

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
February 21, 2023**

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
		Becky Pearson
		John Elliott (late)

Absent:	Patricia Maher
	Brian Sebring

Also Present:	John Revella, Village Manager
	Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk
	Kelly A Kelly, Village Treasurer
	Robert Dickover, Village Attorney

**Village Manager's Report**

**Manager Revella:** We've been going over CSEA matters, trying to get prepared for the new union contract and negotiations. Hopefully, will have a meeting with the two appointed board members and our special counsel shortly. Going over a few PBA matters, including personnel with the special counsel and Chief and the Clerk. Went over project updates with the DPW Super and engineer. Been going over audit findings and updates with the Finance Department. Trustee Maher and Deputy Mayor Carley have been coming in to talk to us about those as well for updates from the board side. Had a programming meeting with Trustee Maher and the Rec Coordinator and the rec staff and another volunteer to go over certain things and programming at the new Anita Vandermark Community Center. Went through the ten year capital plan with the Engineer. We're doing updates for that to prepare for the upcoming budget. Discussed some problem properties with the Building Department staff. They put some of those in the report. Had a few meetings and correspondence with Trustee Pearson, Trustee Thompson and Building Department officials as well regarding the short term rental proposed local law. Been doing updates and clarifications on those things and terms for adding in and updating and looking at other laws and trying to filter it in to try and get the best law on the books that we can. If you do look at Chief Herlihy's report as well, there's been some staffing issues. It's been really hard down there with people out. But we're trying. Hopefully the new list comes out next month and we can start to backfill. Did go over the contract and bid documents for garbage. To be reviewed tonight by the board. Went to the Music in the Grove meeting. We had a committee meeting to discuss dates and performances for the coming year. Rec and Parks Department, they had 167 participants in the basketball program. Park use requests have been coming in consistently. Teen Center and after school are going well. Building Department, Code Enforcement Officer issued 7 permits, 9 certificates of compliance, 5 violations for property maintenance, 7 fire safety inspections. Had a couple complaints in the office. Issued 4 landlord registry violations, 3 noncompliance violations and did 18 inspections. The Building Inspector issued 6 permits, 4 certificates of compliance, 2 COs, 7 violation notices, including for a couple particular properties that had some zoning and planning issues. He's pushing on those. They both

had some training down in Chester last week. Clerk's been helping out with Facebook, website, 207c, workers comp, civil service, the county, FOILs. Responding to complaints in the office from residents, any issues with garbage, etc. Finance, been working on audits with the internal as well as comptroller. Taking up a lot of time, unfortunately, but just pushing through. Also at the same time, having a few meetings with board members and staff to go over the audits. Some issues, with the Edmonds software that come up. Got a ban out for bid. Did some transfers in accordance with the board resolution, met with me on a few issues and requests. Went over vouchers. DPW Super and the department has been maintaining vehicles, replacing parts of the sewer plant. Had a couple of generator maintenance issues come up that they're working on. We're hoping to get the upgraded one installed. The engineer is working on that. Water department put in 22 meters, 21 end points got replaced, 13 mark outs, 2 inspections, 4 closings. They also assisted with a valve issue, which they actually got to today over on North Montgomery Street. Maintenance on facilities. Still working on some evaluations for employees, helping streetlight repairs. Mapping the catch basins, flushing, jetting, working on permits, they've been helping with updates to safety at Village Hall, they replaced one of the doors already and some springs that have been really helpful. Police Department have been having issues, as I said earlier, with staffing and overtime, part timers being worked as much as they can, but with full timers, right now we have 4 full timers out, 5 actually right now, full timers out and 1 vacancy. So, 6 empty positions that are not being filled as of this moment. It's really hurting the staff. They did issue 4 traffic tickets, 2 summonses, went to 5 MVAs, 6 arrests, 12 stops and 259 blotters since last meeting.

**Trustee Pearson:** You talked about security. What about the new window on the third floor?

**Manager Revella:** Everything's been ordered.

**Trustee Pearson:** How much longer?

**Manager Revella:** Soon as it comes in, it'll be put in. This week or next.

**Trustee Pearson:** With the Police Department, I understand why, but what are we going to do about it? How much in overtime?

**Manager Revella:** Way over. I'm not even sure what the number is right now. We're over a hundred thousand for the year.

**Trustee Pearson:** What plan do we have besides waiting for a new list to come out, can we hire a temporary personnel?

**Manager Revella:** No, you can't. These people that are out are entitled to their full time positions to be held. Still have to pay them for full salary.

**Trustee Pearson:** But you can't hire other people, temporary people in the meantime?

**Manager Revella:** That's called part timers, which we're trying. Can't hire a full timer, though. We don't have the position for it.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm not talking about full time. Talking about part time.

**Manager Revella:** We've been advertising. It's not easy to be a Police Officer nowadays.

**Trustee Pearson:** The heat situation down there, where are we with that? Whatever the problem is.

**Manager Revella:** The ac. The engineers are looking at the bids that we got. We got the revised bid so that they actually match and he's going to let me know which one is the best one to go with.

**Trustee Pearson:** How much longer do we have to wait for that?

**Manager Revella:** As soon as he gets it back to me, it will get done.

**Trustee Pearson:** How long does it take to move Wooster Grove to Olley Park? They've been doing that for four weeks, two meetings now.

**Manager Revella:** It's not all day, every day. It's as they get things done, they move it over.

**Trustee Pearson:** What's rec doing? They're doing programs, but it's not like DPW that they're out flushing. What are they doing during the day?

**Manager Revella:** There's only one person.

**Trustee Pearson:** There's one person?

**Manager Revella:** For parks? To move things. That's the Parks Department that does that and we have one full timer. The part timers are only in sometimes. That's not Mike's job to move stuff. I'm sure he is doing some, but that's not his job description.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, we have to have a job description to move stuff?

**Manager Revella:** Yes, do you want them to get hurt working out of title? That would be a problem. It's a union job. You can't take union work away either, we don't need a grievance.

**Trustee Pearson:** If he's a supervisor, why wouldn't he be able to move?

**Manager Revella:** He does move some stuff.

**Trustee Pearson:** It seems to me like every time I read this, I keep seeing that that's still going on. I can't understand why he's taking so long. Are we changing anything for summer camp registration? Are we keeping it all the same?

**Manager Revella:** Unless the board wants to change something. Right now, it's the same. We went over the numbers with the town and that's what was done based on that.

**Trustee Pearson:** There was a meeting with Trustee Maher and you and Parks Supervisor. How did that come about? I didn't think we had liaisons to parks and everything else. How does a trustee get to be in a meeting like that?

