

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
July 18, 2023**

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

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| On roll call the following were: | Mayor: | John Ramos |
| Present: | Deputy Mayor | Willie Carley |
| | Trustees | Becky Pearson |
| | | Chris Batson |
| | | Patricia Maher |
| | | Kristie Hall |
| | | Ralph Garrison Jr |

Absent:

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

Orange County Transit

Anthony Morando: I'll run through a couple updates. We filed a written update on July 14th, providing you with some new information in consideration of an extension of time under the annexation agreement for the connection period to install the sewer and water facilities. As you may recall, back in April, the Board of Trustees considered an extension at that time where we had asked for a year. Were granted three months with the understanding that there were some new board members joining us and with the understanding that we'd meet with the village immediately thereafter, as well as evaluate the request from this board to pursue sewer waivers. Which we also addressed. We did meet with the village on May 2nd, which was a pretty productive meeting, I would say. After that, Orange County Transit immediately coordinated with their engineers from Larry Marshall's office, performed site inspections of the existing septic facilities, and they confirmed no issues and submitted a letter to that effect to the village. Orange County Transit also, per your request, submitted complete sewer waiver requests to the Building Department. The Building Department and the Village Engineer both performed an inspection of the site. My understanding is they confirmed similarly there's no issues. So we believe the requests are being processed. I'm not sure of the next step in terms of issuance is. In addition, we've obviously pursued DOT and had a number of outreach with them. If you recall, in terms of commencing the sewer and water infrastructure work, we had gotten to the end of the process a while back and then DOT had then suddenly asked for use an occupancy license and permit, which we hadn't known about previously. We had addressed the DOT's other comments short of we couldn't own the line privately per their direction. Nonetheless, the village also submitted a letter to the DOT after some back and forth with us in the beginning of June, I believe, and we received some good news at the end of June, early July. I personally spoke with the DOT for the first time. They're completing the process. All appears to be that they're going to issue us the use and occupancy permit, which is good. That was the holdup for us in terms of getting the highway work permit. You may recall this was an item that had to be issued and addressed before they would final review and issuance of the highway work permit, which is what's necessary to do the work in the right of way. The U&O permit is not finalized just yet, but is being worked through. There are some administrative items on

insurance fees and the terms of the license. That's all being closed up. That's really good news I think. I'm at least refreshed to know that we have something back and we're working towards the solution. They're finalizing that. I don't have a final timeframe on when we would then get the highway work permit once that's resolved. But my understanding is, the permits will be in hand this summer. That's all good news as far as I'm concerned. At this point we submitted a request to you for 12 months from today, based on the last three months and addressing something that you had asked. I think an item on the agenda is Orange County Transit as well. I'm assuming is that the sewer waiver request before you that was submitted. I'm not sure. I don't know if that just stays at the Building Department or not. That's what I'm here to tell you. As far as I can say, I think it's pretty good news.

Trustee Batson: Trust but verify. Appreciate all of the information in here, but can we validate it with our inspection department that all of the inspections everything is stated in this report, have been done and are good to go?

Building Inspector Stickles: I have not seen the report. I've been talking to Anthony that DOT has been talking to them about granting a permit but nothing has been given.

Manager Revella: Sewer inspections, Dean?

Building Inspector Stickles: Sewer inspections were done. We just received a letter from the engineer that everything is complete. *inaudible*

Trustee Batson: Then barring this document being issued from the DOT, it is good to go?

Building Inspector Stickles: We're good right now.

Trustee Garrison: You got the inspections. Inspections came back okay. How are we looking on the sewer waiver forms? Have you guys received all of those?

Building Inspector Stickles: Once I received all of them, for all the five other properties in the village. I will give them to John. But I have not yet to receive a letter from John Queenan. I spoke to him today, he's working on it.

Manager Revella: This property was done. You're talking about the other properties.

Building Inspector Stickles: This property is done.

Trustee Pearson: But the board still has to approve.

Manager Revella: Yes, correct.

Anthony Morando: I think what he's referring to is other waivers. Just want to be clear.

Trustee Garrison: Thank you. You submitted, you've been speaking with DOT about the U&O permit. You're saying in your personal opinion that you think things are trending very well?

Anthony Morando: I think it's more than that. I think it's them telling me we're getting it. We have a U&O permit number. It's really more than a permit. It's a license agreement. So, there are terms. Just making sure they're all appropriate. Then we have to have general liability insurance pursuant to the agreement, pay the fees, which Orange County Transit has already done. To be honest, it's me making sure with the engineer, our engineer, that it's buttoned up in terms of what the scope of

work is and everything. But yes, there's a permit number and it needs to be finalized and then reviewed and then signed by their real estate office. But the indication at this point is good news. It will be issued and finalized.

Trustee Garrison: A little off topic to this, but I know it's going to be brought up, so I'll just bring it up now. How are we looking on the other items that you guys were doing down there, some lighting issues and things like that?

Anthony Morando: Since the May 2nd meeting that we had, after that period, Orange County Transit had to shut off the light that was subject to the complaint. Per the village's request, Orange County Transit is also coordinating to install the lighting for the site plan. They've met with the contractor. Apparently, the light poles are a material issue because they're shorter. But based on my conversations with the applicant today, Orange County Transit intends to file to BP before September and have the lighting installed before the fall. Because that's really I think, when the issue becomes due to change in seasons.

Trustee Hall: Once the U&O permit is given to you, how long do you think?

Anthony Morando: Anything I say, is completely guessing. This is now administrative. I think DOT, in the last couple of weeks, has shown responsiveness. Particular person I spoke with there, I called and I was able to catch on the phone, which was helpful to confirm something that I was looking at. So I don't want to, if I say anything.

Attorney Donovan: Not to interrupt, but just to be clear, Anthony, you should be clear to the board. The use and occupancy permit is not the domino that needs to fall. The highway work permit, which is another permit after the use and occupancy. There are 2 permits left.

Anthony Morando: The U&O permit, I think weeks, not months. Then I would assume the highway work permit because this has been before them forever and they know how much we've been hassling them. I'm assuming that'll be issued soon thereafter. If I say anything that's wrong, I don't want to speculate. Imminent, I guess. In terms of state processing.

Trustee Pearson: John, in minutes of October 2020, made a motion for village fee changes as proposed, including sewer, Orange County Transit charges. What does that mean? Did we set certain fees for their sewer at that time or water?

Manager Revella: We would only have done that during the annexation process before annexation because they would be an outside user until they're annexed. Once they're annexed, they pay the regular village fees, as far as I'm aware. I'm not sure what else.

Trustee Pearson: They're not paying for sewer, they're paying just the water.

Manager Revella: Right now, that's correct.

Trustee Pearson: Also, same minutes to those meetings, the applicant said there was no sewer hookup. The current system, which has cesspools, which I think it has septic tanks, not cesspools, is currently the ground can't handle the volume of employees. What is any different when once he moved all those employees over there then now?

Manager Revella: I wouldn't know. You have to ask him.

Trustee Pearson: What is any different now? When he first moved all his employees from

Maybrook over to that site. There was an issue. He had to have porta potties on his site because his septic could not handle the amount of people that were there. The same amount of people are there now and we have the septic going. Why is it any different than it is now?

Anthony Morando: Tenants left and they moved into the office space. It's a collective site with different uses.

Trustee Pearson: There was always fill, there was always tenants in that building.

Anthony Morando: Tenancy, Dean can speak to this on building permits for fixing up offices in the buildings in the front and then they were occupied there. That would be a difference.

Trustee Pearson: Using the same septic.

Manager Revella: Saying, instead of having 100 people in the back room, now you have 50 and 50 split up in 2 different buildings.

Trustee Pearson: Same amount of people.

Anthony Morando: Not if a tenant left and their employees also left.

Trustee Pearson: Isn't the whole building filled?

Anthony Morando: No.

Manager Revella: They had all their employees in the back building filled, which is way more than they have in the building now. There was a tenant in the front. I think it was Olympic Electric. They ended up leaving with all their employees, some of those from the back went in there. So, now they're split up between different septic tanks instead of one because they multiple tanks on site. 7 tanks, Dean says are on site.

Trustee Pearson: I just have some concerns about your site plan. Your site plan was approved by the Planning Board August 16, 2021, which was two years ago. Those site plans could have been worked on except for that sewer. You have not done the grading, you did not finish the planting, you haven't done berm planting. There's junk busses, employee parking, grading, water lines, lighting, trailers that shouldn't be there. Why can't that get done before your sewer line?

Anthony Morando: Some of the things you said have been done, some of them haven't, because if we talked previously, there's work that has to get done on the site in order for the sewer and water, in order to do some of that grading and other things. But can I back up because I can give you an update? On the eastern berm plants. I say that that's the Winum side. Since our May 2nd meeting, Orange County Transit has coordinated with the contractor. If you recall there's a lack of water because of the waterline issue to reach a plant. You're talking several tens of thousand dollars of planting. What they're trying to do now is they can connect a water line and then, it's an irrigation line, really. And their goal is to actually plant all those on the eastern side by September.

Trustee Pearson: But weren't they supposed to be fixing their water lines anyway or not? You get village water, so why can't you put your lines in?

Anthony Morando: There's infrastructure work in the right of way and on the site that has to be done per the site plan.

Trustee Pearson: I still don't understand why it can't be done. I get the sewers coming out the front of the building, it's not being where your parking lot is and everything else. To grade your parking lot, to do whatever you needed for the parking.

Anthony Morando: Because you have to tear it all up to put the sewer and water lines in.

Trustee Pearson: Just the front of the building. You're going to go up the front, aren't you? You're not going out the back of the building. You're not going into the parking lot. I'm asking why the site work has not been in 2 years.

Anthony Morando: A number of items on the site plan have been done. As we discussed.

Trustee Pearson: I think that's the frustration of our Building Department as well. That's not happening and why has it been taking two years for that to happen?

