgomery. You are because it's being paid out of the A fund in the Town of Montgomery, which all Village and Town residents pay into. This has already been happening for 2 years and it's had to happen because we've had to assist our Town Ambulance Corps, who was forced to hire more employees without having the funding to support those employees. They made that decision because they wanted to be able to answer ambulance calls right here in the Town of Montgomery. They communicated with the Town and they knew that we'd be able to support them. So, what we do is we ask the Ambulance Corps to send us invoices and we ask for their bank statements to identify that they really have no money in their bank account and we pay certain invoices. They're not payroll. That's something we don't pay. But it allows them to have a little bit more cash flow so that they can pay their employees. That is the deficit that they've been working with. And I know a lot of residents have had a lot of questions about why is this happening? Is it mismanagement? It 100 percent has to do with, they get their revenue from reimbursements through insurance and they get them quarterly. They don't know when they're going to get them. The value of having a tax district isn't to create a black hole of money for them to take from. It's to be able to have a cash flow for a business to run its business and to be able to actually pay their bills. So when we take \$800,000 and you allow big businesses to pay 100 percent, it makes it so much less expensive for the average homeowner. If your home is assessed at \$200,000 it will cost \$92.78. That's what it will cost when we create this tax district. If your home's assessed at \$250,000, it's \$115.98. For \$300,000, it's \$139.17. For Mayor John Ramos on Alfred Place, \$70 and change. That's really the main piece in terms of what it's going to cost. We have a mock budget that actually is in all of your attachments, and it shows what a ton of the potential expenditures would be like in a perfect world and it's why we came up with the \$800,000 number. If you look on the 990s for the Ambulance Corps, it shows how much revenue they're able to put in a regular year. We will be able to take that amount and then we added the \$800,000 off the tax base to be able to have little room for a period of years. So, in the first year, we don't anticipate using 100 percent of that bill. When we talk about providing ALS services and purchasing additional employees and having more expenditures. We're looking three years out of year one. We do that for two reasons. One, to make sure you don't have a constant increase in this fund while we build up this ambulance services agency to what we want it to be. And also, in the first few years, we're able to create a bit of a fund balance to offset any expenditures or cost increases that we don't see coming. We all know that they come up. We all know if there's full time employees involved in anything. Costs are going to increase each year so that \$800,000 number isn't something that we identified throughout. We

created wiggle room in that number for the first several years. So in theory, we're not going to be raising the amount to be paid by taxes, and we're going to be increasing the amount of businesses coming into the Town of Montgomery. So every time a business comes in on NeelyTown Road, Bracken Road, Stone Castle Road, 17K, that's going to limit and lessen the burden people pay through this district. So theoretically, and this has been shown to be true for the last three to four years, at least, as businesses and tax revenue comes in, you will actually see the amount you pay, at least in the first three years, decrease year to year. Because we don't plan to touch that \$800,000 number for at least a couple of years. Hopefully, not ever, because if you create a business model that's strong enough for an Ambulance Corps that provides ALS services will become a revenue generator. And what do I mean by that? A fire district and a police agency, yeah, you have tickets and you have revenue, but you don't necessarily have that creating revenue while your expenses go up. But the way that EMS is, there are as many municipalities taking the jump that we are, which allows us to be an entity in the industry that can provide ALS services outside of our municipal boundaries. Why is that important and correct me if I'm wrong, if I'm saying something out of turn, but in the Village of Walden specifically, there isn't a whole lot of private insurance. And when you answer a call and it's a private insurance person, that is a lot more than you're getting per call, especially when you provide ALS services. If we're providing that service and we know that \$800,000 number gives us the wiggle room in year two or three to get to ALS, you're not increasing your budget to the tax base and you're increasing your revenue. So that's something to think about when everyone talks about, well, we don't want this to get out of control. We don't want spending to control. Ambulance services are just very different in that way. Where if we do it the right way and there's models for it, you don't have to increase that \$800,000 number. There's other ways to create revenue and also expand the tax base as we've shown we can.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I want to just add to that one slide quickly, which was a common question that I've been getting, which is why can't the fire district provide ambulance services? To answer that question, is that in the state of New York, fire districts are prohibited for billing for ambulance services. So when we get to a future slide and we talk about what percentage of revenue would come from municipality versus the insurance industry, if you don't have that insurance revenue, you are then putting 100 percent onto the taxpayer. So trying to be able to recoup some of your expenses through insurance, I think would be a better business model. And right now, fire districts in New York State because of that are choosing not to provide ambulance services.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Tax District oversight options. This is really important. There's two ways we could do this. As I said, the Montgomery Town Board would be your Board of Commissioners. If you're thinking about fire districts, the Town of Montgomery Board would act in that capacity if you were comparing to a fire district, which we're not. We have two options. The first is the Town Board, through oversight, would have Town employees that could oversee the district, even to a degree, you can have Town employees that are Orange County civil service employees that are EMTs and they are your employees. You also have an option to simply contract with the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps, which is a 51c3 nonprofit. So, you would create a budget, you'd sit down with them. The Town of Montgomery would. We would absolutely if we went forward with this during that entire process, have a formal board that the Town would establish with a representative of each Village on it. We're committed to that. We have no problem with that. So as the budgets created, you all will have not just a voice in the fact that you vote for your Town elected officials but we would want also an individual from your board as part of this whole process throughout its entire growth. Specifically, of course, during the budget process. That's something we are absolutely committed to. You can put in your resolution if you wanted to do that. We would welcome that. Those are our options that exist or we could move this forward and we would do that after the district is created.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Can I just add that the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps is committed to

making this work with a solution that works for everybody. I put this on this slide knowing that there was an opportunity that the Town of Montgomery could if that was decided to take over ambulance services because we're not naive as to the possibilities and we are committed to working with it. If that is the best solution. I would not say either way without an analysis, truly a business plan in the contract negotiations and speaking with our lawyers. We are committed to doing the right thing. So there are a lot of questions when it comes to ambulance services in the Town of Montgomery. I'm going to talk about the operations and the oversight for the Ambulance Corps. Right now, the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps is 501c3 organization and we are governed by an executive Board of Trustees of seven people. Our operations, oversight and management was 100 percent volunteer. This is not the EMTs that are doing the services. This is the planning and the finance, the payroll, the management of the Ambulance Corps was 100 percent volunteer up until this year, where a few months ago we hired a part time financial manager to do our accounting.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** That's an important detail, by the way. There was definitely a little frustration, both on the Ambulance Corps side and our side to really figure out a way to present to all of you. Hey, this is a forecast of what we're doing, and this is why. So having that professional finance person and having a hired professional do that to do that isn't a knock on any volunteer. They're doing the very best they can with everything they have to do. But that was a huge part for us to have a lot more confidence and to be able to give you real numbers, especially that \$800,000 figure that you're looking at.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I think just realistically, if you are running a business that has a budget of over \$800,000, having somebody paid to do your books is a smart decision. For our facilities and equipment. Our primary base is located right here in Walden, and this is where the EMTs are going in between calls. So when they are not out on the call, the ambulance is parked in that bay and that's where the EMTs are staffed. There's a second station at Scott's Corners, but it is not staffed because that is an inadequate facility. So we use it more of like a garage, for example, there's no bathroom or storage in that facility. Even from a compliance perspective, you can't staff ambulance EMTs there. If they were to return there from a call that they needed to shower, for example, that would not meet their compliance. That's why they have to go back to Walden. The way that we use that space in Scott's Corners is that a volunteer who is at home can drive to that garage, park, switch cars to the ambulance and then leave and at the end return the ambulance back. They're not staying there waiting for calls, which is what's happening in Walden. There are three ambulances currently in the fleet and typically one is staffed. Which are two people per ambulance. The services provided by the Town of Montgomery Ambulance are Basic Life support services. We do that in-house. Advanced Life Support, as Brian mentioned, is a contract with mobile life with which is a private for profit company and other neighboring ALS providers. Because of those contracts, depending on how it works with the different types of patients insurances we pay out \$65,000 in contractual fees out to ALS providers who are providing services to residents here in the Town of Montgomery. We have agreements or contracts with every single one of those ALS providers. Which outlines how much it is per patient and for what type of insurance. As far as staffing goes for the EMTs, we have 5 full time employees and 5-7 part time employees for a total of 7.5 Full time equivalent staff per pay period. So of that, 7.5 full time equivalent, 5 of those are full time, and the additional 2.5 are a sum of all of the part timers adding up to the 2.5. It could be 4 people getting those hours or 8 people getting those hours.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** When we budget for hours worked, we do that because then we can really put a value to when we recruit more volunteers to supplement part time employees. You'll be able to put a dollar value on your savings year to year. We wouldn't necessarily budget and the \$800,000 you're seeing is 100 percent paid employees. It doesn't really factor in volunteers again because we don't want to keep hitting the taxpayer in raising that number. We want to build in different ways to make sure that we can create revenue and save money in other ways. At the end of



the day, there are individuals who are volunteers that love what they do. They work for other agencies and they volunteer for other agencies because they just love the ability to be in a position to save someone's life. There are volunteers, we've seen this happen, the numbers have showed it as we've moved towards paid individuals. Some of those folks who are saying, Well, this is a campaign I'm volunteering, I'm not going to do this anymore. Sure, that exists. But there's also a large amount of folks that just love volunteering and they're in the industry. They love doing it, and they're going to want to go to EMS providers that have state of the art services, locations. To no fault of their own at the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps, their facilities are falling down. The creation of this district and how we're looking to fund it will alleviate that and it will attract volunteers, which will cut costs.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Just as a status, we have 22 active volunteers and they provide an average of a total of 532 volunteer hours per month, riding or staffing ambulances. Our EMTs that are paid typically at about \$19 an hour. Now one thing to keep in mind about ambulance services that is a little bit different than other work weeks is that EMTs work 2 24 hour shifts. Because of that, they get built in 8 hours of overtime a week at a time and a half. As we do calculations for staffing, for the full time employees, a full time equivalent is 48 hours, not 40. Which is different than most places that either use a 35 or 40 hour workweek. Then you have to add in the time and a half for the extra 8 hours. So there's a few more lines when you do staffing for ambulance services. I want to move on to finance. Currently, our annual expenses total and this is where we are going to probably end about this year at \$840,000. Our payroll and benefits make up 60 percent of that. Then our additional services, kind of that fall behind each within this 7-10 percent range include the amounts paid out for ALS services, which I talked about, our liability insurance, our vehicle payments and costs and our billing expenses. We do have an annual budget that we complete every single year. And when we do that, we consider our prior year, volumes. Changes in potential reimbursement, budgeted support for municipalities and fundraising goals. Now one thing to keep in mind that's different about emergency services, is that in emergency services, if you think of an emergency room right at the hospital, that emergency room has a minimum staffing of at least probably a physician and a nurse and somebody working at the front desk and a radiology tech who can do your MRIs. And whether you walk in or not for emergency services, they are paid for those hours and the hospital is going to do their best to make sure that they look at their prior volumes to say, on Sunday nights, that's when we're really busy. So I'm going to throw 2 doctors on Sunday night. Now cannot guarantee that that Sunday night is going to have a higher volume of patients? No because we don't schedule emergency services. But what we do on the Ambulance Corps is for every shift track every single one of our calls so that we can create and have a flexible staffing model. So when we want to grow, we're growing in a way that makes sense for where the calls are coming from. Our projected volumes are our best guess based on our based on our history. But emergency medicine is no guarantee. Community benefit. Just to put some numbers around what kind of community benefit financially the Ambulance Corps provides to the Town of Montgomery. I've broken it out into two different categories. The first is Medicare and Medicaid write offs. So with our government insurances, Medicare and Medicaid, they reimburse lower than the cost to transport a patient. That can be anywhere from shorting about \$500 to \$700 per call that we are not able to recoup because we're writing that off. I combined those numbers for 2020, and because of that, we wrote off \$615,000 in 2020 and \$560,000 in 2021. That was our government insurances reimbursing us for less than the cost of care. The second category is Town of Montgomery resident write offs and charity. And this is very important to talk about because right now, Town of Montgomery residents, if they are unable to pay their ambulance bills, they can proactively reach out and have their bill written off for charity care, meaning the Ambulance Corps will not recoup the difference between what their insurance paid and what they owe. Or if they don't pay and we're unable to collect. The Ambulance Corps does not send residents of this Town to collections. We are not going after their homes. We're not ruining their credit. We write off the balance. The reason we do that is not because we're not good at business. It's because it's the right thing to do. We get tax,

we get help from the Town and municipal support. As an organization, that's how we decided how and when to not go after people who are unable to pay. If you look 2021 to date, we've written off \$346,000 in people who received services and were unable to pay their bill.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** There's a difference between those that have insurance, collect the check directly from insurance and then decide to deposit that and not pay the bill. That's a different thing. We don't want you to think in that respect that we're allowing people to take advantage of a situation. This is very, very, you know, separate and different than that.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Thank you. That that is a question we sometimes get because we're out of network with insurances. So some insurances will send the check to the patient and then the patient is expected to give that in that case, that is the money that the patient needs to get to the Ambulance Corps. We don't write that off. We will pursue that patient for the money. The next slide has a lot of information. What I did here is I created a grid of our finances in a very high level, going back to 2017. I added how staffing increased as a percentage of our expenses over time to essentially show that our expenses for operating expenses, excluding staffing, has actually been quite stable. But it's the staffing that continues to go up. Some of the things to know is in 2019, the Ambulance Corps was behind 28.9 thousand dollars. And this was not a surprise to anybody at the time because conversations about needing help for municipal support were already starting the moment that Ambulance Corps started hiring people, we knew that we were going to need help, and those conversations started with the Town. As of 2021, we are anticipating to have about \$500,000 at the staffing expense, which is 60 percent of our budget. When we put together a 2022 budget, our total revenue, we're estimating about \$894,000. Which is a combination of fundraising as well as insurance payments and any other special projects that we do like, for example, staffing the air show. All that's rolled up into total revenue. Our total expenses, the reason that that's so different for 2022 versus 2021 is because we are currently understaffed and dropping calls. We're in the 80s rate, meaning we're only responding to less than about 84-85 percent of our calls and that's too low for the industry. That means that we're not able to respond to calls when they come in. We're on our way to Garnet Health when somebody calls us and we can't go there, so they have to call a different Town. Our staffing model shows that we should have one ambulance being 24-7 and one ambulance being 12-7. But we don't have the funding to support that.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It was a very difficult conversation. The Ambulance Corps asked us to provide more than the \$150,000 in the A fund to support them having a second ambulance and we just couldn't absorb that in our budget. That's a big reason why we're here and the timing of this is extremely important. They know they need to add more staffing to provide the services so that if a call is in the hospital, they have a second ambulance on board during the main hours. So when a Town resident calls, they don't have to wait for Newburgh or mobile life depending on where you're at to be dispatched. That's something that they may not be able to provide for our community over the next year or two years, because the Town just was not able to say, hey, we can absorb that we have another \$50 or \$100,000 or \$150,000 or more to give to you to do that. So that's something that we're really struggling with. It was a very tough decision. We did keep just that \$150,000 in the A fund this year. That's when she says they're going to do their best they can with staffing break even. If somehow we're able to give them more, which I don't see how that will work, we'll be able to make that investment or if the tax district approves, they'll be able to know, Hey, we're definitely not doing it this year, but come next year, we know we'll have the ability to really get this done and prepare for it.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I'm sure many of you have seen me come to variety of budget meetings when they were happening for the Town of Montgomery asking for more money. This was the budget that I was referencing. I knew that we needed to provide more staffing. Our volumes were showing that that was the direction we were needing to have considering the number of calls and our percentage

of drop calls. It was not an unplanned request. Brian had full knowledge that I had asked for this amount of money and that unfortunately the Town was not able to provide it.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It speaks to the fairness. At the end of the day, we could do that. We could we could figure out a way to raise taxes in the A fund. We didn't. We actually lowered it a half percent. For me, it's the issue of these massive companies that are huge contributors to the tax base. If we create tax districts, they are offsetting you as a homeowner, a great, great deal. The impact of that \$150,000 in the A fund without those contributors is going to be far more if we increase the A lines to all Village residents and it would be by creating this district.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** In the final column here is a 2023 draft budget.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It's basically every expense we could think of. But there are some things in here that will be tweaked, but it basically spells out why the \$800,000 number is what it is. It also includes, in the entire budget, a complete investment in personnel and vehicles and capital improvement programs to replace vehicles for BLS and ALS services.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** That was an exercise in us planning out what our first year of ALS would look like. The reason why that's important is because say this goes through January 1, 2023 does not mean ALS services for the Town of Montgomery. It's about a 6 month planning process of hiring the staff and going through the New York state guidelines to be approved for that service and get all of the policies and procedures set up. So we're looking at about a 6 month ramp up.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Realistically, it's probably 2024. Obviously, we want to push the envelope and we want to hit the middle, but being serious and being real, you probably better set up to take that first year and create a little bit of wiggle room in a surplus for year number 2 at the ambulance district, knowing you're going to stay under budget and then pedal to the metal in 2024. It is obviously wishful thinking to get it done halfway through the year, but that is obviously would be very, very challenging. So, donations, grants, the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps are still going to be a nonprofit. There's always going to be value to having it because at the end of the day, we still have these very large businesses and grants that can get a tax write off by donating to a nonprofit. People have been coming out to me, Hey, why don't we figure out less tax burden and ask people to donate ambulances? Yes, we will get companies to donate ambulances, but we certainly can't rely on that and create a budget and spending plan on donations. Even if we were to be able to get some verbals and people would be able to do it. I don't think it would be responsible to do that in perpetuity. So, what does that mean? Don't impact the dollar amount that we're paying we're asking for the tax base. Stick to that number because you don't want to raise that number. If I said, Hey, we're going to get three ambulances donated, so we're going to give you a ratable tax number that's \$700,000 or \$650,000 and you're 7, you're going to have increases in potential salary and health insurance and you don't have free ambulances. You're going to hit the residents with a tax increase 10 years down the road. I don't think that's going to be an option to lower the amount of that \$800,000. I think we just do it and then create a situation where we have a rainy day fund and a surplus to offset raising taxes unnecessarily in this specific district. That's my thinking personally, from a budgeting standpoint.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I call this model the cake because it's got all the tiers of what you need and your revenue. And the reason I think it's important also is because many people have asked me and asked Brian as well in various forms is would we still be responsible for paying for our ambulance calls if there was a tax district? The answer is yes, because that is a piece of the cake. You need all 3 pieces in order to get to your budgeted amount and the creation of a tax district does not alleviate all financial burdens on the cost of services. My example that I was thinking about the other day is we provide financial services to the Humane Society, but that does not mean every person in the Town

of Montgomery gets a free dog. You still have to pay if you use the service and get a dog.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** From a municipal standpoint that I think you all can understand, it's basically this is the cost of providing services. These are the different pies in which the services are paid for. I think it is a little more comparable to saying in a municipal budget, you offset your tax base through revenue and you also collect sales tax revenue. You shouldn't be collecting sales tax revenue and also taxing the taxpayers. Same concept. There's expenses. You need the sales tax and you need the tax from property taxes. They need the building and they need the ability to have the \$800,000 and that's the reality of the bills and the cost of service.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The next slide we're going to talk about is the goals of going live with a tax district and what it is that we're looking very specifically to introduce strategically. Implementation of an adequate staffing. We've talked in depth about how we need that support to match our staffing with addition of advanced life support, which we've covered. A facility with a centralized location in the Town of Montgomery so that we can quickly respond to calls across the entire municipality. Right now, the Walden location puts other areas like KaiserTown and Maybrook at a disadvantage for response times and also having a vehicle replacement plan that would ensure ambulances are reliable and available and also the addition of a fly car which would go along with ALS services. Fly cars is an operational logistical situation that is typically how ambulance companies staff with paramedics. A paramedic goes in a fly car and then meets the ambulance somewhere so that if for whatever reason, that person does not need ALS services, the paramedic can go somewhere else and provide service to a second call instead of being hung up in the ambulance.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Obviously we're here talking to you in December. We do not have to make a decision this evening. Our hope and our goal is to have you guys at your January 4th meeting put together a resolution opting into the tax district. The Town of Montgomery for all residents, including the Village of Walden residents, set a public hearing for Wednesday, January 12th. At that time, all Village of Walden, Village of Maybrook, Village of Montgomery residents will have an ability through a public hearing to be able to air any concerns. Talk about some of the issues and at that point, we would move forward if all 3 Villages opted in to create the tax district after the public hearing process. Which needs to be done before March 1st. In order for this to trigger in January 1, 2023.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We outlined some of the months here of the goal of approval. The discussion about having a contract finalized between the Town of Montgomery and the Ambulance Corps that is something that we are looking to have. Right now there is no formal contract between the municipality and the Ambulance Corps and we think that's definitely one way or the other, this is where we're moving and where we're headed forward. The thing is that the budget itself for the tax district will be completed at the normal time of budgets for the Town of Montgomery. If this moves forward for the tax district. October is when we do the meetings and then November is when you do the finalization for the budget.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We usually start meetings in August, September. So, whoever is the Village represented for the budget purposes, we'd start meeting probably throughout the year and start getting emails, reports and will lead up to the budget getting adopted in November.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** That would be based on the 2023 volumes to date because we just don't know how ambulance volumes will go next year. Then I think there was my pie in the sky summer 2023 ALS services, which will be up for discussion. \*Read the list of appendixes\*