**Manager Revella:** They asked.

**Trustee Pearson:** Why aren't other people asked.

**Manager Revella:** She asked if she can go. She was here at the meeting. She asked about what the programs were at the park.

**Trustee Pearson:** I asked what the programs were going to be as well, nobody invited me. I'm just questioning why certain board members. That's not the way this board is supposed to work

anymore. You're supposed to have a committee or you're going to have a committee formed. That's what I hear. We don't have liaisons. If we want that to move forward, then everybody should be asked if they want to be a part of it in my book. That's what I'm saying. Thank you.

**Manager Revella:** Just so you know, I didn't set up the meeting.

**Trustee Pearson:** Pleasant Avenue, sewer lateral. They want to abandon the lateral. Is that allowed? And how does that work?

**Manager Revella:** If somebody abandons a lateral, we try to make them take it out so it's not there for infiltration in the future.

**Trustee Pearson:** Why would they abandon a lateral? Because the house is being torn down or something?

**Manager Revella:** Could be for a replacement. Could be for any other number of reasons.

**Trustee Pearson:** The letter that you posted on Facebook about the sewer. Have you gotten a lot of calls or what's happening with that still or anything? Has it calmed down since you put that out?

**Manager Revella:** I haven't gotten a lot of calls, but numerous responses on social media.

**Trustee Pearson:** I sent you all an email regarding Orange County Transit. It just makes me very angry that certain people are involved again that shouldn't be involved or if they're involved, the manager. Let me start with the manager from government. We have a manager from government and it seems like people overstep their bounds of what they're supposed to be doing. Not meaning the manager. He wasn't even at that meeting I heard. How would we have a meeting with Orange County Transit and something as important as that and the board hasn't even discussed it yet. And the laterals and tax payers paying for that money for those services. I don't understand how we get to that point. Manager's not there, mayor's there, attorneys there. Why is that? Why is that going to happen? It shouldn't be happening. That's not your role as the mayor. That's the manager's role. If he wants to not be there, then he's going to have to reschedule that meeting.

**Mayor Ramos:** Are you defining my role?

**Trustee Pearson:** I am defining your role. That's not your role. Your role is to be legislative. It's not to be a part of every meeting that comes up. If the manager wanted to invite you to a meeting, that's a different story. But that's his responsibility to find out what's happening there. Number one, he wasn't there. I don't know why he wasn't there in that meeting. Should never have happened, as far as I'm concerned. You all got my email. You know how I felt about it. You're possibly going to set precedent on this whole issue with an annexed piece of property that now we had attorneys tell us that buyer beware. When I sat on the Zoning Board, many attorneys used to say it's not the village's responsibility for when somebody buys a piece of property and all of a sudden they can't get what they want. That's not our responsibility and we're going to start to set precedent. Maybe we're going to have that discussion. I know the mayor said he was going to talk about it tonight. Hopefully he will. Thank you.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm glad we're finally moving ahead with doing some of the programming for Olley Park. Do we have any kind of a timeframe as to when we'll see some sort of a tentative schedule posted? Will it be monthly? Will it be yearly? How far how far out are we going? And will someone be able to tell us what sort of activities?

**Manager Revella:** I have a rough draft, one that I'll share with the board after the meeting, which kind of goes through ideas that were discussed.

**Trustee Thompson:** I've been looking around and I see some municipalities actually post for an entire calendar year.

**Manager Revella:** We have the one from Village Montgomery that we were using at the meeting as well.

**Trustee Thompson:** Then they just add and delete as they need to. The adult gym, someone asked, I believe, at the last meeting about how many people actually show up for that and is it worth it for the village to have employees there? Do we do we have any number? Has it improved? I know it was a little dismal at first.

**Manager Revella:** This last one that I know of was dismal.

**Trustee Thompson:** What is our plan for that? How long are we going to wait before we say not working?

**Manager Revella:** Maybe another week. See if something happens different.

**Trustee Thompson:** Do you think it's cost effective?

**Manager Revella:** No. It's a good attempt. If it works out, great. If it doesn't, then we shouldn't do it.

**Trustee Thompson:** Again, you're content with the numbers that are enrolled in the after school program.

**Manager Revella:** That's good. Afterschool and teen center have good attendance.

**Trustee Thompson:** I was looking at the invoices that we sign and I see that there's a lot of cleaning products ordered for the new facility at Olley Park. Do our employees, if we're going to be cleaning that with commercial products, are you requiring that they take some sort of a training program so they know what the products are and how to use them properly?

**Manager Revella:** Like a PESH class?

**Trustee Thompson:** Something like that. I know when I worked at the hospital, that was requirement because, it's involving the public, children, elderly people. I just want to make sure that we do whatever it is we need to do. That people that are cleaning know how to do it safely and properly.

**Manager Revella:** The person that's cleaning down there is the one that's been cleaning at the other facilities with the same products.

**Trustee Thompson:** I thought our staff was cleaning down there.

**Manager Revella:** The same one that's been cleaning at Wooster.

**Trustee Thompson:** So, we're not talking about the company that cleans.

**Manager Revella:** No. We haven't decided to do that yet. If it becomes an issue, we may move to that, depending on how the use is down there and the cleaning down there. If it doesn't fit, then we'll talk about moving that route.

**Trustee Thompson:** It looked like a lot of supplies were being ordered, which is good. I just want to make sure that everyone is trained on how to use everything properly. Can you elaborate more on problem properties that are discussed in the report?

**Manager Revella:** I don't remember the address. There were several addresses that were violated by the Code Enforcement Officer and the Building Inspector. I put one address in there in particular because it was a few different problems.

**Trustee Thompson:** Are these abandoned properties?

**Manager Revella:** No.

**Trustee Thompson:** I had asked a few weeks ago about the signs that are falling down in the parking lot behind the old town hall.

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** They're still there.

**Manager Revella:** I asked the department about that as well. And one of the people that work in that department use that driveway often and didn't know what we were referring to. I'll have to talk to them about that.

**Trustee Thompson:** You'll have to talk to them about that.

**Manager Revella:** Do you have a picture of something?

**Trustee Thompson:** Would you like me to walk down there and take that photograph this evening?

**Manager Revella:** We'll go after the meeting? I'm just not sure which sign you mean. I'll check.

**Trustee Thompson:** You will only see two that look like they are going to fall to the ground in the parking lot behind the old town hall building.

**Manager Revella:** Private property.

**Trustee Thompson:** Which I asked you if we could contact the owner and get them to fix them or give us permission to remove them.