Anthony Morando: Actually, Dean and I speak in a decent amount, but I'm happy to follow up on that. The site plan issues not a favorable thing to say, respectfully before this board. But I'm happy to meet with Dean and coordinate with Jim and John. I don't have answers, I'm not an engineer or construction manager. If you want to meet with Dean and somebody who knows more about construction planning, we can try coordinate that. But in terms of the things that have been done, we've spoken about in the past, the berm, the fencing. We're now we're coming to the end of, hopefully a hot and flooded summer season. The plan is to get the plantings on the eastern side. Then, like I said, connecting the irrigation line as well as pursue the lighting. Now that there's some more information on the pole.

Trustee Pearson: Dean, I'm glad you're here. The site plan, what do you think cannot be done on that site plan because of the sewer line?

Building Inspector Stickles: The only thing they can't do is the sewer.

Trustee Pearson: There you go. So, why are we not doing the other things?

Anthony Morando: The waterline coming in to the site is preexisting. We're paying the water fees for that. But there's water infrastructure line work that has to be done.

Trustee Pearson: All the other work can be done now and should have been done within the past two years.

Anthony Morando: No.

Trustee Pearson: What do you mean no? He's the Building Inspector.

Anthony Morando: I mean, he has his opinion. Are you asking me or you asking Dean?

Trustee Pearson: I'm asking Dean because he's the village person that we pay to do this job and why wouldn't he be responsible?

Building Inspector Stickles: As far as I'm concerned, everything that was approved on the site plan, with the exception of the sewer, can be done on site. If there's water that has to be brought to the site, that's another issue. But I understand there is already water in the upper building.

Anthony Morando: My view, we spoke about this on the May 2nd meeting. We spoke about this

in prior meetings before this board. You're not going to mobilize a construction project to install things to go out to a right of way without permits in hand to the DOT. You're talking millions, a lot of money and time to do all that work to connect when you don't have a permit. That's unreasonable. I'm sorry.

Trustee Pearson: Then let's go to the waivers. The last meeting on April 18th, your applicant said that he paid the waivers. I checked into that as well and there were no waivers paid. The only waiver that went in to him was this past March. In March, he didn't even pay that waiver, it was levied on his taxes, so he didn't even pay that.

Anthony Morando: It's not accurate, because they are paid by taxes. That's what I was told when we actually submitted for these waiver requests recently. Checks. They were returned to us because they say waivers were supposed to be paid through their taxes.

Manager Revella: No, those checks were returned because it was already re-levied. The checks were submitted too late. Anything after April 30th, we can't take anymore. It has to go on the tax bill.

Trustee Pearson: The point is, he's only paid one. Maybe it's up to this board because maybe there was no other sewer waivers and what the issue was is how come that didn't happen through this board when he first got approval, to have annexation. That's a board issue. That's probably not your issue. But the last issue was not paying and it had to be levied on his taxes. That to me is an issue.

Anthony Morando: It's not an issue in our sense, because we've documented in writing that we actually don't believe that they were warranted, but we're doing it as part of the collaboration that we've had with this board over the last few months.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I appreciate everything that you're doing. Based on our last conversation, one of the things that I begin to really look at is, are you doing your due diligence? I feel that you are doing your due diligence. I think there still things that need to be done. I appreciate what the Village Manager and everyone has doing concerning the letter, I think they helped out. We can argue, but I think it help with the moving DOT along. It demonstrates that we can still work together and I think we still got some punch items that need to be addressed. I don't see your, your client running away based on those items that was there. The question here is, do we give the extension for 12 months, six months, four months or one month? Based off what I hear you're saying is that you can get it done, but you don't really need a 12 month and I think, my view is that a six month will kind of still put the pressure there where it has to be done anyway. You're doing your due diligence. Yes. You're still things that need to be done. So, is it a 12 month or less is the question.

Anthony Morando: I've been here for years. I rarely fight you on this because the goal is to do it. I'm the first person to say a million things are going to go wrong between now and 12 months. I can walk you through a scenario. We don't get the permits in our hands. Like I said, they have been responsive the last couple of weeks, I don't anticipate a long delay. We don't get permits in hands till the end of the summer. The project at best is 12 weeks. And then you're talking about, we have a contractor who went on, they are on other jobs. They're pushed out now. So, we have to work through their schedule and John and Orange County Transit already reached out to as soon as we got some positive feedback beginning of July, immediately reached out and is trying to figure out how best their view is. They know what the DOT does, so they can't put us on a schedule and I don't want to speak for somebody else, but this is my understanding. They can't put us on a scale until permits are in hand. We have a few months to get them on board. And then when you get to the winter months, DOT has restrictions on when you can do work in the right of way and all these

other items. I think it's very unlikely that everything is done in six months. It doesn't have anything to do with lack of due diligence on your part or ours. I think it's just simply that's where it is.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I think that's where we're at now is, what can we say? No, we're not going to give you the extension. What is that going to do? What is the benefit? In my opinion, there's no benefit. All the things that we just brought up are important. Do we give you an extension, because this is the date, right? Regardless if all those punch items are done or not, today is the date. Do we give you extension or not? I think you're doing your due diligence and yes, there are things that need to be done.

Trustee Pearson: Willie, can I ask you a question? If the waiver goes through, on just the sewer line and let them make sure that the site plan gets done? Or are you just going to let the whole thing, not worry about it until the sewer gets passed? Are you going to work about the site plan so that the site plan at least gets going and finished and they can have that all done?

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm saying this, is that he's asking for 12 months.

Trustee Pearson: For what?

Deputy Mayor Carley: It's based on what the request was for 12 months extension on sewer and water.

Anthony Morando: I just want to clear. We're connected to water, so we're paying fees for it. That was a preexisting line before Orange County Transit was ever here. We are making sure fees are being paid. But there's still waterline work that has to be done. I just want to be clear about that.

Trustee Pearson: Yes, but all the other site work can be done.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm not disputing that and that's why I said we acknowledge that there's other things that need to be done, but we're specifically talking about sewer and water, the extension of that or not. And today is the last day. So, if you say no, they still need to have it done. What do you do? Cut off all the water and then they can't work. Then we have some other issues along with that. I don't know, I'm just putting it out.

Anthony Morando: We're going down a slippery slope of conditioning an extension of an agreement with the Board of Trustees on something on a site plan that you want to see done that practically is, in my view, unreasonable. They are two different items.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I say that we give you the extension, but I need to hear from our attorney, our Village Manager, because I think they have a little bit more.

Trustee Pearson: I would like to hear from the attorney whether if that site plan could be done, whether this attorney is saying it can't, it's all one issue. Whether we say that extensions on the water, sewer and the site plan work gets done.

Deputy Mayor Carley: What are the pros and cons of saying yes to 12 months or no to 12 months? I see the options are six months, nine months, ten months, eight months, two months versus yes or no for an extension. You see what I'm saying? I don't think we just cut their hands and say no extension. What would that leave us if we do that? Can you help me with that?

Manager Revella: It would put us in a position to effectuate the agreement and if we do that, you're demanding a certain fine from them per day for not being connected.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Right. But that's going to lead us down another avenue that's going to be more likely but court. And now we're going to fight battles in court and things like that. And that can take long whatever, and this will never be resolved.

Manager Revella: It's potential.

Attorney Donovan: Let me just weigh in a little. The issue that brings us here tonight is the connection to water and sewer that was required by the land use agreement that was executed in December 2019 or January 2020. But that was before there was a site plan application. The request tonight relates to an extension of time for the water and sewer connection as set forth in paragraph seven of that agreement. And what it says is you can deny an extension request if that property owner was not diligently pursuing the sewer and water connection. That's where you're at. Now, if there are issues regarding site plan compliance, the legal answer to that is they can be pursued in a different form, either through the Building Department trying to enforce that. And then you've got to also run into an issue as to whether or not it's reasonable to require those things to be done immediately. Let's be frank. What do we know about life in general? It's all about the money. What you have is somebody who owns the property, who says, I'm not going to mobilize the work force. I don't put words in your client's mouth, but I'm not going to mobilize a workforce and bring them in to do certain work, have them leave and have them have to remobilize, pay for that remobilization to do additional work at a different time.

Anthony Morando: Can I clarify just the distinction there? We have done work. He's not saying that. He's saying there are certain things on the site. Pavement, blacktop, grading. That's all being torn up physically to do the sewer and water work. So, he's not going to grade and pave and put in stops and speed bumps. That's what we're talking about. The fencing is done. The berm is done. I hate talking about this tonight because it's not really before you, but we just talked about a plan to get a building permit for the lighting. We talked about the landscaping that we're gonna do on the Winum side. What else is there? I understand there are locations of busses that aren't in line with the site plan because the parking and circulation that exist is not in line with the site plan. It's not just that we're not willing to do work because of money, Dave. The big picture is, you're not going to install all that to rip it up, literally knowingly rip it up. That's that.

Attorney Donovan: I'm being cynical because I think everything comes down to money. At the end of the day, the request for the extension relates to the land use agreement only. If the village wishes to pursue and I can't guarantee any success, if they wish to pursue, site plan not being done promptly enough, you can consider that in the valuation from the Building Department, the Village Manager, myself, as to whether or not that that's an avenue that's feasible for you to pursue. But I think they're two different things.

Trustee Hall: Can I make the suggestion? If this is about the extension and not everything else. Why don't we go till November right before really winter kicks in and see where they're at? If they're waiting for those permits, obviously we have to wait for that. But then we'll have a better idea come winter if they're able to do it or not.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That's my point about the 12 months, six months, nine months or whatever the case is, we can always institute that. I think the issue is that they don't want to come back every month and address this issue. There are other issues to address. Long story short, the problem that I see with this personally, I'm not a lawyer, but they have done their due diligence, in my opinion. There's some areas, yes. Punch list, yes. But in regards to the DOT, the sewer and the water and trying to do, they doing their part. My vote is a yes for the extension. We can debate and talk about how much and how long, because this is not going away.

