

**Village of Walden**  
**Board of Trustees Regular Meeting**  
**October 3, 2023**

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

On roll call the following were:	Mayor:	John Ramos
Present:	Deputy Mayor	
	Trustees	Becky Pearson Chris Batson Patricia Maher Kristie Hall
Absent:		Ralph Garrison Jr Willie Carley
Also Present:		John Revella, Village Manager Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk David Donovan, Village Attorney

**Orange County Transit**

**Manager Revella:** Just so the board and the public is aware, the Building Department did confirm that the lids for the septic tanks were put on properly and they're in compliance.

**Village Manager's Report**

Public Works Superintendent Fred Perna introduced new employee, full time mechanic, Brian Koenig.

**Manager Revella:** He's adjusting very well to the new position. It's been good. Since last meeting, had few conversations with the Attorney and Clerk about meeting and agenda items. Had a long discussion with a member of the business community about the state of the village and parking concerns. Went over overtime and staffing issues with the Chief of Police regarding police matters. We have a labor management meeting scheduled next week to go over some potential solutions to those problems. Went over the veterans banners with the DPW Super to make sure they had the time and the ability to put them up and places to put them. Seems to be going pretty well, thankfully. Had a large meeting with the Orange County Transportation Council providing planning and policy. They did end up and they have the ability to order a lot of new transit busses for the county. Town of Montgomery, Crawford, Dial-a-Bus will also be getting new bus. Went over some functionality and changes with the office staff regarding the third floor, potential transitions and the vacancy that's there now. Went over park projects with the Village Engineer and the Rec Coordinator and went over Harvest Fest prep. Unfortunately, didn't take place. Had an unemployment matter come up. Reviewed and updated short term rental law that's on the agenda and the application documents from the Building Department. Went over payroll. Salaries. Went over audit progress with the comptroller. They've been here a few days since last meeting as well. Went over a couple billing updates for the new billing company. There's some language we'd like to see updated on the columns to make it a little more user friendly. Attended the Town Hall style meeting on Liberty Street to listen to resident concerns with four of the board members. The Fire Chief also was present, which was good, to talk about traffic and parking there. The Youth Bureau

grant was submitted for reimbursement as well. Park use requests ongoing in the Parks Department. Lawn maintenance, programming, outdoor soccer is going on now. Indoor soccer registration is open. They did have a trip to a Jets game September 24th. It went well despite the weather issues that day. The Building Inspector issued 13 new building permits, 5 COs, 3 landlord registry registrations, 18 property violations, and 1 abandoned property letter went out. Code Enforcement Officer list should be out soon, so hopefully we can get that canvassed and filled. The Part Time Building Inspector did complete 4 commercial fire safety inspections, 11 residential fire inspections, including 29 apartments, and issued 9 letters to owners to make corrections. Also, assisted with planning and zoning matters. Also helped review the painting that happened outside of this building. It's complete and satisfactory so we can make that payment. Clerk has been updating social media and working on personnel matters, FOILs, handicap requests, minutes and resident requests. Finance Department has been working on budget adjustments which they have on for this meeting, year-end reconciliations, office staff with me, journal entries, coding for billing, the lockbox and resident requests and concerns, and vouchers. Public Works. The mechanic has been updating and catching up on the things have been put aside since the vacancy occurred. Sewer plant and the stations, including pump repairs are going on, replacement parts as needed. We have a couple of DEC meetings coming up on funding. They are pressing sludge as time allows and the weather allows. Water Department did 36 mark outs, replaced 2 meters, 2 endpoints, conducted 2 inspections and 1 closing. They also repaired a water main break on North Montgomery Street. They did a great job clearing up debris from the storms, trying to help people as much as they could. Putting the banners on the poles for the veterans' banners. Going over permits, patching roads, flushing and jetting sewer lines, catching up on different projects throughout the village. They have a lot more to do for winter. The Police Department is still having staffing issues, part timers and full timers where we've canvassed the new county list and hopefully we can get some people to fill in. They're trying to catch up as much as they can and keep the shifts filled without too many complications. We did issue 9 traffic tickets, 1 parking summons, have 8 MVAs, 4 arrests. There were 212 blotters since last meeting. HVAC work is ongoing, as you can see in the hallways. The units have been taken out. They're preparing to put the new ones in.

**Trustee Pearson:** You had a conference with the Village Engineer to discuss parks. Can you discuss the waterfront park with me? I want to know when it's starting.

**Manager Revella:** It already started.

**Trustee Pearson:** What did we do?

**Manager Revella:** They're taking out the stumps and trying to grade. You can go check it out after the meeting.

**Trustee Pearson:** But our grant is up as of December of this year. It takes 30 days ahead of time to renew that. Are we renewing that? What are we doing with it?

**Manager Revella:** Depending on how much we expend before then, we'll expend a good bit before that.

**Trustee Pearson:** How much was it for, 125? We'll be on top of that for November?

**Manager Revella:** Extend? Yes. Hopefully we don't have to extend.

**Trustee Pearson:** The programming for the community center. Can we get something from the Parks Department on what's happening? What programs are being offered down there, when they are? I know the seniors meet there, but are there weddings down there? Are there community groups that

are meeting? Something like maybe a monthly report of what is happening that month in what they're signed up to do to rent that out, that building. How it's being rented.

**Manager Revella:** There have been a lot of birthdays for sure.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'd like to just see what's being rented there. It would be awesome. Thank you. Painting the outside of the building looks great. Thank you for that. Code Enforcement Officer. You said we're going to be.

**Manager Revella:** We have to canvas the civil service list. Just got the test results back.

**Trustee Pearson:** You have to canvas a list. Can you just hire outside of a list?

**Manager Revella:** No. Unless you get a lateral transfer, you have to hire off the list.

**Trustee Pearson:** You can't put out there that you need a Code Enforcement Officer.

**Manager Revella:** Yeah, we can.

**Trustee Pearson:** Somebody comes from the community. We can actually advertise for that.

**Manager Revella:** We can poach from another community if they qualify under civil service. Otherwise we can hire off the list.

**Trustee Pearson:** We're not thinking about doing that?

**Manager Revella:** We're going to check the list first to make sure there's nothing crazy on there.

**Trustee Pearson:** Sad to see Harvest Fest didn't go through. I know there was a lot of work. Thank the people who put on all that work to do. Maybe next year. The hydrants, I know the mayor has been asking about the hydrants. There was a hydrant out on the top of Walnut Street a long time ago. And then it was kind of put back in maybe that it was working. Is it working or not working in front of Conklin's House?

**Manager Revella:** If there's not a bag on it, it is working.

**Trustee Pearson:** Will that be replaced because there must have been an issue with it or not?

**Manager Revella:** I was told they fixed whatever was wrong.

**Trustee Pearson:** Police Department. I see the report here. Out of all the reports that we get, really doesn't show me a lot. Out of the 212 blotters, I'd like to know what they are. Was a boy caught in a tree or was it a missing person? I would like to have a little bit more information on what is happening in those departments.

**Manager Revella:** We have the data. What do you want, from when to when?

**Trustee Pearson:** I would like it every month, I guess I would say, or every two weeks what's happening.

**Manager Revella:** I can give you a report to date. I don't know if it's generated constantly like that, but we could give it to you. Maybe monthly. I'll have to check.

**Trustee Pearson:** We're shorthanded and just to see what's happening, I get it, I understand all about. But I'd like to see more.

**Manager Revella:** Majority of the blotters are for welfare checks, park checks, things like that. You want crime statistics? That's a different form.

**Trustee Pearson:** Years ago, the report used to come out that it showed what was happening in the village, in the Police Department. What type of calls they were, how many there were, what hours they were happening. Just so we have an idea of what's happening at what hours. Maybe we need to worry about different officers at different times or things like that. That's what I'm looking for. A little bit more of a detailed report there. Thank you.

**Trustee Hall:** The HVAC on the first floor. You said they're still working on it. I was in there the other day and I saw there was one big unit where the two desks are. But nothing in the back.