**Manager Revella:** Yes. I mentioned that to all three of the employees in the department.

**Trustee Thompson:** Can you please just ask that the Code Enforcement Officer writes in his report that he's been diligent in attending all of the short term rental meetings?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** People that do work should get credit for what they're doing and it is part of his report. I also wanted to bring up the heat in the Police Department. I stopped in there the other

night, and it was just, it was oppressive. I pulled out some of my old emails, we were sent an email in November.

**Manager Revella:** Correct.

**Trustee Thompson:** This is a lot of time that's gone by. I just wish we could have a time frame to work within. It just seems very generic. I understand you have to get bids. I understand we have to worry about the money. I get it. But the people in there are very, very miserable. It's a difficult situation because they're all working so hard, they're so tired and it's very uncomfortable to be in there. I just hope we give that a little more attention and I understand the staffing issues. Is any type of creative scheduling, has that been discussed for them?

**Manager Revella:** They've been working through different schedules.

**Trustee Thompson:** But I mean like flexing and longer shifts, less shifts. Has every option been explored yet?

**Manager Revella:** We do flexing with the sergeants, but not with the regular staff.

**Trustee Thompson:** Is there even enough staff to make that happen? Sometimes for that type of scheduling, you need more bodies. I feel like we really need to be creative.

**Manager Revella:** I don't know if we're allowed to do that under the contract.

**Trustee Thompson:** It could be something we could explore if this doesn't improve, correct?

**Manager Revella:** Correct.

**Trustee Thompson:** You had made a comment at the last meeting and I honestly I didn't see it in the minutes about the water meters we have. We now have to go 5G.

**Clerk Kraus:** It's in the minutes.

**Trustee Thompson:** I couldn't find it. It may very well be there and I missed it. Does that mean everyone has to get another new meter?

**Manager Revella:** Just a new endpoint.

**Trustee Thompson:** Do we have to contact the Building or the Water Department or do they contact us?

**Manager Revella:** They've been going through and contacting the addresses that need them. Depending on when you got your new meter, you may have 5G already.

**Trustee Thompson:** The village will let residents know.

**Manager Revella:** They have been doing that.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The CSEA. Are we going to schedule a time?

**Manager Revella:** I'm waiting for the special counsel to let us know their schedule.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I guess it could be long, drawn out.

**Manager Revella:** It could. We can talk about that in attorney client.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I guess I'm just trying to figure out what Trustee Pearson was talking about having the mayor sit in for you. I'm just thinking that at any meeting he could say, hey, can somebody sit in for me?

**Trustee Pearson:** John didn't even know there was a meeting, as far as I'm concerned.

**Manager Revella:** I knew there was a meeting. I told them I couldn't come because I had a medical appointment.

**Trustee Pearson:** I don't think we should have a meeting. We pay him \$100,000 and more to run this village. My view is, why do we have a manager form a government if the mayor is going to be doing that work? That's not what the job is supposed to be.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The reason I brought it up, because there's a human factor to this whole government thing that sometimes people can't be where we think they should be and they have a designee. I don't think it's out of character, out of the rules. I don't think it's illegal to have a designee there. For example, if you can't go to a meeting, he says, Trustee Pearson, can you be there for me? That's an example. It's not that it should be put out here in public, as though he's not doing his job.

**Trustee Pearson:** That's not what I'm saying. I'm saying that there was a meeting, then he should reschedule the meeting.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** What I'm getting at he has the option to do whatever you want as a Village Manager and if he has a trustee that he wants to sit in for him, that is his decision and we as Trustees, we should trust that he's doing his job and doing that part. Only reason I'm bringing it up because it was pretty passionate, the part that you said, and I'm not here to take up for him, but I'm here to take up for the position that a Village Manager can appoint anyone he wants to sit in for him in a meeting without being disparaged in any kind of way.

**Trustee Pearson:** Did you did you appoint the mayor to go on your behalf?

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** If he asked the mayor was there and to be at the meeting, that's his appointment. What I'm getting at is, he doesn't have to formally put it in writing. He doesn't have to formally say I knight you with a sword and everything to be in a meeting. Hey, there's a meeting. Can you be there? I can't be there for whatever reason. Even if he had knowledge of and if they to have a communication then goes back to supervisory type stuff where we just talked about overstepping bounds. There's a lot of overstepping bounds with the board, too. We have oversight, which 100%. We should make sure that we have clear knowledge of the going ins and outs of the village. But at the same time, we got to let our supervisors and our managers do what they supposed to do, but yet have a good check and balance without being accusatory.

**Trustee Pearson:** Exactly right. They should need to do what they need to do. That's their job. That's what they get paid to do. John, did you invite the mayor to go to your meeting in place of you?

**Manager Revella:** I don't think it's appropriate to comment on this.



\*Discussion continued between Deputy Mayor Carley and Trustee Pearson\*

**Mayor Ramos:** SPEDES. Can you give me a little bit more info? I know the governor had signed the multi-billion billions and billions of dollars, and one of those aspects were SPEDES grants. Where are we on that?

**Manager Revella:** We had discussions with DEC regarding our SPEDES permit and enhancing that to include more flow so that we're not violated constantly, even though our plant is more than capable of handling more flow. Our permit allows 1.2 million gallons per day. Our plant can handle more than twice that amount per day without any issues of effluent going into the river without treatment issues, without overtaxing any of the equipment that's there. We asked the DEC if they would raise our limit so we're not violated every day for the nonsense that happens down there because we're working on the I & I. We have two grants for CDBG we're working on to get lining. We have the grant from the state for the Tin Brook Pump Station and headworks. Until we get that done, it's going to be an issue. Even after that's done, still may be an issue where we want that extra amount of allowable flow so we can have some growth in the village without being in violation. They seem to be open to it and that's why we've been having discussions. But there's nothing formally yet.

**Mayor Ramos:** Make sure you get everything in writing from them.

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

#### **Approval of January 17, 2023 & February 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. 3 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Thomson). Motion failed.

**Trustee Thompson:** I didn't finish reading them.

**Manager Revella:** Minutes become official minutes 14 days after they're made. Duly noted.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve the February 7, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Public Comment**

**Susan Taylor:** I was hoping Orange County Transit would be here. I love listening to that. I thought Kidd Farm was the longest project we had going in this village. This is beyond already. Are they still using the porta potties on the property after they moved all their employees there without the village knowledge?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know if they're using porta potties there right now. I know that they have our water they're using. I'm not sure about septic.

**Susan Taylor:** Because I can remember asking the question when we started this whole issue, what the capacity was for the sewer and water that they had on that property at the time. They were within that capacity and then all of a sudden all the employees came from the Maybrook hub. They installed the porta potties. If they don't have them there, then everybody's using the sewer system that we were concerned about the capacity. Anybody checking on that?