Trustee Hall: That's why I said if we get to November, it's before winter time and then we can kind of reevaluate.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm not disputing that. I'm just saying this is why I said six months, four months, nine months, whatever the number is. They need their extension to get this part done, which today is the deadline.

Trustee Hall: That's what I was trying to say, but speed it up. Kind of get it to the point.

Mayor Ramos: We've been dealing with this for quite some time. The only downfall to this is DOT. You've got your board of health permits. What are the permits, there's three before DOT and because the reluctance of DOT, for actually working during business hours and actually working and I've dealt with them and it's atrocious on how they can deal with businesses in our local area. You have done your due diligence and I know that hopefully your contractor is ready to execute the program within reasonable timeframe. I know he's going to get the job done. I know that Orange County Transit is not going to leave us. For the sake of all the employees that this man employs and for the sake of our community and transportation of students, you have done what you were supposed to do. You come here religiously and talk to us. I'm all for the extension for Orange County Transit. We may get lucky and next week you may have your permits and they can start digging during the summertime so that we won't be hard pressed in the wintertime. Then you can do your fixtures and whatever indoors for water and sewer. The Building Inspector says that the septic system that are on the property are in compliance as of this moment. That's all we're talking about. Our attorney says, site plan, water and sewer, two separate things. I'm good with that. Thank you.

Trustee Pearson: I believe that the water and the sewer comes out from the front of the building. Am I correct?

Anthony Morando: I think so.

Manager Revella: There is no sewer coming out right now. On the plan, yes.

Trustee Pearson: I understand that. When it happens, it will be coming out from the front of the building. So, anything in the back of the building, the parking lot, the bus station, the busses, whatever's back there that needs to be fixed on that site plan. I don't see that there's an issue for that. I'm sticking to that because I think that if you're going to disrupt the ground, you're disrupting the ground from the building out to the road is really basically what you're doing. Maybe along the building a little bit, maybe to get a water line or sewer line into there. But you're not disrupting the whole parking lot that needs to get done that the site plan is part of. I feel that if you're making a motion on something and the site plan is included in that, I'm going to say no place on that. It's two separate things to me. The site plan is different than the water and sewer connection that you've already talked about.

Village Manager's Report

Manager Revella: I did have a few days off, but in between there I did meet with special counsel, we discussed the CSEA agreement and payouts, which will likely go out this week and also met with the other special counsel on PBA to correct a few things and go over some personnel matters, some disciplinary things. Did have a conference with Finance Department regarding applications for Deputy Treasurer. We had a lot of nice people applying for part time and full time. As the board's aware, they preferred the full time for that position. We'll talk about that later. Did meet with the Chief, interviewed some part time dispatcher candidates. Also have another Police Officer, full time coming in off the list. We have the sergeants list came out, we're reviewing that and we'll

be talking about that as well. Went over projects with DPW Super because he also took some time off. Covering for him myself the last couple of weeks. Met with the Treasurer and the state comptroller going over the audit issues going on. Had a conference with the Village Engineer to go over a couple of projects, including the smoke testing. We did the first phase of the smoke testing. There were some very large intrusions that if fixed could greatly impact and help the issues going on at the Tin Brook pump station and help our consent order as well. Hopefully we can start working on funding for those projects as well. We do have another grant application going on right now to try and help with that. We had a great presentation to Orange County Transportation Council regarding the trails program and a study by the county. I believe it's on their website now if anybody wants to look at it. They want an interconnection of all rail trails through the county. They want to connect all of them so you can get around everywhere on these rail trails and to connect up through our trail to Ulster County and all the trails up there as well. That's the ultimate goal and can look at those plans and the cost proposals for those. Also went over insurance with our village insurance agent for the new year and life insurance coverage. As many of you may know, our full timers are covered by life insurance policies with the village. We're paying a certain amount per employee. We went out for bid on those and it looks like we can get increased coverage for basically the same cost. We're looking into that right now and we're waiting for one more bid to come back for you guys to vote on that next meeting. Did you get one bid back at Village Hall for HVAC. I need some more. And we have the water well, which is on the agenda for later. The Rec Department continuing to maintain parks, teen center and after school going well. Flag football is going well. We have a makeup game tonight which they got in, thankfully. Health Department did their inspection of the summer camp. So, did the Youth Bureau. Everything came back 100%. Online registration is open for outdoor soccer. There's 425 kids registered for summer camp right now. They have had to use the indoor facility due to weather a couple of times, which actually worked out pretty well. The Building Department, the Inspectors issued permits, certificates of compliances, CO reports, property violations, letters for abandoned properties and other properties visited for follow ups, along with a plethora of grass violations that have been going out the last two weeks. Code Enforcement Officer did issue building permits, certificates compliance, sent violations for property maintenance, 14 violations got resolved and 16 inspections done. The part time inspector issued building permit, certificate of compliance, sent out grass violations, did prepare the 85 letters for fire and safety inspection for one of the zones, issued a couple appearance tickets for properties that are having issues and assisted with Planning and Zoning Board. Clerk's been updating social media for website and Facebook as needed. Working on worker's comp, FOILs, payroll and also doing in the new rates, handicapped requests, minutes and responding to resident requests and complaints. Finance office obviously helping with the audit, quarterly reporting, went through the applications for the job at the office, working on issues with Edmunds, bank reqs, budget transfers, received in almost 94% of our taxes now. Went over CSEA payments with me, bond updates and escrow accounts. Which we are still reviewing. The Public Works Supervisor was out. Sewer is still working on the plant. They replaced some parts of the press, which was great. That's still up and running and moving well. We've had some serious rain events which caused some issues, but they've been very good at keeping up with those alarms that have been going off in the middle of the night, maintaining facilities. The water department working on meters, they're doing the readings, follow ups for meter replacements, dig permits, reviewing those, closing out permits, catch basin repairs and sidewalk replacements are the big ones right now, along with flushing and jetting. Police Department still working on staffing. The background checks are coming back on the full time person that we're hiring and then hopefully we get some more part time applications in. We have another interview this week with a part time person. Working on special details and issued traffic tickets, parking summons. They've had MVAs, arrests and traffic stops and there were 560 blotters since last meeting. Court's on regular schedule and the library renovations on the second floor are pretty much complete now, if you want to go down and look at the second floor community room. It's beautiful. HVAC is a huge issue on the second floor now as well as a third floor in the hallways. The units are all out. We're just waiting for bids so we can try

and get those replaced as soon as possible.

Trustee Pearson: With the meeting with Orange County Transit attorney, who was in that meeting with you?

Manager Revella: It was on the phone. It was the update about the DOT, which is in the letter.

Trustee Pearson: Can we get a written report on that smoke testing?

Manager Revella: Absolutely. It is coming. It's going to be crazy.

Trustee Pearson: And something written on the insurance as well.

Manager Revella: Yes, I got one bid so far. I'm waiting for one more. Hartford is the one we're waiting for.

Trustee Pearson: The comptroller. How are we doing with that?

Manager Revella: They met with us today to go over updates. We're not allowed to speak about their audit in public, but their risk assessment review is nearly complete. So, it's done. It's at the next level to review on that. They're not sure if anything will come of it, but the audits ongoing.

Trustee Pearson: And then they'll be finished.

Manager Revella: That's the hope. We don't know. They may come back and say, listen, you need to brush up on this policy or you need to update this one. That's possible.

Trustee Pearson: In the Police Department, like this one that says, still working on overtime issues. How short are we? Can you give us some type of report on how many people we have? How many we just hired?

Manager Revella: We have two full time positions out that we cannot fill because they're out on comp. Not allowed to fill them. There's two full time slots that are always empty that have to be backfilled. Plus, there's a sergeant position empty right now.

Trustee Pearson: Yes, but wasn't there something about the sergeant's test?

Manager Revella: Yes. Technically, there are three positions empty right now because the one that we're hiring right now didn't start yet. They have been going through three full time vacant positions for months. Hopefully this person can get trained up and into the position as soon as possible.

Trustee Pearson: Then it will be down to two, one Sergeant and one Police Officer.

Manager Revella: No. Two Police Officers and one Sergeant after that person starts. Still.

Trustee Pearson: What is the difference between a vehicle stop and a traffic? I get a traffic ticket. Why would you stop somebody? To do what? And then you have nine tickets.

Manager Revella: They could pull someone over.

Attorney Donovan: Generally speaking, we're not discussing any specific incidents.

Manager Revella: Just for example, I may have noticed you with your hands near your head and I pulled you over. Say, hey, were you on a handheld device? You're like, no, I don't have one. Okay, you can go. That's a potential.

Trustee Pearson: Thank you. I get that. I know what the difference is, but I don't know why there would be not more tickets if there were issues with certain things. Parks Department. The guys have done 77 property cleanups since June. Seriously?

Mayor Ramos: Yeah.

Trustee Pearson: I'm going to go back into that, why do we not hire somebody to do that?

Manager Revella: We have part time people doing it.

Trustee Pearson: That's a lot. The bid for down at Waterfront Park, anything on that?

Manager Revella: I actually got something today from our grant writers. We were getting a second grant for the Waterfront Park, but the state won't let us because they didn't approve some form for our Waterfront revitalization plan. We had to find a different source of funding, which he says he has. We're looking for that.

Trustee Pearson: This picture, I got it sent to me. How come we can't mow the park?

Manager Revella: Because it's a swamp right now. If you walked near the river, you'd go in up to your knee.

Trustee Pearson: It was given to me because they don't understand why it's a park and we can't maintain all the parks the same.

Manager Revella: Olley Park has 40 or 50 acres of wooded land. We don't mow it all. I actually got one part, I'm waiting for Mr. Queenan to let us know if it's okay to get the stumps and everything pulled out. We got pricing from a couple of contractors, so hopefully he gets that to me so I can present it to the board and they can approve it so we can get that second phase done. Then we can actually get in there mow because it'll be almost level.