**Mayor Ramos:** We're going to go through an event schedule here. We're going to have Deputy Mayor Carley and then Cheryl Baker and then we'll open it up to the rest of the board.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** First of all, thank you. I appreciate the presentation. Unfortunately, it is quite different from the one we received previously, and so we need some time to digest this. There's quite a bit more. And that's one of the questions I do have for you. If you're able to put this out now, why not a year ago?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It's changed. It continues to evolve, and this is the most up to date information. And at the end of the day, a lot of things have been up in the air in terms of what we were willing to do. And there's information that's continue to be updated. So as we continue to move forward, you get the most up to date information, which is what you got in front of you.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** That's my point. I just wish the due diligence would have been up front and then we'd had quite more time to kind of digest this over time. But thank you for it. So we get to look at it in this timeframe. I look at the comparisons with the municipalities, your appendix A. You're comparing that they have ALS paid staff and so forth, so on. But are you comparing how the municipality actually pays for it?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** That's the amount received. If it says Town, that means that it's coming from a general fund. And if it's a tax district, it's coming from a tax district.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** There are certain Villages that we looked at and they do supplement a dollar amount. Just use that as an example, not saying this is exactly it, they have \$200,000 in a pot and they say that all right, fine. You can do as many analysts calls because you're going to get the revenue, you're going to get everything after that. But once that pot is completed, that's your costs. And to me, that sounds like a good model and I don't see that here. I don't know if you're planning that. I know I'm kind of being brevity with it, but it's for time sake. I guess I'm looking at and I'll just put it out there. I think we should have a discussion about the different models and see what really fits for the Village of Walden. Because if we're going to ask people to pay out of their taxes regardless if it's one penny or is a thousand dollars, we're responsible for that and we should try to give them the best bang for their buck, no pun intended.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** That's what we've done.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I know, but you didn't give us the opportunity to look at that to verify.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** You have the time. We trust that you will use that time and we're here any time of day. Come hang out. We'll talk to you about it, but you have the information in front of you. We are absolutely looking to maximize every taxpayer dollar. And one thing I will say in comparison to some of the amounts that some of these municipalities are getting, a couple of factors. Some municipalities and some districts and some agencies are just making the conscious decision, hey, we just don't have the money so we're not going to put additional ambulances on. Some communities just don't have the calls for service that we do. We're the 4th highest in the County. Also what makes it unique and it's hard to compare each of these Towns when you see those numbers and ask why we're asking for 8 again, when you have ALS providing services and/or you have more residents that have private insurance, you create more revenue and you need less of assistance as well. Those are some factors to look at when you're looking at the comparative model.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** When you talk about your time for ALS, because that's like a sticky point. I haven't seen anything unless you have it. Regarding if there's a problem with it.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** If you're looking for specific statistics, I can get that for you. But we are having issues with the response times and ability for mobile life to respond to our calls.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The reason I bring it up because we're grateful, we know everybody needs medical care, period. There's no question about that. To come together as a Village, as a Town, I think we all want to do what's best for the taxpayer. But there will be a potential for a ballooning of the ALS side because of the cost for ALS. Maybe you have it all in here, I just haven't seen it and I got to go through it. I understand what I hear and my quick peruse over this is that you've calculated for it, but there's still some questions I have.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We absolutely do not expect the ALS cost to be a balloon based on what we're presenting. We just don't. We've accounted for it. We do not see a ballooning cost with the addition of a new facility, with the addition of ALS services, with the numbers we provided to you. We don't forecast that. I can sit down and explain it to you and to any resident who wants me in their living room. I will do it. We'll show you the facts. We'll show you all the cost. We'll list them out and we'll show you receipts. We'll show you invoices.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Also have the Town of New Windsor, which has been several years ahead of us in a tax district, providing ALS services. That if we need to compare to somebody. They can show like we've been doing this with the tax district and ALS services and we're near you. That's somebody that we can bring in. That was somebody that I had invited to a previous work session about 2 weeks ago for Trustees to be able to ask some of those questions. But if you want to talk about that in advance, we do have neighboring municipalities that can show after X number of years there wasn't a balloon.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** To a degree, it's tough to compare because they're closer to hospitals. So that effects response time and that effects a lot of different things.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I get it and that's my point. You're asking for a couple of weeks, but you got all these variables.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** They're not going to go away.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I'm not saying they're going to go away.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** This is my point to what your point is. In a year, all these variables are still going to exist. Things aren't going to change in that respect. We'll eventually going to have to make a decision.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I think the most value change that will make is that we'll make an educated decision.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We will. You guys will. Absolutely.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Right now based off everything, it's not an educated decision. I know we'll get there. One penny or one dollar, I think we owe the taxpayer some due diligence in that. I'm just bringing up my concerns. When I look at the different models, when I see the different things are going on, that these are the things that I see that I'm just bringing up because we are in a Q&A.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** As you know, I've already reached out to you last week to send me your questions in which I responded to them in detail. The more you guys need to make those educated decisions, whether it be financial analysis, predictions. We're here. You asked me for it. I send it to you.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** That was a question too, because you put 62 percent for BLS and 62

percent for ALS. That's not going to wash.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I said that in order to get those numbers, I need to reach out to the County to get that. The time frame that you gave me was 24 hours, so I took my best guess. I explained how I did the math and then I sent it to you.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I get it. I'm just saying that goes back to due diligence.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Point taken.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** You did send it. I appreciate it. But you can't say BLS is equal to ALS because it's not.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** When we do the calculation of our revenue, we take a percentage of calls versus transports because we only get paid for transports. So on the BLS side, we transport 62 percent of our calls to the hospital. And because they don't have the rate of transport for ALS because of the way the data is captured, I'd have to reach out to the County to get that. So, what I did is for my best guess estimate, I took that 62 percent transport rate and assigned it to ALS.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** That actually makes sense.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** No, it doesn't. But we're not going to argue about it, but it doesn't because ALS would be lower.

**Manager Revella:** You don't transport as many ALS because mobile life picks a lot of it up?

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** My point is whoever transports ALS, the number of calls, number of problems is not equal. ALS and BLS. BLS will always be higher because you have more people who have minor stuff.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** This is a big issue, I'm going to look into that and get back to you on it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** We'll have to go back through it. That's the things that I see. I look forward to working through this so that we can make sure we do the best for the Villages.

**Trustee Baker:** Thank you for a much more updated packet. I wish we had this when we met yesterday. That would have been nice, but thank you for doing it. I'm going to focus more on the financial aspect of it. In regards to the companies in the area, on average, what are they contributing now financially towards the ambulance, towards the money?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The answer to that is through their PILOT payment. If you gave me a business, I could tell you what they pay in taxes and I could get you that number, but it's really tough. You could figure it out and it's not going to be a lot compared to what they could be paying in the ambulance district. But I can get you that number. It would be business by business.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Can you print that for us? You know the businesses are here in the Town. You can provide and show us the top 10, 15 or whatever.

**Trustee Baker:** That \$800,000 does not include the cost of this new facility that you hope at some point build. What is the cost of that building just by itself?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Everything in the \$800,000 number and the revenue that's brought in

through the operations, a new building is including in that \$800,000. And if you need me to sit down, I can explain it to you. But absolutely, it's going to be absorbed in this budget. It's going to be a bond payment and it's going to be paid separately from the ambulance district because it's going to be done on a Town piece of property that will be bonded through the A fund. It will not be absorbed solely through this, but in a larger bond that will be paid off over 30 years. You won't see it impacted in a perfect world. That's something we've been discussing with the ambulance district as well.

**Trustee Baker:** Do you already have a design and layout of this building in size and how many ambulances you are hoping for this building to hold?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We're absolutely in the planning stages with that. Those that don't know and haven't been to Town Hall, we have building 110 and building 112. Building 112 is completely vacant. We have some plans to revitalize the entire site of 112 and 110 through a bond. We'll be able to absorb potentially a new facility that will be the headquarters of our ambulance district, our Ambulance Corps in that building on Town property on Bracken Road in a central location.

**Trustee Baker:** Has a cost analysis been done between just upgrading the buildings that currently exist versus taking out a bond and building a new facility as opposed to just upgrading the buildings that already currently exist? And what was that cost for upgrading those buildings?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** In the end though upgrading the Walden location will not help with response times.

**Trustee Baker:** The bulk of your calls are in Walden, correct? So wouldn't it makes sense to still have it?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Montgomery has the bulk of the calls.

**Trustee Baker:** Prior meetings you guys were saying it was the Village of Walden.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The largest Village is Walden. But overall, the Town of Montgomery has largest percentage of calls.

**Trustee Baker:** But still, was there a cost analysis for revamping the buildings at all?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I wouldn't do that as an option. Personally. I have not looked into that. This is why there's a lot of potential outcomes to when we create a district, what we can do. Our plan is at the Town level would be to have one central location and one hub that can be done through a capital improvement on Town property. That way, we can ensure that it's done the right way. Ensure it's up to code and it's in a central location. That's not to say we can't have substations. That's not off the table. But at the end of the day, our main headquarters, we would look at a new location in Scott's Corners where the current food bank is.

**Trustee Baker:** With the ALS with mobile life, how many calls have they dropped for the ALS?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It's a number that I have been working on getting.

**Trustee Baker:** When they missed a call, they're not responding, it rolls over to the next ALS?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We have a mutual aid system. The Town of Montgomery has an agreement so when we're unable to get a call, the Town of Wallkill would provide mutual aid to the Town of



Montgomery. Just like when Town of Wallkill can't respond to the call, the Town of Montgomery responds to the Town of Wallkill. The mutual aid system is an agreement that happens between the municipalities that surround each other. There's this kind of agreement that I'll help you and you help me.

**Trustee Baker:** If Wallkill has to come here, do you guys have to pay Wallkill for that service?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The answer is we have an agreement with every single municipality for ALS services. Depending on the patient's insurance, how that financially works. And in some cases, we do pay for other municipalities for ALS services.

**Manager Revella:** Those are mutual aid agreements between the Ambulance Corps, not municipalities, correct?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It's between Ambulance Corps. But the Ambulance Corps are representing those municipalities.

**Trustee Baker:** With the EMTs, with the \$58,000, does that include their benefits as well or benefits is on top of that?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Benefits are on top of that. When I send you guys financial or staffing quotes and I put in there how many full times we have versus how many part timers, the reason I do it is because the full timers are going to have the benefits on top of that. We're estimating it to be between \$19-20,000 per full time FTE. Which is in the line item budget that we gave you, but was not in the email or the appendix that I put in here.

**Manager Revella:** You also didn't include the overtime, the 8 hours per week.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It is included.

**Manager Revella:** It says on your sheet that it's separate. It's on appendix C.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Yes, but if you add up the cost of the total of \$569,000. Totals include overtime for the 8 hours at a time and a half for every single person, depending on what their hourly rate is. The totals in the budget include the time and a half.

**Trustee Baker:** You and I had a bit of a discussion with this yesterday in regards to the volunteers in the national decline clear across the board, not just in ambulance services. One thing that kind of struck out to me, with the idea of building a building will that bring more volunteers? I don't know if that model really necessarily works. I spoke to an EMT, I was asking him questions what his viewpoint was. He happened to be an individual like you mentioned, that loves, loves what he does. He's paid in one district and he volunteers in another. He just loves what he does, which kudos to him. But I'm feeling that he's the exception. Speaking to his driver that was there who's an unpaid EMT. There's actually a resentment there. That's a problem that they're having in their particular Ambulance Corps. That volunteerism has dropped off because once you start paying EMTs there's no differentiation in skill level between a paid EMT and a volunteer EMT. So how do you plan to bridge that gap and do that outreach to somebody, not just with the new building, but how do you encourage them? Is it really realistic to assume that you're really not going to get that many volunteers and if anything you're going to have to expect most people that come on board, you're probably going to have to pay them?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** This budget is set up 100 percent with paid employees. For the same

reason, the end of the day, they're doing everything they can with what they have. But with the new facility and with the ability to provide the type of services that we will be able to provide with the best equipment and everything that we're going to do through a tax district, you are going to recruit volunteers. Right now you are seeing some Town of Montgomery residents that I've spoken to that will go to a different facility because there are issues with just how many improvements you need to make to your headquarters. That's just the reality. Those things do matter. When you create something like what we want to create here in the Town of Montgomery, you're going to recruit volunteers. But you can't budget for it. So we're budgeting for pretty much zero volunteers. We are budgeting for paid staffing so that when we recruit volunteers and we know we will because we're going to create that here in the Town of Montgomery, the state of the art organization, that's going to lower our budget based on less part time paid individuals because we will have more volunteers. That's the model. We don't budget for it. There's no plan to do that. But the plan to recruit is through professionalism through recruiting and by having state of the art facilities and care.

**Trustee Baker:** Under the summary of ambulance services, the Medicare/Medicaid write off page, that is a massive amount to write off. That is colossal. I understand the model, you don't want to feel like you're punishing people by paying collections, but at the same token, in a way, you're now asking the taxpayers to pay that debt. Yes, I agree, some charity, absolutely. Some just cannot afford it. I understand that. But you can't say that entire \$615,000 or the \$560,000 this year, even if you got like half of that, it isn't that considered soft billing?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I don't think you're wrong in what you're saying. It's not soft billing because there is an attempt to collect the debt. But this is the community benefit in respect to the number that's lost.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** For Medicare and Medicaid, you cannot collect the difference. That is a government contract that we have.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It's really important to let everybody know and anybody who's watching this on a live stream. The state continues to pass legislation to impact reimbursements for ambulance districts and everyone is getting more and more in the red because of that. That is why people have become more reliant on municipalities because that is still trending in a bad direction. There was a piece of legislation that was going to cut it by what even half than what you're getting right now. Including that loss of 560k in this year alone. That's why this has become such an important issue so quickly and over the years.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Separately, Brian and I have had very good conversations about affordable charity care programs in place so that when people can't pay their bills, you can apply. Just like any other health care institution.

**Manager Revella:** When you become a tax district, can you apply those other unpaid bills, not for the Medicare ones, the other unpaid bills to their taxes?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** That's a good question. We'll get your answer to that.

**Trustee Baker:** Has there been an audit of an outside audit of the Ambulance Corps? And if so, who did it and what were the results of that audit?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We use RBT for our financial auditors. One of the things that is our goal for having the tax district is to be able to fund an outside auditing firm to come in and pay them to do an in between audit.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** You're talking about a full audit with controls and best practices in everything. The answer is no. If we become a tax district, they would fall under what we've already budgeted for all of our funds and all of our districts, the Town of Montgomery would every year do one of those outside independent audits that we already had budgeted in a different line in the budget.

**Trustee Maher:** Thank you so much for all this information. You answered a lot of my questions as you were going through all the detailed slides. I do have a couple of comments and a few questions. Going back to what John was saying about, the community benefit, will these write offs continue in the new model? If you're under a tax district, I think you said yes. Just wanted clarification on that. And what are other municipalities doing? Are they also following that model?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The answer is when we go live to tax district, we're going to come up with the charity care policy that's agreed upon by the Ambulance Corps and the Town, which will be required. Essentially as a proof of the need for charity in the way that is able for people to achieve that.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Versus going after them and not taking them to collections. They fill out an application and say this is why I can't afford it and that process would be created through the Town.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** In my last conversation with New Windsor, they have a similar model where they don't send to collections for failure to pay.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** And there are some communities that do. The residents aren't too happy about that.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The numbers for 2021, that was a shock for all of us. I think to Willie's point, we can't always know our variables in advance, particularly when it comes to our community, when it comes to reimbursement. All the factors that go into it. We do our best to make a prediction. And when it doesn't work out, we'll learn from it and move on.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** With the big jump in 2021 to 2020, there's also a big jump in volume of calls and an increase in staffing, you answer more calls and there's more opportunities for that reason.

**Trustee Baker:** Looking at a 25 percent increase in the call volume for 2021, compared to 2020.

**Trustee Maher:** It seems like the Town of New Windsor is the most comparable to us right now from what you guys have been saying this during this presentation. But I did notice that they are also a tax district and they're contributing \$600,000, 3,500 calls. I think we have 2,300 calls and asking for \$800,000. Is that because of the PILOT? Do we have more coming in?

**Kyle Shorette:** No. New Windsor has a very high private insurance. We are very high on Medicare, Medicaid. From Medicaid/Medicare, we lose over a half million dollars every year. \*inaudible\*

**Trustee Maher:** That makes sense because looking at it on paper, it's like, why are we asking for more if we're not getting as many calls. The EMS crisis is not new to me. It's not new to Walden, it's a global crisis. I'm grateful for you guys for giving us all this information. There was a comment I wanted to make also regarding the assessed value of homes. I think it's very important for people to understand that this is very different than an appraised value of homes. I think when people think of assessed value, they think my house is worth \$450,000. This is what my cost is going to be. And

that's not true. For a \$450,000 appraised value home, the assessed value might be \$110,000. So, you're looking more along the \$46 to \$50 bracket each year and that breaks down to about less than 25 cents a day to have a higher level of ambulance care in our Town

**Town Supervisor Maher:** And you're looking at the 800 number and it's big and you compare it because we don't want to see that go up. We want to show the residents in the community we can use. This is a big number, but this is a smaller impact because of all of the business that's putting into the district to offset the regular homeowner and we're putting in our mind costs for years down the road, so we don't have to raise the amount to be raised by taxes.

**Trustee Maher:** That was one of my other questions, whether you have a 3 year plan or a 5 year plan, does that \$800,000 number go up?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It in theory? No. Based on the model that we're building that will create revenue to offset the expenses that continue to creep up based on having full time employees and those natural expenses.

**Trustee Maher:** When I break it down by day, I personally have called and I take care of my mother in law. She was in the house with me and unfortunately I've had to make that call probably about 6 times in the past couple of years and what is the cost of a life? 80 percent is completely unacceptable. Something needs to be done.

**Trustee Sebring:** Thank you for coming. What do you figure cost is for your member to become an ALS certified, sending him to school?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** On appendix E, a paramedic training, I have the hours, but I don't have the cost. Let me get back to you on our amounts.

**Trustee Sebring:** If you have a fly vehicle, I noticed you wanted 2. My suggestion is that rather than have 2 fly vehicles and you say you use that for transportation, for education, pay that member mileage.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** What you're talking about is from a previous version of the map plan report on the use of a fly car. That's been updated in this presentation. That is a good question. On appendix D for our vehicle plan. The addition of the fly car would be a 1 to 2 utility fleet and the decision to be made about whether it's 1 or 2, would be what the current needs are to staffing. If we're doing 24-7 ALS plus an additional 12 hours 7 days BLS and a second ambulance, that would be 1 fly car. But if we needed to in the future, based on an increase of our calls and our population would have 2 ALS ambulances, we have 2 fly cars. That 1 to 2 is not what need right now. It's just this is our planning for future. The primary use of a fly car would be for the paramedic. Because you don't want the paramedic held up on a Basic Life Support call on the way to the hospital and get an ALS call. You want that paramedic to be able to come off the ambulance and go respond to that call and send the ALS where it needs to go. That helps with the ability to respond to more calls effectively with the paramedics fly car. The second use for the fly car would be for volunteer responses because what happens right now is if there is a call that's unable to be answered, say that we've got a situation where it's 24-7 for the ALS and then 12-7 for the BLS, but a call comes out when there's not a second ambulance. A volunteer out in the community can hop into a fly car and get to that person before the ambulance. And that right now we're providing a service for the Town in personal vehicles. That really needs to be a safety perspective for our volunteers, for our employees. Anybody who's providing that service needs to be in a marked car with the right lights and right equipment and the right liability. Not that they're not covered in their personal car, but that fly car would allow our volunteers to get to you and not have to wait for the ambulance.