**Manager Revella:** No.

**Trustee Hall:** How long do you plan on that?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know. Until they give us quotes on that.

**Trustee Hall:** You're going to go ahead with the second floor and third floor. Before that one is completed.

**Manager Revella:** That's happening now.

**Trustee Hall:** When do you plan on getting a quote on that? Did they say?

**Manager Revella:** I had a quote for the whole building and it was way above what we have for budget, so we couldn't do it. So that's why we're doing it in parts. So we'll see how much money we have left over when we're done.

**Trustee Hall:** A while back I saw that and maybe I missed it because I wasn't here the last meeting, but there was a PD car at Healy. Is that still there?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Hall:** Any word on that?

**Manager Revella:** No. It doesn't pass the New York State emission standards, so it can't get inspection. And without an inspection, we can't use it. Some places are exempt, like Fire Departments are exempt from that. The Police Department is not.

**Trustee Hall:** What are you planning on doing with that?

**Manager Revella:** Probably surplus the car.

**Trustee Hall:** I saw they put railings up on the stairs. Finally. Any news from NYSEG on the EV station?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know when they'll be back. They came, Public Works met with them,

made sure everything was set up. Whenever their work orders come as they come and when they get to that point, they'll show up. We won't even know they're there. They don't give us any heads up.

**Trustee Batson:** Highway Departments report says that they received a call, East 21 Main, contractors stating sewers backed up and had sewer coming into the building. I understand it's the opposite of what we went through on Clinton Street, where a resident had sewer coming on our property. I'm just curious what the liability of things like that are and how frequently they occur?

**Manager Revella:** We could talk about that in attorney-client, but I wouldn't talk about that in public.

**Mayor Ramos:** Thank you again for the railing. I know we beat up the DOT contractor pretty well until they got it up.

### **Approval of September 5, 2023 & September 19, 2023 Minutes**

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve the September 5, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

September 19, 2023 meeting.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve the September 19, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Batson. 4 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Hall). Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Village code. I do agree with Rob Wallner. It should be, shall. I don't know if people know that he has created a complaint form. If you have a complaint about an incident or an issue that comes under his bailiwick, then maybe the form should be online. Just fill in the form, give it to Rob, and then he shall act on it. I think over too many years, complaints went unheeded. I think shall is important. I'm just trying to play catch up here. Short term rentals, I'm reading over the law that is in the packet tonight, I don't know how you're going to enforce it, but that's another issue that we can we go over and over and over it. Good luck with that. Village camera systems. Great idea for public spaces, because I think that for a long time we've had problems with the few cameras we've had out not working. Even one time there was an incident in the Village Square and I'm calling the Police Department and they're like, what are you talking about? Where? I said right outside your window. I noticed on some of the presentations in the packet, were just talking about public spaces and I think that's fine. I don't think we want to be under surveillance in every neighborhood in the village and it would also be cost prohibitive. Do we really need it just to see people's other people's dogs pooping on your property? 36 Orange Avenue. If you go ahead with a zone request with somebody who really should be coming to the Zoning Board first, but of course they're admitting that if they come to the Zoning Board, they're never going to get an approval because it probably would be deemed a self-created hardship. And I'm reading that in the minutes from the last meeting, then by that standard, go to short term rentals. What if everybody in my neighborhood wants to be included in a zone that can have short term rentals and we're not? So then we'll come and ask for a zoning change, won't we? Thank you.

**Dan Svarczkopf:** I heard us talking earlier about possibly changing the code so that if we had a water heater or a furnace go that I would have to get a permit or possibly need to get a permit. I really like that not to change because if my water heater goes at 10 pm. I want to get it fixed, I don't want to have to wait possibly 3 days to get a permit and then have to go 3 days without water. I really prefer not to change.

**Sue Taylor:** Short term rentals. I agree with Mary Ellen. Enforcement is really doubtful, but that goes along with what it is. 36 Orange Avenue. Just want to reiterate what I said when I spoke the last time. It's not the business of this board to make sure that someone's investment is profitable. I agree, you can sympathize with someone that they're in this situation that this gentleman seems to be in. I guess I'm wondering why he didn't examine the property or understand what he was purchasing before he purchased it. Would seem if you're going to make an investment, you would have a business plan. You would look at the property and decide if it fits with the plan that you have for it that you can afford it. I agree again with Mary Ellen that if this board is going to start to adjudicate these things and make zoning changes, then you might as well just get rid of the Zoning Board. That's their job. It's unfortunate that this gentleman would not get relief because he doesn't qualify for it. But those laws are in place for a reason and I would hate to see this board make that kind of error and delve into an area that they're not trained for. Again, I understand sympathizing with someone, but that doesn't mean that you make a zoning change that could impact others in this village because you have sympathy for someone. Sympathy doesn't equal action. Thank you.

**Lynn Thompson:** Sue Taylor pretty much said what was on my mind. The whole issue of that zoning change is concerning to me. I understand that you can go before any board you'd like, but it is a Zoning Board issue, and it appears the Zoning Board was circumvented because the applicant had a very good idea that he probably wasn't going to get what he wanted. So now we go through the back door and go to the Village Board. Having been on the Village Board, having sat on the Comp Plan Committee, and having taken some classes to understand how the whole process works. The comp plan was reviewed very recently. It was updated, upgraded. This area never was on the radar to be a place where we should be considering a zone change. I realize things change. They get reevaluated. I believe the mayor had said at one point he wanted to periodically review the comp plan. I don't really think that's happening. Please correct me if I'm wrong, but that's why you review it for situations like this when they start to appear that you're ready. I do have pity for the gentleman who made this investment and has put in all this work to find out that financially, maybe it wasn't a good decision for him. Not to sound heartless, but that's not your problem. Of course, we want to see wonderful things happening in our village. Of course, it's nice to see a building that was an eyesore be renovated. There's no reason that can't be rented out as commercial property. I drove by the property. I would have to ask the Building Inspector, but to have multiple units upstairs, I would think that there's a requirement for windows and doors and all sorts of things. There are no windows on the sides of that building or the rear of that building. There are windows on the front. So how are you going to have places to live up there with no windows? I see one door on the top floor on this side, maybe one on the other side. I just have a lot of questions. Parking is an issue. I realize in the village you can park wherever you want. There's no assigned parking in front of properties. I have a problem with the people on Church Street that park on the street, and now they can't park by their homes. If people from that building, if it's going to be all these rentals, are going to have to park up on Church Street because the parking at their location is an issue. There are just a lot of things that don't seem appropriate. I honestly find it's a little inappropriate to be discussing the applicant's financial status because, again, that's not your problem. Comment was made about we need more rentals in the village. I don't necessarily agree with that. I believe we need more affordable housing options. Mr. Revella, you can correct me, but we have a very large percentage of rental property already in the village compared to other municipalities, do we not?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Lynn Thompson:** Is the answer more rental properties, more apartments? I would like to see more permanent residences available. So we have people that are going to have a stake in the game in our community, not just people who are signing a lease. They're here today, gone tomorrow. I don't know. Do they really care about the future of our village? I don't know. I don't want to be stereotypical, but I think if you own a home here or a townhouse or a condo, you're a little more

invested in what goes on in your community. I really hope that everybody up here has done their homework about zoning, long term effects of zoning. Why you don't have to say anything. Your attorney advice. You don't have to take action. I just hope you heed all of his advice and you did your due diligence before you make some sort of a decision if you do. Thank you.