Trustee Pearson: We can't just go in and flatten it out? I know the tree stumps are in there, you're worried about that.

Manager Revella: That's what this contractor is supposed to do. We hope.

Trustee Pearson: Anything on the third floor repairs? You're waiting for the floor. Where are we with all that?

Manager Revella: I got no bids on the floor. The HVAC, I'm waiting for one more bid. The water fountain just got replaced. If you go outside, you'll see it replaced. We're getting there.

Trustee Pearson: We also paid a bill for the front door that I asked you about. I asked you if it was the handicap, it doesn't open.

Manager Revella: It does.

Trustee Pearson: I hit it and it doesn't open.

Manager Revella: I'll go down with you and press it. It opens. If you look above the door, when you get inside, there's a button that says auto on or off. You have to make sure it's pressed to auto. Then the button works. If it's pressed to off, it's off. It won't work. Like we do that usually late at night. Sometimes they forget to turn on the morning.

Trustee Pearson: Charging station, we put extra money for you to get that. Where we at?

Manager Revella: We're just waiting for NYSEG to coordinate with the electrician to get the pole installed.

Trustee Pearson: That's been months.

Manager Revella: That's how long NYSEG takes.

Trustee Pearson: Can we reach out to them every week and bug them?

Manager Revella: It would probably make it longer, but sure, I can. They'll probably get annoyed with me and say we'll do it next year.

Trustee Hall: The cameras, are we up to that or how's that coming?

Manager Revella: We're just waiting for the third bid. We have two bids. There's one other contractor came and did an evaluation. We're just waiting for their bid to come in.

Trustee Hall: Is there a way to push that a little bit?

Manager Revella: Can reach out to them tomorrow? It's the same contractor that did Maybrook. Hopefully they get back to us soon. Then we'll have three and we'll be able to run with it.

Trustee Garrison: Second floor looks great. They did a great job.

Trustee Batson: On taxes, you said we've collected 94%. Still leaves us about 300k short. How do we get that last bit?

Manager Revella: It comes eventually and we're guaranteed the funds by the county. Usually comes in November.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Thank you for the future update for the smoke. I'm interested.

Manager Revella: Just so the board is aware the engineer had predicted that we'd have lots of little connections, no low hanging fruit. When we did the smoke, we actually found almost all low hanging fruit. Almost every catch basin near the railroad tracks is connected to our sewer system still. Disconnected. that is going to be huge help.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Building Department, since we were hire, I'm looking at the division of labor and the number of properties. The assumption is everyone is doing their part. Are we increasing because it was an issue before, we're not identifying enough violations.

Manager Revella: We didn't have the manpower before.

Deputy Mayor Carley: It seems to me that it's increasing. I'm looking at where it says a building

inspector issued 12 building permits and then the code enforcement did three building permits and the part time guy did one.

Manager Revella: It's a separation of duties really. The part time person is going to do more fire safety type things, those kinds of inspections, violations. That's the goal anyway. Trying to get those duties segregated somewhat so that they can work on those things. It's a lot. It's a big workload. We've been short staffed for the amount of volume going through the office for years, so hopefully they can catch up and keep up going forward.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I just want to acknowledge that I can see, to me, it's improving.

Mayor Ramos: Fire hydrants, North Montgomery Street, are we going to look at that soon?

Manager Revella: It's ready. We have to get the valves ready. We got Walnut Street, the first one done. They have one more to do and they have Elm Street and I think one on Coldenham Road and North Montgomery Street.

Approval of June 20, 2023 Minutes

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve the June 20, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Batson. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Garrison). Motion carried.

Minutes for July 5, 2023 Special Meeting

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve the July 5, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. 5 ayes. 2 abstentions (Trustee Batson, Trustee Hall). Motion carried.

Public Comment

Brenda Adams: On the Village Code, 9-3, the authorized persons. You spent a lot of time on the firearms and the fireworks, but the adult entertainment, wouldn't that fall in with the police too? One of those that might be a joint operation? Because the police always know what's going on both above ground and underground in this village. I think that maybe that would be something you might want to go back and look at.

Manager Revella: We should add that to the Police Department's duties as well.

Brenda Adams: Sorry, but they know what's going on. They know where all the funny stuff is. The other thing is, I was going to save this for when you reach the Zoning Board section, but when you folks zoned parts of the village through your codes. Then the Zoning Board must exist so that people can get relief from the Zoning Board for fences, for side lines and things like that. And of course use variances. Use variances are extremely difficult to get. But the area variances are usually much more attainable. Once you zone and it comes to us. We have to look at what the code is that the Building Department tells us that was violated. But we also have to follow New York State laws. There's certain times that our hands are tied, even if we think something might be the right way to go or you can sympathize with them, you have to stick to the factors in the law. It's New York State Law that we follow, that it's no longer the village law. I think that Mr. Donovan can maybe explain that.

Attorney Donovan: I wasn't here earlier. I don't know if there's anything in the code that sets forth criteria for issuing use or area variances, but the state law is very clear. The state has preempted the field. So, in terms of the request for area variance is a five part balancing test. If there's a request for a use variance, there's a four part test. If you fail any of the four parts, you're denied. If we have anything in the code that sets forth criteria for area/use variances, that doesn't apply. It should be taken out. Will take a look at that.

Brenda Adams: That's why area variances are easier because it doesn't have to meet all five of the factors. But on a use variance, it must meet, if just one happens, it's dead in the water. I just wanted to just give you an update on that.

Mary Ellen Matise: Following up on that, the Architectural Review Board, interestingly, when it the legislative findings for that really don't tie it to new development. It just says inappropriateness or poor quality of design in the exterior appearance of buildings or land development said adversely affects the desirability of the immediate area. I'm wondering if knowing that we have this in the comp plan and not wanting to add any extra burden on property owners and not putting of either another financial or review process on them directly, but maybe we could beef up what's in the comp plan and get it out to the public, as a way of just trying to improve the overall look of the village. Then if it gets to the point where we find we have a lot of stuff that we don't like going on, then maybe make it a more enforceable thing that beyond this, where John was saying about the Village of Montgomery, beyond just its applications that are coming to the Planning Board. Maybe the architectural review, maybe we can do something with it to help. Also just improve the appearance of the village.

Orange County Transit

Mayor Ramos: I believe Orange County Transit is asking for a year extension.

Manager Revella: The board to make a motion as to what extension, if any, they're going to give.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to grant the 12 months extension. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley.

Trustee Pearson: I don't think 12 months is necessary. I think if anybody's going to do anything, Kristie had a better idea. I think it's long. I don't think it's necessary. I think everybody thinks they've been doing a great job. But I don't know. You don't pay your bills. Laxed on certain things. Site plans are not done. I have issues with that.

Trustee Garrison: Taking the site plan out of all of it, because that's not exactly what this is for.

Trustee Pearson: It's all one project. It should be relevant to part of it.

Trustee Garrison: Relevancy is here nor there on this. We are strictly voting on whether or not we're offering an extension on the sewer and water. The site plan and all that stuff, like Mr. Donovan said, has to go through the Building Department. The only reason I'm giving the 12 month is I know being in engineering with the army that things go wrong. There are hiccups. There's going to be bumps in the road even from this process. We're coming into the end of this summer already. We're going to hit into the fall. We're going to probably get snow in fall, then winters out. Then you're looking at the rainy season for spring. If you give them 12 months, it at least gives them into summer next year to at least complete things if they were able to start or get things done.

Trustee Hall: I'd like to see them before the winter. I'd like to see where things lay and how that goes. I don't think I agree with 12 months.

Trustee Batson: Four months puts us to November, I believe.

Trustee Hall: The end of November.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The requirements for reporting to the village is still there. It's not going

away. So, you'll hear all that next month. Next month. Next month.

Trustee Hall: I don't need to hear it next month or next month. I just need to hear it in November. I'd like to see them in November.

Roll call:

Trustee Pearson: no

Trustee Maher: yes

Trustee Hall: no

Trustee Garrison: yes

Trustee Batson: no

Deputy Mayor Carley: yes

Mayor Ramos: yes

Motion carried.

Manager Revella: To confirm for him, you want him back when?

Mayor Ramos: Let's continue with our monthly date. We expect at least a quick response to the approval from DOT.

Manager Revella: Just because you got 12 months doesn't mean you need to use them.

Village Code Review 9-38

Manager Revella: Thought you guys had a great conversations about it. I have some notes for Dave as well, but I'm sure the minutes will reflect some more. For the public's benefit next time the board is going to review section 31 through 66 and again, that's at 5:30 pm before the next meeting, which we'll talk about later in the agenda.

SRO Agreement 2023-2024

Manager Revella: I have Chief here because we got this SRO agreement, the board reviewed it, approved it, signed it, sent it back to the school board, and they sent it back to us with another revision. I was like, what's going on? I had the attorney review it. It's a substantial revision, so it needs board approval. If you want to again. Have the Chief here to talk about the discussion because we asked them to please go discuss with the Superintendent of Schools.

Mayor Ramos: Can you define substantial revision?

Manager Revella: Number five. Substantial revision from what it was before. There was not a unilateral decision by the Superintendent of Schools to remove the SRO. Now there is. It's just number five. Just explain what happened?

Chief Herlihy: I spoke with the Superintendent of Schools. She assured me that it's a failsafe built in in the event of an incident where, after repeatedly asking us to correct the situation, we failed to do so. There would be no other recourse than to terminate the contract. That's basically what the provision is. I could go into more detail of it and how I've outlined it. As far as it looks, it says the District Superintendent of Schools shall have discretion. It doesn't say sole discretion. It doesn't say sole decision. It's the discretion which will be input. I value the input of the Superintendent of Schools. I believe that they have a great understanding of what we need. I don't think that there's any issue with that. It's not a power play. It's not that they're looking to control it. It's just that they want input and there's a failsafe built into it where if we don't fulfill our obligations, they have a recourse. Plain and simple.