**Trustee Sebring:** What do you figure the cost of renovations for building 112 to put the Ambulance Corps in? That's a good.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We're looking at probably a \$3 million bond for everything. It's not just specific to ambulance, it's specific to both floors of the building. That would include an extension for bays, where currently you have 112. You have to create an extension where that side parking lot is. The good news is the Town has room. There's also an option depending on the cost and depending on the federal infrastructure bill and if we can get a grant to pay for potentially the whole entire thing, there is land in the wooded area closer to Rte. 208. Which would probably be the better way with its own entrance aside from the terrible in and out on Bracken Road that needs a light right now.

**Trustee Sebring:** I agree with you on using that building and as well as the food pantry. Good call. When you have your Basic Life Support members, just say 1 calls out because they're sick. Who do you bring in to replace that one and at what pay?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We have part time staff and volunteer staff covered.

**Trustee Sebring:** How many more employees do you plan on hiring once you get this the ALS for billing charity accounts?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** On Slide 16, at the bottom, there's a chart which would show in the second model, 2 crews where 1 of them is 24-7 ALS coverage and 1 is 12-7 BLS coverage. That would be an increase from our 5 full time employees to a total of 7 for Ems. Then we would add the new 4.5 new employees for paramedics.

**Trustee Sebring:** But my question was, for the charity, who does that bill go to so they can look it over and determine whether or not?

**Trustee Sebring:** Charity, who does that bill go to?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We're going to have an administrator.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We have a billing company right now that would work with the patients, but ultimately that decision on whether you can write it off or not, falls on the Ambulance Corps supervisor.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It would be an employee.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Our billing services are outsourced. Meaning the bill that you get comes from an outside agency.

**Trustee Sebring:** Have you checked on what the price would be to lease an ambulance compared to buy out?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Yes. We always go with the best deal. So when we're looking to purchase the ambulance, typically they do lease to buy.

**Trustee Thompson:** I do have one question about the assessed value. I understand appraised value, assessed value. However, does this mean that many of us will be getting a visit from the assessor's office to see what the true assessed values of our homes are? Since you're looking to use that as a

way to generate revenue.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** No. Nothing will change based on what the assessor's office does for general operations for the Town on valuations, which are done every march and submitted. So this will not impact that in any way.

**Trustee Thompson:** The PILOTS. You're counting on getting large sums from the businesses, which I understand. Is it a possibility to create a business district? Do they get taxed at a different rate from what you would tax a business now? Let's say, NeelyTown Road because there's a lot of big businesses there. Is there any way to have certain business districts with the taxation, with the assessed? Would that make any difference?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It could. We looked into it. It's something where our legal counsel advised us that based on how it would be set up, it could lead to potential litigation. We just felt like creating a fair model where there's still going to be the highest rate payers in the district.

**Trustee Thompson:** Understood. And what happens when you're expecting revenue from a big business like that and the PILOTS over and the business decides to leave our community?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We're seeing in Orange County a 100 percent retention rate. For example, Medline just left and they got a PILOT and went to the Town of Montgomery. Someone came in and bought that, and they're paying 100 percent right now. We're seeing those vacant warehouses, which is why we had to change our zoning in the Town to prepare for it, they're popping up everywhere. So we are not seeing that impact us in a negative way right now because they're immediately getting used and with the continuation of online sales, which is only going up and up and up, we don't see that ending any time soon. Projecting out, it looks like that revenue is going to be there for a very long time.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm assuming, this would be something that potentially would give more job opportunities to our community. And is this something that you would plan that if people came in at one level, you would try to encourage them to go for training to move up to the next level? And would you pay for that and then expect them to contract to stay for a certain amount of time to get that investment back? I know a lot of health care organizations do that.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The development of a career ladder with step raising is based on certain achievements, along with the ability to invest in education for a return of years served. All that is something that is the standard that we would like to get to. It makes sense for retention and having people making a career and is a different career path for many people. So is that somewhere that we'd like to get to? Yes, it's a goal.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Listen, if we create the type of facility that we're going to create, it's going to be a symbol for the rest of the emergency services community. And it's going to bring in people from all over the place. I think creating a feeder system and a youth entrepreneur system where you can get into this industry is something that's going to be real and the Town of Montgomery is going to become including the Villages, a spotlight for this industry. I think when we do this, other communities are going to follow suit. I think we're taking a lead.

**Trustee Elliott:** Thanks for everything. The staffing that you have here is 1 supervisor to per shift. 2 full time and the time and a half. But do you have someone that's going to be in charge of the department?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Yes. That supervisor would take on the roles of administrator. As it currently

stands, as we grow, that will change and the need for additional administrative support may need to be in the future. But I think for us to get off the ground that supervisor will need to be a paramedic. You need a paramedic to supervise other paramedics, the person of the highest level of training will supervise below. That supervisor will be able to take on some of that administrative role and that FTE is not assigned at 100 percent to staff on an ambulance. That allows them to have time off to do the administrative work.

**Trustee Elliott:** You don't have like a chief of the department?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We would retain our current roles of our captain who was acting as a manager on a volunteer basis. So some of those tasks would transition over to the supervisor, and some of those tasks would remain with the Trustee.

**Trustee Elliott:** Is that salary included in here?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yes. The supervisor salary accommodates that role in the \$920,000 that you'll see. If it's not in your packet, it's going to be in your email. That 920 number with the benefits that kick in to all those employees that is ALS completely invested in, including the supervisor.

**Trustee Elliott:** If you build a new building in the Town, what happens to the current one?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Good question.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I think that's going to have to be some conversations that happens with that building because there are multiple scenarios that we would need to talk about. Nothing has been decided upon. We can we retain that building as a substation for responding to Walden. That building is sold. If that were to happen, we have to get our lawyers involved because there's some question as to the ownership. I'm not going to get into that for here, but all those questions would need to be resolved before and during the planning. They're being acknowledged that they have to happen.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** You guys might eventually own that building.

**Trustee Elliott:** So if this was to happen, then everyone would turn out of Montgomery. The ambulance would come from Montgomery.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I don't think that decision's been made.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Like I said, we haven't decided substation and location and the final model.

**Trustee Elliott:** I get that but that's an important one.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Ideally, yes. It would come from central location.

**Trustee Elliott:** But that central location is going to decrease Walden's response time.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It's an important that shouldn't be glossed over, for sure. We believe a central location is a model that makes the most sense. But there are others part of this whole team that don't want to lose that is a substation. So that decision, if you said to us, Hey, if we're going to do this, we need to make sure that there is at least going to be a presence in the Village because of response time. We'd have to consider that. And if you weren't willing to vote until you could make that promise to your residents, we'd have to consider that and see if that would impact the map plan

report.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** That cost of operating a substation is not in here.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I think it could be absorbed in honestly. We'll take a look at it. If it's important. If you're saying, this is important, we need to look at this and we need to let our residents know we care about that 1 minute, 2 minute response time. It's real, it matters. We can look into that and see if there's an impact.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Also, there's a piece of this where there's now a 2nd ambulance. Although there would be an ambulance in Walden, assuming it's here, if that ambulance is on his way to Garnet Health, it doesn't help anybody. Wouldn't you prefer to have a 2nd ambulance responding from Scott's Corners than no ambulance at all? There's the addition of a 2nd ambulance offset some of the dropped calls.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** You already have some ambulances coming from Scott's Corners now. There's already a situation that exists when an ambulance doesn't exist in Walden and you're getting calls, it's happening already. But I understand the concern. It's legit.

**Mayor Ramos:** You talked about Town contracting with the ambulance service. Explain the difference between contracting and hiring.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** There are a couple of scenarios. We laid them both out in the slide. One is that the Town would have some sort of employees that would work and operate and perform ambulance services. Even if we did that, we would still contract with the Ambulance Corps because they are providing the services right now. They have all of the equipment, they have all the areas where they're operating out of. So even if we decide to go to a model that was municipal operated into a degree or even had oversight that was a municipal employee, we still would have to enter into a contract with the Ambulance Corps. And we see no part in this process where they're not a huge player because of the legacy, because of what they've done and how they built it. We always view this as a partnership, no matter how it's set up. No matter what, we will absolutely have to enter into a contract when we create this tax district.

**Manager Revella:** As opposed to like buying them out or having some other kind of service?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We haven't talked about that realistically as an option. We want them to be in existence, and there's a huge value to having a nonprofit organization, 501c3. Even if you have a municipal head.

**Mayor Ramos:** You indicated before that as the years go by, you start seeing the reduction of taxation to our residents. How can you secure that the residents aren't going to be taxed beyond the amount that you originally mapped out on your map plan?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I think 10 years from now, is it realistic that we'll look for a potential increase? Sure, but I really don't think it's happening in the near future. And that's why we picked that number where it is. The only thing that could happen, where that would be impacted so largely so quickly. And I don't know how this would happen because every single ambulance district might go out of business is if the state legislature altered again in a devastating way, what Ambulance Corps could get in terms of their reimbursement through insurance payments or the federal government. Which again, is a reason to do it this way because you don't want the Ambulance Corps to be put in that situation and they have been for years over and over again. This is the sustainable way to do it. We're just kind of doing it in a way that's really taking the lead and



creating a ton of wiggle room with that number.

**Mayor Ramos:** Mutual aid, when you go to mutual aid, when calls are dropped, who pays for that? If we call in a Town in Newburgh rig, who pays?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The situation is you call 911 and the Town of Montgomery ambulance is at the hospital. So then the 911 operator reaches out to the organizations that mutually support us, mutual aid, Town of Montgomery, Town of Newburgh ambulance is the closest. They respond. They would bill the patient insurance. There will be no financial situation happening with the Town of Montgomery. That was all fall to the Town of Newburgh.

**Mayor Ramos:** Who has the mutual aid contracts?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The County keeps the list.

**Mayor Ramos:** Who is Montgomery owning to when they can't respond to a call?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I can send that to you. We actually keep track. Our most common request for help is for the Town of Montgomery to help out the Town of Wallkill.

**Mayor Ramos:** You indicated that you're going to bond \$3 million for building 112, potentially. Great footprint for what you need to do. I guess the industry standard is a common Ambulance Corps would be over 5000 square feet. I know we talked about it, but the amount is \$403 per square foot. That doesn't count the oversize garage bays that need to be automatically timed into a call itself. We're talking about at least over \$2 million. Do you think that the \$3 million bond is a little bit too soft?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** No.

**Mayor Ramos:** Okay. Preliminarily, that's all we have.

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

**Manager Revella:** The Orange County Department of Health came for their inspection. DPW Super went through the facilities. Everything went well. I attended the senior holiday luncheon with the Mayor and Rec Coordinator here at the firehouse. Wonderful event. I've been going over some FOIL issues with the Clerk, Police Chief and with our attorney. Has been increased lately, especially from a couple of different individuals. Been trying to respond to those as quickly as possible. Went over the Oak Street project with the Village Engineer. Went through the contracts with the contractor. I did attend the area Municipal Managers meeting down in Tarrytown. We went over some COVID protocols that have been going on and updates from the counties from the governor and to us. Had a Transportation Council Planning meeting to discuss transportation issues, updates in the region. There's no call for new projects yet, but I have our engineer preparing just in case there is so we can have our projects on the list. We did have a County call on the COVID updates and mask mandates at that meeting. The County was not making any enforcement efforts. As well as, I think, a third of the other counties in the state. There is another call tomorrow. Will update once I get that information from that meeting in case there's any changes. I did have interviews with DPW candidates for the open position. Should be filling that position starting January 3rd. I'll be sending out letters to the candidates that did come for the interviews letting them know of the decision. I met with the Building Inspector to talk about permits. The Planning Board and Zoning Board also went over and discussed about property maintenance. They're trying to finish up. Had some vacations, training, fire inspections, and they're going to get back to a property maintenance shortly. They should be finished with those as well as the court matters that were

going on. Rec has been continuing their winter maintenance. Reviewing the community center progress. They're still waiting on the engineer to finalize the bid for Waterfront Park. The indoor soccer is going well. It ends, I think, December 29th. And then indoor basketball start shortly thereafter. The Building Department was working on COs, municipal reports. They issued 2 CO reports since last meeting. Issued 2 permits, 3 certificates of completion. The Code Enforcement Officer was assisting in permits, inspections, did 13 permits and 9 fire and safety inspections. Housing Court was finalized and the judge did enter some judgments for noncompliance on some of our problem properties. The Falcons Rest project is ongoing. If you go by, you'll see progress going on there with the site. Clerk's been updating 207c. Working with myself and special counsel and a lot of personnel matters, especially in the PD. We have 4 full time officers out right now. It's been trying. Working on and assisting with water and garbage issues and on the FOILs. Finance has been working on the 2021 audit, bank recs. Did a NYS Retirement seminar. Sent me the cash report and I have her working on the budget prep right now. Which should be to all the Department Heads beginning of January. The Department Heads are also going to be working on inventories and the employee evaluations. DPW has been maintaining vehicles. Water, continuing work on meters. They replaced 11 meters, 2 end points, 7 mark outs and 5 closing readings and 1 inspection done. The quarter readings are done, all the bills are coming back in. Finance has been pretty busy taking in the water payments. The mechanic brought in the new pd car into service. Prepared the old pd car for Code Enforcement. Code Enforcement now has the old chief car. You'll see the decal on it for the Building Department. We did get the sweeper out, weather permitting, to get help with the leaf clean up around the Village. They can't go out when it's below freezing, but we'll try and help out as much as we can with that. Police Department obviously has some serious staffing issues right now, with people out on injury. The policies have been updated through for accreditation. Sent those to the board and I'll have them on the next agenda. It's going to take a few meetings to do those to get updated on those. It's a lot. It's over 1000 pages. They had 355 blotters from November 30th to present. The attorney reviewed RBT proposals for the coming year audit. The Treasurer responded to him on some questions and hopefully we'll wrap those up before the next meeting and assisted with FOILs.

#### Approval of December 7, 2021 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the December 7, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### Public Comment on Business of the Board

**Brenda Adams:** 31 Valley Ave. I did have a lot of my questions answered with the presentation, but I would hope that when the board is discussing, your part of it, that there's a couple of more questions that I had. One is the detailed budget that they're sending you now, which I had hoped you would get to show every possibility of this. I wasn't sure the conversation went really fast here because you were all in tune with it and I'm trying to pick it up from the edge. But the \$800,000 that is budgeted for 2023. Will that include every possibility, 100 percent operation? And if it is or it isn't, I think you should get some kind of a proforma budget for maybe 3 more years after that. So that you can see the gradual increase because when you start hiring professionals, they're going to expect wage increases, which increases the benefit packages. Insurance could go up. There's certain things from your history. Workman's comp, how that goes up percentage every year. I would think that you would ask for at least 3 more years of projected budget so that you could see what the gradual increase is. I know they said that there would be other things that would increase revenue, but I think you should see it. Another thought that I had was, do these people become Town of Montgomery employees, where there's retirement and health insurance by working through the Town? If they contract, are they still just separate or if you go the other way where they become Town employees? The cost of education now, these hours, it said that a college level training. I would presume that some of those people come to you completely educated, but then they have ongoing hours. I have to say I was shocked that \$19 is the price of the EMT. When McDonald's gets

\$15 an hour. That's disgraceful. I've used the ambulance over time, so I totally appreciate them and the thought that they make almost the same thing that McDonald's makes it scary. The capital plan. I understood it that the Town is going to take care of the building. This very ambitious building that they're considering building. But I didn't understand where the new ambulances come in. Is that in that \$800,000 budget or is that a capital plan separately? To purchase or to even have a down payment.

**Manager Revella:** It's not on the line items either. It's capital.

**Brenda Adams:** Because they want to increase the number of ambulances over time. So if you're buying it, you have payments every year and you have your turnover. I wasn't sure when that kicks in and how that's going to be paid for. The fly car in Walden. I don't know about the other Villages, but I know in my experience when I call for an ambulance in Walden, the police are there in like 2 seconds. It seems like you hang up the phone and they have pulled in. They come in with the oxygen. They come in with all sorts of things and they flag down the ambulance when it does get there. That would probably relieve our police, but they sure are good. Our police are really good on that. This is going to become a 24-7 operation. And is that built into the \$800,000 taxable part of the budget? Because the question would be, is that going to be gradual so that the cost of those expenses go up each year? I was wondering, why is it just that the 3 Villages approve for the Town, why it doesn't go out for a referendum to the whole Town? For people like me to vote. That fee that's being charged to users is a little shaky. Just to play devil's advocate because right now mobile life comes a lot. Have we at least checked with them to see what it costs to bring them into here? I saw in some paperwork that was put out by the ambulance people that they have an unmanned station or something that Allard's Corners. Is there a fee that you have to pay to have mobile life come in here? I know they're for profit, they're actually a business. At least to know what the comparable price is to have a commercial unit versus the Town. This is nothing against the Town. Just for comparison to know what the difference in pricing is. There was a note, I don't know if it was in the newspaper or if somebody told me that they were saying, like if Walden didn't sign on or any Village didn't sign on that you'd have to contract yourself. I thought that was a little odd because then what? If we didn't sign on, then we would only call mobile life? Is that the way it would work?

**Mayor Ramos:** We would call the closest unit.

**Becky Pearson:** 167 Walnut St. Again, it's a little different presentation than when I heard in Montgomery, so it actually opened up a little bit more of my questions. I think you got a little bit better presentation than Montgomery. You answered the district within boundaries and then it would be mutual aid after that. Do you have to have mutual aid? Do you have to be in a program where you mutual aid to other communities? I don't know if that's a good question or not. Do you have to do mutual aid or just be within your own community if the taxpayers are paying for that? If you're not getting the services, you're not really getting paid from outside sources. How many EMTs do you have now? I don't know if I saw that in here. I was trying to follow everything. How much did the Town of Montgomery pay into the Ambulance Corps before the rift of 2012? Was there money that the Town's paid before this rift and then that all happened in 2012? And then now the Town is paying more. 2019, you were almost bankrupt. What is the current status? You might have that number. What's the current status of the Town of Montgomery now? Why did they change the name in 1990? I'm just curious. Is the Town of Montgomery in control of the ambulance money? I was trying to follow that I know it's going to be coming in, but then he talked about there's going to be a board established for the oversight and control and there would be a member of the board, maybe from each community, but we don't know that yet. There's so much we don't know. Why isn't this all pinned down in a real presentation given to you of exactly what's going to happen? I'm not against this at all by any means. Thank you very much. I just want to let you know

that. But there's a lot of questions that I don't think have been answered. Can we have ALS services now or can we not have that now? Somebody made a statement that you can't have ALS now or you can have a close call.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Don't have finances in the Town of Montgomery. \*inaudible\*

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Hundreds of thousands of dollars \*inaudible\* staffing.

**Mayor Ramos:** We can address the answers to the questions.

**Becky Pearson:** This one was done because you put the communities in there. The Town Board, Brian said, "we'll control the funds and releasing them to the ambulance." How does all that work? I know you said there's a contract, but I don't know how it's working. Why can't you, in a PILOT, have it set up that people pay for these services? When you set up the PILOT, you give these PILOTS to people, why can't that be part of the PILOT that you have them pay ambulance and fire and police services anyway? Is that something that can't happen? Can the Village contract with the ambulance on its own? And where are those numbers and can that happen? Instead of going through the Town? There is a cost analysis to that, if that could happen. Can that happen? Can't it happen? The answer was not given to me, whether that can happen or not through the Village. Who is the financial person in the Ambulance Corps that they just hired? Talked about 24-7 and 12-7, utilizing buildings, I was trying to follow. It sounds like you're possibly talking about the food pantry building because it's easy in and out or they're talking about the building that's connected to the Town building now. Which is going to take a lot more time to get out of that service. You also talked about the Village of Walden, or maybe the Town of Montgomery. I'm not sure which it was that doesn't have great returns on getting your money back through insurance companies. I want say it was probably the Village of Walden or was it the Town of Montgomery?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The higher rate of pay is the Village of Walden.