**Brenda Adams:** I'm going to sound like a broken record regarding the property at 36 Orange. A Zoning Board, one of our factors is hardship and if the hardship, when you buy something, you need to know what you've bought. It does not qualify as a hardship because you were aware of what you bought. The fact that you may want to change it and the zoning prohibits you from changing it is not a hardship by the zoning from the Zoning Board. If you overlook that and you go forward and give them this based on their hardship, you're probably going to have 3 to 4 more people applying that the Zoning Board had to refuse over probably the last year. They had to refuse because they do not meet the hardship. When somebody buys a property and I'm repeating what other people have already said, so I'm sorry about that. But when somebody buys property, they're supposed to know what they bought. And if that's your line of business, you would even be, you're more sympathetic to a homeowner that isn't aware of certain things, but a person in that line of business already knows what they're going to do with a piece of property or what they hope to do. Maximizing their profit is not part of the deal for the Zoning Board. If you go forward and rezone what you have every right to do, if you decide to do it, you're going to get more that the Zoning Board has had to refuse. Again, because they purchased it knowing what it was, either it was a single family home or it was a business, or it's in several different codes we've had to refuse. And some people you feel really bad for because they invested in something thinking that they could just change it because a lawyer or a real estate person told them it was no problem, just go to the Zoning Board. It is a problem for the Zoning Board and we do feel bad for people. We've had people cry and we feel bad for them, but we can't help them because it's not in the factors that we have to live by. I hope you take that into consideration that you're really, if you resolve this, you're setting yourself up for several more and also making it difficult for us when they apply to us as a Zoning Board for us to stick to the factors that we have to live by. Thank you.

### **Village Code – Review of 121**

**Manager Revella:** We finished 121, which was good. Next meeting is 128.

**Trustee Batson:** The public did make a good comment around the emergency piece of the equipment replacement. We opted to strike that section. I think we have an opportunity to review that again.

**Manager Revella:** 121-4 b6, I believe.

### **Short Term Rentals**

**Manager Revella:** The board should have the latest version of the potential local law and the potential permit application to review. The committee, we've gone through a few processes and this board has gone through a couple different versions, I want to make sure there's no other questions, comments or concerns.

**Trustee Batson:** I had heard in the past I thought there was a passing comment of whether or not this code was necessarily needed or not. I just want to make sure that we address that. As I read through this, I think it's not to generate revenue. It's not to increase the thing. It seems to be a legitimate concern around the safety of individuals that stay there. I just want to be sure that I completely understand the purpose of it and to make sure that I understand the comments around it is it needed at all?

**Trustee Pearson:** The reason why it started was is that the state was coming down with a mandate

that most communities had to have it. That didn't go through. We were working on the law, so we kept going with it to finalize something that if we did need it, we would have it. Whether you want to pass it or not pass it, that's up to you. I worked on it and I still have some questions on it tonight because I think there are a couple of things missing that we talked about the last meeting. But I think that I was saying that if we can't enforce it, then why have it? There are many laws that we can't enforce or are hard to enforce. But when I spoke to the Building Inspector, he gave a reason why. And I'd like him to say that because I don't remember the whole reason, but it was a good reason.

**Manager Revella:** For example, you have a toolbox full of a lot of tools. We don't use them all every day, but it's good to have them when you need them.

**Trustee Pearson:** You have it in case it's necessary. We limited it to a certain amount to start, so they felt that the enforcement could happen because of the limited number and in where the zones that they're going to be in. It wasn't like it was village wide. It was only certain applicants can only have one or two depending on first come, first serve. There were a lot of things put in that law that restricted a lot of people to have maybe one at a time. You may only get two applicants the whole year. We may get 20, but they're not going to have 20. The law was written kind of on the shorter side of not having a lot happening. We were trying to start out slow since possibly needing to have it, but we don't need to have it if you don't want to pass it, that's up to you.

**Trustee Batson:** Are the restrictions in here in the way that you wrote it based on our observation of being able to enforce it or not?

**Trustee Pearson:** I believe so.

**Manager Revella:** The Building Department was okay with the amount because they believe they could patrol and police at least that number for now. And if they can't, they'd come back to the board and let them know.

**Trustee Pearson:** And say, this is too much, we can't do it. We met with the Code Enforcement Officer, the Building Inspector Dean and Mr. Revella and Trustee Thompson when she was on the board. That was our committee. We met with them all. We had the background of the Building Department with us. They were going through everything. We had five or six different laws from other communities that we were looking at, picking little pieces from each one. This is kind of what we ended up with and why we postponed it last time was because we have a new Building Inspector and I wanted to see his take on it and he had some good comments as well that we changed some things in here as well. We've kind of gotten to the point where I think it's pretty good. I did have a couple more comments. So, that's how it started and that's where we're at today. Whether you want to pass it or not, you don't have to. It's your thoughts on it and how you feel about enforcement.

**Trustee Hall:** I think enforcement will be kind of hard on it. I know that you guys have worked on this quite a bit. I think it is pretty good. I do think we should probably wait to pass it until all your questions and concerns are put in there, especially if you think something is left out of here, since you are the one that was really looking into it and really doing it. I think it's pretty good as far as it goes.

**Trustee Maher:** I thought the application was great and I think either we have a policy or we don't. If we don't have one, we can't do anything about those situations when they occur. You have something and you have guidelines for enforcement. I do have faith that if Rob was on the committee before the planning of all this, that he is capable of enforcing it in his department. I think that they'll find their way of what works and who's enforcing what between their department. But I



think that it's definitely a good idea to go forward.

**Trustee Pearson:** Just going over from the last meeting to this meeting on this law. You fixed a lot of it and put the things in. But on number 305-84 letter B, in the blueprint it says village wide. I would be comfortable village wide and above that it says what zones it's in but referencing those zones above. Because when I read that, village wide and then I'm going well, it's only so certain zones, but I would really like to reference that in there in that paragraph as well. At the bottom there's another one that says village wide at the bottom as well for the ten permits. 305-85 number 4. Only one short term rental permit shall be allowed per property. Property owners who have more than one approved dwelling unit on the property may rent up to two units as short term rentals under one permit. You were only having two total anyway. So, I thought we changed that last time. I thought we changed it, that they would have to have one and then come back for the other one later or did we not change that? Does anybody remember that?

**Manager Revella:** If they got more than one approved in the building, they can rent up to two.

**Trustee Pearson:** He has there's an apartment building and they have two units. He's able to get two at the same time. That's what I'm hearing.

**Manager Revella:** You'd have to get approved for it first.

**Trustee Pearson:** He's allowed one and then it's come back for the second?

**Manager Revella:** You may not get either one. May not get approved for any. It's only approved units. You have to apply. Get approved. Then put it in. That would be under the circumstances that we said where there's only two per zone.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, I don't need any other wording in that?

**Attorney Donovan:** I'll take a look.

**Trustee Pearson:** Number 8 of that same page. If short term rental property is not served by municipal water and sewer. It's supposed to say will not be allowed. You didn't put that in there. Under 35-86A, we looked at the very end of that if we were putting somewhere in here property owner is responsible for any and all violations. But I don't know if it was going under a or somewhere else, but I didn't read it in here. I know the penalties are there that they're responsible, but it doesn't say property owner. We had to put penalties for property owner somewhere.

**Mayor Ramos:** I just had a couple questions on the inspection checklist. In the Heat Systems. There's no indication of central air. Was it properly installed? Where it's located? Where the handlers are located? In the attic or on the side of the building? Second, electrical system, is the house 200 amp that is consistent with a central air system that can house however many units that they are requesting two, three? The interior, you have kitchen, living room, dining room, bathrooms. Are they ADA compliant for people with special needs? In the bathrooms, are there any handrails for those who require them in the showers? We just finished a code review on swimming pool, spa, hot tub, water. There should be at least, an added thing that are they in compliance that goes with the 200 AMP system. What type of air conditioning units that they're using and where they're placed and when where they serviced. Is it a yearly service? You could have a central air conditioning unit that hasn't been serviced for five or six years. That should be a point that should be reviewed. If we're having people lodge there, there should be issues of compliance on all items. Other than that, I like it. Nice job. It's a lot of work. John, you're going to work together with Mr. Donovan on those other point questions?

**Trustee Batson:** Can you just remind me why it did not pass the larger state level?

**Trustee Pearson:** I don't know why.

**Manager Revella:** It was on their agenda and just didn't for whatever reason.

**Trustee Pearson:** It was coming down, but then it never showed up.

**Trustee Batson:** But other villages have passed similar codes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes, we worked off of many codes of their villages.