Trustee Batson: Legally, is that what discretion means? They have input. They are not the decider. That the decision should be largely based upon.

Attorney Donovan: I wasn't privy to the Chief's discussion with the superintendent. The way I read this is, if the superintendent doesn't like the color of your hair, you're out the door. I'm embellishing that, but what it says is superintendent may for any lawful reason, request the removal and replacement of the SRO in the school. If the SRO is not replaced with another SRO acceptable to the district, district may terminate this agreement.

Trustee Batson: I'm in general okay with that part of it because in my private life I work with at will and there are lots of rules like that. I feel fairly comfortable. The first part that I'm concerned about is that they can just right off the bat choose. I just want to make sure that that word discretion right there is legally, that they have input, not sole decision making.

Attorney Donovan: Let's go back to our favorite topic, Orange County Transit. Where we've talked about the word diligence. We can talk about diligence, we can talk about discretion, we could talk about that and I can pay for my kid's college tuition three times over. What you think is appropriate discretion and what I think is appropriate discretion may be two different things. I can tell you this language is legal. It's a judgment call on the board with the input from the Chief, whether or not you think this is appropriate or whether or not you're giving up. Look, I think I had conversations with the manager. The issue that I raised with him is that, you're budgeting, this is an income stream to pay some officers. If the superintendent decides, in their discretion that they don't want that SRO, then you still have an officer, but you've lost an income stream. That was what I communicate to the manager. My issue with this change. The Chief has had this conversation. He spoke to the superintendent, so he has his input. That was the concern that I raised to the manager.

Trustee Garrison: My only concern was the word discretion. But as Trustee Batson put forth and we had that discussion.

Trustee Maher: I'm good with it.

Trustee Pearson: Are you good with it?

Chief Herlihy: Perfectly.

Trustee Pearson: You weren't last year. Last year, you said you wanted to be in control of who was in there and who wasn't in there because we hired officers for that.

Chief Herlihy: It was a brand new outfit.

Trustee Pearson: It's in the minutes that states that. Now it's different this year?

Chief Herlihy: It's a brand new outfit. Now we're in there. We've been through it. We've set up our system, and now we're running it smooth.

Trustee Pearson: Was there an issue that happened that something happened?

Chief Herlihy: There might have been, but there are different school districts, not just our school.

Trustee Pearson: Are all the contracts, the same in Montgomery, Maybrook, everywhere? Exactly the same.

Chief Herlihy: Exactly the same.

Manager Revella: There may have been an issue at another school that we're not privy to because it wasn't our officers involved.

Trustee Pearson: We hired two officers part time for this position. Last year?

Chief Herlihy: Yes.

Trustee Pearson: Do we still have those same officers?

Chief Herlihy: Yes.

Trustee Pearson: Did you hire any more officers for this position as well?

Chief Herlihy: We have an interview set up this week.

Manager Revella: I think your next question is if they cancel, we don't still pay them because they're not going to be working.

Chief Herlihy: But we have a specific provision in our contract for SRO specific officers and they are there for SRO purposes. We have dual purpose that have SRO capabilities. But the officers that we're hiring now, the two of them, it's Officer Bodensieck and then one interview this week will be specific for SRO in the event that the school was to cancel our contract. We don't pay them because they are not road officers.

Trustee Pearson: If we don't have that control anymore, why are we even doing it? Why don't they just go through the Town of Montgomery?

Chief Herlihy: We have not relinquished control. It does not say that it is a sole decision. They have input. They have discretion. Discretion means that they could give their opinion and we could take it into account.

Trustee Pearson: They don't like what you say and they just going to cancel.

Chief Herlihy: But there's no malicious intent here. Why are you thinking that the school is out to get us?

Trustee Pearson: I like to read into things because those are possibilities.

Chief Herlihy: I could see if it was one contract changed and none of the other of the seven. That would be a different story. That would be a clue. But everybody's contract is the same except for money value.

Trustee Pearson: What are the other villages getting for their people? Are we getting the same amount as other villages?

Chief Herlihy: I'm not privy to other contracts.

Mayor Ramos: That's up to the villages.

Trustee Pearson: Do we get the same?

Chief Herlihy: Yes.

Manager Revella: I don't know the other contracts either.

Trustee Pearson: I don't know. I just thought you were so adamant last year about having the control over your people and you need to know who was going to be there and you wanted that and you were hiring these people specifically and now it's like you're relinquishing a lot of that.

Chief Herlihy: No, I'm not relinquishing anything.

Manager Revella: Trustee Pearson, the contract should be public and you should be able to obtain them from the school district if you're interested in the other ones as well. They should be available to you.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I guess we all have that issue with discretion. When we took out the part about the sole discretion. I see that. It says if SRO is not replaced with SRO acceptable to the district, the district may terminate this agreement upon ten days written notice. I guess my concern is, line eight, says if the district is dissatisfied with the performance of particular, it shall provide a written request. All of that written request and everything is out the window now it's just down to a ten day agreement.

Chief Herlihy: That's if it's not done within ten days. But the superintendent has assured me that they will work every possible angle before even coming to a determination of canceling our contract. It's not going to be like, hey, we didn't like that person. We're done with you.

Trustee Pearson: How would they know they like the person or don't like? They don't know these people.

Chief Herlihy: If there was an incident involving the SRO and they brought it to our attention and we failed to take corrective action and something else happened. Then if they warned us about it again and we failed to take corrective action. At one point in time, do you just stop?

Trustee Pearson: That's in here anyway. In your contract.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That's a good question, because I was going down that road. I didn't say it as eloquent. Based off what she said, is that already in here about the disciplinary side of it, if you don't take action, what happens? Step one, two or three? The district gets to say it's over. We're done with.

Chief Herlihy: There are other provisions in the contract. I only brought up the page in question because you guys have already agreed on everything else. This was the only specific change that they made that we needed board approval for.

Deputy Mayor Carley: If all the contracts are like that, it is what it is. It's just something that I saw too about the discretion, sole discretion and all that.

Chief Herlihy: If I was worried about something, I would come to the board, I would come to the Village Manager and say, hey, I'm worried about this.

Deputy Mayor Carley: This is the issue I have when it's opinionated or it's based on my feelings

because you can go away today, retired and somebody else come in and say, I have a problem and then we all go through this hoop. That's what I believe that what the Village Attorney was alluding to, we can argue discretion. We can argue diligence. Same thing with the district. So why not put something in here, make it more solid? In my opinion. But we're going to leave it alone. We discussed it.

Trustee Pearson: What would happen if it wasn't approved?

Chief Herlihy: If we don't approve it, we have no contract with them.

Trustee Pearson: We already signed a contract.

Manager Revella: They made a material change to the contract before they signed it. So, the contract is void.

Mayor Ramos: I commend the new District Superintendent. Obviously, she's new, first year. Just like this program is new. We shook out the cobwebs. The school district, specifically Walden Elementary School, can't be more happier with the services that we've been providing under your leadership. We have good officers and the superintendents discretion has to be based on lawful reason. And with those lawful reasons, we do have contractual items in the police contract for disciplinary issues. I know for a fact that you would not leave anybody in there that is not up to par. I have no issue with the discretion and it's based upon lawful reason, period. I'm kind of glad that they limited to just two sentences instead of a full paragraph. Kudos on them.

Trustee Maher made a motion to authorize the Village Manager to sign the SRO agreement with the Valley Central School District with modifications. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 3-23-24 Budget Transfer

Trustee Garrison made a motion to adopt Resolution 3-23-24 Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 4-23-24 Budget Transfers

Trustee Hall made a motion to adopt Resolution 4-23-24 Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Well 5 Rehab Bid

Manager Revella: Well 5 was having some bearing issues. We had a company come evaluate that are really the only company that responds and can do this kind of work. The engineer wanted you to consider them the sole source because you can't get someone else to do that work and need this to be done as soon as possible because we're having issues with another well down there that will hopefully get some pricing on soon for you as well. Layne, they've done work for us before. They're reputable in the industry. It's for \$41,250, is their estimate. Hopefully it stays within. They have a labor rate on here just in case it was going over hours. He doesn't anticipate going over that. But you never know.

Trustee Pearson: Can we start on a Monday so he doesn't go into holidays and weekends?

Manager Revella: Absolutely.

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve the bid from Layne Christensen for Well 5 Rehab. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

August 1st Meeting

Mayor Ramos: I had this put on, the night of August 1st is National Night Out, which we've been waiting for. I'm requesting that the board meeting be changed to August 8th from August 1st.

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the change of the Village Board regular scheduled meeting from August 1, 2023 to August 8, 2023.

Trustee Pearson: Number one, I didn't even know there was a National Night Out happening. Where has that been publicized?

Mayor Ramos: I mentioned that last meeting.

Trustee Pearson: Are we contributing to the National Night Out?

Manager Revella: Financially? No.

Trustee Pearson: Well, we're sending officers. So, there's financial.

Manager Revella: Where is National Night Out this year?

Trustee Hall: Town of Montgomery Benedict Park.

Trustee Pearson: We're sending our officers. How much? So, we are contributing to that.

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Pearson: When we went through budget, we asked about National Night Out. There was nothing put in the budget for National Night Out at all. I asked the Chief, he said we're not doing National Night Out.

Manager Revella: We're not hosting.

Trustee Pearson: We're doing National Night Out. Why do we do this when we don't have money in the budget?

Manager Revella: We're not hosting National Night Out, which would be budgeted. We're participating just like we participate in mutual events like Montgomery Day. We'll have officers. And they'll have officers here for Harvest Fest.

Deputy Mayor Carley: But we're not bringing in extra officers, extra cost?

Manager Revella: Part time officers would likely attend. And we do pay for that.

Trustee Pearson: How many officers attend?

Manager Revella: Usually, two. The Chief would attend.

Trustee Pearson: I get it. We've always wanted it in Walden. That kind of went away from here. That's why we talked about it at budget time, to bring it back to Walden. I know the Town of Montgomery was putting \$10,000 or something in their budget this year for it.