**Becky Pearson:** That's why the Village of Walden should have the ambulance here in the first place. Maybe a satellite in the Village of Walden is actually a really good thing to think about, just because if that's the services that we have. How much is a ride to the hospital? If I broke my foot, I was in the woods, broke my foot, you came to get me. What is the cost of this billing to get me from my place of home or wherever I'm at to the hospital? You're talking about being reimbursed \$300 and \$500 and not getting that money. What is it that gets billed out to people in the beginning in your services? I know that Brian talked about keeping it a 501c3 because the Town can't ask for donations, which is actually a really good thing. If the Town is contracting with the Ambulance Corps, is it a yearly contract? It is a 5 year contract, a 10 year contract? That wasn't talked about. Why don't we know these things now before you're making decisions? Because that's part of moneys and taxes that'll be coming in and how much more money going to be spending? Do we have a breakdown of calls per community like Village of Maybrook, Village of Montgomery and Village of Walden? I'd like to see that breakdown. I did read in the paper, why it's not going for a public referendum. I know Brenda just that as well. I think the public should have a big say in that. There are only 5 people ever at a meeting, whether they care or not. I don't know. More people should care. Just like the comp plan, there should be a 10 year projected plan. I don't know if you have those numbers, you might have those by now. When you do the vehicle replacement plan, who maintains and fixes that? Is that through the Ambulance Corps? Is that through the Town of Montgomery? Transportation and education, I'm assuming that's paid through the Ambulance Corps budget, but I'm not sure how that works. What do you consider, I don't know what that means to have a state of an art building. What's included in that wording? I'd like to know what's included in state of the art. Are you putting beds? Are you putting computers? Are you putting in TVs? What is state of the art mean? It'd be nice to see that if this happens and goes through that the Town of

Montgomery will hopefully finalize and maybe pay the library what they're supposed to be paid. They don't do that now. It'd be nice if everybody's chipping in to do an Ambulance Corps, why can't the Town of Montgomery pay what they're supposed to pay for the library?

**Action Items:**

**Discussion – Proposed Ambulance District**

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I wrote down your questions as we go along. But if I missed one, just let me know. I'm going to go through Brenda's questions. The first one was a detailed budget for the \$800,000, we did give that to the Board of Trustees. Did you not all get a version of that?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It wasn't on the attachment for some reason.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Sorry about that. We have one. It is not distributed, but it will be for everyone.

**Mayor Ramos:** What specifically does it look like? Because I gave the packet to the public.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It's an Excel sheet.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** If you guys want to pass it around to just take a preliminary look at it.

**Manager Revella:** I didn't see anything about the building expense per year or vehicles?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The building expense per year is not in there, but the vehicle.

**Manager Revella:** Are you still proposing to replace ambulances every 4 years?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** You want to be able to fund over a period of time in that 4 year period is basically what we would be shooting to do. If 1 lasted longer than that, we would save some money, but the plan would be every 4 years to replace.

**Manager Revella:** Then you'd have 4 ambulances, so you're replacing 1 every 4 years. Essentially, you're paying for 1 every year then.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yeah and again, it could be 5 years. But we put a plan in there for 4.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The vehicle purchase payments are included in the budget, we have an account number for it for vehicle purchase payments. I have to say I added this one in here because in a normal P&L, your vehicle purchase payments fall under depreciation and hit your P&L a little bit differently. I manually added in vehicle purchase payments to the P&L for you guys. I have your note on the 3 year proforma. We don't have that available to give. I thought that was a good question.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I think it's easy to absolutely put it out there though, based on the 100,000 number, we would not be looking to increase the amount for taxes. As the budget would change from year to year because there would be increases in employees. You're also going to see increases in revenue to offset those expenses. Easily the first 3 years for a share based on \$800,000 number, that will not change. Pending some sort of legislation by the state that we just cannot have any knowledge of.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** When you provide ALS, you are billing for a higher level service and you're also responding to the dropped calls that you are currently dropping, so you go to more calls. Between those 2 is where you hit the increase in revenue and you also are providing ALS mutual aid to other

areas. Right now, we don't have a mutual aid agreement with New Windsor for ALS. But if we had ALS, we could provide them ALS. They provide ALS and then you kind of maintain your ALS revenue.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** And we're not paying mobile life for ALS services. That's less of an expense.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Which is about \$65,000 right now per year, which offsets. It's not the full amount, but it offsets it. A question about whether the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps employees would become Town of Montgomery employees. I would say that this is not done in advance of this presentation, but as we move forward with the contract for 2023. If you think timing wise, we are now at the end of 2021. We're looking for a 2023 contract. We're about in the right timeframe to develop that contract. We would do any transitions of employees that would make sense for the financial piece of it and the oversight piece of it. It's not in a current plan right now as to what employees, if any, would switch over to become own or Montgomery, or which services would be shared among the 2. But the plan is to go through each service to make sure that we make the best decisions financially and oversight. We're trying to create transparency, trying to create oversight and trying to be cost effective.

**Manager Revella:** For example, you'd utilize the Town Treasurer to do your finances. That's less expense on your budget, but it's more on theirs. Would you offset that somehow?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** That's an example. We're going to look at everything.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The capital plan, I think I put that in there. We did budget for vehicle purchase payments, which you are right in some ways that it is capital. But I put it into the budget, so we didn't disregard it.

**Brenda Adams:** Is there an area in the Town budget that we're not going to know about?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** No, I put it in.

**Mayor Ramos:** This is a culmination of your question with Brenda and Becky, talking about a 3 year projection, Becky said 5-10.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I think 3 year projection, we will not see that number change based on the revenue that we're going to see. That's going to be increased and based on the fact that we have chosen the \$800,000 number knowing that it's got some wiggle room. Whatever happens there is a commitment in the 3 year to not increase that number.

**Becky Pearson:** Will ALS start in in 2023 or 2024?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Realistically, 2024.

**Manager Revella:** So, if there's a cushion in there, would you still raise the taxes to \$800,000 regardless of the actual cost correct?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Correct. We know that we wouldn't be putting that expense in the middle of the year, which will create a surplus, which is why we wouldn't need to go back to the taxpayers because we know we're building that surplus in the first couple of years.

**Manager Revella:** But that money is going and staying with the tax district at the Town's fund.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It's going to be in one district. Yes. Fund balance, correct. Also, the Town Aid Fund has the ability to supplement other funds. If that makes sense. It's not something you want to do, we don't want to go there. But I'm really serious about that \$800,000 number and it not moving because the Town is in really good financial shape. There's a lot of reasons why it doesn't have to change. It's not because expenses are hidden. It's because we have a financial positive situation in Town.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Becky's questions. Do you have to have mutual aid? We would have in our contract, what I would suggest to have is, like a goal of number of calls that we answer. A percentage. Like 98 percent response rate, 95 percent response rate as a goal. Do you have to mutual aid? No. But if we can't, we want to have some mutual aid. Because if we can't come, they're going to go, but not at the expense of not being able to answer our calls here. It's got to be the right decision. \*inaudible\* we do bill. If we were to respond to a call in the Town of Wallkill, we are going to bill the patient's insurance for that call. We would get reimbursed for that call for whatever that patient had, assuming that patient transports. You only get paid if you transport. The next question is how many EMTs do we have? We have 5 full time EMTs right now and we use part time employees to cover an additional 2.5 Equivalent positions. But ends up being about 10 people per pay period, equaling 7.5 FTE. Because the part timers can work a different number of hours each. I can't help you with the 2012 and I can't help you with why the name changed in 1990. The next question is, why aren't all of the details pinned down now before we move forward with the tax district? This is a good question, because there's 2 equal ways to look at the problem the way I see it. The first is move forward with the tax district based on the time that you have, pin down the details as you move forward and you see how your volumes work for 2023 or go the opposite way, get all of the details done now and then push out your tax district for another year. I'm going to give you my personal choice is get our tax district for 2023 finalized that will do it and then pin down our details up until that point. If you had asked my opinion on how I would like to have all of it done, I would be on the same page as you and to have all the details finalized. But we just are in the position that we are and I am confident in the numbers that I've given this board that I've calculated myself with my financial manager on where we're headed.

**Becky Pearson:** Is there a lapse in time? Did you guys have meetings after August?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We've had ongoing meetings throughout the last 2 years. Situations have changed. Information has evolved and this is where we're at right now.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The next question that you had, the amount charged per mile. If you call an ambulance, how much is the rate? For BLS, it's \$850 plus \$25 a mile. Then how many calls per community? That's the number that we do have, but just something for you guys to know. We provide statistics literally down to the call number to the Town of Montgomery as requested. If that is something you were interested in on any kind of regular basis. Our Captain is very statistically minded, so we keep very detailed statistics on every single one of our calls down to what time it was, down to the reason for the call, the day, et cetera and we can tally them up, which is why we're able to provide that for you. But your question was for our statistics. We're going to end this year at 2500 for the total Town of Montgomery. Town of Montgomery is 38 percent of those calls, excluding the Villages. The Village of Walden is 24 percent. Village of Maybrook is 16 percent and the Village of Montgomery is 13 percent and mutual aid is 8 percent. Of that are ALS transports. We are going to end the year about 380 that are not calls they are transports. That's where we actually transported the patient with an ALS provider on the ambulance. And the Town of Montgomery is 42 percent of our ALS transports, followed by Maybrook, Walden and Montgomery. Some of the other stats that I think are interesting to note is that of our calls our response rate is averaging 88 percent for the Town. Which means that of those 2500 calls that we're

going to get this year, we are able to only respond to 88 percent of them. Which is low. Our goal is to have 100 percent. Realistically, 98-99 percent. Next thing that I think is interesting for the stats is of the calls that we answered, how many were transported and how many were not transported because you only get paid for the transports. And that rate for this year is an average of 62 percent of our calls result in a transport. Which means that the remaining 38 percent difference is unbillable. The question about a public referendum is a question for the lawyer, not a question for me.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The question is, why not go to a public referendum and the answer is if you choose to make a motion to adopt the resolution and when the Town has set their public hearing, there's going to be a referendum period triggered. There will be 30 days where you can petition to have a referendum election, which would put this an entire year behind again.

**Manager Revella:** Permissive referendum as opposed to mandatory.

**Attorney Donovan:** That's correct. You can't have a mandatory referendum unless it's authorized by law. You can't just put things out to the public for referendum unless the law provides for it. In this circumstance, it's what's called permissive referendum. That means should the Town adopt the resolution, should the Village adopt the resolution, you have to publish a notice and the public has 30 days to collect enough signatures to place this question on the ballot for referendum. But the law doesn't allow what's called mandatory referendum. The Town or the Village could just elect to put it out for referendum and be bound by those results. The law doesn't allow for that in the instance.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The permissive referendum period is triggered for all 4 municipalities. The moment the Village of Montgomery sign on the resolution, a 30 day permissive referendum was triggered. If Walden signed on in January, 30 days after that will trigger.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The next question is, is there a 10 year projected plan? This is a good question. From my experience working on the Ambulance Corps, we are working on a year to year basis right now because we never know where revenue is going to be, and we actually based many of our decisions on how much money we got that month. This plan that Brian's talking about is about a 3 year plan. Our goals are based on volumes. As volumes change, we have a flex staffing model that would increase the number of EMTs we would need, increase the number of paramedics we would need. But as far as like a 10 year plan that was presented to the Village of Montgomery, that was not part of the presentation prior to the tax district. I don't think it's a terrible idea, but I don't know if it would be, in my opinion, required before the tax district or necessarily accurate with what's going to go into how things are changing in the industry in the next 3-5 years. What does it mean to be in the state of the art building? I will give you some examples. I know some of the things that we don't have in our Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps building. So one of those is we don't have a private place for our EMTs to sleep. That is also a difficult issue when you have 2 genders working on the same shift and wanting a private space to sleep because their shifts are 24 hours. That should be, in my opinion, standard. If you go to a hospital, the people who work shifts, they potentially will get a call room when they are expected to sleep. We don't really have that. That would be one thing to have when you're talking about the Ambulance Bay itself, making sure that the space in the Ambulance Bay maintenance can be provided in that bay with full clearance on all sides. We don't have that right now. I know that Kyle has probably the whole list and I did put it into the presentation. It was appendix E. Which would have an exhaust capture system, room for equipment checks, inspections indoors, walking space around, potentially moving vehicles. Bunk rooms for overnight crews, which is what I talked about adequate bathroom and shower facilities, meaning like they're heated. Storage for equipment and our medications and office space for civil officers and operation staff. Town control over budget. The tax district would be overseen by the Town. They would come to an agreement in a contract with how that money is dispersed. Example would be either a monthly amount that's probably going to be typical. But that budget is an agreed



upon budget. If the Town of Montgomery Ambulance, just like any department, wanted to go over in budget as any department would, there's some oversight requirement and those details we'd outline in the contract. As far as what that level of oversight. But we are already fully transparent with the Town of Montgomery now. They have full access to our books at any notice, but they don't have necessarily approval over how we spend our money. That changes when we need to have an approved budget using tax district money.

**Becky Pearson:** So, you're going to give them a budget. They have to approve the budget.  
\*inaudible\*

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We're going to work on a budget together every year.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It would work just like we do our current budget process. The only difference is we would invite a Village representative of all 3 Villages to be part of the entire process. This committee would pretty much exist all year round and to figure out different ways on how to save money and how to raise money and how to get donations of ambulances and the different things that help continue to keep that cost where it is.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** As far as financial oversight, we would have an agreed upon budget that would be part of the contract and any changes to that budget would have to go back to the Town.

**Brenda Adams:** Who pays for the ongoing education?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Continuing medical education is required. And right now, I have to say we get some reimbursement back from the state.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** If you're seeing something and there's a reimbursement from the state. When the real budget is submitted to the Town of Montgomery, you're going to have different lines.

**Brenda Adams:** Do they reimburse you for all continuing education?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** As of right now, they do.

**Manager Revella:** Will it still be reimbursed as a tax district?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yes.

**Trustee Elliott:** The tax district money is approved in a budget. The money that spilled out from the Ambulance Corps, who gets that money?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** That will be part of our contract at the end of the day. Any revenues for the end of the year would go back into the tax district and create a fund balance. So the nonprofit itself, anything that would be built for revenue would come back into the tax district and anything over that, maybe some fundraising items would be detailed out of the contract where they would keep that in their general account. But anything associated with the general budget would go back into the tax district.

**Trustee Elliott:** Does the Town just bill out or is it still the Ambulance Corps?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** When we sit down and put together the contract, depending on if that executive administrator is a Town employee would determine the answer to that question.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I think from an insurance perspective, you would still bill, I don't know if it would change necessarily to have a bill from the 501c3.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** But the question is which one is it going to be? The answer is it has not been determined.

**Becky Pearson:** The permissive referendum, the Villages have to go out for signatures, but the Town could have put it for a vote.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Permissive. Not mandatory. The Town residents would have to do the same process the Village of Walden would.

**Becky Pearson:** Let's just say 1 Village goes out for this vote.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It would hold up the process for a year or the Town would create a district without that.

**Becky Pearson:** Let's put a scenario out there and say, I'm not saying it's going to happen, if the Village goes out for a permissive referendum. And they vote it down. What happens?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Go back to the drawing board.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Our lawyer will call your lawyer. That's what would happen because as an Ambulance Corps, we're looking to have contracts with all of our municipalities in 2023. So if a municipality is choosing to not move forward in this particular sense, then our lawyer will call your lawyer because we need to figure out what kind of contract that would look like for that Village.

**Manager Revella:** We're not required to have a contract?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** You're absolutely not.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** But we are moving forward with having agreements between the municipalities and the Ambulance Corps as far as what services are provided.

**Trustee Maher:** When are your meetings?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The executive board meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month. But for 2022, we are going to be putting out regularly scheduled meetings open to the liaisons to come to our regular scheduled meetings.

**Manager Revella:** Not open to the public?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We don't have any policy against it.

**Trustee Baker:** In regards to the contract, because I'm along the lines of Becky and Brenda, I'd like to see x y z things written out. Has there been a basic draft or a template of one, at least that has been put together?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Just verbal discussions.

**Trustee Baker:** To Brenda's point, because I'm sure the newspaper article kind of scared a lot of people thinking, if they don't vote for this and someone calls for an ambulance, nobody is coming.

If they call an ambulance, let's say we don't go for the district, if someone calls for an ambulance. Someone is going to come. Someone by law has to respond.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** There is basically what's called a certificate of need, which comes into play.

**Kyle Shorette:** In general, as of right now, in NYS, an Ambulance Corps is not required by any Town at all. And you can call 911 and they can play the game of who you might get. Nobody's available. I've seen it. I've seen and heard it many times. 30 minutes into a call and they're still trying to find units to go to that call.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The question is, the Village of Walden opts out this district. There's a Town of Montgomery ambulance district that's created, it's contracted to the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps. The Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps technically doesn't serve the Village of Walden area for this reason. If they call 911, who comes?

**Kyle Shorette:** Legally, if I have a contract with the Town and you guys don't opt in. I technically have to provide a service to the Town for you guys. They are the ones who are paying for the service. Does that mean I would stop coming to you guys? Never. I would never do that to anybody in general.

**Manager Revella:** You still get to bill a person you pick up correct?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** But our goal is to not stop services to the Village of Walden. We want to do absolutely everything in our power to continue providing sustainable services to the Village of Walden. That is 100 percent our number one goal. We are just wanting to be realistic about how we get there and our plans.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It's our hope that everybody signs in because we're trying to do this and we're trying to do this in a way that's equitable and fair to everyone. Right now, that's not the case, and there's not enough funding to support the services that we want to see to take place in Town.

**Trustee Baker:** If 1 or 2 of the Villages does not opt in, does that mean the rates that you on 1 of the sheets here for the assessed value, does that go up for the Town of Montgomery or would that stay the same?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Realistically, as a leader in this community and as someone who sees this as the way that we need to move forward, if the Village of Walden did not opt in, we would not move forward. We're not going to tax the rest of the municipalities more to offset the Village of Walden and the services that are still going to be provided because they're human beings. We're just not going to do it. We're going to wait another year. And we don't want to do that. We want to move forward. Are there still some questions? Yes. But we believe there's enough information for an educated decision to be made for all of us, including the people in this room, to be represented to be part of the discussion, to have a seat at the table to see this done right. You know that we're going to sit down and talk it out. Everyone is going to have voice, we're going to get it right.

**Trustee Sebring:** I don't have any questions. I think it was a very good presentation.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm a little confused. So, if the Village does not opt in or any of the others does not opt in, you're not going to do this? You're doing this because part of the reason is because the ambulance is having a hard time fiscally. So if we don't do this, what happens to them? The Town doesn't want to keep funding them.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The service will be hurt. You will have less services than what the Town should have. Which is what's happening right now.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Call volumes will continue to go up and we will continue to drop calls and not respond to them. Our response rate will continue to go down. We will continue to have high turnover with our employees because we will not be able to pay them a competitive rate or they will be overworked.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** To be clear, certain questions have not been answered, not through lack of trying, but because there are some real decisions that need to be made that there is some distance from. That's okay, because at the end of the day, when it comes to it, we're going to make decisions and you all are going to be a part of it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I want to say thank you. You provided good information. Personally, I wish this was upfront. I want to say it was a great presentation and you really laid out some information that I think the public and what I wanted and heard, helped me. Thank you very much. Wonderful job.

**Mayor Ramos:** I have to reiterate. Thank you. Compared to the information that they relayed us from the Village of Montgomery's briefing and Village of Maybrook. This was by far the most detailed. You've got to remember there is a lot of variables running around this room right now. The amount of questions that have posed and I'm pretty sure members of the public are going to be shooting emails to all of us. Your timetable kind of pushing it right now. Honestly, we're going to do our due diligence. Everybody has done their homework here. We're still going to chew on this. January 12th is slowly approaching real fast. We're not going to take this hastily. You're concentrating on this and we want the service. But let's do it smart. I want to see this progress 10-15 years from now that we have a state of the art EMS system. But we need to crawl first before we start running out of the box. Thank you for coming out.

**Manager Revella:** I have a lot of questions and comments to address with Dave and then I'll send them over to both of you.

**Attorney Donovan:** You indicated January 4th and leading into February with the permissive referendum period. What if the board went until January 18th, which pushes to February 18th for the 30 day permissive referendum. It's not perfect. It's not optimal. What if the board did that?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I would say my preference would be a special meeting before the 12th. So that when the Town has its public hearing, we could show a unified front to the individuals that show up to the public hearing. The goal is by the 12th to really have that done.

**Manager Revella:** You couldn't have a special meeting after ours?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We could. That's not the preference. From a legal standpoint, it's possible.