**Manager Revella:** I'm not aware if the engineer checked them out yet or not. I know that anybody that does have a septic in the village is supposed to have an engineer's inspection annually. I'm just not sure if that's been done at this place. I'll ask.

**Susan Taylor:** I would think that would be a priority because it was a concern when we annexed that property. And then all of a sudden, here comes all the employees. They had the porta potties up, which I doubt they were monitoring, who was using those and who was using the sewer system within the building. I would check on that. I don't think they ever had any intention of hooking up the water and sewer. This is going on ad nauseum. The guy comes, thank you for coming for giving us your report. Meanwhile, here we are still with the issues at the property. I'd suggest that somebody check that issue out as far as the sewage usage goes. Am I allowed to comment on the conversation that happened during the Village Manager's Report? I would say that's kind of business to the board. Or do you want me to hold that until a public comment?

**Mayor Ramos:** You can go.

**Susan Taylor:** I agree with Becky. Maybe people aren't familiar with 15A. Which is the government that we run under. It's a Village Manager form of government. I was told many times, spoke to NYCOM. The mayor is basically a trustee who has a different title, one of seven. And if you want to check the minutes, I said numerous times. Is it the pleasure of the board that I do X, Y, or Z because I was representing the board. So, if the manager happened to ask someone to sit in on a meeting with him, it had to be at the pleasure of the board. The rest of you would have to say, yes, you can represent the village at this X, Y, Z, whatever it is. But the danger of that, when I sat on this board was that you have to be very careful about what you say. You're the mayor of the village. The people that you're meeting with, cannot mistake that you speak for the other six people on this board. If you're not speaking for the other six people on the board. That's what I was told. Not sure I have read 15A, it's antiquated. I don't know how many in the state.

**Manager Revella:** Just one.

**Susan Taylor:** We're it. So, if you're not happy with that form of government, you can always put a referendum on the ballot and have it changed to strong mayor.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I've read it to and I disagree and it's okay.

**Susan Taylor:** I would call NYCOM and speak to an attorney because they will tell you exactly that. Unless they've changed their law rules.

**Trustee Thompson:** It's in their handbook.

**Susan Taylor:** Exactly. I agree.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I just disagree.

**Susan Taylor:** I'm just cautioning you. For that matter, we should be the first ones. Anybody in government that serves the public. There is an expectation that you will be first in line to get permits for anything that you want to do. You lead by example. You get the first permits to have anything done at your house. You pay attention to what the laws are and what the rules are and what the policies are in the village. And you make certain that you stand on that line because who are we to judge somebody else the way they keep their homes, the way they do their business? If we're not setting an example and it's everybody that works for this village and everybody that serves the village. I was always very mindful of that. Did I misstep? Probably along the line somewhere. But I didn't do it in a malicious manner. Lead by example. Think about who you're representing and who you are and follow the rules and err on the side of caution.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Just one more comment about what Sue just said. 15A comes under the old village law. The Village Manager here, it's a totally different set of laws than, say, a manager in Westchester because they're under the new village law. Wade Beltramo at NYCOM is very well versed in the Village of Walden. Call him any time. He will explain it all to you. And if he doesn't give you the answer, the legal department at the Department of State will.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I humbly disagree with the context.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** I don't want to get into a little match here.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I humbly disagree in the context we're having a conversation.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** People can disagree, but that's the state law and it's part of his a part of the contract.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** You're pulling it out of context and that's my issue.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** No, we're just talking about the manager form of government and I'm not talking about anything else. So, I'm looking at this Anita Vandermark Community Center application and I don't find it online under the village. The old one for the other Parks is on the website. I have questions, I see we have a no smoking policy and of course we know that that was one of the big issues where you give an alcohol waiver and of course smoking and alcohol go together. And that was one of the big issues that the fire department used to have. Which was why all the rigmarole on Pond Road with the residents was all about for a long time. If people smoke and there's cigarette butts left all over the place, is that going to come out of there clean up deposit? Is there a fee schedule or a schedule of deductions? But that's also going to be very tricky. And Mike Bliss knows this because I was at Town Hall numerous times when he had this schedule of deposits there and people took exception to it and people got their money back, the full deposit back. I don't know how we're going to enforce it, but Mike will have to deal with that and you will have to deal with that with him. You're asking for people's homeowner's insurance as proof of insurance. I don't know how that's supposed to work and having gone through a big issue with homeowner's insurance the past year and a half, I would never do it. I would never put an event there under my homeowner's insurance. And where's the insurance form? Then where's this deposit and cleanup form online? It should all be online. I just don't know how you're going to monitor it, really. Somebody really has to be there for unlocking the door, for going back and checking. I also asked the Hamlet of Wallkill, Shawangunk Fire Department, they have an agreement form, I don't know if you've checked other people's agreement forms because this really probably is not sufficient. You probably need a whole lot more than this.

### **Olley Park Waiver**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve alcohol waiver for the community center on March 11, 2023. Seconded by Mayor Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Garbage Bid**

**Manager Revella:** We have to get this bid out timely in order for people to respond timely. We want the board to have time to review them, to see which direction they want to go, depending on how the responses come back. The packet itself is pretty similar to the last packet that was put out. Including terms for penalty, terms for service, 2 bulk pick-ups a year, one in April, one in October, outdoor yard waste from April through to December, just like it is now, once a week. Garbage and recycling separate once per week as well through the whole term, including a separate bid for commercial. The same options that we discussed last couple of contracts were the ability to have the side arm loaders. To have less stuff on the street. The toters that we have with a requirement that the

winning company provides the totes that are needed. Insurance, etc. Those things are all in there as well.

**Mayor Ramos:** The condition of totes, missing wheels, missing lids.

**Trustee Thompson:** It's in here. I read that. It says something about if the condition of the tote is not acceptable, you're to notify the Clerk who will notify the garbage company that you need a new can and there are two different sizes of cans. One thing. The dates are different in two different places in here, about when we pick up. One says March to December and the other one says April to December.

**Manager Revella:** Would you know which page? We did do some corrections. Just want to make sure. It should be April for yard waste.

**Trustee Thompson:** Page 37. It says March through December. But it also talks about weather permitting and I remember we have had times where we've extended that. Then wherever else it is in here, it says April.

**Manager Revella:** I changed the one to April.

**Trustee Thompson:** Last paragraph 10 A. We had a brief discussion about the terms of the contract because with the fines we have now, it appears that it's really not improving some of the issues that the residents are having. We had asked about that number for the fines. Should we alter that?

**Manager Revella:** Like make it more?

**Trustee Thompson:** Yes. There's something on page 19.

**Manager Revella:** It's up to you how much you think is prudent.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm just asking. Your office gets the calls all the time, so you absolutely have an idea of how many times residents are calling with the same complaint. Would it behoove us to maybe increase that?