Manager Revella: Every year, they said. That's what they told us.

Trustee Pearson: Are they going to pay for our officers to go there?

Manager Revella: Ask Chief to make the request.

Trustee Garrison: At what point do we stop worrying about some of the finances and start looking at the community? This is a question directly to you. We're up here discussing, so we're paying this. We're indirectly paying this. We're paying this. But it's a community town wide event. Shouldn't we have a police presence there?

Trustee Pearson: Yes. So, why don't we budget for it?

Trustee Garrison: It clearly was already budgeted when we budgeted out the payroll for the Police Department, this was already included in there.

Trustee Pearson: No it wasn't.

Trustee Garrison: There was no extra money going because we're not funding any of the event except for the part time officers. What point do we stop worrying about the money and start worrying about making the community aware of us as a proper village and doing right for them? You did the same thing earlier and I bit my tongue on why did we pull over 32 people and only issue six tickets? Why are we ticketing our village residents on petty things to increase revenue? When are we start worrying about the community and stop worrying about how much money we're spending on stupid things?

Trustee Pearson: I wanted to know the difference.

Trustee Garrison: This is a community event.

Trustee Pearson: Where have you been for the last National Night Outs that are down in the village when we had them?

Trustee Garrison: I was there.

Trustee Pearson: There is no line in the budget for community events or for the National Night Out.

Mayor Ramos: This National Night Out was for the Town of Montgomery. They did it when they did their budget, correct?

Manager Revella: They did budget for it in the town.

Trustee Maher: So, we're going to be having the meeting the 8th and the 15th?

Manager Revella: The next regular school meeting is the 15th. I don't know if you want to push that one to the 22nd as well, because if we're going to have two back to back, it doesn't make a lot of sense. We'll have 2 weeks between the 22nd and the next one for bills and things, if you want to do that.

Attorney Donovan: Not that this should bear, but I just do want to put out there. On the 8th I do have a conflict.

Trustee Maher: I do as well.

Attorney Donovan: On the 22nd, I have a conflict as well.

Mayor Ramos: If it pleases the board, we can continue having the meeting on the 15th and forgo the 1st or the 8th.

Trustee Hall: Does it have to be on a Tuesday?

Manager Revella: You can do any day you want to. Up to the board.

Attorney Donovan: I have 4 nights a month available. I got the 3rd Monday, the 2nd Wednesday, the 2nd Thursday and the 4th Wednesday.

Deputy Mayor Carley: What about the Thursday that he was talking about?

Attorney Donovan: 2nd Thursday.

Manager Revella: The 9th or 10th is available for the attorney. It's up to you guys.

Mayor Ramos: We're still doing 5:30 for codes.

Trustee Hall made a motion to reschedule the August 1, 2023 meeting to August 10, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Ramos: The next meeting would be August 15th. Is that too close?

Manager Revella: Yeah, that's what they were saying. You can just have 1.

Trustee Pearson: Years ago, you used to have only one in August.

Trustee Maher made a motion to cancel the August 15, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Depart 9/11 Ceremony

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve the Fire Department 9-11 Ceremony Request, on September 11 at 7pm, pending approval from Police Chief and Building Department. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Overdose Awareness Memorial

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the Overdose Awareness Memorial on August 31st at 5:30pm request, pending approval from Police Chief and Building Department. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mary Ellen Matise: I sent everybody a quick email earlier and I got John's answer. Actually, I just talked to Chief Herlihy about bicycle safety. Today I was driving on Route 52, went across the bridge. I went to turn left on South Montgomery Street. Look to make sure a car isn't coming at you where you did trim some of the trees, but they need to be trimmed more, to make sure a car isn't coming at you. I get ready to make my turn into South Montgomery Street, a bicyclist comes flying out of South Montgomery Street. And if I hadn't been back, the timing hadn't been just right. I

would have hit this guy. He is supposed to stop for the stop sign. Bicyclists follow all the V&T rules, the rules of the road. He said we didn't do a program this year. We did bike rodeo. A lot of it's geared to kids. We have a lot of adults on bikes. This guy was an adult and he was flying. If I hit that guy, he would have been medevac'd. I don't want to be responsible for that. And it's a good thing I just happened to see him because I knew there was no car there. I asked Chief, we can't get these books anymore. Used to get stacks of them and give them out here in the village. But maybe he could do it with the summer camp kids, go over bike safety while he has a bunch of kids in one place at one time. Maybe we could put up some signs, put it on our website, make sure people know them. Bicyclists never stop for a stop signs and they should. This just really pointed it out today, and maybe we could just have some signs made that would go at the village entrance saying that the motor vehicle code applies to bicyclists. So, people can't say, I didn't know. Maybe they know, but as long as we have it posted, put it on our calendar, put the calendar out, put it on the Facebook page. No offense, but to me as a taxpayer, the Village Board's role is to protect how our money is spent, to protect our health and welfare of our village, to protect our property values. Yeah, we do want to have good time and we do have good times in the Village of Walden. And a lot of it is done voluntarily. A lot of it is money that's raised. National Night Out. I'm sorry that we don't do it in the village anymore because people did love it. I don't know how it's going to work out at Benedict Park. There's not much parking there, but they couldn't have it at the high school, according to Chief Hank because of the construction. I don't know what it's going to be like at Benedict Park, because the fields are all planted in high grasses. I don't know where they're going to set up.

Diane Sandbooth: The last time I was here, you said an Olga Vargas, you had spoken to her. She wanted us to move the stones by our black cemetery. I don't want to do that. You said you were going to come up with another idea.

Mayor Ramos: We have not heard back from her again. I did send her another email.

Diane Sandbooth: What is another idea?

Mayor Ramos: I don't know what. I'm not a geologist.

Diane Sandbooth: What other alternative do I have about our cemetery?

Mayor Ramos: Maybe we can talk to our local legislatures and local assemblymen and senators to step in for that.

Diane Sandbooth: The building across the street from the small firehouse that's all boarded up. What's happening?

Manager Revella: 35-37 North Montgomery Street. They've been approached about their permitting process and whether they're going to effectuate that permit or not, because right now it is in a condemnation status. That's why it was boarded up.

Diane Sandbooth: That means it's going to be torn down?

Manager Revella: That's not what that means, though. It means it cannot be occupied until it's been deemed to be able to be occupied by the Building Department.

Diane Sandbooth: That's the main street when people coming into town. It's horrible.

Mayor Ramos: Just the other day, there was a survey team there surveying the building. That's indicative of the possible sale of that building or renovation or to build something. That's hopeful.

Diane Sandbooth: When is the sign going up on Liberty Street? One way parking?

Mayor Ramos: Soon as we figure out which side we're going to do. I know you said that but you're not the only resident.

Diane Sandbooth: Well, I'm the only resident here that has come and said anything. What do I have to do? Send a petition? Send a letter to everybody on Liberty St?

Manager Revella: The board can host a Town Hall with residents from that street and find out their input from them. And then after that, they'd have to pass a local law to put in the no parking, wherever that may be.

Diane Sandbooth: The fireworks, July 3rd. You had fireworks here in the village over the 4th. Somebody had fireworks. 10:00, 11:00 at night. All of a sudden, my neighbors were having fireworks. It was really loud. And is it permitted after 10, 11:00 at night?

Manager Revella: Anyone that's shooting off fireworks in the village, if there are certain kind of fireworks, they would need a permit for that. I don't know if anyone did. If you ever notice them in that manner where they're loud like that, you can always report it and they'll go and evaluate and see if it's permitted or not. Then they can cite them.

Diane Sandbooth: There's a covered car on the street, on Seely Street. I thought if you had a covered car that you're not using. It had to be parked on your property. This is parked actually on the street.

Manager Revella: You might be correct. I just didn't know there was one there.

Diane Sandbooth: During the winter time, if there's two inches of snow, everybody has to park in their driveway. Is it an ordinance somewhere that says now that it's summertime, everybody has to park in your driveway, if you have one available? Instead of parking on the street.

Mayor Ramos: No. Street is public street.

Diane Sandbooth: The streets are really narrow and everybody is parking on the streets. It's really dangerous. The electric bikes, the scooters. I was going into Anna's a few weeks ago, to get my nails done and somebody almost ran me over, I walked with a cane.

Manager Revella: If you ever see them out there and they're going anyway, can estimate over 20 miles an hour. There are a lot of regulations on them. You just let the police know or if they're on the sidewalks and they're driving that way, even a bicycle. If they're doing that and they're in your way, you can call the police on that. They have to move out of the way.

Patricia Henighan: I'm with the Conservation Advisory Council. We've been working on climate smart actions. We had a repair cafe in this room on June 10th and we're going to have another one scheduled for September 24th, which I hope everybody can make it. We had 17 participants in the first one, so it was really successful. Hoping to be able to have them on a regular basis. The second thing is, at our last CAC meeting, we had a speaker, Peggy Kurtz, from Community Choice Aggregate. She spoke to us about how communities can sign up for clean electrical energy at competitive prices. Some of the benefits were powerful climate action by the community as a whole. This would be either using hydro or wind for the electric. Strong consumer protection, no contracts for consumers, no exit fees, potential cost savings through large buying group and more

choices for consumers. This program, Jewel Community Power, is a very successful program that administers in the Hudson Valley and across the state. The CCA programs can help municipalities achieve their climate goals and secure funding in both the New York State Climate Smart Communities and Clean Energy Communities Program. This is something really worth looking into and I would urge the board to consider having her come and explain the program in detail. I have a flier that I can leave with you with contact information.

Cheryl Baker: A while ago, someone had brought up the suggestion of renaming Albany Avenue after Sam Wright. That still has not been done. I thought we had a sign done.

Manager Revella: We do. It was officially named that and the signs were bought and we have them. We were waiting for the family to tell us a date for dedication officially on the site, but the roads are Samuel Wright Way. The board voted on that already.

Cheryl Baker: That's why I thought, but I thought it still says Albany Ave.