**Attorney Donovan:** So the board's clear on the timing, to get into this fiscal year because it's being driven by the need to have their timing done by February 28th. March 1st is taxable status date to get on the January tax bill.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I have to clarify, I'm pretty sure you guys are a 30 day permissive after your resolution, but the public carry triggers a 45 day. That's why we need that wiggle room for 1

week.

**Attorney Donovan:** Stephanie did send me an email where she corrected it to 30. For you guys, instead of 45 days, it's 30 days. It's 30 for the Village as well.

**Mayor Ramos:** I have one final remark. I'd like to see the law on why the fire districts are exempt from billing or the ambulance or forming a fire district ambulance. You can forward that to the manager.

**Manager Revella:** I was going to ask Dave that and then forward to the board as well.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We can definitely get that to you.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I thought I had put it into here as a reference. But if I didn't, I will send it to you because I actually made sure that I read the law before I put it in his presentation.

#### Public Comment

**Gerald Mishk:** 68 Wait St. I just want to bring to the board's attention issues that are occurring on Wait St and probably that whole neighborhood. I know a few months ago or half a year ago, there was a group here from Donor Drive complaining about speeders through the neighborhood. You have to go up Wait Street or down Wait Street to get to those streets and I see it every day, almost the same time, every day, commuter times, after school times. People going up the street sometimes at 55-60 miles per hour. With the deliveries going on now, it's like an obstacle course going up there. Somebody is going to get hurt. The only time I see police come up there anymore, I know they're shorthanded, but it seems to be when there's an emergency call and then they come flying up the street themselves. Along those same guidelines. Wait Street has parking on 1 side of the street. There's numerous signs missing. Contractors as of late, people affiliated with realtors, are parking on the wrong side road and staying there for hours. Causing an even more narrow way to go through there. If at all possible, we can encourage the police to spend some more time enforcement.

**Becky Pearson:** I know that you have contracts with them. Hopefully, you have really good contracts with what services you want to have and not just let the Town tell you what you're going to have. Do you want that satellite? Do you want to have certain services? What you're expecting for our tax dollars put into the Town. That's what you need to look out for us. This is what we're expecting. This is what we want. That's why I'm hesitant because none of that's been brought up to you at all. It's scary to say we're going to go for it, we're going to do it. Then all of a sudden they're going to say, well, we don't want to do that. What do you want? There's not enough information for me up front for me. You're going to have these contracts and I know you have a great attorney, but you guys all have to really be diligent in what you want in that contract. And if you want something specific, make sure it happens. Do you want them to be in the Village 24-7? How do you want it to work? Because we have the largest community and probably the one that needs it the most. Not saying that not everybody needs it, but I think that more calls to this community as well. Something to think about. I don't think you have a lot of what I think you need yet.

#### Payment of Audited Bills

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

#### Correspondence

**Trustee Maher:** Just the email from Anthony that he gave us tonight.

#### Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

**Trustee Maher:** I think that was a great discussion. I think it definitely opened up the conversation. What is the plan now, we have another discussion next meeting January 4th and then we go forward with a vote?

**Mayor Ramos:** There are several questions from the manager through the attorney that has to be posed to them. Obviously, we're going to continue doing our homework with other information that are accumulated until our next meeting. There's going to be continued discussion at that meeting. Rest assured. We'll formulate a plan. He wants it beforehand. He wants a special meeting, but January 18th would be our date where we should either opt in or opt out as long as we have other plans.

**Trustee Maher:** If there's any sideline discussions, if they could just be made to all of us. That would be great.

**Mayor Ramos:** We do have our 2 liaisons that are going to filter the information to us. By far this was the most information I heard out of the 2 sessions that they brought up from the Village of Maybrook, the Village of Montgomery. We do have our homework ahead of us.

**Trustee Thompson:** I would just like to reiterate what Trish says, that if there's any sideline discussions that we all get the information. If there's anything new that comes up with meetings that the liaisons attend or that you might attend, I just would like to say I hope that is shared.

**Mayor Ramos:** I have a list of my questions. If anybody wants them. I'll make a copy of them. This information packet right here and I didn't even print up the certificate of need, which is really lengthy. If you need to review that and review it online, but that's pretty critical and what he's saying. I believe that we when we dial 911, we're going to get an EMS at our residence just because we're not paying for it. Rest assured, I know he said that or we may have an issue with that. You're picking up a phone, 911, you're going to get an ambulance.

**Trustee Elliott:** Wait Street, I can attest to the same. Wait Street has become a speedway. We can slow that down somehow.

**Manager Revella:** The board had discussed additional speed humps, not speed bumps. An area of consideration is Wait Street. We have to talk about placement of that.

**Trustee Thompson:** Is there anywhere on Wait Street for another stop sign to be placed?

**Manager Revella:** Legally, we don't use stop signs to slow traffic. So, we'll try and use a speed hump. And if there's an issue with an intersection that needs a stop sign, we'll look at that.

**Trustee Elliott:** Is there a difference between speed hump and speed bump?

**Attorney Donovan:** One is legal and one is not.

**Manager Revella:** Speed humps, you're allowed. Speed bump is the narrow, thin one. A speed hump, if you go to Oakland Avenue, there's a speed hump. It's longer, wider.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I thought it was a great presentation and it provided additional information that I needed. I just wish it was all up front. It was good information. To bring clarity to the 911 call, an EMS person will come. The issue is time. That's the issue. You will get somebody, but you get him in that golden hour, that golden minute, maybe not because they're coming from a distance. I definitely hear what a lot of people were saying that we have so many unknowns. I would like to

personally thank Town Supervisor for just being candid on some things that he did say here and that a lot of people probably went against. Also with us, we will do our due diligence. Just like when we unfortunately had a couple of meetings, we wish we'd had more, but we would do our due diligence in making sure the Village gets everything that the Village deserves. I just want to say that I do understand that there's going to be unknowns, but there will have to be a level of trust with the Trustees that we will communicate effectively and accurately and timely so that you can have all information that you need. Especially over next couple of weeks because of the information that has to be communicated in order to make a decision in X amount of time.

**Trustee Baker:** Just to let you know, Deputy Mayor Carley and I did meet with mobile life to speak with them, to show them the stats that we have been given by Sylvie Rainaldi for their opinion as to cost. Did they give us an official number? I was a few minutes late to that meeting. I don't know if he gave you an exact figure.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** No. That's what I'm saying. I did ask the question, what's the number that you have and they didn't have that readily available for me. She spoke correctly when it's difficult to find those hidden numbers based off the type of patient that's gone and ALS, but transport or not transported and things of that nature. It's difficult but achievable.

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

None

Trustee Sebring made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
December 21, 2021  
Motions & Resolutions**

**Approval of December 7, 2021 Minutes**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the December 7, 2021 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Payment of Audited Bills**

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

**Adjourn**

Trustee Sebring made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.



**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
January 4, 2022**

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	Lynn Thompson
		Patricia Maher
		John Elliott

Absent:	Brian Sebring
	Cheryl Baker

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

**Manager's Report**

**Manager Revella:** We've had some staffing issues in a couple of departments due to COVID. We'll discuss a couple of personnel things in exec after the meeting. Went through project status, if anybody's been down to Olley Park, they'll see the progress on the community center down there, it's going pretty well. Still waiting for the final plans for the waterfront park, but otherwise projects are on schedule. Went over some restrictions, PPE, went through and made sure we had masks available in departments. There's been County conferences on COVID updates. There'll be another one this Thursday. The last one was about distribution of the tests, which they're distributed throughout the Cities and the Towns and we're supposed to disseminate from the Towns to the Villages. Which our Town did. Covered for a couple of departments when they had time off from the holidays. Thankfully, no major incidents. A couple of days, the guys had to go and salt, but that was about it. I did and I need to let the public know I did receive a letter of resignation and thanks for the service from Judge Mishk effective December 31st. I did call for and receive the PD full time officer list. We have a potential full time position opening. We're anticipating filling that as soon as possible since we have a staffing issue there already with full timers out for different reasons. All departments are working on their inventories, budgets and employee evaluations. They should be back in the next couple of weeks, hopefully by the 15th. Rec has been continuing their winter maintenance, reviewing the community center progress. Indoor soccer was completed. Indoor basketball starting and the Harvest Fest meeting is just before the next Community Council meeting in January. Building Department, the Inspector is out for a week's vacation but still had done 2 building permits and 3 CO reports. The department conducted and continued fire and safety inspections. The Code Enforcement Officer assisted and issued 6 permits, 6 fire and safety inspections and had to issue a stop work order and has been monitoring progress on Falcon's Rest project on North Montgomery Street. Clerk has been updating Facebook, website, updating 207c issues, working with me on some personnel and FOIL matters, as well as with the Village Attorney. MSD reports for the county and provided the packets for the Village Elections that are coming up. There will be a resolution later about the polling places. Finance Department has been working on 2021 audit, doing bank recs, budget prep for the departments, attended some Edmunds year end

webinars. Met with the engineer for Ulster Avenue. DPW has been maintaining the Village vehicles and equipment. The Water Department replaced 7 meters, 2 endpoints, 9 mark outs and 1 inspection. The Superintendent closed out 21 of the street permits, was great. The super met with me about 8 Wileman Ave. There is a drain line issue that we're going to follow up on that we have right away for that goes down to the Rail Trail. Sewer has been utilizing the belt filter process as much as possible while weather permits. Then won't be able to do it for much longer. The sweeper was out a few times while the weather was still good. It's probably done for the season now. The Mechanic has been working on the trucks for the storms and they moved some signs on East Main St. PD has been trying to do their best with staffing. Working on the accreditation and policies, which is on the agenda later. Since last meeting, 12 tickets were issued and for the month of December, 588 blotters were entered. Courts and library, regular schedule and our attorney did help review the Ambulance District memo that was circulated. Helped with some FOILs and some emails.

**Trustee Thompson:** You said you met with the Recreation Coordinator, are we going to be changing anything with our upcoming programs?

**Manager Revella:** We're talking about delaying basketball. We're not sure yet. Probably until February.

**Trustee Thompson:** Will anything else be affected?

**Manager Revella:** No. For now, that's it.

**Trustee Thompson:** When will you and he have to make a decision on that?

**Manager Revella:** This week. The sooner the better.

**Trustee Thompson:** Thank you for trying to get things going again with the cameras. I appreciate that. As far as COVID policies for here in our buildings and things, have there been any changes to the existing policy? And are we going to be getting more vigilant with enforcement? What are we planning on doing?

**Manager Revella:** We talked about and considered the shutdown policy that was done before for the building. Not sure yet. We have had some staffing issues with positive cases, so we may have to do that anyway. Otherwise, we're still masking in the common areas when people come into the building. Residents have to be masked when they're in the building at all times. Staff, obviously, we're here all day in our areas and we're exposed to each other all day. We try to stay apart as much as possible, but sometimes it's unavoidable.

**Trustee Thompson:** Is the person at the dispatch window going to be the one taking note of who's entering the building? Because I've seen a lot of people coming in and out with no mask.

**Manager Revella:** If they're able to see them and not busy doing something else, then they'll go on intercom and tell them. If anybody sees them in the building, they'll tell them as well. Sometimes they make it up here and we tell them up here and hand them a mask.

**Trustee Thompson:** I had asked last meeting about the amount of code violations we're issuing, and I had pointed a few things out to you on the telephone. How are we doing with that? Has there been follow up on that?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. The Building Inspector came back from vacation yesterday and he's

following up on a couple of them. There was one on the corner of Riverview and Rifton that was pretty bad that he's followed up on yesterday afternoon. I'm sure he's going to give them a violation notice.

### Approval of December 21, 2021 Minutes

Tabled

### Public Comment on Business of the Board

**Brenda Adams:** 31 Valley Ave. I see a lot of ambulance people here. I was sure that you probably got a lot of the answers that you were asking for some more detail. I was just hoping that you would discuss those answers. I see them here, so I imagine that there's going to be a bigger discussion than just you guys having information and then talk to yourselves.

**Manager Revella:** Just so the public is aware, we did forward the questions from the public to the presenters. We did give them to the Ambulance Corp and the Town.

**Becky Pearson:** 167 Walnut St. I hope you all discuss it. \*inaudible\* I didn't see this information online.

**Manager Revella:** We got it updated today.

**Richard McNamee:** 14 Clinton St. I have lived in Walden for most of my life. My father was raised here, I will raise my 3 children here. I have a degree in paramedicine and I've worked full time on an ambulance for 10 years. For the past 6 years, I've been a Commissioner of the Walden Fire District and I'm here to speak in favor of the ambulance district as proposed by Supervisor Maher. Emergency medical services are in a national crisis. It's not unique to Montgomery, except that our Town is proposing a sustainable solution. It's hard not to understate the severe stress that the EMS system is under. It is not by any stretch of the imagination to be resilient. To do anything but approve of the district and correct the course of our community ambulance, would be feckless and wholly shortsighted. A fundamental question that I get a lot is what is the difference between an EMT and a paramedic? An EMT is trained to assess, recognize, treat life threats with basic interventions and a handful of medications. They operate AEDs, that I didn't see a public access AED in this room, but they are no more advanced than that. Paramedic training is about 10 times as long. They carry over 30 lifesaving medications, powerful pain medications, they perform a variety of technical invasive procedures that would surprise you of what actually happens outside of a hospital. What's most valuable about a paramedic is that someone's walking into your home that brings with them a depth of experience and expertise that the vast majority of EMTs cannot replicate with the disparity of training. There's amazing EMTs here in Montgomery who are very experienced, but when somebody is critically ill, the first question that of any competent EMT will be, "Where is the medic?" And as great as that may be, for profit ambulances routinely decline to send paramedics to Walden. It happens just about every single day. The pandemic has strained many parts of the health care system. And as people remain home and avoided hospitals, call volumes plummeted around the country. And for the only emergency service that is expected to build to survive, that has made it much more difficult to keep the doors open. Longer response times and failures to respond at all have become the norm all across the Hudson Valley since long before 2020. Dispatchers are very used to dispatching 5 or more different ambulance services. 1 fail to respond after another until someone finally begins responding after 20, maybe 30-minute delay. Kiryas Joel has been in the village of Walden because that many closer services failed to respond. We're 2 years into the biggest challenge to ever face the EMS. A year ago, politicians and the public thanked paramedics and EMTs at every turn. They don't need thanks. They need to know that they have the support and the resources to do their jobs. Help is not coming from the private sector, from the State or the County. And because so few Towns have actually prioritized ambulance services,

wages remain remarkably lower than career firefighters and police officers. This has created a revolving door of many experienced paramedics and EMTs, leaving the career without looking back. It has made the entire EMS system more fragile. We have the ability here to insulate Walden from that fragility. As our State, County and neighboring Towns struggle with the worsening ambulance coverage, we will finally actually have reliable service. In another year's time the conversation won't be whether it's more important than an ambulance coming at all, but the level of excellence that we should expect for each other. The 4 fire districts that we have cumulatively collect the tax 3 and a quarter million dollars. With that investment, there are no professional firefighters. They answer much fewer calls for services and the municipalities have no oversight over them or their spending. For a quarter of the price, the Town is providing a service that will ultimately cover 98 percent of about 2500 annual calls, including any salaries, and actually will be answerable to a municipal body, the Town Board. During the ambulance district presentation, Mr. Revella interjected that the Village is not required to have a contract for ambulance coverage. He's right. No level of government in New York is responsible if no ambulance responds to you or your loved ones. That apathetic approach to public safety is a problem. The Village is also not required to fund the library, its own police, recreation, building, justice and a number of things. But it does. And it appears to prioritize each one of those above an ambulance response. I implore the Village Board to do the right thing, approve this measure because I have 2 toddlers and a newborn and I'd like to worry a little less about whether an ambulance is going to come in a hurry if I need them.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** 54 Gladstone Ave. I want to just second everything, he said. I've been championing the Town of Montgomery Volunteer Ambulance Corps since 2003. Going back that far dealing first with Medicare billing, which took forever to accomplish in the Town of Montgomery because the Ambulance Corps was being held hostage by the then supervisor. "I won't buy you an ambulance, if you bill." What kind of nonsense was that? I guess everybody's pretty smug with the thought that we survived it, it didn't we? Well, now we've got huge warehouses going in and we have a hotel which we never had before. We may have another hotel on 208, City Winery. We're talking about development in this Town and you can't go forward with development unless you have the emergency services to deal with it. I'm in favor of the district. I think it's time for a leap of faith. Stop with all this, we've got a million questions. If you had a million questions, where were your questions 6 months ago? Where were you questions a year ago? Where were you questions 5 years ago? In terms of doing due diligence, when you sit there, your job doesn't end when you get up out of that seat. Your job is like a 24-7 job as far as I'm concerned, as a resident and as a voter. If you're representing me, then do the homework necessary. You could have had all these answers months ago. As many answers as they had and then kept up a dialog so that it's going to be an ongoing evolving issue and it's always going to change. It's going to be organic because things get thrown at us left, right and center by the State and you have to roll with it. But it's time to take a leap of faith and make a district, please.

**Karina Tipton:** I am not a resident of the Village of Walden; I live in the Village of Montgomery. My tie to Walden is that I teach taekwondo down the street. I wanted to offer my opinion because I'm a resident of the Town of Montgomery and I listened with great interest to the meeting a couple of weeks ago. I appreciate the depth and the intensity of the discussion that you had, but something that I took away from that was that this decision that Walden and Maybrook are responsible for are going to impact the entirety of the Town of Montgomery. We have, in my family, had the opportunity, unfortunately, to call on the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps a few times for my elderly parents, as well as for 1 of my children. They've always been wonderful first responders. When I think to myself, Mr. McNamee mentioned, about the dark time that our first responders have had to go through over the last 2 years with COVID and the professionalism and the integrity and the tenacity that they have continued to serve our communities. It behooves us to think of that very carefully and to think about the motivation that they come to the table with this request for an ambulance district. And I'm asking you to definitely please do continue with this ambulance district.

I think it's very important to the Town. The ambulance is a harbinger for all of our emergency services in Montgomery. I've spoken to members of our volunteer fire departments and they all agree, it's hard to get volunteers right now. We're not sure how we could go forward if we have to do a pay force. These are decisions that we have to make. And for 1, I think it's admirable that the Ambulance Corps has put so much work into coming up with a serious plan. They have a plan that's going to keep them sustainably moving forward. Honestly, I think that the rest of our emergency services in Montgomery are going to look to them for that experience as they deal with the fact that volunteerism is down for a number of reasons. The last thing that I would just like to ask you is just kindly consider if you do make this decision, if the Ambulance Corps does not go forward with the Village of Walden, if you could also kindly, please share with the rest of the community, not just the Village of Walden, but the entirety of the Town, what is your plan for ambulance services in the Village of Walden? Because the rest of the Town is going to have to figure that out as well. And if you've got a plan and that's what's going to allow you to say no, I think the rest of the Town would like to know that as well.

### **Action Items:**

#### **Discussion – Ambulance District**

**Trustee Elliott:** 1 of the questions I had was not really answered. Maybe I didn't worded correctly, but if we do go ahead with this tax district, what happens to the Walden ambulance building? And will it be manned 24-7 going forward? The answer we got was, we have to start that way because the new building won't be built yet. But I want to know is when that building is built, will this 1 still be manned 24-7?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The question was if the tax district is approved, will the Walden ambulance building be used as a substation? And if so, will it be staffed 24-7 starting on day 1? This question, as well as a handful of others, were related to the Ambulance Corps moving to a more central location. I talked to Brian about this. It's really realistically 5 years out for that ever to happen with a lot of planning up until that. So, I think

**Trustee Elliott:** Your question is, can we guarantee you that it's going to be staffed 24-7 5 years from now? The answer is no. I don't think that we can sit here and say 100 percent, that's going to happen. In my opinion, I think it makes sense to have some sort of presence in the Village of Walden when 24 percent of your calls there. But is that going to change? Is that going to grow? Is that going to decrease? We don't know. The statistics are going to change.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** What's the cost of that when we get to that point? I think when we look at changing our location of services, what's the time? Lynn had a bunch of questions about how much time would you really save if you moved into a more central location and some of the time responses on that. That's not finalized. It's up for discussion. Signing up for the tax district does not guarantee that the Ambulance Corps will be moving ever. They're not tied to each other. We have a plan as we should have. Everyone should have a strategic plan and should have goals. But these 2 things are not like this. If you sign up for 1, you have to have the other. We're open to these discussions and I hear you about your concerns about the Ambulance Corp moving out of Walden. It's not going on deaf ears.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** At the end of the day, everything we do, we're going to do together. We're going to have Village representation moving forward on decision making process that we have. We're not just going to do whatever we want. That's not how we're going to roll this out. I think we did answer your question by saying we can't sit here and guarantee 24-7 coverage. This concern of yours, I understand it.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We would have to look to see when you get calls to see if you even need 24-7

coverage, but that's part of the due diligence of deciding where the bays are going to go.