**Manager Revella:** I don't think that doubling it wouldn't be too far out of line.

**Trustee Thompson:** All of our phone calls and our pleading and our asking, it doesn't seem to be improving the situation with the money that they're getting fined now.

**Trustee Pearson:** Do we actually fine them?

**Manager Revella:** We have. Not as frequently as we probably could.

**Trustee Thompson:** You mean we could be more efficient fining them like?

**Manager Revella:** Sometimes it's hard to give the evidence because people make the complaint and by the time we get there, somebody cleaned it up. Even the neighbor sometimes cleans it up before we can get there and get evidence of it to fine them, unfortunately. It's good that we have good neighbors.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm just trying to find out how we can come up with something to make them do their job better for our community. There are things all through here about where they're

supposed to leave the trash cans, and they don't leave the cans where they're supposed to leave them. That's another issue. And then on page 16, number 13, if they spill something from the cans or when the bags break for the yard waste, they leave it all over the street. I just would like to know how we can stay on top of the things they are not doing properly.

**Manager Revella:** Agreed. I do anticipate an increase for whoever gets the bid because the tipping fees have gone up so much. So, it makes sense to also increase the fine.

**Trustee Pearson:** How Much?

**Manager Revella:** Double. \$500 per occasion. Is that okay?

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** It just goes back to enforcement. We can, but if we don't enforce it. That's the issue of enforcement.

**Manager Revella:** We have been trying to enforce sometimes it's just hard to get the evidence in time to do the enforcement. But we've had a couple of incidents where we had the pictures. The residents would provide the pictures and show them like, hey, this is twice.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** So maybe we should put that out some kind of way to our residents. For the ones who are having chronic issues. If there's a problem, please take a photo, send it to X, Y, and Z, and then we'll discuss it.

**Manager Revella:** And some people are pretty good about getting that information to us when that happens.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** However, we want to send it out there. I haven't had any complaints, but I have my own personal but nothing major. But if someone saying that this is chronic and this is always happening, maybe they should know to take a picture of it and email it to those individuals so that it could be addressed and then we can do enforcement.

**Manager Revella:** Any the other changes so we can get the bid out? Besides those two big ones.

**Trustee Thompson:** I thought everything else was pretty self-explanatory.

**Mayor Ramos:** Are we going to remain consistent with the doubling of the fines? Because Section 10E obviously the 5:30 a.m. wake up.

**Manager Revella:** Fines are for any incident. It doesn't matter if it's garbage or otherwise. Liquidated damages for any violation of the contract.

**Mayor Ramos:** 10E collection earlier than 5:30 a.m.

**Trustee Pearson:** 5:30 is early. Does it need to be 5:30?

**Manager Revella:** It can't be before 5:30. The problem is the transfer station closes at a certain hour. So, if they don't start early enough, they won't get it done on time. If the transfer station was open longer hours. Yeah, that'd be ideal.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** If you said, today is Monday or Tuesday, and do they pay the same day or do they wait a week?

**Manager Revella:** You mean the transfer station? I'm not sure how the county bills that.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I'm saying because further on page 20 \$1,000 per day.

**Manager Revella:** Plus the other fines.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** We complain on Tuesday, they don't get it till Thursday or Wednesday.

**Manager Revella:** That's two grand plus and whatever the issue is.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** And they pay that?

**Manager Revella:** They would have to. We haven't had it come up. Thankfully. There have been some weather incidents where they've been delayed, which it's out of their control.

**Mayor Ramos:** Broken down trucks?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know if they can get away with that. That's not sufficient. Truck issues are their problem, not ours. Transfer station closing because of whether or something is a problem out of their control.

**Trustee Pearson:** On page 14. I didn't realize that rimless tires, we can send them in to be picked up. Rimless tires shall be separately collected by the contractor once a year from location on the date specified by the Village Manager. So, we can bring tires to someplace in the village and have them taken away?

**Manager Revella:** Once a year if we have a collection. Like we did one time, we did electronic, but they don't even do that anymore.

**Trustee Pearson:** I had no idea we did that.

**Manager Revella:** We'll see if they don't note that when they sign the contract.

**Trustee Pearson:** Then on that same page 14 letter D, the village option where specifically conditions and warrant the contractor supplied dumpsters of a suitable capacity by the village for collection purposes. 10 such dumpsters shall be provided correct to the village. Is that for our dumpsters?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. Ours. Village Hall, parks. Village facilities.

**Trustee Pearson:** I was waiting for the mayor to bring up because I know someone spoke to him about the commercial part of this that may have an issue. I know they spoke to you as well about the commercial part and they have bulk pickup every week from them. That is not listed in here. Is there an issue for them that they're going to have to worry about that or what has happened?

**Manager Revella:** That's part of the commercial side. Each commercial entity makes their own individual arrangement for service. Like one business may need a two yard dumps, one may need a five yard. One may need bulk, one might need cardboard or a compactor. Those are individual contracts that's done, but billed through us.

**Trustee Pearson:** I don't know about that from this person.

**Manager Revella:** Yes. They bill through us. They pay us.

**Trustee Pearson:** There's not one fee for every business in the village. It goes by how many dumpsters they have?

**Manager Revella:** The size, frequency, all those things are factored in. For example, a Chinese restaurant may contract for once a week, but they're overflowing. No, you need twice a week. You're getting billed twice a week, they'll go pick it up twice a week. So, we have to regulate that as well. And that did happen initially. It was bad.

**Trustee Pearson:** That's set up by you? You have to tell the business person.

**Manager Revella:** If it's an issue. Usually Interstate Waste will contract with the commercial entity or whoever the winning bidder is would then contract with them for that service and it's billed through the village.

**Trustee Pearson:** I know they had a concern. They didn't come to the next meeting come.

**Manager Revella:** We did discuss that with that person.

**Trustee Elliott:** Is there any way to increase the amount of bulk pick up for residential?

**Manager Revella:** More than twice a year? We can ask. I'm just not sure if you want stuff out in the village more than twice a year looking like that. That was kind of one of the reasons why we only did it twice a year. Was like a spring cleaning and a fall cleaning of your house would lend to that. And then they had the yard sale to go with it. But if you do it more than that, it may just make the village look like a junkyard. If something's out that frequently. That was the reason behind it. I don't know if that's what the board wants to do.

**Trustee Elliott:** If you do it multiple times, it would eliminate the big rush.

**Manager Revella:** But it's harder for the companies to prepare for it as well. It's an issue on their side, but we can talk about it.