**Manager Revella:** Even the Village of Montgomery has one right now.

**Trustee Batson:** What are the next steps on this?

**Manager Revella:** We'll modify based on the comments from today, bring revision for next meeting for discussion. If you like the version and want to pass it, you'd have to do SEQR and public hearing and go from there.

#### **Village-wide Camera System Presentations**

Dan Svarczkopf from Seamless Tech, LLC made a presentation on Village-wide camera systems

**Trustee Pearson:** If you have something in the parks that can transfer to the Police Department for that? Let's use DPW. DPW, you told me you have 14 or whatever cameras, and you can have an app that somebody can go on their phone and look. Like the Police Department could do that now and look at the DPW. Right?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** The night vision view, if on that page of the proposal. I can show you a live view later after the meeting as well. Yes, so both of these apps can be viewed remotely. We can set up permissions as far as if we want the police to have this on their phones. We can set up permissions for them to do that. And the police station downstairs, we can have multiple people viewing this at once. My goal would be to set up two 55 or 65 inch TVs, but just the desktop computer right down there link to the same thing. So even though we're on two separate apps, you won't necessarily see the difference. You'll have the real link up on one and you'll have this sinology on the other. You'll have all of your traffic cameras on one and all of your parks on the other. You can zoom in, you can go to 32 cameras at a time, 16, 8.

**Trustee Pearson:** Who is you can do this?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** The dispatcher or the Chief. If you wanted them to, you could give him a log in from his house or his phone or really anyone. We can work with you on the permissions for who you want to be able to view and who you want to be able to review the recorded data.

**Trustee Pearson:** The TVs would be in the dispatch section of the department downstairs or they'd be in the regular department?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** The actual hardware, I know we had talked about either putting it down in the Police Department itself, so the actual server rack would be either in the Police Department or in the village office right here, depending on what your future plans would be. As far as door locks, VoIP, all of that, that may help.

**Trustee Pearson:** Depend on where it's going to go.

**Dan Svarczkopf:** It might help me make that decision, but no matter where that server is, if we have a desktop down there and logged into those apps, they can view all the cameras.

**Trustee Pearson:** How long's it been down at DPW and have we had any issues with them?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** 3 years.

**Trustee Pearson:** Everything's good?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** Every once in a while we need to clean the cobwebs away. Just because the infrared lights on and the cameras attracts.

**Trustee Pearson:** What is the shelf life of these pieces?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** The ones on my house have been up for at least 5 years. I do tend to replace, there are cameras on my house that have been up for 5 years. I do tend to replace them a little faster so that I can test and make sure things work properly. But I haven't. I've had 3 cameras fail over the last 5 years and pick up a new one and replace it.

**Trustee Hall:** I don't know very much about this. I don't understand how can you come up with the 288 and they're at 38 for the server. That's a pretty big difference.

**Dan Svarczkopf:** I agree. That's why I brought it up. Just looking at the quote now, they are running for the most part 5 megapixel camera. So they are running a lower resolution. Storage needs are lower.

**Trustee Hall:** I saw the difference between the 2 megapixel and I know what my phone camera does. I know that much, but that's just a big difference.

**Dan Svarczkopf:** It is. And I'm again, like I said, I'm even considering upping that by the time of install because I'm not even sure 288 will give us a full 6 months.

**Trustee Hall:** Do you know what size we have now?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** You don't have a recorder at all. You're streaming the camera feeds into the building, but we're not actually recording, to my knowledge any of the camera feeds.

**Trustee Batson:** Do you have any case studies, anything available to you that which town has made this investment and has produced any sort of ROI?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** Your ROI really comes back to how safe I and the community around us feel and knowing that I may not see a police car drive by my house every single minute. But I know that there is someone watching those cameras around the around the village. As far as actually giving you a return on investment, that's not what government is for, will be my answer. I'm a Director of Technology at a school. We're not in business to provide a return on investment. We're in business to provide taxpayers a return on investment on their tax dollars and them feeling safe and me feeling safe in my village is the ROI that I would ask for. As a taxpayer.

**Trustee Batson:** Does the software in either one of these have any sort of analytical capabilities? I

don't think the expectation should be that somebody watches this. Nor do I like the idea of cameras just simply being retroactive for evidence review. I work for a private company. We have cameras that, again, I can tell every time somebody walks in with a firearm at any of my locations. A dog, a baseball bat. I need the software packages of these to do work. I just don't have any interest in buying a hardware package.

**Dan Svarczkopf:** Absolutely. The software package of the reeling software will give you vehicle, person and pet detection separately so you can set up alerts for any one of those three or all of them. Then the sinology's package, which is why we chose that if you essentially set up a line on the entrance to your property, you can have a pretty accurate head count as to how many people have come and gone out of that property. There is a deep analytics built into the actual NAS drive itself and the software there, where you can actually start to search for particular things.

**Trustee Batson:** You reference a lot of things that it was expandable to other services, but is it expandable to other cameras? So for example, let's say that we purchased this and all of a sudden we say we'd like more.

**Dan Svarczkopf:** Yeah, absolutely. The way I built the NAS out, we have two expansion drives already. We're going to have looks to about ten open hard drive spaces on the NAS. So we can add another 180 terabytes of data on the current setup and we can always add another expansion on to that. Both of these systems are compatible with all the cameras. If you decide that as we get into this, you would like a different camera that can do a different thing. We can add that it does not have to be real link. It does not have to be any company that I use. We can spec that out and we can expand that as needed. You asked a question about license plate detection, I believe. There are two things, license plate reading, there's a license plate detection and there are certain cameras that can do that reading and actually record license plates that go by it. The cameras that we're putting up don't necessarily do that. If we wanted to and add that to one of those poles, we could. They are compatible with all cameras and we could expand. I believe the NAS can support up to 90 cameras and we're only putting 25 on that right now.

**Trustee Batson:** Seems to be I'm the only one that has the opinion but has to do with licensing and the ability to have a public view. You referenced to the taxpayer. You want to feel safe. I am a firm opinion that you put cameras in the parks. I think everybody should have the ability to watch the cameras in the parks.

**Dan Svarczkopf:** That would be a decision by you guys. We have the capability to put a guest log in. If we were going to do that. What I would prefer to do is not give them a log in into the app, but preferably just stream to a website or something like that. Just like a traffic camera would be. It's out there. That would definitely be a decision that you guys need to make.

**Trustee Batson:** It's not my hill to die on. But I do think it's a public asset, the public should be able to take full advantage of it.

**Mayor Ramos:** Just for clarification, for everybody else here and out there. Pet detection?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** The one in my backyard, I've got a 270 degree view from that location. I want to, if I know my dog is outside, I turn the cameras on and I know it's pointing at my dog. It is really unless he's running. It's very accurate. And when I turn that camera on, it's pointing at my dog. The pet detection, the point of that really is to tell the difference between motion, a car, a person and a pet or a deer or a fox. So, it definitely has the capability to do that. It's just a matter of what alerts do we want to happen and then what do we feel is necessary for if this happens, that pops up on the screen for the police and that's what they see. There's an alert that says there are 10 cars in the park

after 10 pm. Again, that breaking of that barrier for that head count is kind of where that would come into play.

**Mayor Ramos:** Detection or reader. I know there are two different things.

**Dan Svarczkopf:** They will not be readers. Unless we actually buy a specific camera for an angle that we want to say, hey, coming in from 208 from Montgomery or coming into the village on any side, we want one of those on all sides, so that we can say here the license plates that came through our village at any given time. It's possible. We just need to build that out as well. The nice thing is being that we already have cameras on that pole, there'll be an eight point switch on either one of those poles and I'm max utilizing four of them. If we wanted to add a camera, it's really just going out, add in the camera, they're all POE and those switches can handle the fifth camera. Definitely.

**Mayor Ramos:** You discussed redundancy on the picture that you had right now, in the event that there are some issue like a storm or do you have a secondary location where if something happens to camera. I believe it was one and two going down that line, is it going to another server or is it going to another?