**Trustee Elliott:** I would imagine everyone needs 24-7 coverage.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Well, the second ambulance is 12-7 coverage in the plan because there will always be 24-7 coverage in the Town of Montgomery. It's just where the staff would be located. It's open for discussion.

**Trustee Elliott:** I hear everyone talking about the response time too. That's not going to help us. The response time going to go down in Walden. That's my concern.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I don't think we can sit here honestly and genuinely tell you, 100 percent, that will never happen. But we also can't sit up here and say, it's definitely going to happen. Is there a plan to have a central location? Yes. Do we already have a location where ambulances come into Walden because someone else has been called out and they come from Scott's Corners right now? Yes. It's already happening right now and that's also important to consider and to know. Either way, we can't give a definitive answer whether you vote on or against the ambulance district today. There still might be an issue that arises. And then the Walden site has to be removed for other reasons, even if this doesn't happen. I don't think that should be a turn either way. But to answer your question, we can't sit here and guarantee it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** So, if the numbers remain the same as they do now as we see the highest calls, then it will make sense to keep it here.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It's the Town of Montgomery that has the highest calls. Village of Walden has the highest call of the Village. It's the second highest call volume. We're not saying that we don't think there should be a presence in Walden. We're just not saying that the tax district is not tied to a guarantee 1 way or the other because we have several years of planning as far as what our options are for where a location could appropriately go or what kind of upgrades are needed for the current building.

**Manager Revella:** I think he means the density of calls are more concentrated in Walden.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I will say this to the point you're trying to make. It's a legitimate concern. Before we even started districts, and I hope I'm okay saying this to the Ambulance Corp folks watching, they already have a proposed schematic of a location that is not in the Village at Walden. So even if we didn't come forward and come in with this proposal, the plan for the Ambulance Corp on its own is to have a centralized location that is not in the Village of Walden. So that's something that was completely separate from the district discussions.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I think that's where we're trying to parse out versus centralized versus substation. And what I believe Trustee Elliott was referring to and correct me if I'm wrong, if we move forward, will we still keep a substation here? Not just centralized, where everything is out of Walden, but you keep an ambulance presence here in our area that we have now. But my question was based off the numbers, if it continued the same, would you still keep 1 here?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It makes sense to me based on what I see to have a presence in the Village a Walden. And maybe that means you're not going to have the substation, but you'll make sure that you park an ambulance for a certain period of time when calls generally are at a certain threshold. But you still have your headquarters because you want to get ahead of the response time. There's a lot of ways to do it, and there's a lot of things that we can do. What I would again say is we'll make the decision together. If that were ever to happen in the future and we lost that specific

location in the Village or decided it made the most financial sense to move. We would put a plan in place to cover and make sure that that response time didn't get damaged. I think it's a legitimate concern and you're making a big decision.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** So, if that was the case, the committee will make the decision? Or the Ambulance Corps?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The committee would be part of the discussion. Any decision that's made is going to be made by either the Town Board or if the Town Board were to contract with the Ambulance Corps by the Ambulance Corps. But we're always going to keep that constant communication and that committee intact. It's going to have Village representatives. I believe in that and that's how it's to go forward.

**Trustee Elliott:** The fly car. The purpose of the fly car, from what I know of it, is usually driven by the medic. So, you had in there that a volunteer would be using it.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It would be a secondary use. So, if you have a medic, 24-7, that medic is going to primarily have the car because it allows the medic to go to a scene. A secondary use would be like, I'm just giving an example of what a secondary use would be. You have a second fly car, which is used for your paramedic supervisor and that paramedic supervisor. It's if there was the ability to have the overflow for it, it would be agency specific. The primary use for us would be for a medic and a medic supervisor. If there was any kind of overflow or availability, we'd be open to having volunteers use it. What if we ordered the fly car and it got here in December of next year, but the paramedic supervisor for 6 months wasn't hired. What would we do with it for 6 months and when we didn't have a medic? We would use it for volunteers to be able to respond to services. It would not be a primary use.

**Trustee Elliott:** I wasn't clear on it, because what I was thinking was you have a volunteer coming from their house to pick up the fly car and then go to the scene.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** No, the fly car is at their house. Right now, what happens if the ambulance is in Walden and there is a call over on Kaisertown. If there's a volunteer closer to Kaisertown, they get in their personal vehicle and they drive to Kaisertown to beat the ambulance. They're using their personal vehicle for that. So, they don't have the right lights, they have the personal equipment in their bag, but if we have a problem with call volume, that's how we can get to calls faster. The person who's on shift or on call for that volunteer can respond from home with a fly car and get to those faster. You put the fly car closer into the community, than your ambulance would be. Which is what we're doing now without a fly car in personal vehicles. Which is not ideal because you don't have lights on them. They're showing up at people's houses unmarked. It's not great.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** In reference to the fly car. You can put the lights on appropriately, blue lights for volunteers similar to the fire department. So, they don't have to have a fly car in order to demonstrate they're heading.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It's not required. We're doing it now without a flying car.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I'm not saying you should or shouldn't. I'm just saying that when you say you have to have a fly car, you don't have to have a fly car. What I'm referring to is that the volunteer can leave from home and they can have the lights or whatever to demonstrate that they're part of what is happening.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Correct. That's what is happening right now. That's why I said that would be a

secondary use. It's a nice to have. It's not a have to have. The most important use would be for a medic. That is that is standard. I'm sorry, I put a secondary use. I don't want fly cars to sit unused. If we had one in, the medic wasn't hired yet. That's kind of what I had in mind.

**Manager Revella:** I don't mind there not being mileage on it. If a medic is not available. If they don't have to put mileage on the car, it can sit there for a day, if it has to. It doesn't have to be the volunteer's house. They don't leave them at the base for other people. Say you have a 5-man crew there and you only have 2 or 3 in an ambulance, the other 2 can take a fly car to a call?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** These are very specific operational questions.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Let us know if you really want an answer to that in relation to the district.

**Trustee Thompson:** What is the liability issue right now with people taking their own vehicles and going to a scene? Would that change with a fly car?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Right now, that would be covered by their personal car insurance if something were to happen versus the ambulance insurance if something were to happen.

**Trustee Thompson:** These people that are leaving their homes in their personal vehicles, and I'm going to assume driving very rapidly to get to a scene, that is all on them, if anything should happen.

**Trustee Elliott:** We would probably have to clarify that one to get you an answer.

**Trustee Thompson:** It would make sense that the Town would assume liability.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I think John actually called 1 of his, remember we talked about this, John, you called 1 of your friends who works in insurance to ask them who would be liable.

**Mayor Ramos:** They'd be covered on their individual insurance if anything happens. There is no special. They can apply for 1 when they obtain their insurance. But there's no special umbrella.

**Trustee Thompson:** But if they were driving in the Town car that would be a policy through the Town?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** That would be a totally different scenario.

**Trustee Thompson:** It sounds to me like the building seems to be a focus for some people. They're getting very upset about the cost of building a state-of-the-art building. For the \$800,000 number that you're coming up with. Does it have to be an all or none? Can that number be lower if we don't do all of the things you're proposing, you want us to do? Like if we take that brand new building out of the equation and put it back later down the road, is that a possibility? If people are not liking that large number, can that number be lowered?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** \$800,000 number is the \$800,000 number. We are doing it that way because we want to avoid having to come back and change it and have a tax increase in future years. We want to make sure that we do this in a way where we're not in the same situation and starving for resources. In the first year of the budget, we're not going to use \$800,000. The second year in the budget we're not going to use a \$800,000. That gives us the flexibility to be able to have some revenue to be able to have something put aside at the end of our first 2 years so that when it



comes to making an investment, we don't have to go to the taxpayer. That \$800,000 number, if you just take out building completely, there's still the \$800,000 number based on our business plan.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I think the majority of the costs for that \$800,000 are personnel and not related to building. So, if you are going to reduce a large portion of that, it wouldn't be the building you take out. You'd have to decide whether you want ALS or not.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** If people are afraid of the cost of the state-of-the-art building, what I will say is and what I've offered to the Ambulance Corps and what I think is the best route to go forward for the purpose of ambulance services. The Town of Montgomery has a building that we've had for decades and the Town has not spent a lot of money and has been very good on their finances. And that's great because we're in a great financial position. But it's bad because there hasn't been as much maintenance over the last several decades in certain areas, including Town Hall, where we probably could have maintained it better. We just went out for our first bond ever. We just established a credit rating for the Town of Montgomery for the first time. Moody's rated us with a Double-A rating just last week. Happy to report it. We're in really good financial shape, but it's because there are certain investments that probably could have been made over the years that weren't made. That is an opportunity. So, when we talk about a state-of-the-art facility, we're not necessarily talking about a state-of-the-art building. In my perfect world, you utilize the capital improvements that already need to be made to the existing building. Then maybe you add on a little bit to do what you need to do to get to all of the points that create the state-of-the-art facility to provide ambulance services. So, in my mind, building 112 in the Time of Montgomery would be a great place for us to fix the things we need to fix through a bond. Which we can afford and absorb through the A fund. And then we also can have the ambulance services and headquarters out of there. And maybe there's not enough room. So, we're going to need Walden. All of these things are still up for discussion and will be made together through the committee that we put together. I hope that answers your question. I hope that alleviates some concern of the thought of us just putting a building and putting it down because as costs continue to go up in every facet of every building project, I can understand why people might be scared of that. So, in my mind, it would be part of a larger capital project that the Town is already considering.

**Trustee Thompson:** Okay. I guess what I'm saying is a lot of people are very focused on the building. You're going to move forward with this district, if it's approved regardless of the building. And even if there's back and forth about location, we're moving forward.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** Okay. If the private ambulance are having a hard time staffing, why would you think that if we create a district, we're not going to have problems with staffing? What would be the difference between trying to staff this ambulance corps that you're proposing? Or if we privatized and used a private ambulance corps,

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** That was 1 of the questions in the document and the Ambulance Corps in Montgomery offers better benefits and lifestyle than the private ambulance corps.

**Trustee Thompson:** But the taxpayers would be paying for those benefits.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** But you're also talking about an hourly rate that is still even higher and the benefits being higher than traditional ambulance services. A very small, small salary. It's not a massive, massive salary. And the benefits add up, sure. But at the end of the day, it's contained because of the amount of employees that we need to staff. We're never going to get to a point where the employees just keep doubling. That's not something that we're looking to create here. So, there

is a limit. There is an idea what that cost will be. It's budgeted and there is room for potential increases in insurance costs because that's what happens. They continue to go up. We have thought about that.

**Trustee Thompson:** But I'm talking about the long term. You're talking these people, I'm assuming, would become Town employees.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Potentially.

**Trustee Thompson:** So, we're talking about health benefits, retirement benefits, payments. And you feel that the cost of all of that would not be significantly different, if there was a contract with a private company?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I think it would be different.

**Trustee Thompson:** That's what I'm saying. So, if the private companies are having difficulty staffing. I don't understand how this would be different. Or you think the salary and the benefit package would entice people to work for you as opposed to a private?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yes. I think we're going to take something that's going to want people to work.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** She means for the Town. She's saying if you switched it to the Town, would the Town be able to offer better benefits than like even the Town of Montgomery Ambulance, which is a private.

**Trustee Thompson:** This is something the taxpayers will ultimately have to pay for.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The intent for you to take over Ambulance Corps services as a department in the Town and then employ the EMTs.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Either way, I think we're going to be able to staff the Ambulance Corp. I don't think it's going to be an issue. I think when you talk about staffing issues in the industry, in of itself, there are less people staying in the industry. But there are still people staffing ambulance corps that are getting paid.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm not just talking about paying staffing. I'm talking about if these people become employees of the Town of Montgomery and things continue with salary, health benefits, retirement, those are long term costs. That's my question. Is it more cost effective to consider contracting with a private entity?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yes, it would be cheaper for the Town taxpayers to contract with the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps. I'd have to check the numbers. It probably would be a little cheaper. I don't know the answer to that.

**Trustee Thompson:** Has there been any sort of cost analysis done on that?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** No. We will definitely get to that. That's for sure. We're going to do the analysis. But when you take a look at what the cost increase would be, it's factored into the budget, both either or because the difference isn't going to be massive. It's really not.

**Manager Revella:** You don't have to have that decision now, whether it's going to be Town

employees or contract with the Ambulance Corps yet, right?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** We do not have to.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I think that's a good discussion. What is first, seeking and contracting side first or seeking the employee side first?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I think there are 2 schools of thought and we just haven't gotten that far and that's something that I would really enjoy getting everybody's feedback on after we create the district.

**Trustee Thompson:** Let's say that this is not approved. We still would like ambulance service, obviously. How would you plan on keeping the current ambulance solvent until we get this sorted out? Because this obviously won't go into effect any time soon. This is a process. So, if we want to maintain the ambulance service, how do we get from A to B? How do we keep our current ambulance solvent?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** As long as I've been Town Supervisor, for 2 whole years, the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps if needed anything we've been there to support them. Financially and otherwise, and that won't change.

**Trustee Thompson:** It's my understanding that they are continuously underfunded, accurate or not accurate?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** They need more resources. That's why we're here.

**Trustee Thompson:** But if this does not get approved or from the time this does get approved until it can get implemented, are you going to increase the budget for the current Ambulance Corps so they can remain solvent?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The Ambulance Corps is going to give me their needs. I'm going to look at them. We're going to take a look at what was budgeted, and we're going to figure out a way to best support that.

**Trustee Thompson:** Is the current budget appropriate for what they need or they're still on the underfunded end?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It depends on the amount of services they want to provide.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm assuming they would, at the bare minimum, provide what they're already providing.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Then what they have is enough for them to get through this year.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** That's with 1 ambulance.

**Trustee Thompson:** But your goal is to get 2 ambulances.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Correct. Because we're having more than about 30 dropped calls a month. This is something that Brian and I have had many, many, many conversations on. You've seen me show up in so many meetings and municipalities and say the Town of Montgomery Ambulance wants more funding. Our goal is to get to staff 2 ambulances. The Town of Montgomery agreed to fund for

about what status quo, which is 1 ambulance with some additional budgeted items for assisting with a new stretcher system for an ambulance that was ordered to replace our ambulance from, I think, 2012, that we're above and beyond the operating expenses. But the status quo, from what I understand is that the Town has committed to staff up 1 ambulance.

**Trustee Thompson:** But you're already saying that we're dropping calls.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Correct. This is a major concern of ours and I absolutely would love to have additional funding if that was possible as an interim. I've asked for it.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm just concerned about that if we want to grow in the right direction, if we can't provide the service until the district is approved, that's concerning to me. What do we do in the interim?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I think if we can show the districts being created, we'll be able to get from A to B fairly easily with the knowledge that the district is going to be created starting in 2023. If it's not, it'll be a different story and we'll have to go back to the drawing board and make really tough decisions on making investments with the Town funds for setting coverage. That's going to be a really, really tough decision. I don't want to have to get to that point because I think the districts the long-term sustainable solution.

**Trustee Maher:** I don't know about everyone, but I've gotten several emails from concerned residents and I have to say, especially after hearing Rich McNamee speak tonight. Mary Ellen. Fully in agreement with everything that you've said. Our main responsibility as a Trustee is fiscal responsibility. We talk about it all the time. We have glazed over other issues and I see that we're taking a lot of time answering all these questions, getting into all the details. And I think it's excellent. I think as much transparency on this issue that we can have and the more details we can have, the better. But I have no doubt that this is such a great plan. The bones are here. I think that we should have trust in our elected officials to make the best judgment for our Town. I think that if we sit here and drag this on any further and dig into every single detail, obviously we're not all going to agree on every single piece of the financial aspect of the budget. That's for you guys to decide and for the committee to decide. And I think that if anyone has a huge laundry list of concerns regarding the financial budget, I would encourage you to join the committee. I think that you've said it's very open. You're looking for other people from the Villages to join in. I think that dropping calls is not okay. We've said this a few times, like what is the cost of a life? I think that it's something that people are very passionate about. I've talked to many residents about the issue and I feel like it comes down to if you've had to make that call or not. From the people that I've spoken to, when they're trying to get me to see their side or to see the other side of the issue. I ask them, have you had to make that call and they haven't. I just want to ask everyone to just consider that. If you haven't ever had to make that call, put yourself in those shoes in that moment. I want ALS services for my loved ones. I do hear your concerns about obviously wanting to keep the Walden hub. I have the same concerns there. But I think that we have to make this happen and it's the best thing for our taxpayers and I do want to stay involved as much as possible. I have questions on every page, so it would be silly for me to sit up here and say I don't have any questions. I have questions, but I feel like I trust you guys and I trust the Ambulance Corps to do the right thing. I think that you guys have a Board. You're a Trustee. So, you work full time. You're a mom and you're up here volunteering. No one can say we haven't done our due diligence. This is like 900 questions and the answers are very well thought out. They're not perfect, but I trust in what I'm reading here. Thank you all for your endless information and for answering all of our questions, for your transparency, and I'm completely in favor of it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Thank you. I appreciate your efforts and all that you have done. I won't be

as amicable as Trustee Maher, but I do have some questions. Let's start with the last 1 that we had to address on the committee. I'm concerned about that because it appears to me and correct me, if I'm wrong, that the committee is just going to be advisory. Or will it have teeth?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It'll be an advisory committee.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** That's a problem with me personally, because if we say just advisory, you can glance over and say we're going to do what we want.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** I think at the end of the day, having an advisory committee is something that many people wouldn't offer. For me, it's important for me to have your perspective. But at the end of the day, if the Town district in a Town of Montgomery elected officials are responsible for it, they are the ones that are going to have to make the final decision and/or those that we contract with to provide the services. I don't see a way where it makes sense to be able to give teeth to a committee because you're going to have so many people with so many different opinions. At some point there's an entity that's going to have to have the executive authority to do what you have to do.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I thought a lot about that, actually. About what it means to be involved from the different Villages and what it means to have so many stakeholders with an interest in the Ambulance Corps. For the Ambulance Corps to manage all those stakeholders. The 3 Villages, plus the Town, plus all the elected officials and the residents. I came up with 1 idea. It's not a perfect idea, but I want to make sure that from the Ambulance Corps perspective, that we are engaging with all of the Villages as our own entity, as our own organization. More consistently, I've gotten multiple feedback from these types of meetings that that is something that you guys want to do. And on the opposite side, I think that the Ambulance Corps needs to be more forthcoming with presenting what's going on in the Ambulance Corps. What I came up with is an invitation for vice versa, it's a list of every single one of our executive meetings. Patricia's question last week actually kind of gave me the idea that you are invited to. We are going to hold 30 to 45 minutes of the first part of our executive committee meeting just to talk about the tax district. It's going to be real brainstorming. It's the actual questions. We want people from the municipalities to show up and engage. And then the second thing is for the Ambulance Corps, we will offer, however often you would like, whether it's quarterly, seems like a nice place to start to come and present to you on what's going on with the Ambulance Corps. What are the stats for the last 3 months? What are our challenges? What are our successes? What are issues that we're having? The liaison can speak to it as well. I can't, from an Ambulance Corps perspective, speak to Brian's answer on what does it mean to have authority in a tax district decision making. But I do know that you guys, we want you engaged in our Ambulance Corps decision making.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** So, the second part is the capital projects. It becomes a capital project and you said the Town already has needs. What percentage of that bond will go to that? The Village still has to pay?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Whenever there's a capital improvement to any place in the Town of Montgomery, Village of Walden taxpayers pay into it through the A fund. The A fund taxes the Town of Montgomery and all 3 Villages. And whenever there's a building improvement made, it's paid for through the A fund. The couple of million dollars, whatever it's going to be, hopefully less, that we use to fix up things that need to be fixed on Town properties, that's already getting paid for through Village of Walden taxpayers, Village of Montgomery taxpayers, Village of Maybrook taxpayers and everybody in the Town. Commercial and otherwise.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I just want to make sure everybody understands, regardless if you get the tax district or not and you're doing the building, it's going to be tax. It's going to be a bond. A cost is

going to come out of that anyway.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Correct.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Okay. In reference to the questions that was proposed and you answered, you already answered about the contract hire and you'll discuss it after the district. I have some trepidation about answering questions after a district versus before a district and that's the majority of what feedback I receive from the public. Why do we have to do things after it's approve and then you have no control over it? And then that leads into some of the questions that were asked here. The first one you answered. How can you secure the amount needed for the tax district won't increase in the future? "You said there are no guarantees for that." I don't know how you going to respond to other than no guarantees and I guess we just have to live with that. But I think that goes to Mary Ellen and Trustee Maher's position is that we do have to take a leap of faith knowing that everybody will work together for the betterment of the taxpayer so that make sure we have our ambulance and needs are met. I appreciate that. The other one was, what happens if one of the larger companies leaves Town and we can lose that revenue? I believe your answer, "right now, large warehouses are not staying vacant. They are being snatched up and utilized. The online market is not going away anytime soon. We do not view this as an issue." but I still don't feel like it was answered.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The answer is if somehow in the future a large warehouse moves away and does not get filled and is vacant, yes, it would impact the district. There's no forecast out there that shows that's going to happen. Everything that we were seeing is just more and more warehouses being built all over the nation because online sales are just going through the roof.