**Trustee Thompson:** I have to agree with the manager. Those two collection periods absolutely destroy me. I can't stand how the village looks for a day. I have to tell you, this last one. I think my house won the prize. Every day that that stuff sat out there, I was very unhappy because the pickers didn't come this year. So the stuff sat there. I understand what you're saying, but it really becomes an eyesore when we have all those items sitting out there. If we're going to do it even more often. I don't know if even the residents would be happy with that.

**Trustee Elliott:** I was just thinking the more you have, the less clutter.

**Manager Revella:** I know the mayor brought up about the vehicles and there are some resident concerns about the vehicles and the condition of the garbage trucks. They're supposed to be subjected to an inspection. I want to make sure that that is still being handled in house as well. We do our own inspection of their vehicles.

**Trustee Pearson:** Does that have to be through the Police Department? Who does that?

**Manager Revella:** I did it when we didn't have a DPW Superintendent. Now that we do, he would take care of that. The Police Department also does a commercial vehicle stops and checks to make

sure they have safety equipment, things like that, because there have been a few trucks that have hydraulic issues and they would leak on the streets and cause problems. We've been trying to catch those guys and push them out so that they clean up.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the garbage bid to go out. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried

### **Video Conference for Board Meetings**

**Manager Revella:** The board had brought it up prior that they were interested in discussing this, setting procedures for this. Since open meetings law did change somewhat in how to conduct them. I'm not sure if the board wants to set policy regarding the procedures. These are just the ones that NYCOM put out that Dave forwarded for you to review. It's not our policy or the village's policy or the board's preference. It's just the example that they put out for the board to review. Digest. If there are some changes you want. You don't have to do anything at all. If you want to do something, you can. It's up to the board. If you want to take it further, anybody has any comments or questions, we can give that to the attorney for next meeting.

**Mayor Ramos:** Does anybody have any questions so we can forward it to the attorney?

**Trustee Thompson:** I don't understand the very last sentence of number 3. I need that to be explained in a way that I can grasp that I don't understand the way it's written here. Page 2, number 3.

**Manager Revella:** Members of the public body do not have a right to attend the meetings remotely. So, a trustee doesn't have the right to attend a meeting remotely if it's not set up for it.

**Trustee Thompson:** But may participate remotely.

**Manager Revella:** By the discretion of the board itself. The whole board. That's correct. For example, if Brian wanted to participate remotely right now just because he wanted to, he can't. Unless this board said it was okay. And usually you have to put that in the notice. Which we had done before. The notice that the, say, Trustee Sebring is attending this meeting remotely at this location at this time and it has to be open to the public where he is as well.

**Trustee Thompson:** Right. So how is this different now?

**Trustee Pearson:** Why do you need a policy for that?

**Attorney Dickover:** I think it's just referring back that you have to adopt a local law as a Village Board or any of your boards, adopt a local law allowing them to establish their own procedures. I think it's all the same. You just can't go do it because you want to do it.

**Trustee Thompson:** If that's the case, then really nothing has changed tremendously, right?

**Manager Revella:** I don't think so.

**Attorney Dickover:** No. Except that they set forth the procedure that you have to follow the rules about it, that's a change. As a practical matter, this isn't really that practical. How many of you really want to have the public sitting in your living room while you're attending a meeting remotely? And then how do you get rid of that person when the meeting's over? As a practical matter. Yeah, I can work. I like the idea a lot. I just wish it wasn't this onerous. So, do with it as you want. I'm not sure it's that practical.



**Mayor Ramos:** Forward any comments with regards to the documents that we received from Mr. Donovan and we'll bring it up next meeting.

**OC Dept of Planning**

**Manager Revella:** They sent over this draft agreement that they want us to sign to alleviate some of the concerns they have. This was a boilerplate that they put together and just changed names on it, like to Village of Walden, Mayor so-and-so, etc.. They are aware that our contracts are signed by the manager. They sent this over as a draft. If this board is okay with the content of this agreement and you allow, we can say that it's subject to our attorney's approval and review and the manager will be allowed to sign. If that's okay with the board. I know the Building Department did not have an issue with it. They thought it would actually help streamline some projects going forward. Dave didn't say he had an issue with it. I don't know if Rob had any.

**Trustee Thompson:** Have the Chair people of the Zoning Board and the Planning Board seen this? Do they have any comment?

**Attorney Dickover:** This type of agreement and procedure has been out for a number of years. This is not something new. Most of the boards that I'm familiar with are happy to streamline the process because it does present delays in some of our board actions. Planning Board and Zoning Board in particular. I think you should consider adopting it or allowing your manager to enter into the agreement. Makes sense.

**Trustee Thompson:** I understand the Building Department is okay with this. I just wanted to be sure the Planning and Zoning Boards are good with this, but Mr. Dickover sits on those boards, so if he says it's good so I would have to respect his legal opinion.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'd like maybe to have the attorney talk about that in the Zoning Board part of it with use variances. Can we knock something out of it that would still have to be for use variances because those are a little bit more difficult to obtain? And sometimes having that from the Planning Department in the county may be a little stronger. Is that something that we could leave in here for the agreement and do the rest of it?

**Manager Revella:** It says they're exempt from. It doesn't mean you can't still do it. It's not required to, but it says you can.

**Attorney Dickover:** Most of the applications get sent by the Building Department anyway, whether it's required or not. A lot of that may be unnecessary because it's not required, but a lot of them get referred anyway. In particular with respect to the use variances you've seen the replies come back. They're reciting the state law with respect to the criteria to approve a use variance. It's not very helpful.

**Trustee Pearson:** I didn't know if it would be helpful if that came from the county. Maybe there would be an issue that would be helpful.

**Attorney Dickover:** With respect to the Zoning Board. If they think that there is a county wide interim municipal impact as a result of an application, you can refer and ask for county comment. I don't think amending it really is necessary. The county may reject it because they don't want to have to look at every municipality's agreement to see if they're doing what they're allowed to do, which is from an administrative standpoint.

**Trustee Pearson:** When people come before the Planning Board, Zoning Board, then we don't have

to wait for the county to respond, is really what you're saying.

**Attorney Dickover:** If that particular action is exempted.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the Village Manager enter an agreement with the Orange County Planning Dept. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **March 21, 2023 Meeting**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to cancel March 21, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting and reschedule for March 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **CDBG**

**Manager Revella:** The next round of CDBG funding is coming out. The board needs to discuss what they want to do and where. We only have this small section on the map where the CDBG funding is eligible. If you can think of anything in that area you want to address. Great. I would ask the board to set a public hearing for next meeting so we can start discussing that for the public. The last couple of times we asked for, sewer lining, the time before that, sidewalks. Those are generally the topics that are most funded. We can have the engineer here to talk about what's potentially eligible as well, but just need the board to, if they're okay with it, set the public hearing for that meeting.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Can we just make sure we get the criteria for the grant?