Manager Revella: It does, because we're waiting for them to do the ceremony.

Cheryl Baker: It's been a couple of years.

Manager Revella: I talk to them probably once a week.

Cheryl Baker: It's up to them, it's their right. Next I've reached out or tried to reach out to DOT multiple times about that ugly defacing on our Veterans Bridge. Have you had any success in getting a response from them?

Manager Revella: Negative. I had the police reach out to them as well to let them know there's graffiti there and to respond.

Cheryl Baker: Even if someone like me or another volunteer wanted to go there and paint, we had to get their permission to go?

Manager Revella: Absolutely. You want to paint a DOT bridge you need permission. Unfortunately. Be nice for someone to volunteer and do it.

Trustee Batson: Ralph and I volunteer.

Trustee Garrison: I'll do it. I just can't until they say it's okay.

Cheryl Baker: My next thing is that wonderful eyesore we have on West Main Street. 110-116. Has there been any progress with that? I see they dumped off a whole bunch of siding boxes weeks ago that are disintegrating into the ground and nothing else.

Manager Revella: They got put back on the abandoned property list for their permit filing, but I don't know if they've upped their permit.

Cheryl Baker: What happens at that point if they are non-responsive to doing the building permits and it's just further degrade? There are kids shooting the rocks at the windows almost every single night. It was never a Taj Mahal to begin with under the current owner. But under these new ones, it has really slid under and why it's such an attractive nuisance to people now, I don't. What are the options if they're just not going to do their permits?

Manager Revella: They're listed as abandoned property, so they're paying a fee for that. And if there are any violations with the property, the Building Department will site them for violations as well.

Cheryl Baker: My thought with the properties and I don't know what the village's thought since parking's always been a problem here, especially for businesses on West Main Street. Would the village ever consider maybe approaching them, offering to buy those buildings, knock them down, and extend the municipal parking lot?

Manager Revella: I don't know if the board ever wants to take property off the tax rolls to make it public or not. I'm not sure that's what they want to do.

Mayor Ramos: I would love to.

Deputy Mayor Carley: It's all about business improvement district.

Cheryl Baker: It would be a great benefit to our Main Street businesses because there's limited parking on there. You would take away the vagrancy problem that we have or truancy, whatever you want to phrase it with the kids that keep destroying the buildings and you have a municipal parking lot. Which parking is very desperately needed in this village.

Manager Revella: Just so you know, I doubt the owner wants to sell to anybody. He had approached the Building Department with a renovation plan to redo the building and make some kind of space on the first floor, apartments on the upper floors and redo the back into a shipping building. I'm not sure why that fell off the wayside. And that's how they started. They got a permit, then they stopped. I don't know if they ever got the Planning Board or Zoning Board, but they stopped at that point.

Cheryl Baker: I had spoken to the owners, they had indicated to me that, those buildings were in bad shape to begin with and once you start tearing things up, you realize how very badly shape things are. I think it was a much larger project than what they probably assumed. Maybe at some time down the line that could be a consideration from the village. We have a beautiful village. I don't want people coming on our main drag and seeing that. That's not going to attract businesses and it's not going to attract people to want to bring their families here when they see buildings like that or the one that's across from by the firehouse there. It does not give a very good look for this village. We have a lot of activities, programs, family oriented.

Brenda Adams: I don't know whose territory this is, but on Woodruff Street coming off of Ulster. There are wires down and somebody hung yellow tape.

Manager Revella: The police hung yellow tape. They contacted Frontier. They contacted them again on the emergency service. And then they contact them again. It's still, as far as I know, hanging today.

Brenda Adams: At 1:33 today, it was still hanging. I was wondering about the garbage truck coming through.

Manager Revella: I don't know how the shipping trucks got through down to the warehouse. Makes no sense.

Brenda Adams: I don't think they're live wires.

Manager Revella: It's telephone.

Brenda Adams: And it might stop other people from getting telephone when it comes off. Might take out more than one person. My favorite thing is the sweeper. And with everything that's been happening with all this rain, Walden's full of hills. Of course, the dirt all goes to the bottom of the last hill down. The storm sewers are filling up. I was hoping the street sweeper would be going out soon.

Manager Revella: It's been out yesterday and today. I don't know what section it's in right now, but it's been around.

Brenda Adams: Okay, because there's a lot of dirt out there and I know I cleaned out the storm sewer. That's one storm sewer. There's many in the village. The last thing I have this is from the manager's report, is the life insurance that you were speaking of above and beyond what New York State Retirement provides for employees?

Manager Revella: Absolutely. It's separate. It's a policy that the village pays for all full time employees. I think it's 20,000 in coverage right now. We're upping it to 50. And it's almost the same exact cost for 50,000 opposed to 20.

Brenda Adams: I was just curious because New York State Retirement offers a life insurance policy with it. That's pretty substantial. It's only while you're working, up to three years of your salary. Once you're retired, you're toast.

Payment of Audited Bills

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the payment of audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Batson: Now that the previous year's budget has closed out, should we review the top three budget concerns from the previous year for each department to make sure that we're not going to fall into those types of pitfalls again? I know budget popped up a couple of times, but I'm a real big fan of making sure that we are still on track and potentially even looking at that quarterly. In future meetings, I would like to look at the top three budget risk items from last year and make sure that we are not trending in the wrong way for those.

Trustee Pearson: You want to do that quarterly?

Trustee Batson: I am up for suggestion. I feel like just from my very limited experience, there's a lot of variability monthly. I feel like quarterly may give a better snapshot into trends that may be able to be course corrected or something. I don't know. It's just my finance background talking. I'm hesitant to only look at that budget when it's time to redo it.

Manager Revella: In the past we used to do a mid-year report, but if you want quarterly, that's in August.

Trustee Batson: I don't want to burden everyone. It doesn't have to be a part of the meeting.

Manager Revella: It would be a printed out report from Edmunds. But we would have to go through it.

Trustee Batson: There are a lot of stats in the reports. Hard to digest from week to week basis.

Things like number of tickets, stops, violations. I don't feel like I get the sense of success based on looking at numbers each week. Is there a place where those numbers are contained?

Manager Revella: I would say success is zero tickets, because that means they're complying. There's an annual report the Police Department does. Shows OT, arrests, tickets, summonses issued. There could be any data that you want.

Trustee Batson: Is there a same thing for the Code Enforcement Officer?

Manager Revella: Now that they have a new system, they probably could generate reports based on that. We can talk about that.

Trustee Batson: Is there some sort of measure of town success? I go back to the business world I'm familiar with. I can manage anything in my world from a dashboard and tell exactly where any segment of my business is. Is there anything equivalent for this town for that?

Manager Revella: That would be really difficult to measure because what would you use as a threshold?

Trustee Batson: I don't know. When I look at things like number of budget transfers that we have to do.

Manager Revella: I thought you meant how many vacancies we have in the village or properties filled. What are the sale prices and things or how much we're spending on certain things. I don't know.

Trustee Batson: So, there is no consistent easy government snapshot that tells the overall health.

Trustee Maher: They do it by only county, right?

Manager Revella: Only finance and that's through the comptroller's office and they'll tell you if you're fiscally stressed or not. That's the only thing that we know of that will show you where you are on that list and we're successful that we're not on that list. Countywide like Trustee Maher said. There's statistics in that area, but it's hard.

Trustee Maher: I don't recall it to break it down by municipality. The BCGM just did one also. And that included our three villages. I don't know how comprehensive it was and how far back it went, as far as measurables.

Mayor Ramos: If we think that there is worthy of future discussion, the challenges around the site plan for Orange County Transit, I don't want to uniquely look at them. Are there other site plans out there that exists that are wildly out of compliance that should fall under the same sort of scrutiny that we're going to potentially put them through?

Manager Revella: I don't know of any other site plans pending. There's one other subdivision plan that was approved, but they really haven't done work yet, and that's for the Kidd Farm Project. I don't know of any other site plans that are pending. Walden Glen had an approval but that's expired. I don't know if they've come back to renew that for the trailer park and then the apartment complex, Falcon's Rest. But they're changing their name. He actually messaged me yesterday. They're going to do a dedication. He's looking for mid-August. He'll send me the details when he knows. I'll let all of you know to be there as well. If you want to be there for the ribbon cutting.

Attorney Donovan: Not to beat this up too much, but on that issue of site plan compliance, typically what happens is the Building Department is the code enforcer and they enforce either code or zoning compliance. That would take its course through that department and through local Justice court, if that's the avenue that the Building Department pursues. If, however, they want to bring a lawsuit that needs to be authorized by the Village Board. It would come to you on that occasion. I think what's happened with the Orange County Transit, because they're here, because it's a hot button issue, the Village Board is obviously exercising your right to say what's going on with X, Y and Z. If they weren't coming here, probably those questions would be directed to the Building Department and to be determination as to what the appropriate enforcement proceeding would be.

Trustee Garrison: I do want to apologize to you. I felt like I yelled at you and I shouldn't have. I'll start with that. Just a couple of comments on things. Things I've noticed around the village in the last month or so. Summer camp is doing amazing. I drop my kids off there every day. I think it's one of the best summer camps I've seen in years and they're managing 420 plus kids. The other thing is I noticed more of a police presence on the roads where I noticed officers driving around more. Kudos to them for doing that. Overall, the morale of the village, I think is a little higher now than it's been previously. I'm not noticing as many people hanging out in front of the pizzerias or just standing on the parking lot at the gas stations. I guess kudos to the police and whoever is policing up these people to kind of keep them moving and everything. I think the village is looking great and that's because of the people that live here.

Trustee Hall: The Waterfront Park. Is there anything, are we still waiting on the construction crews or anything that we can move forward?

Manager Revella: They're out. We kick them to the curb. We got pricing from one other contractor. I'm hoping to have a letter from the engineer to present to you guys to say, go ahead and we'll go ahead as soon as I get that. Hopefully I get that this week.