**Manager Revella:** Just because it's vacant doesn't mean it's not paying taxes. So, you're still going to get the revenue.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yes. Not sold, I guess. That's why I don't view it as an issue in a very, very long time, if ever.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** No, I appreciate it. Thanks for clarifying

**Town Supervisor Maher:** 1 quick point on that though, I know it was 1 of the questions and it wasn't brought up. I have the list of the PILOTS. There's actually 19, not 21. The thing that I wanted to just show everybody. So, there is Amazon. Amazon has their PILOT. Which makes them in the first 5 years of paying 20 percent. The Town of Montgomery is getting \$15,000 in 2022. But because fire districts and ambulance districts are not putting PILOTS, the Coldenham Fire Department is getting \$92,000. That's going to happen in year 1. 100 percent valuation. Another one, the top taxpayers in the Town by taxable assessment. Medline right now is number 1 because they're not getting a PILOT. Their assessment is at the building half-built. \$35 million. They're the number 1 assessed property in the Town of Montgomery at half assessment. This doesn't include sailfish because they're getting a PILOT. So, you're talking about the next number 15 is 3 million. That 70 million in assessment, which is what Medline is going to be and then double that. That is all going to get paid for into the ambulance district to make it cheaper for everyday residents. When I listen to Trustee Thompson, talk about how the Town, what are we going to do to increase resources, it pains me to think about that. When I know these 2 massive companies that are going to be assessed at 140 million dollars together, aren't going to pay into it or very small. It gets me twitchy. That's why there are so many questions to be answered, but that's why it's so unfair for us to do this and pay for it this way to have your Village of Walden residents pay for it this way, without those large companies. Which are the 2 biggest buildings in Orange County not paying 100 percent into it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Just for clarity, can a Village opt out of the district if it appears not to be working. Like once we start, can we opt out or cancel out? And would that look like?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Interesting. The way that I read that question was what would the Town do? The Town can decide to dissolve the district and that can end. What would the Village be able to do in that respect?

**Attorney Donovan:** The Latin phrase is "no backsies". Once you're in, you're in. It's a Town of Montgomery district.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The other 1 was, I guess it goes back to billing. You said that you do bill or you don't bill. I know you bill the insurance, but you don't follow up or you do 3 attempts. Will that stay the same? Or will that change anything?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Based on the amount of charity write offs last year that was higher than we anticipated, so we do plan on addressing that operationally. That's not related to the tax district happening or not. We need to make sure that we have a sustainable charity model. The answer is we are meeting with our billing company this month to do a full review and figure out how we can achieve sustainable charity write offs. But it's not related to the tax district, and we don't see any changes when the tax district starts and our billing processes. Other than making sure that our financial policies and procedures are not kind of against what the Town would want.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The reason we're asking these questions is because you keep saying this is not in regards to the tax district, but for our vote and for the our constituents, guess what it is for the tax district.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** As an elected official, we're the ones making these decisions. So, if now is a chance for them to have a discussion and have the ability to say, \*inaudible\* it gives them leverage to ask these questions and to get answers.

**Manager Revella:** We can't dissolve it later.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Were there issues with the billing process or policies that you saw that you'd want change to be different?

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** When people talk about soft building, hard billing and all these different things and your numbers, charitable, if that was sought after for whatever reason, I'm not saying right or wrong, but that could have alleviated some issues. Because the public is listening and we want to make sure everything is covered. We have to bring it up. I know that you can't say yes or no right now, but the point is that has to be brought up and everyone has to address it down the line. And somebody may say, hey remember you asked this question, let's bring it up again and we have it.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It's a hard conversation to have because ambulance services are out of network. So, they hit you're out of network benefits through every insurance company, which processes those claims very differently. Even within the same insurance company, plans are different, whether it's an HMO or PPO. So, there's no 1 size fits all model as far as patient responsibility, but the Ambulance Corps has been committed to not ruining people's credit because they haven't been able to pay for services. It's a community commitment that we've had. But at the same time, we do need to remain a solvent business. We have to be thoughtful about when and how we give charity discounts. It's something that has not come up previously because of the amount has not been as

much as it was last year.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I went to the Village of Wappinger Falls and I talked to Beacon and I looked at their model that they're having there. They have a pool of money and they say the ambulance company can bill the insurance and then the Ambulance Corps, that's there, whoever it is, they get to take \$150 and that's it. I think that's a good model. I don't know if you looked at it or anything like that, and it's a lot cheaper than what we're proposing. 1 of the things that we brought up last meeting, I didn't get into detail but the point is that those different models where you can lessen the amount that effects the taxpayer as long as we discuss those and are open. And once again, no disrespect to you, Supervisor Maher, when you say that this is the number and that's it, then that sends a message that there's no wiggle room, there's no working room, there's no if we come up with a better model to help out the taxpayer that you're open to it or not. Can you speak to that?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yes, I can. Very happy you're clarifying that. The \$800,000 number is the \$800,000 number that's in the map plan report. It is not to exceed the \$800,000. If we decided before 2023, when we adopt our budget in November that it's going to be less, it can be less. That number can change. It just cannot be higher.

**Manager Revella:** That depends on the contract with the Ambulance Corps, correct?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It depends on a lot of factors. In my opinion, from everything I've looked at. It would make the most sense to charge that number so that we have some wiggle room in future years so you're not coming back to the taxpayers. Am I open to changing that? Yes, absolutely.

**Manager Revella:** Is the Ambulance Corps open to changing that? Are they depending on this \$800,000?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The answer is that that \$800,000 is over what we would need to provide BLS services. But would we get pretty close when we would go live with ALS, depending on the amount of ALS calls and reimbursement and revenue as well as any kind of donation.

**Manager Revella:** And that's something that would be contracted with you guys to say, Hey, we did this much revenue, this is what we need to be solvent or is this to make profit?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** It wouldn't be about profit.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Anything that we would have would need to go into a fund balance for future services. Right now, there is no fund balance.

**Trustee Thompson:** I felt like I asked the same question and it was answered differently, but maybe I didn't convey my thoughts properly.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** You did. And my belief is that it should be \$800,000. Willie's specific question was, is there any wiggle room in? The answer is yes. There is. In my opinion, from everything I've seen, it should be \$800,000. Could Willie and someone else change our mind when we sit down? Absolutely.

**Trustee Thompson:** I understand. So, if everything falls under \$800,000, you want to stay with that number because you're hoping that will help you build a reserve fund.



**Town Supervisor Maher:** Yes.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The other question was, we know that if the Ambulance Corps was to leave Walden, the building would go back to the Village?

**Manager Revella:** Correct. There's a reversion clause in the property that they are currently occupying. There're some stipulations with the American Legion as well.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** In 2020, it says, received \$170,000 grant from Orange County for upgrades.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Yes, for new radios.

**Manager Revella:** Like the ones that we received for PD. We received the new radio system. Went Countywide. Fire Department, Police Department and Ambulance Corps got them.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It was only for the radios, which I believe was a County requirement to move to the new radio system.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Okay. Then you received another 10 from the economic injury disaster. I guess basically because of COVID.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Yes.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** \$58,000 for the payroll protection program

**Town Supervisor Maher:** \$54,000. They didn't get it last year because they didn't get their revenue loss threshold numbers.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** With me personally, I agree with everybody and we all agree that there's a lot of questions that hasn't been answered. The second part is that, I believe there has come a point where you have to take a leap of faith and work with our public officials to make sure everything is taken care of. However, we have a responsibility. I believe from what I hear from everybody on the board and outside. Everyone agrees 100 percent that you need an ambulance service. We're not trying to do away with ambulance service, but we're trying to parse out on how we move from a business perspective with the ambulance services.

**Mayor Ramos:** I have to agree with Deputy Mayor Carley. We are not here to shut down an ambulance service. We firmly believe that is a service that is necessary for a community. For its health and safety. I know you've heard me say this a couple of times. We've got to do it the right way. We had a slew of questions. Obviously, we weren't privy to some of the committee meetings that they've had since August of last year. Here we are, December, and you're breathing really heavy trying to get this done. We do our due diligence. Yes. We proved it by forwarding you said 100 questions. I didn't see mine on there.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** There are questions that we haven't finalized the answers to. I wrote in the email when I wrote back to you that if it wasn't on the list, it wasn't that we weren't looking into it. Also, the list that John Revella sent me did not say, who's asked what. And then there were 3 questions of yours that I sent back to you because I didn't understand.

**Mayor Ramos:** Yes. I'm not saying that you were not answering the questions. This was a lot of work and I applaud you for getting this done. A couple issues. 1 of my questions were, where's your

business plan? I'm a firm believer and if you kept saying that this is a business. Where is your business plan? I like to see an operational plan. I like to see personnel. You're asking for 7 FTEs, a total of 11. Those numbers. I'm looking at compensation and salaries and benefits. I'm looking at your logistical plan. What are your logistics on a daily basis or even on a yearly basis? Of course, now you're fleet management. You're looking at 4-5 years for each ambulance that goes on. Obviously, that's a huge cost. Vehicle fuel, oil and everything else is pretty much going to be your heavy, besides salary. I didn't see a business plan. Supervisor Maher, you presented the 19 PILOTS. I was wrong and I apologize. I said it was 21.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** You were kind of right. The school district has PILOTS that aren't specific to Town of Montgomery.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** When I was working on the presentation that I gave last week with Brian, I took and made sure all the elements of a business plan were in that presentation. A business plan in a PowerPoint presentation was given to you in our last presentation. If all of the supporting documentation for that presentation business plan, we have because we had to come up with those numbers. If you are looking for a word document that says business plan on it that's 30 pages long, single space written, that doesn't exist. It's several files of work to get into that PowerPoint presentation with all of the elements of a business plan. What I would say is if you have very specific questions about how we calculate the staffing, come to our meeting next Tuesday, or I invited the liaison to join a Zoom meeting, which may happen this Thursday, and we'll be happy to go through. What I'd like to do in these work sessions, which is why I gave this to you guys, is to show the backup details to all of that. I could come here and go through exactly how I calculate salary plus benefits for 48 hours plus a 40 hour, but not for part time. It's better to sit down with the numbers in front of us and go through it. So, when you say there's no business plan, I would beg to differ because I presented you a business plan. It was in a PowerPoint format.

**Mayor Ramos:** That's not a business plan.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We're going to agree to disagree on that one.

**Mayor Ramos:** No worries. I'm looking at your income and expense lines. We're talking about \$800,000. Just 2 lines on your 6600, which is payroll expenses. BLS and ALS and employee health insurance. Your projected \$920,000 and \$195,000, is a \$1,115,000. That doesn't look like \$800,000.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The \$800,000 is what the tax district would be, but we're still receiving revenue from the insurance companies. It's not the budget. \$800,000 is not our expense budget. Our expense budget is that plus probably another \$900,000 in insurance reimbursement. Plus, any grants in revenue.

**Mayor Ramos:** What is the \$900,000 used for?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** All of the expenses you see there, are all the expenses that they could come up with based on the services they provide and the future services we want to invest in. When it comes to the budget, \$800,000 will be the bedrock of that budget that will be paid for through the tax base. They receive anywhere from 5-700 over the last two years \$100,000 in insurance reimbursement payments. The overall budget, if you put \$800,000 is really 1.4-1.5 million.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The budget that we gave to you guys 2 weeks ago, there were actually one question that actually came from the member of the public that we've updated. It was Brenda's question about building and maintenance versus another maintenance one, and our financial manager has since actually split those out. So, we've updated that for future version and our new

software went live since we gave you that. What I wanted to do in this Thursday meeting in the Zoom is show you how it looks with the new software system and go through those lines individually.

**Mayor Ramos:** You contract mobile life services for \$65,000 a year. Correct?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** There's no contract with mobile life. We pay them per transport. Where the paramedic from mobile life gets on to a Town of Montgomery Ambulance and transports the patient as ALS.

**Mayor Ramos:** So, that amount varies. Obviously, if you have 20 less transports from ALS to BLS, the money varies.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** You can't guarantee. Of course. But we think that mobile life because of their dropped calls and that there's higher chance of revenue that ALS services that wasn't being captured. I think one of the questions which we're working on is the number of calls mobile life dropped. I don't think that answer is in the spreadsheet because we're making sure that that calculation is very solid.

**Manager Revella:** Who picks those up if mobile life was dropping them?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Town of Wallkill is our primary ALS. Town of Blooming Grove would be our second.

**Mayor Ramos:** When mobile life drops a call, obviously their answering or they do something that they're not responsive, who follows that up, that they don't charge you for that? If mobile life receives transmission from 911 center, we cannot respond.

**Manager Revella:** Not billing for things they don't respond to, right?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** No. The invoices are a patient ID.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** They have an automated billing company that checks that out.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Those invoices come to the Town of Montgomery Ambulance to be paid to mobile life. What's happening is they're riding on a Town of Montgomery ambulance. Mobile paramedic is getting on and riding on the ambulance to the hospital. For Medicare patients only, the situation is that the Town of Montgomery is going to bill Medicare for the whole kit and caboodle and then mobile life is going to bill the Town of Montgomery for a stipend for every patient that they go on the transport.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** To answer your point though, we'd be able to say, no, we're not going to pay you that, we were there. That didn't happen.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I just want to clarify the calls in the building is separate. The billing part is based off the transport. Not the call.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Correct. With 1 exception, which is you can bill four on scene motor vehicle accidents regardless of transport. Which is not a substantial amount. It's the only time you can bill for a non transport. Motor vehicle accidents.

**Mayor Ramos:** How many accidents do we have?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I think it was like 40 where they didn't transport.

**Mayor Ramos:** I just recently read that the Orange County Legislature was reviewing something, or they passed something just recently in their last meeting when it came to EMS services within Orange County. Do you have any input on that?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** No, but I will look into that before your next meeting.

**Mayor Ramos:** Can you go to your PowerPoint presentation on page number 8? Can you go down to your bottom sentence, "Town of Montgomery residents are not sent to collections for inability or failure to pay." I know you don't have this. You're more than welcome to have my copy. But this is an income execution from a resident in the Village of Walden. That's just 1 I've sought assistance from other resources to see if there are any more others.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I'm going to have to look into this.

**Mayor Ramos:** And just to let you know, I don't know how you can affirm or deny whether or not the person received any type of payment from an insurance company. I read your presentation, which is good, but this is still an income execution order from a resident for services rendered by the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Service, almost \$3000. That's a big issue. When you say that they write off and they don't bill anything.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** If they cash their insurance check and don't forward that to the Ambulance Corps, it's a different situation than having insurance pay the Ambulance Corps.

**Mayor Ramos:** You mentioned saying that it's out-of-network.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Out-of-network, which is different? Sometimes when insurances are out-of-network, they'll send the payment to the patient on the good faith that that patient will send that payment on to the insurance company. If that patient keeps the money. That's not their money. That money is for the service and that could have been sent to collections.

**Mayor Ramos:** How did that happen?

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I have never seen this before and you're giving it to me for the first time, so I will have to follow up with you on it.

**Mayor Ramos:** I've asked several of the resources to see if there's any redundant issues like that.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Please let us know because that is not the intent with this exception.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** The only thing is the Town Board is going to have our public hearing next week. We're going to open it up. We're not going to close anything. We want to wait to see what you all do and what Maybrook does. I would only ask is if you could continue to ask questions, get them answered. We'll be back here for next meeting. At that meeting, we're just looking for a vote. Either way.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** We do have the 2 opportunities to connect with us on the call that we're going to confirm for Thursday and the next Tuesday for the executive board session of the Ambulance Corps, if anybody would like to attend.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Let me know if you have any questions on the resolution.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** If Walden doesn't opt in, what happens to the district?

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Pretty straightforward. Based on my belief, I don't think we should do this without all 3 Villages signed on. I don't think it's the right thing to do for the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps, not it's not right for them. I don't think you should put the Town in that situation or you in that situation where they're trying to contract and figure out ways to provide the services they want to pay. If you guys opt out, I'm going to be back here and we're going to redo this every year until we do it. That's how strongly I feel about this. To answer your question, I would recommend to the Town Board not to put the district in at all until all 3 Villages are signed up. I believe that's the only way to really is the right way.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Thank you.

**Resolution 8-21-22 – Budget Transfers**

Trustee Elliott made a motion to approve Resolution 8-21-22 – Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Discussion – Police Policies**

**Manager Revella:** The Police Department has done their accreditation updates for policies through Lexipol. I provided those updates to all the board members to review. It's about a thousand pages, hundreds of policies that were updated. The board is reviewing those. We have some other clarifying documents coming that will help for review. I believe next meeting I'll have the Chief here to go through an overview of the updates and the processes to make sure those policies are implemented so we can get accreditation.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** With the policies, we want to make sure that the public is involved with the review for those who want to look at what was before and what's now, make sure they're divided up so we can see what's new, what's old. From my understanding, I haven't read everything, there's some mandates that has to happen regardless if the Village agrees with her or not, has to occur. So, the transparency with that, we need people involved in it. When we went through the first round of the 203, we had very, very, very few. It was such a hot topic. And one, I believe our police force is doing a wonderful job. When I hear other people saying there's issues, I'm like, well, bring them up so we can know about them. I'm trying to make a plea to the public. We have this coming up. We're going to review it again. We're going to go back through it. The Chief is going to be here to demonstrate or to explain or verify, whatever you want, so that we can make sure that the public is fully engaged and knows what's going on. That's why I'm just bringing it up again. It's a long document, it's going to take more than just one session. This is going to be quite a lengthy process.

**Manager Revella:** We'll have links on the website for the documents as well. We'll make sure they're all on there tomorrow.

**Resolution 9-21-22 – Designating Polling Place and Time**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 9-21-22 – Designating Polling Place and Time of the Village Elections on March 15, 2022 8am-9pm at Village Hall 1 Municipal Square, Walden NY 12586. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Discussion – Building Code – Dates and Times Work Can Be Performed**

**Manager Revella:** It was brought up by the Building Department. There's a little bit of contradiction in the code regarding when people are permitted to work. Just want to try to get some

clarity on when that can happen, especially weekends and holidays. They have a suggestion about the holidays and Sundays, no work unless you're working on your own home inside without effecting your neighbors. I'm not sure how the board feels about making that change, but if they are, Dave can draft something.

**Trustee Thompson:** What is it currently, it's nothing before 8am and nothing after 10pm? 9 pm?

**Manager Revella:** 5pm.

**Attorney Donovan:** What it says is, "construction activities are permitted Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except holidays, during daytime hours." The next provision says they're "permitted only as follows Saturday, Sunday and holidays during the hours of 10 and 5." So, one of the problems is subdivision B-1 says except for holidays. Subdivision B-2 says that includes holidays. That needs to be resolved in one fashion or another. Then you need to kind of take a look at what does daytime hours mean. There are also exceptions for emergencies and other things that wouldn't be subject to this.

**Manager Revella:** The real change they wanted us to consider was the Sundays and holidays. They don't want the ability for contractors to work during Sundays and holidays because that means they have to inspect during Sundays and holidays and causes a disturbance for neighbors.

**Trustee Thompson:** They don't want any Village residents to do outside work. If you're working inside your home, even if it's work that has to have a permit, they're still okay with that?