**Manager Revella:** Yes, mostly infrastructure improvements. Sewer has been very high on the list and helpful. And they've been awarding those water, sidewalks, that type of thing. Sidewalk is lower on the list because it really has to be tied to ADA. He'll come talk about.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Can we get some paperwork just to kind of show us that so we can look at it?

**Manager Revella:** I'll get some cliff notes. There are 100 and something page documents that goes through the eligibility requirements, but we can try to get cliff notes for that.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to set public hearing for March 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. or soon thereafter to discuss CDBG potential projects. Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

**Bill Taylor:** Two meetings ago, I brought to the board my concern about the 18 wheelers utilizing East Avenue as a pass through to their destination. I just want to take an opportunity to thank the Village Manager for getting the sign changed at the intersection of Route 52 and East Avenue. It's now thoroughly visible and prohibits that tractor from starting halfway up the street and then seeing a sign that prohibits it. I want to thank you for that. And as we speak, my cameras have not caught anybody. But rest assured you'll hear from me if they do. But we did discuss other intersections. I'm in hopes those will be addressed.

**Manager Revella:** Fred did go look out. He has a couple signs he's going to put out.

**Susan Taylor:** Hill Street Bridge. Tired of hearing that. Hopefully this board is doing something to get that bridge repaired for your village residents. I know the town is reluctant, but I feel it's their own issue because they never filed to get aid when they should have. If the price tag is higher now. Oh, well. Just to kind of clarify for the record, I did a little detective work. Read through old notes. I'm not going to tell you how old they are. They need to be shredded at some point. But I finally

figured out why you can't find any minutes or anything about a board discussion that surrounded our 9/11 participation in the village. That's because the discussion happened in 2017 during a budget session. There are no minutes taken there. There are no formal votes. Everything is done by consensus of board members. I did speak with board members who were on the board at the time, who clearly remember the discussion and said, yes, that's where it happened. When we made that decision, it wasn't done with animus. It was just something that the board felt with a consensus that they wanted to do. And it didn't dissuade or prohibit anybody else from coming to the board, any entity, any citizen, anyone to host. I can tell you, there were no, to my knowledge and I did read minutes again, 17, 18, 19, 20. The village hosted the ten year anniversary in 2021. I checked the minutes. No one on the board asked to have it put on the agenda to revisit it. No one came forward that I'm aware of saying that they wanted to host a ceremony. I just thought that needed to be also put on the record. I was astounded when I watched this meeting, I was confused. Usually I'm not confused, but I was confused. There is a procedure and a process that everyone in this village follows when they want to have an event in the village. And for somebody whose major portion of his life was following orders, following procedures, I was confused as to how the whole thing came about. I thought fabulous. When I first heard somebody say, Oh, there's going to be, and I thought, Yay! And then the whole thing ensued. I was very confused and disturbed over it, really. I looked at the minutes and usually every Memorial Day, Veterans Day, anything that has to do with that, you've either made the motion or the second. So you know what the procedure is. You don't know me an explanation as to why those procedures weren't followed. But I was disheartened that here it was going to be a nice thing and there had to be an issue. I understand how the board felt to find a piece of paper on a table that said this is what was going to happen. No one came to the village to ask for approval. How many people are coming? I just was so confused about it and really disappointed at the end of the day. That's what I have to say about that. Thank you.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** I'm going to say something nice about the garbage company. I was having constant complaints, sending constantly sending the office pictures, garbage cans all over the street, everywhere. Evidently, because we have the rear lift on the side streets up there. So the guy has to move the can, put it on the truck, bring it back to the curb. They've actually hired somebody who knows how to do it. I'm going to say something nice about them, because ever since they hired this guy over the past couple of months, a huge improvement. There's not cans left all over the street. There's not garbage all over the street. This guy is conscientious. Maybe, John, you should send them a message and say, whoever this young fellow is, thank you. Get some more like him. Because I think some of it just boils down to that. But also, just bring to your attention. Brian Maher sent me a notice about an assembly bill that I guess it passed the assembly and passed the Senate. It isn't signed yet, but it's a revision of something that was a bill last year anyway, to have all of the municipalities inventory and register with a registry that has to be created yet by the Veterans Service Division in Albany. All of them memorials and monuments to our veterans like our monument out here and all the monuments that we have in our communities. I did speak to Christian Farrell in Goshen. He wasn't aware of it yet, but I said, it'll be coming down the pike and let us know and let the county historian know when you hear about it. But actually, because we're live streaming, I'll make a plea, a pitch to anybody who would like to help to start inventorying them. And I guess they'll want descriptions and GPS coordinates and stuff. It's a good project for somebody to take on.

### **Payment of Audited Bills**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to pay audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. 5 ayes. 1 nay (Trustee Pearson) Motion carried.

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

**Trustee Thompson:** I got a letter today, an email from the Community Council about beginning thoughts of beautification for this coming season. We'd like to move forward with the Meadow

Project at Wooster's Grove. There were some things that were supposed to be done in the fall and they didn't get done. I don't know, John, if I need to have a meeting with you and Mike. Should we schedule a meeting?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** Okay. It started out as a long term project. We knew it was going to take a couple of years and we've sort of lagged behind because of some mishandling down there. I'd like to get us back on track. And the sooner we can get that started, actually, the better, even this time of year. I need to talk to him again, if you can set something up. That would be great. I just also would like to know, are we at any point going to revisit time clocks village wide? I know it's been talked about, dropped. Talked about.

**Manager Revella:** I think we can bring it up in negotiations with this part. When we do that contract and see where it goes from there.

**Trustee Thompson:** Can you put that on the list of topics? I believe Deputy Mayor went to NYCOM, are you the only one who went?

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** There are a lot of papers on our board table. I'm assuming you brought things back to share. Is there any way we could also have them or have them emailed to us? I tried to look at them, but none of them are in collated order. And there's pages missing.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I have to apologize for that because I did scan them in with the help of the admin side. I'll send them out.

**Trustee Thompson:** That would be great, because some of the topics looks interesting, especially the EMS topic, which I sat at a roundtable discussion quite a while ago with Senator Skoufis. It was very nice to see his name as one of the proponents for pushing that through. Thank you.

**Trustee Elliott:** The time clocks in the contract?

**Manager Revella:** It would be a negotiated topic. It's not currently in the contract.

**Trustee Elliott:** Did we ever do the smoke testing?

**Manager Revella:** We still haven't gotten approval for the contracts from the county to start the smoke testing. It's a little bit better to do when it's warmer anyway because you don't have issues between competing smoke and when the smoke does fill someone's house and it will, they can open the windows without losing all their heat.