**Dan Svarczkopf:** The system will let us know if one of those points go down. I'll put out 256 gigabyte micro SD in each camera. So if they do go down, they will record directly to the camera for the foreseeable future until we can get out to fix the point.

**Mayor Ramos:** Good. Thank you.

Basil Morales and Tom Kempkis from Stratagem Security made a presentation on village-wide camera systems.

Lieutenant Kevin Phillips, Town of Woodbury Police Department spoke on behalf of Stratagem Security.

**Trustee Batson:** Has it changed the way you police your community?

**LT Phillips:** It has. I'll give you one example. When we first have done this, we did our first intersection in Woodbury. As they stated, we had the pan tilt zoom, and we also had the fixed right at a major intersection. There was an accident that occurred down in Cornwall, right at our town line and unfortunately, it was a fatal hit and run. They were able to track the guy down and he said he was in a car with another person and that was the person who was driving. State Police called. We were there. Dogs, everybody looking for that second person. I went back and started looking at the cameras and like, hey, we got an intersection camera here. Let's see what we can do. I sat there and watched hour's worth of video. And on that fixed portion of the camera, I saw the car. I stopped it. I called these guys. Gave them the date time, this is what I saw. As Tom said earlier, he took it. They were able to digitally move in on it and saw that the person they had in custody was the only driver. So it does work great. It's a great failsafe. If something happens that you have cameras to go back and look at. Has it changed the way we do patrol function every single day? Absolutely not. Even though we have cameras in the parks, we still do our park checks. Even though we have cameras on the road, we're still doing our major intersection checks. You still have to have that capability of doing community policing, not just relying on cameras, because cameras are always going to miss something. They're there to back you up, God forbid you need them to look at. But the greatest thing it did help us with was the times where a panic alarm is hit and then you got to make that phone call. What's the magic password? Can we have that person step outside? Everything's good to go, at least within our municipal buildings. The minute that's hit, the sirens go off and dispatch and all screens light up with wherever that alarm went off. So we have eyes into

the building for police.

**Trustee Batson:** Did you choose to invest in a camera package as part of a general town strategy or as a reaction to a single event that you said.

**LT Phillips:** As a general town strategy just to move forward. We're very, as they said, in Orange County, policing needs to take about three or four giant leaps forward to catch up with the way Rockland, Westchester and New York City goes. Cameras are an everyday system. I heard you say earlier that if the camera's there, the public should be entitled to see everything. Personally for municipal and law enforcement. I do happen to disagree with that. The only reason I'm saying this is in today's generation, you cannot walk out your front door. I tell everybody this, you cannot walk out your front door and walk within ten steps without being on camera somewhere. The public is used to being on camera. They know it. They understand it. It's just a fact of life. To protect your law enforcement that have to obviously protect the public. It's the best investment you could ever do because everybody's used to having cameras. It's just you want to be able to spend the money once instead of having to do it three or four or five different times. And no matter who you choose, doing this single platform and making it work for your village is the way to go. Little big, big cost up front. But over the years it's the smaller costs will you be able to invest more opportunities to cover more different places?

**Trustee Batson:** Did it actually make a difference in deterrence?

**LT Phillips:** Totally, because everybody we announced that we have them. We announced where they are. And I don't want to say crime really came down because I wish we could put our own cameras on Woodbury Commons because that's 90% of our work. But around town. Totally. You saw a lot of breaking into cars in certain areas at night and criminal mischief that used to take at the parks. Everybody knows we have eyes there. It is good and it makes the people feel a little bit safer when they're there.

**Trustee Batson:** No doubt.

**Trustee Pearson:** How big is your community?

**LT Phillips:** 39 square miles. We have about 15,000 residents.

**Trustee Pearson:** And how many police officers?

**LT Phillips:** Right now, we're 38.

**Trustee Pearson:** When you say you call him to zoom in on something, you can't do that yourself in the department?

**LT Phillips:** On a fixed camera, the PTZ is what you can zoom in and out on. So, if we have a situation where a call has come to the parks, we'll just say, and dispatch is there. Dispatch is allowed to zoom in on the two or three parks that we do have. Otherwise, no, everything else is a fixed camera. We have a PTZ on the intersection of 105 by Woodbury Commons up by Smith, Clove and 32, where if I'm working and we have a situation, I can zoom on those cameras. You have to understand Tilt, pan and zoom, if the guy who has a year on the job or a civilian, they can take that camera and point it right at a building and zoom in on something. Now you're starting to get in the privacy rights. I don't want that. On that fixed camera along with the zoom, is watching the long roadway. If we had a situation that occurred, I can hold that data, turn it over to them and they can enhance the video and they can zoom in digitally to get what I need.

**Trustee Pearson:** Is there a fee for that?

**LT Phillips:** I think that's all included in the service.

**Trustee Pearson:** A yearly service agreement. You're paying to put the cameras in and then there's a yearly, what does your yearly service agreement cover?

**Basil Morales:** In their instance, they have certain parts that are still under warranty. Everything we did for them is under OGS. The warranty is opposed to something like a three year, five year, two year and one year. When they come out of warranty, we then provide a cost to replace that part. Then you have pre-termed amount of service labor that they pay for and we have service dispatched technician that comes off of that until it runs out.

**Tom Kempkis:** I think the question was if he could zoom in on the fixed camera itself.

**Trustee Pearson:** I wondered whether he could zoom in on anything because it sounded like he had to call you to zoom in and get the picture that you needed.

**Tom Kempkis:** That would just be probably a little bit of training. It's available for any operator that wants to use it. It is capable that somebody can digitally zoom in on the camera. When you digitally zoom in on the camera, it doesn't affect the picture itself.

**Trustee Pearson:** You talked about FOIL requests and you only have it for a certain amount of time you're storing it. Is there something in the state that makes it under a certain amount or over a certain amount that you have to hold on to that?

**LT Phillips:** No. I just figured throughout my life experience, most government cameras or private entity store footage for 30 to 40 days. We decided that, we'll do 50 to 60 days and have it that much easier. But at the end of the day, if nothing has been reported in that time frame, it'll get rolled over. If something's done that we're looking at for a crime related, I go in, download it, put it on the file and store it, if it happens to come to be needed later. A lot of that stuff too, for instance, if a situation came up on a traffic stop that happened to be on camera, you know, with bail reform and all that stuff and Chief Herlihy knows what I'm talking about, we could really spend all night here talking about it. But now the DA's office wants everything. In interest everybody's interest not to store anything for that long for a 6 month period because it's just a lot of lot of work and a lot a lot of data that you come into.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, you're saying for protection, it's good, but for retrieving, it's not good because we don't want it long, because we don't have to go through all those files.

**LT Phillips:** No, I'm just saying going through the files cost time and money.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, let's just get rid of it. That's what I heard.

**LT Phillips:** I'm trying to educate you that somebody has to be responsible for downloading this video footage and looking at this video footage for either the district attorney's office or somebody wants to FOIL it. I think it's a great idea for security reasons to invest in cameras. I don't think it's a great idea to have your storage kept up for six months because I just think that's unnecessary waste of monetary value to have storage for that long.

**Mayor Ramos:** You said you had 60 cameras.

**LT Phillips:** Yes, roughly 60-61.

**Mayor Ramos:** And you mentioned that you caught footage on Route 32 with the Town of Cornwall line. How far do you go down toward the commons?

**LT Phillips:** From our building right now, it's called the Estrada Road, if you're familiar. We have cameras that far. Next year, we hope to go to more intersections right up to the tip of Woodbury.

**Mayor Ramos:** Because they're about to expand something huge. Do you maintain any type of video surveillance in that immediate area?

**LT Phillips:** No, unfortunately, Woodbury Commons does have it. Simon Properties have a lot of cameras down there that we can have access to if something happens. But that, believe it or not, is all kept out in Colorado. So we have to get permission. They're a great partner, but we don't have access to those cameras.

**Mayor Ramos:** What phase do you think that your cameras are going to proceed past?

**LT Phillips:** I would say probably this time next year.

**Trustee Pearson:** How long have you had your cameras for now? And how long do you think they're going to be before you replace them?