Trustee Hall: I had a couple of residents ask and I'm pretty sure they're different ones than you spoke to, ask in the last week or so about it.

Manager Revella: I drove down today and I was like, I hope we can more this soon or cut down the brush. But I walked out and it's still too much rain.

Trustee Hall: I know with all the rain, you're not going to be able to. I saw a guy trying to mow his area with a pond and he ended up in the pond today. I understand that. The house coming up Scofield, when you're driving up and there's all that stuff there.

Manager Revella: 87? on the corner of Ridge. Just to the boards aware, they've got a violation and they'll remove the mess that's there at the time and then another one will come. The people that live there are in the business of doing junk removal. They'll come home with their junk and park it there, remove some stuff, assess it, they'll get a notice, they'll get it all out. Then a few days later they'll come back with more junk.

Trustee Hall: I noticed the toilet moved, but the junk seem to be the same. I got to drive up there every day. The other one I noticed was over on South Montgomery, which I believe you were over that way. Maybe 118. I'd have to stop and look. I was driving to work and saw it.

Manager Revella: What did you notice at the place? And I'll tell you which place it is.

Trustee Hall: It's been a while. Junk.

Manager Revella: Bunch of cars?

Trustee Hall: There are some cars. There's just stuff out in front of the garage.

Manager Revella: Red House?

Trustee Hall: I don't think it's a red house.

Manager Revella: I think it's an apartment and I think they have six toters at that place. We'll check that out.

Trustee Hall: I hate to contradict you there, but I did have a couple of residents show concern about certain young people hanging out in front of pizza places recently. I don't know if it's in light of what's been going on, but there's just been a little more with teenagers hanging out in certain areas.

Manager Revella: School's out. It's warmer out. Most of them are at the teen center until it closes.

Trustee Hall: I don't think it's those kids. I heard great things about the teen center lately, though.

Manager Revella: There are some people that are going around the village that are in the process of litigation, and when that goes through, they won't be in the village any more likely. Hopefully that handles a few of the problems.

Trustee Maher: I did love what Mary Ellen said about the bike safety course. If we can get confirmation from Chief to do that with the kids, I think that would be great. Tying into that, though, who does press releases for the village? What department is that?

Manager Revella: For what?

Trustee Maher: If we were to, not just have the Chief go there and speak to the kids, but make it like a big, positive news story where we could send out a press release to the newspaper.

Manager Revella: We can send press releases to the newspaper. Doesn't mean they are going to publish them. Most departments will write their own, send it to me to review. I usually would approve it or do some edits. They'll send it out or I'll send it out for them. Otherwise, we can post our own.

Mayor Ramos: We can invite Ms. Cafaro to wherever. She's been pretty active.

Trustee Hall: I think it's a good idea. Every function we have, just making sure that we're punctuating it with some positive PR.

Trustee Pearson: I'm just going to talk about the email that I received first. This is from the former mayor. She just asked that for the code revision, if we can, which document or reattaching the document 15a to the code book. She'd like to see that in there. If it's not going to be in there. The original 15a. That is our form of government or the modified version that Trustee Carly keeps referencing. Maybe that's something we do need to talk about. If John wants to put that on his list, she also talked about the unsightly Building Department office, which could be maybe power washed and cleaned again because it's pretty unsightly she thought. She had some things to say about the bus company, but that's not going to make a difference now. She just wondered how many kids utilize the teen center. I don't know, because she was worried about the pickle ball and teen

center conflicting with the teens. I think that was the gist of her letter. Really putting that one thing into the code for the regular real article 15a. I got another message about the banners. Somebody wondered how and if we can get banners again. I know you were talking about that. I know Cheryl brought it up. Mayor, I don't know if you've gotten anywhere with that about the banners for the bridges and the posts.

Mayor Ramos: It costs money.

Trustee Pearson: Yes, it costs money.

Trustee Maher: There have been some updates. It's just not finalized yet.

Cheryl Baker: It was going to be on the agenda for the next meeting. I pretty much have all the ducks in a row. I have an application for people to fill out. I'm working on a few other little things, but I'll have a presentation for you.

Trustee Pearson: I'll let them know that. Thank you. The stairs. What's up with that?

Manager Revella: They messaged us again saying that they're finalizing the railing system for the stairs.

Trustee Pearson: They're keeping the stairs?

Manager Revella: Oh, yeah. They said they're in compliance. I gave it to the mayor, it's in writing. I didn't believe they would put it in writing.

Trustee Pearson: Before you know, school is going to start. I know people don't want to walk around the street. There used to be signs, the second and the first floor about loitering on the stairs. I came down the stairs one day and they didn't want to move. Kids in the stairwell. You want to sit there, great but at least move so somebody can get by you. They had the whole stairs covered sitting there, food, drink, whatever else was going on. I did mention something to the Police Department. We did have signs up. There are no signs except from the third floor.

Manager Revella: The library had put them out and they may have to take them out.

Trustee Pearson: I don't know if we can look at that again. Hill Street.

Manager Revella: I can tell you I have no updates on the Hill Street litigation from last meeting. I know that their answer is due soon. But that's all I have.

Trustee Pearson: Do we have a nurse for camp?

Manager Revella: Yes and a backup nurse.

Trustee Pearson: I didn't know. I knew we had an office. I didn't know if we actually had a nurse.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I think it's a good idea about the bicycles. One of the things I was thinking about. Do we have a safety program that we usually do, beginning of summer to kick off like summer safety.

Manager Revella: They used to do what's called a bike rodeo. This is the other program is what they did in the past. I'm just not sure what that was. I wasn't here.

Trustee Pearson: It used to be done at Harvest Fest. When Harvest Fest was in the summer. They used to have the car in the square with the seatbelt thing and the car and the bikes rodeo and the kids would bring their bikes and safety and helmets and that kind of stuff and they'd raffle things off. But I don't know if they still do it at this Harvest Fest in the fall.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The other one was because we've been kicking the can down the road quite a bit. This is Samuel Wright sign. At what point do we go like the family has not responded, we just go ahead and do a ceremony as a village and make the just the changes?

Manager Revella: That's up to you guys.

Deputy Mayor Carley: It's been a minute. I haven't talked to him personally, but if we've done our due diligence as in trying to contact them and getting it done and they're not responsive for whatever reason, if we're going to do it, I say we just do it. If the board says yes. The property on Main Street. I'm not a lawyer. At what point do you we can do eminent domain and say this is the point where we go to make this adjustment if you like it or not?

Attorney Donovan: Eminent domain allows you to take private property with just compensation for public use. Or you can, if it's a blight on the neighborhood, you need a blight study to demonstrate that, you can take it to try to demolish it and resell it to improve the neighborhood.

Deputy Mayor Carley: It's a good idea about the parking lot and municipal parking. I don't know if we can have a discussion now or is this something we put on the plate and we can kind of kick the can down the road since this is new. We can look at it, see if it meets that criteria within the blight study.

Manager Revella: It's a long process. But I'm sure it will get litigious as well. I'm not sure what the attorneys advice would be, but it's up to you guys.

Attorney Donovan: I just don't know enough about exactly what you want to accomplish and what it does. You got to evaluate the cost. You have to get an appraisal. You have to pay. There's a process.

Manager Revella: I believe that's all one parcel. I don't know how you subdivide that to take that front piece off.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That's a discussion I guess we need to have at some point.

Manager Revella: I want to ask the Building Department to reach out to the owner to see if we get an update for next meeting.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The point about the budget review, I think it's a good point. I know we do our midyear, which is fine, but I think that's a good point. We don't do performance review or performance measures, which I think will be a great idea, but we haven't done that. I think the code review is going very well. Good dialog going back and forth.

Mayor Ramos: I want to commend the Parks and Rec for attaining over 420 campers. Their storm plan actually worked phenomenally when we had two storms during the campers stay at the Olley Park. No parents had to be called up to come pick them up. They were they were sheltered in our community center. Kudos to all the staff members that are helping these kids transition from outside to inside during these storms. I'd also like to commend Bishop Troy Johnson and Empanada

Nirvana for providing free lunches to kids during the you know, during the week where the need arises. We have good cross-section of areas where these kids can come and get a nutritious meal without any issues.

Executive Session – Personal History of Particular Employee

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

Reconvene

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
July 18, 2023
Motions & Resolutions**

Approval of June 20, 2023 Minutes

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve the June 20, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Batson. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Garrison). Motion carried.

Minutes for July 5, 2023 Special Meeting

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve the July 5, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. 5 ayes. 2 abstentions (Trustee Batson, Trustee Hall). Motion carried.

Orange County Transit

Trustee Garrison made a motion to grant the 12 months extension. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley.

Roll call:

Trustee Pearson: no

Trustee Maher: yes

Trustee Hall: no

Trustee Garrison: yes

Trustee Batson: no

Deputy Mayor Carley: yes

Mayor Ramos: yes

Motion carried

SRO Agreement 2023-2024

Trustee Maher made a motion to authorize the Village Manager to sign the SRO agreement with the Valley Central School District with modifications. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 3-23-24 Budget Transfer

Trustee Garrison made a motion to adopt Resolution 3-23-24 Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 4-23-24 Budget Transfers

Trustee Hall made a motion to adopt Resolution 4-23-24 Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Well 5 Rehab Bid

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve the bid from Layne Christensen for Well 5 Rehab. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

August 1st Meeting

Trustee Hall made a motion to reschedule the August 1, 2023 meeting to August 10, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Maher made a motion to cancel the August 15, 2023 meeting. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Fire Depart 9/11 Ceremony

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve the Fire Department 9-11 Ceremony Request, on September 11 at 7pm, pending approval from Police Chief and Building Department. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Overdose Awareness Memorial

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the Overdose Awareness Memorial on August 31st at 5:30pm request, pending approval from Police Chief and Building Department. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Payment of Audited Bills

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the payment of audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Session – Personal History of Particular Employee

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

Reconvene

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