**Trustee Pearson:** Just an update on the short term rentals that I told you we would do. We had a meeting last week. We're finalizing the definitions. We have talked about the purpose and it looks like it's kind of complete. Next will be working on the rules and regulations for having short term rentals. Which is the beginning of March. It's nice to have the Building Department there. It's actually really helpful because of all the knowledge that is there with zones and putting things in certain spots. Mayor, you did email me back saying we were going to discuss Orange County Transit this evening. Is that going to happen?

**Mayor Ramos:** When I get there.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, we'll be able to ask questions to you?

**Mayor Ramos:** Going to be limited because I was just there to listen. The attorney has most of all the information and he'll be generating, when he gets back, a report just to brief us.

**Trustee Pearson:** You're going to give us a kind of a highlight. Can we also talk about the lights there? I drove by again the other night. Can't they just move those lights so that they are by the parking lot facing in toward Orange County Transit instead of facing the people's houses?

**Manager Revella:** I'm not sure if that topic came up. It was going to be something I was gonna ask their representative about. They're supposed to be directional lighting.

**Trustee Pearson:** I drove by again and it just shines on that house all night long. It's terrible. Have them put up new poles that face in toward Orange County Transit. They were worried about the parking lot where they put now by the fence. If you put the pole on the other side and face it in, you're going to have the same type of lighting. It's just not fair to the homeowner that lives next door. Thank you.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Triboard meeting, is that supposed to come up soon?

**Manager Revella:** I don't remember a date that was discussed. We discussed it at the last triboard meeting.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I'm trying to schedule some travel time and I thought about it.

**Manager Revella:** It would be the same date as a regular board meeting. Would just be earlier. The same as Tuesday.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I thought it we were going to do it twice or three times a year.

**Trustee Thompson:** I thought it was twice a year.

**Manager Revella:** Either way. The board, that meeting, when it's scheduled, would be on a regular board meeting night. So as long as you avoid those board meeting nights, you should be okay.

**Mayor Ramos:** The last meeting was November 15th. We'll work on that.

\*Read Community Events into Minutes\*

**Mayor Ramos:** Last Thursday we did have a meeting with the attorney and representatives from Orange County Transit. Now that was the topic of discussion was DOT is still not providing any regulatory guidance to the project. They are stalemated. They haven't even apprised them of a denial or anything in writing that prevents them from doing the project. The attorneys obviously cross talked with our attorney, Dave Donovan. The issue was they were going to ask for a plan B and then a plan C. They're going to both discuss it and generate some form to bring to the Village Board and brief them on what can be done or what can't be done. It really wasn't that long. The only thing I said in that whole meeting is that DOT refuses to continue to provide any type of guidance. As for OCT, they have been getting water, they have been getting water, it's been a little over a year, they're on village water. They are stuck at sewer and obviously April is coming along and we should keep in our minds with April as our deadline for their agreement and our agreement with them. That's all I have for that. Dave Donovan when he comes he's got all the verbiage what the

attorneys were agreeing or discussing and he'll be bringing that when he gets back from vacation. I attended the Orange County Association of Towns and Villages. And again, thank you, Deputy Mayor, for attending NYCOM. There were a couple of good topics that was brought up. One is, PFAS. That's getting pretty huge in the state of New York. I think we ought to sit one of these days and discuss the fact that we need to have some independent agency test our area. We do have Stewart Airport within a stone's throw away. Tin Brook is approximately a mile and a half from the buffer zone. We know that the Washington Lake in the City of Newburgh was infested with PFAS and they are still continue to do remediation at that site from the fire suppression foam that was used on Stewart Airport. I think we ought to look at that also when we look into grants, especially for our drinking water and testing. There is a mega fund for that specifically. I'd like to see us get in the forefront.

**Trustee Pearson:** Budget session dates, do we need to be worried about that right now?

**Manager Revella:** Do we need to be worried about them? Yes. Do we have them? No. The tentative budget needs to be presented to the board, which will be the March meeting. Should be posted by March 20th. That's what it says in the code. The board is supposed to pass a budget by May 1st, so there's not a penalty for not doing so. But that's the date you're supposed to pass it. If you don't do it, by that time, they're going to say, hey, you didn't pass your budget by May 1st.

**Trustee Pearson:** We'll deal with that at the next meeting.

**Manager Revella:** I would hope so. It's just not that easy.

**Trustee Pearson:** You mean picking dates?

**Manager Revella:** Depends on how things go. But yes, usually we do it that second week in April. We try to do four days in a row if we can. Not sure what everyone's schedule, but that's what I would propose tentatively. And if we need to keep adding, we'll add after that and hopefully we'll be completed for the public hearing for the second meeting in April. That's the goal. Just so everybody gets it on their schedules for now.

**Trustee Thompson:** Is there a reason why we no longer have correspondence from the board on our agenda?

**Manager Revella:** It was kind of redundant. If you had something that came up, you would say during your miscellaneous comments.

**Trustee Thompson:** I know one of the tow operators in the community was not happy with our schedule.

**Manager Revella:** He reached out to me. I'm meeting with him next week to see, just so you know.

**Trustee Thompson:** If it turns out that that has to be revisited. We'll just revisit that and make adjustments as needed.

**Manager Revella:** You're allowed to change your fee schedules at any time, which is why we'd made the code that way. It's open for anything that you have to change a fee schedule for.

**Trustee Thompson:** And you only heard from one operator.

**Manager Revella:** That's the only one who gave me any feedback about that change. Correct. I will

see what he says when I meet with him.

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

Trustee Pearson made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of particular employee. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
February 21, 2023  
Motions & Resolutions**

**Approval of January 17, 2023 & February 7, 2023 Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve the January 17, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. 3 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Thomson). Motion failed.

**Trustee Thompson:** I didn't finish reading them.

**Manager Revella:** Minutes become official minutes 14 days after they're made. Duly noted.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve the February 7, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Olley Park Waiver**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve alcohol waiver for the community center on March 11, 2023. Seconded by Mayor Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Garbage Bid**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the garbage bid to go out. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**OC Dept of Planning**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the Village Manager enter an agreement with the Orange County Planning Dept. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**March 21, 2023 Meeting**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to cancel March 21, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting and reschedule for March 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**CDBG**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to set public hearing for March 7, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. or soon thereafter to discuss CDBG potential projects. Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Payment of Audited Bills**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to pay audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. 5 ayes. 1 nay (Trustee Pearson) Motion carried.

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

Trustee Pearson made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of particular employee. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

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