**LT Phillips:** I always say I have my guys, so I'm not very good at telling.

**Basil Morales:** It's about five years and we have systems for over 10 years.

**Tom Kempkis:** I think you typically it's called a \*inaudible\* time before failure. The servers themselves, the manufacturing warranty is for five years, we have servers that are out there for 10 and 12 years that are working just fine. And that's not the exception. We've had more older servers out. And the same thing with the cameras. I think what you'll find is technology's progressing faster and dropping costs down. Back three years ago, getting a 4K camera was astronomically expensive. Now they're not that expensive. I think what you'll find is that technology will exceed the camera's capabilities and it's probably going to change out whatever the next of evolution of cameras.

**Trustee Pearson:** And with that system you're able to just change out the camera.

**Tom Kempkis:** Yes. They're supposed to send me documentation on it. They're claiming that their radios run meantime before failures 80 years. I haven't read the document, but just thought that's what my representative told me. The capacity of the frequency that it's on is oversaturated is saying it's about 80 years.

**Manager Revella:** I think it's important for the board as well, after your presentations that if either presenters have other things they want to add or send in, please send it to the Chief so we can send it to the board for their consideration.

**Tom Kempkis:** One of the things we could offer if you want, we spoke with some of our municipalities about doing live demos. If you want us to come up and actually show you real systems in play. One of the things you talk about is LPR. We do have a couple LPR in a couple of municipalities. And the difference between, one is going to capture the license plate in the video. Be able to digitally zoom in on it or maybe not digitally zoom on to it and see that it's a license plate.



The other one, take the data from the license plate and put it into what's called an optical character recognition, an OCR, and that will put it into a searchable database.

**Trustee Pearson:** Is there's an extra charge for that?

**Tom Kempkis:** No, really you buy the cameras and then the cameras will stream it into the database. There's no charge. When you're laying out OCR cameras, there are very specific formulas that you have to do to get the correct capture.

**Trustee Pearson:** You talked about the NDAA and you can't use certain cameras.

**Tom Kempkis:** Predominantly anything that's made in the People's Republic of China, you're not allowed to use government money to buy.

**Trustee Pearson:** I would like to see that. You could send it to the manager.

**Mayor Ramos:** Thank you very much for your time.

**Chief Herlihy:** I would also like to mention that there is a technology grant that is out that New York State is offering in the amount of \$50 million. There are 514 police agencies throughout New York State. So, if everyone got a piece of the pie, that's roughly \$97,000 apiece. I submitted for \$360,000, which would cover the entire cost of our cameras, plus a couple of fixed LPRs that we were looking to get. Just keep that in mind.

**Manager Revella:** When do you find out about the grant?

**Chief Herlihy:** January 2024. Right around the corner.

**Manager Revella:** So, you don't want them to make a decision before that?

**Chief Herlihy:** No, I want them to make a decision. Just know that some of that money can be retroactively applied to that.

**Manager Revella:** Retroactive. So, we buy it tomorrow, pay for it tomorrow. We get the grant to reimburse ourselves.

**Chief Herlihy:** Correct, because it's specific for the things that we requested, which I put in the camera system as well as the fixed LPRs.

### **36 Orange Ave – Zone Request**

**Tom Olley:** I just want to briefly touch on a few of the comments that were made at the last meeting and again tonight and want to reiterate that Ms. Taylor says that, not her exact words, but that if you're not qualified, you are the board that has to make the decisions on zoning within the village. It's not delegated to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Zoning Board of Appeals makes decisions to vary that law that you create as a Village Board. The Planning Board is an administrative board. It just looks at the application and does the particular application, meet the code. In the case of if you change to an MX zone, just about everything becomes a special exception use. It actually gives the, the Planning Board more powers to review certain things and to place certain conditions on an approval. The applicant admitted that he did not understand the village's code when he purchased the building. What we're suggesting is that this board shouldn't penalize every property owner that is in a similar situation in the village. But we would ask you to look at the zoning code and tweak it as you think it is merited to make the community a stronger

and more vital community. I really have a hard time understanding why a line down the middle of Orange Avenue says that Sweeney's building could have these particular uses that we outlined in the letter that we submitted last time and the building across the street can't have those same uses. So, we also submitted the information on the economics of the rental market so that this board can understand there was some discussion two meetings ago about some other properties in the village and the limitations on them. To conclude the at last meeting we asked the board to table it so that you could consider the information that was submitted. And because of the importance of your decision, we ask that the full board, act on that resolution and we've gone backwards. We have one less member than we had the last time. Trustee Hall is here, but we don't have a Trustee Carly or Trustee Garrison who have been here. I would again, respectfully ask that the board table it for consideration by the full board.

**Attorney Donovan:** You don't have to do anything. There's a request or petition for zone change. Let me just touch briefly upon legislative body versus Zoning Board of Appeals. The job of the Village Board is you establish zoning in the Village of Walden. You establish zoning districts, you establish uses within those zoning districts, and you establish the bulk regulations for those. If someone cannot meet those requirements. They have the ability to petition for zone change or to go to the Zoning Board of Appeals. You must have a Zoning Board of Appeals in a community that has zoning. Since you do, you must have a Zoning Board of Appeals, their job is to be the relief valve for someone who can't comply. They go there. There are different sets of rules for area variances. This would be a use variance. Very difficult standard to meet. An applicant does have the right. Tom, the applicant, to come to the Village Board and petition the board for a change in zoning. I would suggest to you that your framework for analysis is what is your vision for the village and what's right for the village? Reasonably anticipated investment expectations are an important issue requested really from the Zoning Board. Not an important issue for you to consider. Your consideration is what's the appropriate zoning in the village, what use should go where? Sometimes you change that because we like to say and a lot of people say, because it's true, your zoning ordinance should be a living document. Should be revisited. Like you revisit your comp plan every couple of years to determine what you want to do. That being said, on the big picture, whose job is what, in terms of your next step? Your next step could be nothing. Your next step could be, I want to think about it. Your next step could be to refer to the Planning Board and Orange County Department of Planning, because they have to issue a report before you can act. If you want to do that, you would authorize me to prepare a local law and that would be referred to the Planning Board and Orange County Department of Planning. Or you could say, I want to think about it more. Or we can go back to what Tom Olley said in the beginning, because obviously he's very good at math and this is a 7 member board. So you need 4 members to do anything, to take any action. You have 4 members tonight. For an authorization for me to prepare a local law, you need a unanimous vote. I bet there's not unanimity on the board.

**Tom Olley:** If I might just add, I agree 100% with what Attorney Donovan has said. The only reason that we submitted that the financial data was just to give the board a picture of what rental finances are in the village. Not necessarily just to this property. We used it. There are other properties that I'm sure that if you look around the village are in similar situations and it would, in my opinion, I've lived in this village or have worked in this village my entire life. That building would not have been renovated had the owner realized the limitations of the zoning law. We understand that. But we also think that this is a particularly good case. And there may actually be adjoining properties that may want to seek the same thing. But we think it is a policy issue for the village looking forward in that the financial data is important to you for you to consider, maybe not on this particular property alone, but in the big picture for the village.