**Manager Revella:** That's what they said.

**Attorney Donovan:** I think it just relates noise. I think you can do work if you're not making noise. This is prohibited noise activities

**Trustee Thompson:** I don't know if I'm 100 percent in favor of that because a lot of people do construction themselves on their homes. A lot of people need to do their work on a Saturday and a Sunday. They work all week. So that's the only time they have, let's say, to put up a fence or to work on a deck or whatever they're doing on the outside of their house. Just my thought.

**Trustee Elliott:** I agree with Lynn. A lot of people can't do it during the week, so what else are they going to do?

**Trustee Maher:** I think it would depend on the extent of the work. It says blasting here. So, I'm in agreement.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I think we got to go back to the whole policy and look at the whole thing in a picture and make sure we got the times and everything right. Before we say, in my opinion, yes or no, let's make sure we have everything right. I think this brings back what we've talked about before. We have to review the policies. I know they kind of dropped off. I don't know where it dropped, but I think we need to go back through all the policies to review it, to make sure and catch some things like this. Code review and policies. As a board and schedule it out so we can address it. But right now, I hear what they're saying, but I don't think we're here to vote on it. I wouldn't vote on it right now because it's too many things we need to make sure is correct before we just say yes or no.

**Attorney Donovan:** All you be doing is authorizing me to prepare a local law, but you need to do that. You don't need to do anything. There's like a big picture about how do you handle noise on

holidays, weekends. Then there's what I'll call the smaller picture, which is the discrepancy between except holidays and including holidays. I don't think the world's going to end, if you put it off.

**Mayor Ramos:** I agree. This is just for discussion on how are we feeling. I agree with the Deputy Mayor that we should review the current building code and just check on how we could either improve it or deny it. One or the other.

### **Public Comment**

**Brenda Adams:** I gave John a formal letter of request today for Walden Veterans Memorial Park asking John and his managers budget to possibly increase that line by \$500. I believe what the current \$500 for is for the maintenance of the water system, for starting it up in the spring, fixing water heads and then draining it in the fall. We would like to see the budget increased by \$500 to cover the cost of a flag for the June, we know you start to year for the first of June, so a flag for this year, there are 2 flags, American and P.O.W. for June and the spring flowers for next May. Then maybe we could keep that going if we could sustain it in future budgets. Then we could always plan that we know that the flags are paid for and the flowers in the spring are paid for. Right now, our kitty is getting a little lower. We are very frugal with our money. We are looking at doing a fundraiser to add some money to the to the package of some kind. If you could support that, if John sees fit to put in the budget, if you folks could support it, that'd be great. The only other item that I was wondering, I think Rich said, that mobile life doesn't like to come to Walden. Do we know why?

**Richard McNamee:** It's not Walden. They don't like to go anywhere.

**Brenda Adams:** The other question I have is why wouldn't we pick a type of district before we actually do a tax district? Be it a Town Department or be it a 501c3, as it is now supported through Town taxes? I would think that we would have to know what's the future look like for that? Either way, I just think it should be known. Then it sounds like the detail that I was hoping to see you get if you go to that meeting. I hope you'll get that good detail.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Supervisor Maher said, correct me if I'm wrong, after you become a district, they'll make the decision about the hire versus contract.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** \*inaudible\*.

**Brenda Adams:** I thought that's what you want to know to budget one way or the other. I would think it's 2 different budgets.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** Both of them will be different well over \$800,000 than we had on the map planner report.

**Mayor Ramos:** If everybody would with their cross talking, please, I know our Clerk is having, just make sure either you're more boisterous or come to the mic.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The budget that was done was for the 501c3 to be doing the operations and the staffing for the Ambulance Corps going forward for the tax district. I think it's in good faith to move forward as if that were to happen now. If analysis were to come back that money could be saved along the way it's an open discussion to have. Nobody here is against it. I think the value of supporting our ambulance services, this tax district wouldn't start until 2023. To put off an analysis of that for that sake, that would delay ambulance service tax district for another year. I'm not so sure the cost benefit of what your question is outweighs the need for funded ambulance services. I hear what you're saying and I think that it could be decided before, but not at the cost of putting out the

tax district for a year. I think that the budget that we handled that we gave is for the 501c3 organization to provide service which is capable of doing. We're open to the possibility of saving money in any kind of way possible. If that means moving to the Town, we've said it in the last meeting, we're open to doing it. I'm not sure I agree with needing that decision to be done before the tax district is decided, especially if the cost is to delay a year.

**Becky Pearson:** I'm perplexed, because I'm not understanding. You are proposing a tax district, possibly. We don't know if that's for sure yet.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It's proposed.

**Becky Pearson:** So within that tax district, there is a contract.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** There would be a contract, if the Town which for argument's sake, moves forward with ambulance services through Town of Montgomery ambulance, there would be a contract.

**Becky Pearson:** In order to form this district, the Villages will then have a contract with the Town.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** No. It's one contract.

**Becky Pearson:** It's a tax district.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** It's both.

**Attorney Donovan:** If there's a contract it's with the district.

**Manager Revella:** If there would be a contract, it would be with the district and it would be inclusive of all 3 Villages.

**Becky Pearson:** All Villages decide they're going to move forward. The tax district set up. Within that tax district the Village really doesn't have a say of what's going to be happening within that district.

**Town Supervisor Maher:** They do. Through the Town of Montgomery elected officials that they elect.

**Becky Pearson:** Not saying that you're not going to be here. But again, no board binds the other board. So, what happens is Supervisors are up every 2 years. Not saying you're not going to win. I'm not saying that at all. What I'm saying is one reason why the Villages didn't want to consolidate Police Departments at one time was because who was running the Town Board. That could change at any time. The Villages have any say. It was all going to be the Town Board.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** The operations the Ambulance Corps fall under the leadership of the Ambulance Corps Trustees, and that is not subject to any kind of political change. How the operations are run for the Ambulance Corps is that organization. How the money is dispersed and how much money is dispersed in a large scale decisions on that budget would be approved by the municipality. So that Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps is still its own 501c3 organization with its own leadership, supervision, management, Trustees, et cetera.

**Becky Pearson:** Any time this tax district can be dissolved through the Town.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** Yes.



**Becky Pearson:** A new Supervisor comes in and says I don't want this tax district because it's costing too much money. We're just going to disband it. There's no contract or anything through the Villages that was protecting you to be able to get your service. So, what happens?

**Manager Revella:** We go back to what we are now.

**Becky Pearson:** Maybe. If the Ambulance Corps is okay with that.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** That's a big what if. It's a really good question. We would go backwards. Is there any kind of time amount just how we went into it on how much notice the Town would have to give?

**Attorney Donovan:** There is a statutory provision, which I'm not in a position to parse out, but it's in Section 57 of the NYS Town law, Dissolution of Special Improvement District. There's a statutory scheme for it. The district, which would be the Town. Would have to have a public hearing. Basically they have to find for good cause shown that it makes sense to dissolve the district and then there's certain things that have to happen, especially if there is bonded indebtedness. That's going to have to be addressed in some fashion. There are some provisions that I came across that indicate that the Town may still have to operate that district for a period of time. But I guess it's up to the Town, because it's a Town district and there is a process for dissolution.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I addressed it because I asked a question about advisory, do we have any teeth? That was the point. Once the committee come together, I guess we can draft a document and give recommendations. But the Town has overall say so yes or no, which way they go.

**Becky Pearson:** Can the tax district be set up set up with a voice from each Village?

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** We can work through the advisory committee. We want to have a vote to make the Town to move because we're not a part of their board, but we can have an advisory.

**Attorney Donovan:** Unknown to me, whether you could have an intermunicipal agreement, called an IMA, to provide for that. I think probably unlikely, but I just don't know the answer. Typically, when you form a district, you have District Commissioners. Typically in a Town district, the District Commissioners are the Town Board and they're the be all and the end of the day. Whether this could be subject to some other agreement. I don't know the answer to that.

**Manager Revella:** You could have a separate commission for the district, correct?

**Attorney Donovan:** The district could appoint Commissioners.

**Becky Pearson:** But could the Commissioners be made to be in each Village?

**Manager Revella:** Sure.

**Becky Pearson:** There is a concern of things happening. I know the past Supervisor allowed to set up the program for the library that would bring the library up to where it's in par with the Town of Montgomery. The next Supervisor comes in and takes that away. That's my concern. What you get down, you may not have later on because you're going to get a new Supervisor. I get you want to trust in your local officials. But there's a lot to look at. I'm not against the process at all.

**Sylvie Rainaldi:** I have a thought on that because I don't think you're wrong. I think that from an

Ambulance Corps perspective, the tax district is the most way to protect it because right now a line item is the most flexible in what can be taken away and changed.

**Becky Pearson:** I think there's still work. There was a lot of good questions up here. Is that something that you're ready for? I get that Brian will be back here if it doesn't go through. I'm for it all, but there's questions still. On the second part of this, you just talked about construction activities. Good idea to look at the whole thing. Say, I want to fix my back door and couldn't do it on a Sunday. I think you need to look at large construction. Like someone putting siding on someone's house and the radio is blaring versus at home construction. No worse than barking dogs.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Talking about dissolution, as a 501c3 they have to have their own dissolution procedure anyway. You're talking about dissolution of a district, but if the Ambulance Corps dissolves, that comes under 501c3 law by state. There's lots of protections in every way from something like that happening. Of course, if the whole thing just collapses immediately because they have no funding, then guess what? We're up you know what creek. Put the shoe on the other foot and everybody who's worried about a substation in Walden. We're the problem for the rest of the Town because you try to go through 208 and 52 with the ambulance bus at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Good luck. We're holding up calls to the other part of the Town, not the other way around. We would probably get plenty of service and maybe if it was more centralized, we would get better service if we did something about controlling our intersection. Which is a nightmare. And we've never done it. The PD could deal with that and they don't. It's not going to be a light. It's going to be somebody out there directing traffic at certain peak times of the day. We brought it up on the board over and over again, and the past Chief just refused to even hear it. I offered to be on the box with the flag.

**Mayor Ramos:** It's not that easy.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Doing the job might not be easy, but having somebody there at peak times, especially afternoons with school busses. It would improve our reputation in the County. Let me tell you that. I have a concern. I'm glad everybody's bringing up more questions than one person could have thought of. It's great. It's about time. But aside from that, we're talking about a situation now where how many people have ever been involved with engaging with the Ambulance Corps, going to the Town Board meeting and saying, Well, you are giving the money out of the A fund at during the year and saying, these are our concerns. I never hear anybody or see anybody or have heard over the years people going. Also on the same note, you're dealing with an agency that is a 501c3. They're not a government agency. They are a private organization. And at this point, they're graciously saying to you, come to our meetings, we want you to come, we want you to participate. But they don't have to. They're not mandated by the same state laws that govern local government. I'm just going to play devil's advocate on this. You want to tell them how to spend their money. Well, how about when we have budget work sessions, you let the rest of us get up and tell you how to spend our money. We come to the budget work sessions year after year after year, and we can't open our mouths. I'm tired of that. Then come to the public hearing and just say what you have to say at the public hearing and then you vote on whatever it is you've already set up that has no public input. I just want to put that out there. You want to tell a 501c3 how to spend their money. Then right now in the A fund, which is a minuscule amount and even \$800,000, which is not a big amount by any stretch of the imagination in today's world, then put your money where your mouth is. I also just was reading this thing about changing the building code. Quiet hours or 11pm. I don't see any problem with somebody hammering in their house after work when they come home. I don't see any problem with somebody doing work on Sunday. How about they're out there with lawn mowers and leaf blowers on Sunday. This is overkill and getting in people's faces for no reason at all.

**John Hank:** I'm a resident of the Village of Montgomery. I've been involved in emergency services in the Town of Montgomery for over 27 years. I'm a past Chief of the Montgomery Fire Department. I've been involved in EMS for 27 years. I've been a police officer for 21. I'm currently the Police Chief in the Town of Montgomery. I started in the Maybrook Fire Department in 1994. I've also worked in commercial EMS for mobile life and I've also volunteered for the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps over the years. From listening to all of those who wanted to come up and give a little bit of perspective on how emergency services actually work. Because from listening to some of the questions and some of you speak, I feel that you don't have any fundamental understanding of how emergency services work and especially how EMS works. This is not a new issue. It's the first time I'm hearing Town Board and Village Boards really talk about it. This is an issue we have talked about for the 27 and a half years that I have been involved in emergency services. I became involved in EMS and became first, a certified first responder because I couldn't become an EMT until I was 18 and then an EMT. I became those things because ambulances routinely took over a half hour to show up to medical calls. 27 years, this has not gotten better. Some questions that were asked, will we still have 24 hour coverage in the Village of Walden? You don't have that now. That's not a thing. There's not an ambulance staff here 24 hours a day. There hasn't been in 27 years that I've been doing is. Who's coming, if they don't get out? If mobile life is not available, who's coming? Maybe Wallkill. Maybe Newburgh. Maybe New Windsor. Maybe new one. When you're having a heart attack, there might be no one coming with ALS availability. It happens all the time. Why isn't mobile life coming? Because they are a for profit service. They can only put out what they can fund. So when they run out of ambulances, they simply run out of ambulances. Then we start relying on other Towns who have done what we're talking about doing to come and bail us out. This system has been broken for as long as I have been involved in. The conversations that we are having now among Village and Town Boards. It's frustrating to me because we've been having these conversations in the firehouses and we've been having these conversations on ambulances for over 25 years. I can only speak to the last 27 seven years because that's as long as I've been involved in it. Guys that have been doing this longer will probably tell you that it's been going on for much longer than that. The decline in volunteerism as much as we struggle with it in the fire department, is a thousand times worse in emergency medical services. The days of volunteer EMS are pretty much gone. It requires far too much time. Far too much time to get yourself licensed and to keep yourself licensed and up to date, and then also to put forth the time that it takes to take a patient from any part of the Town of Montgomery a hospital in Newburgh or Middletown, or possibly up to Poughkeepsie or Port Jervis, depending on where that patient wants to go. From an emergency services standpoint, I have, up until a month and a half ago, I was still on patrol as a Sergeant. Town of Montgomery actually pays Police Officers more to be EMTs. The reason we do that is because we can never depend on ambulances to show up. We don't know how long it's going to take. I have sat on scene over the course of the last year up to an hour waiting for an ambulance. Because if one's not coming, they just keep going to somebody else. And if your call is not that serious, you don't know how long it's going to take for them to get there. I personally have done CPR on patients for over a half hour waiting for an ambulance to show up. The system is unbelievably broken. Everybody that works in the emergency services field is fully aware. It is absolutely sad. It has taken this long for government as a whole, including the Town, the Villages to look into this, to do anything about it or to even care in the time I've been doing this. Living in Maybrook, living in Montgomery. I've never heard any entity outside of the Town Board give any sort of air time to ambulance service to caring who's actually showing up unless it's a member of their family that got very poor service or waited a long time for an ambulance to show up. Getting this done and getting an ambulance district into place so that we can guarantee people that they are actually going to have somebody show up almost all of the time, is something that is long overdue. It's decades overdue. One of the things that I when I was asked about this and the Town Supervisor came to me and ask me about it, knowing my background and how much I've been involved and I'm still involved in the Fire Department. I'm not on the ambulance anymore. He asked me what my trepidation was and what I think will kill this project, and my answer was as

quick as I could say it, politics. Politics will kill this. Because of how districts work. I guaranteed him that there would be problems with Villages not being able to have a say because that's how Town districts are set up. In NY, the way that these things are set up, everything is done through home rule, just like the Village Boards and Town Board have no say in Fire Department operations because they're done by districts. That's why we have 3 ladder trucks, 4 heavy rescue trucks and somewhere around 12 engines in the Town of Montgomery. Because everybody can just do whatever they want. Nobody has to work together. We have 4 Police Departments. 4 governing bodies. All these different things get involved. They don't want to give up anything. They don't want to give up any services. They don't want to not be able to have a say in what's happening. And at some point, for the betterment of the public, we have to give some of that up. Unless we're going to go with the way that we have for as long as this Town has existed, and instead of doing something altogether, we'll have the Walden Ambulance, Maybrook Ambulance, Village of Montgomery and the Town of Montgomery Ambulance. Just like we have Police Department. It doesn't make any sense. We need to do something to fix this. And I can't believe that 25 years later, we're still having the same discussions in the firehouses. And they're just getting to the elected bodies now. This is far overdue. It's shocking to me that it has never been brought up before, never been pushed before by people who've suffered at this horribly broken system that we've had for all this time. I've witnessed it. I've been present for it. I've sat there and put multiple oxygen tanks on people because we keep running out waiting for ambulances to show up. It doesn't work. The ambulance call volumes have only gone increasingly up and up and up, especially over the last 2 years with the COVID nightmare. The Town and the Villages need to get together and do something to fix this. If we fall back on this system that we've had all along, it's going to continue to not work. And hopefully, when it really doesn't work and somebody's life is on the line, it's not somebody that voted against. Thank you. I appreciate your time.

**Gerald Mishk:** Something came up before about the construction law proposed. I stopped in to the Building Department today to inquire about the law because the last 2 Sundays, there's been a roofing contractor working directly across from MPB Church. Which was kind of disturbing. So it was my understanding that when I was told that they were proposing this change, that it wasn't going to apply to residents doing their own work. Just commercial contractors. After listening to everybody speak, I think there was a misunderstanding. I just wanted to, from my perspective, clear that up.

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

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

#### **Correspondence**

**Trustee Maher:** I mentioned it earlier, I had received several emails from concerned residents from the Village of Walden and the Town of Montgomery, just in regards to the ambulance tax districts and voicing that they were in favor of it and why.

**Trustee Elliott:** I received that too.

**Trustee Thompson:** I also received 2 emails and also received something from an Emmitt Armstrong trying to promote ballistic armor for the Police Department.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Nothing outside of what everyone else received.

**Mayor Ramos:** I, too, received the 2 emails from residents within the Village. And again, we have to preface, I'd be remiss if I didn't, we are not here to dismiss the ambulance service. I'm going to continually say this. We just want to do it the right way. It's hard to put another line number on

taxes to the Village residents and the Town residents without doing our homework.

**Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees**

**Trustee Thompson:** Since Mr. Mishk is here, I would like to thank him for his years of service as our Village Justice and I wish you well in whatever your next chapter is. I also have one question. When Brenda Adams brought up asking for additional funding for Veterans Park, does that fall under our Parks Department's budget?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** So, that would be something you would increase when you're working on the budget?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** I just wanted to clarify that because I always assumed that that particular park fell under our scope of all of our parks.

**Manager Revella:** It's a specific line item, Veterans Park under the Parks Department.

**Trustee Thompson:** I know that even though there are certain caretakers of that park, it still comes under our Parks and Rec Department as one of our Village parks.

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Maher:** I just wanted to say if anyone, any residents that are watching at home, I know there's been a lot covered in the past 2 weeks. Reach out to us because that's what we're here for. If you have any questions or if you can't hear appropriately. We're here to answer any questions on the issues. The only other question I had in regards to the Veterans Park, Brenda, is could you consider a gift?

**Manager Revella:** They do accept gifts through the Community Council.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Just in reference with Chief Hank, this gives more kudos to Town Supervisor Maher, that it's been on the books a long time that the system is broke and to bring it up now is kudos to that administration. As the Mayor has stated and I just reiterate, the goal is not to dismantle ambulance services. Let's do it in an efficient way so that we can make sure the taxpayers understand 100 percent what's going on. So, that they'll fully understand it wasn't just somebody just saying yes.

**Mayor Ramos:** Judge Mishk, thank you again for your tenure with us. You've served us well and we'll miss you. I have to again reiterate that we obviously done our homework and I'm proud of our board, even the ones that are missing, for doing their homework, facilitating the questions, our Village Manager for forwarding us all the information that we need and we'll get this worked out. We're not shut out with what we want to do and I'm going to keep on saying that we just have to the next Village Board meeting will be virtual on January 18th. We're getting to a tempest right now and we're going to be preventive.

**Becky Pearson:** Questions that people have, will somebody be watching that?

**Mayor Ramos:** Yes. We will have those capabilities.

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

Trustee Maher made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
January 4, 2022  
Motions & Resolutions**

**Resolution 8-21-22 – Budget Transfers**

Trustee Elliott made a motion to adopt Resolution 8-21-22 – Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution 9-21-22 – Designating Polling Place and Time**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 9-21-22 – Designating Polling Place and Time of the Village Elections on March 15, 2022 8am-9pm at Village Hall 1 Municipal Square, Walden NY 12586. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Payment of Audited Bills**

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

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

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**Reconvene**

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