**Trustee Pearson:** As I stated before, I believe its spot zoning. It is not contiguous to the zone across the street. You have B3, three buildings in a row, plus the post office, plus down the main

street. All on that side of the street. If you take the one building, you have two buildings to the left of Scofield Street that are still going to be B3. You have the post office that's B3 and all the way down. It's setting precedent to change all the B3 on Main Street if you wanted to. It depends on what you want for the village. We had a comp plan done in 2019. You had a planner, a manager, ZBA board member, Planning Board member, a board member, and people from the public who worked on that plan for probably eight months. It came before the board. The board approved that this area was not looked at that time and that was only 2019. I spoke to NYCOM and they said that's a relatively new plan so what you do with that is up to you. If you want to change that, then you have to have an amendment to the comp plan as well. There's a lot of issues. Again, there's parking. I'm still finding that is spot zoning. I know people don't agree with me, but I find it that way and it's going to set precedent for the rest of Main Street all the way down Main Street in a B3 zone that will want to go to MX. That's how I feel about it. We had somebody talked about how many rentals, we need to have more rentals. I did a little research. We have 980 rentals in the Village of Walden. We are not shy of rentals here. We are probably 40% rentals. I get the owner wants to make something of it and I understand it. I sat on the Zoning Board for years and it is a very difficult position to sit on that board and tell people no. But the reasons are because of the hardships that they have. They know when they bought the property, what they were buying, and I understand that. It's very difficult. My reasons are, I still think its spot zoning. I don't think we'd want to go that forward and change that zone so that all those buildings on that side of the street can then become a MX all the way around the corner, down Main Street, down to the bridge, if you want. That's why you have a plan and that's why you change those at that time. You have a committee that's set up with a planner and everybody is in charge and then the board is voting on that. The board doesn't take it lightly. If you sit on the Comp Plan Committee and all of a sudden you the board is changing all these things because somebody made a bad investment, then why have a comp plan? Why have a board? I agree with that. I get your heart is out and we all say that. Very hard board to sit on, because your heart is going with these people. They bought a piece of property that maybe they shouldn't have bought. But the Zoning Board can't do anything about it. I have those feelings that I feel sad for people who purchased those buildings. But I'm looking at the bigger picture of Walden and where Walden wants to go. That's why you have a plan. It was 2019 when that comp plan was approved. Probably 2020 when it was approved by this board.

**Trustee Hall:** If you're looking to hold off until there's more members here and I think that's a great idea. I honestly think it's pointless for me to get into anything because not everybody's here and I don't want to waste your time. I don't want to waste our time. I think we should just wait until there's other people here that where we're going to actually get something accomplished.

**Trustee Batson:** Trustee Pearson, you reference that it turns into a mess. What mess? My understanding of this is that the request here and again, if I'm wrong on this, I'm happy to be wrong, the request here is that apparently there is within this B3 zone the allowance for one apartment. The request is just simply to add two more.

**Trustee Pearson:** No, it's not. The request is to change the zone to an MX zone versus a B3 zone.

**Trustee Batson:** Understood. Which allows him to put in two more apartments. Is that correct?

**Tom Olley:** Up to two given the dimensions.

**Trustee Pearson:** You are changing the whole zone of that side of the street. The whole street can then go to MX.

**Trustee Batson:** Which would just simply allow them to add, I'm not debating, and I'm honestly seeking to understand. I've read the zoning. Not completely clear.

**Trustee Pearson:** We don't have parking in this village now for people. When you change everything to MX in those zones, you're going to eliminate. That's the mess you're going to create.

**Trustee Batson:** But at the core of it is that it creates more rental apartments.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes, it can. Doesn't have to.

**Trustee Batson:** I'm sorry, I should say. It just allows for more residential.

**Trustee Pearson:** Correct.

**Trustee Batson:** I'm just seeking to understand that.

**Mayor Ramos:** It is your recommendation that we tabled this another period of time?

**Tom Olley:** That is our request. And if I could just leave you with the point, I don't want to get into a debate. I think Trustee Hall is correct, that we should have everybody here for the discussion. Think about these buildings that whether they're this particular property or Pisano's building next door, what does the village do with those? How can you reuse those buildings? Are the restrictions of the zoning going to not only handcuff the owners, but handcuff the village in what they would like to see? That's the point that I would like you to ponder and reiterate the request to table.

**Trustee Batson:** I would say, no. I do not like the concept of tabling votes until there is there an X amount there. If there's a quorum, I believe that it should be voted on. It just feels gamey to hold off on issues until X amount of people are here.

**Manager Revella:** You can vote with four people on anything.

**Attorney Donovan:** I guess the point I was trying to make is that if, whatever motions made, if 4 people don't vote for that motion. That motion fails. Now, I guess the other thing to understand is if the petition that you reject, that's a failure. It's really a non-action. It's not really a denial because you don't have enough votes. So, it's a non-action, which means that Mr. Olley's applicant at some future date can make the request again. Because it's not a denial. It's not an approval, but it's not a denial. I'm sorry to do this. There is a limited provision regarding Zoning Board of Appeals because there was a case years ago, but there is statutory authority for Zoning Board of Appeals. If there are not sufficient votes to approve a project when there has been a denial by the Building Inspector that is a denial. I don't want anyone to say that I gave you bad advice, that's a very limited exception. In this context, if you only get 3 votes or it's a 2 to 2 tie, is no action, the applicant can come back.

**Mayor Ramos:** I'll go with counsel's advice.

**Attorney Donovan:** It would be a motion to authorize me to prepare a local law, which would then start the process, which would then go to Planning Board referral, Orange County Department of Planning referral, then back to here for a public hearing before you took any action. If there's no motion, there's no action.

### **Liberty St Town Hall Meeting Summary**

**Manager Revella:** It was very well attended I thought. Good majority of the residents in the area, Liberty Street, attended. Voiced their concerns with parking and traffic in general in the area. A couple other concerns came up. The majority of the people on the street felt that one side of the street, no parking, at least from North Montgomery Street to Second Street, was warranted. That's

what they wanted the board to at least to consider. If other things come up, obviously that's your purview to discuss those as well. But that was what the majority felt that would be helpful, at least for now.

**Trustee Batson:** Great, we're discussing it. How do we turn it into actions or what would next steps be? I thought about this a lot. I think two of the things that were discussed the most was the inability for the multifamily homes or tenants to be able to use the driveways. I think it's unfortunate, but they are allowed to park on the road, right? There's nothing that says that they can't do that. I'm terribly remiss as one seventh of a vote up here to enforce that people must be parking in their driveways. I don't think I could support that. That forces them on to the roads. I wonder then if the second issue is just simply, which was landscape vehicles and things like that, being parked on one side of the road. The other the other point of congestion. If that is the key issue and anything that we decide on is a trial. Is that possible? We take the citizens, we discuss it. Let's hypothetically say, yes, there is a congestion here, we've discussed it, we've collaboratively come to that the best solution is to allow parking on one side of the street up to X, that is not locked in forever. If it fails, then we have the ability to revise that.

**Manager Revella:** There are two little things that I asked Dave about. One is temporary no parking is up to a certain number of days that I believe that the Chief has the authority to do that. The other is, I don't know of a rule that can require a landlord to allow tenants to park in their driveway or not. I'm not sure of anything like that. I'm not sure if you know of anything.

**Attorney Donovan:** Relative to the actual question, let me make sure I understand the big issue. We have a parking issue on Liberty St. The question is how you regulate that. You can regulate that by saying no parking on the street.

**Manager Revella:** He wants a temporary solution to see if it works.

**Trustee Batson:** Temporary might not be the word, trial, I think would be the better. There is no correct answer to this problem. Absolutely none. Because for every two people that suggested one thing, there was another one that said no. So there is probably no right solution here. I think that at least with my experience of municipal parking, which is not significant, to be able to come up with a solution that is a long term solution is probably not going to happen. I could take a hell of a first pass. Maybe all of us could and potentially get it right. But in six months, if we say we got this really wrong, we would reserve the right to make another change.

**Manager Revella:** You could pass a local law to have no parking for a certain distance. Then you could pass a law to rescind that law eventually as well.

**Trustee Batson:** I hate that. But that might be, if that is a possibility, then I feel much more comfortable.

**Attorney Donovan:** The other way to try to skin that cat is, it requires a local law. No parking requires a local law. You could have a sunset provision. This local law sunsets in three months and then four months, whatever time period you decide. And then before that time period expires, you could amend the local law. You need another public hearing to continue it, or you could just let it sunset if it's not working.

**Trustee Batson:** Again, going with the no right solution. There are roads in which parking is on one side and there was some great call outs about if parking is on one side and two cars are coming, it causes just a different type of traffic jam because that one car doesn't have the ability to go to a side to let the other one go because there are cars parked there. Our meeting was unique to Liberty

Street. But if there's any sort of precedent out there of the right of way situations on other roads in which parking is on one side of the street, I would love to hear or learn about that.

**Manager Revella:** The other thing that I didn't talk about too much at the meeting, but I did bring up to somebody that was standing next to me is in our long term plan and capital improvements. If we put Liberty Street, when it comes up, we can discuss whether we would widen the road. We have a large right a way there that we do not utilize. I'm not sure how people feel about us taking away a few feet of what they consider to be their front lawn right now. Which it isn't. It's the roadway. Kind of open the road up a little bit more. I'm not sure if that's the right solution, but that's a potential.

**Trustee Batson:** I think it's a great long term solution if that's the concern to the citizens. I still think we should seek a temporary solution.

**Trustee Hall:** It's a hard thing. I know the street is narrow. And we have that a lot through the village. Since that meeting, I drove up and down that road several times. Different times of the day, the weekend, at night, in the middle of the night. I did it a few times. Maybe because people are a little more aware of this last week. I had no problem at all. I had no problems. I even took pictures one day. I got back from a fire call one night and it was 1:30 in the morning. I drove down the road and I didn't have an issue, but I don't live there. I can tell you on my street it's the same way. Some people did recommend one side parking. If you have that, you're coming this way, I'm coming this way. We're stuck. You're not going to get anywhere. Some people wanted to just down here. Nobody wanted it up here, because up here, it's quiet. And I get it. I don't know what the long term solution would be unless, up top more. You can see where there's plenty of room that you can widen it. The poles are here, the road is here. There's room to do that. I don't know what kind of budget that's going to be. Unless you make it a one way and that sucks, too.

**Trustee Hall:** Thank you, Trustee Batson and Trustee Hall gave me their notes, so I was able to see the different sides and different points of view. I agree, I think a temporary solution is the best idea until capital project comes along and we can make some sort of permanent change.

**Trustee Pearson:** Like Trustee Batson. As he said, for every two that wanted something done, the other two didn't want it done because it was going to be by their house. It's a little hard to say that I live on a street where they wanted to take and put one side of the street parking and on my street there are homes that don't even have driveways. They would have been not being able to park anywhere. They have an easement in the back of their home, but they can't get there until they go up and around. We fought that years ago that we didn't want one side of the street parking. People do try to kind of opposite not quite opposite so you can get around them. We stop and wait for the other to come wave to them. Hi, neighbor. How are you doing? So when you get to see them. So we are courteous of everybody. It is not the best situation in Walden because all the streets are small. We had an issue on Albany Avenue years ago and we did a similar thing there on the street and we met with the homeowners and we met with the Fire Department because the Fire Department had issues making corners. So they took a lot of the parking away coming off of a street onto it because they needed to make a turn radius, maybe 50 feet, so on both that side of the road, if we're looking at one side of the street parking, you're not going to have parking that way, too. So you're kind of opening up a can of worms and also getting the Fire Department involved. We want to be cautious because right now there's not a lot of people parking in that space, which is kind of good that I saw. I went up a couple of days too, just to see. It is difficult. Everybody has that same thing mostly on all their streets. We are a small village. Cars are getting larger and larger and bigger and bigger and we never expected that to happen. We have to be cautious of your neighbor. If you want one of the side street parking. I think it's crazy because you're not going to get that through traffic. Somebody is going to have to back all the way back up the street to get and go back down the road. One side of

the street to me is kind of out of the picture for me. I don't want to have to be, if I'm coming down the street and time is coming at me and I'm closer to the end, have to back all the way down to the end or turn around somebody's driveway or go on their lawn. Do they want that? It's a very hard situation. If somebody can come up with a good plan or if the neighborhood thinks of something that should be done, please, we're open to that. There was just a lot of different scenarios happening and everybody wanted a little bit something different. They want it to be solved.

**Mayor Ramos:** I like the idea of creating a one side street, no parking on one side from Second Avenue down to the Montgomery Street. I run past there, I ride my bike. There are times where it's really difficult. I'm not in favor of taking one's three feet. Maybe more some spots. I'm not in favor of taking somebody's lawn to extend the width of the roadway. Obviously, we're going to continue discussing this in public comment. We have some Liberty Street residents that are here that have some fresh ideas on what you could possibly help out with. We're still going to effort that hopefully will have some form of decision really, really soon before the weather starts hitting us. I have the same problem on my street. I have a special needs resident that comes with the wheelchair bus who has to load two clients on the bus. When another school bus comes up, it's a stalemate. And cars. I'm pretty sure that's going to have to be visited upon on Alfred. We're going to continue discussing this. We'd love some input from the residents and we're not going to take this decision lightly. We're going to factor in all of the resources that are available to us.

#### **November Board Meetings**

Trustee Hall made a motion to cancel and reschedule the November 7, 2023 Village Board meeting to the November 14, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Resolution 7-23-24 – Budget Transfers**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to adopt Resolution 7-23-24 Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Hall. 4 ayes. 1 absent. Motion carried.

#### **Resolution 8-23-24 – CDBG Village Manager Certificate of Authority**

Becky and Chris. All ayes.

#### **Wooster Grove Entrance Doors**

**Manager Revella:** The entrance doors to Wooster Grove gym are very dilapidated. We had the engineer review it. He sent out requests for bids. Architectural Door and Hardware in New York did not respond with a number. Neither did Hudson Valley Door Hardware. LP Builder did respond with a bid of \$13,700, which is within the budget the board gave for the capital project of \$15,000. The recommendation from the engineer is to approve LP Builders to do the work.

**Trustee Batson:** I'm sorry, but the effort, the amount of effort put into this estimate is awful. It is a single line item that says material and Labor \$13,700. I struggle with that being acceptable.

**Manager Revella:** That's the best bid we got.

**Trustee Pearson:** What's the breakdown? How much are the doors? That's what I'm looking for. I'm looking for a breakdown.

**Trustee Hall:** Are they the only ones that bid?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** How many hours is it going to take to do how much of the doors?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know why that's relevant. It's not really relevant. The cost of the project is the total cost of the project. However, he breaks down his funding is the contractors prerogative.

**Trustee Pearson:** But we don't have to approve it. If we don't feel it's relevant. It would be nice to be see what the breakdown is. So, you can kind of put a cost to what you're talking about.

**Manager Revella:** It's \$13,700 for the doors and labor. I don't know what else to tell you. That's what I got.

**Trustee Pearson:** There's no breakdown. You didn't get a bid that broke it down to what it was?

**Manager Revella:** I gave you exactly what I got. I'm only giving you what I received. I know that he talked to the contractor about it in person, but that's all I can tell you.

**Trustee Pearson:** In the bid package, that's all it says. It doesn't break down doors and percentages.

**Manager Revella:** This is all I got.

**Attorney Donovan:** Is there a specification for the door?

**Manager Revella:** Could be commercial doors. Mr. Queenan met with the contractor on site.

**Attorney Donovan:** There's not a bid package with a price like this, but there would be a specification whether or not it's a hollow, corridor, security door.

**Trustee Pearson:** Push it out, not push it. What do you do? What do you get? What kind of doors are we getting?

**Attorney Donovan:** Presumably, it'll meet building code.

**Manager Revella:** It will be similar doors to what we currently have is what I was told. But I don't have any specs. This is what I was given.

**Manager Revella:** Just want to make sure you're aware the doors will not be secure until we get new ones. I have no other option to replace the doors until then.

**Trustee Batson:** Can we just simply ask them to provide details?

**Manager Revella:** You can approve with that stipulation if you'd like to.

**Trustee Batson:** If they get more details and want to bring it up at next one, that's great. If it's a \$50 door and \$13,000 in labor and I just have an issue.

**Manager Revella:** I just know that the contractor was given the specs with the engineer when they went. And I know that our engineer estimated the project at \$15,000 when he gave us the project during budget season. That's all I have the information on.

**Mayor Ramos:** Bring back some specs.

### **Public Comment**

**Mary Ellen Matise:** We've had an MX zone on the books in the Village of Walden since before the 2005 comprehensive plan because it went all the way down Oak Street and nothing ever happened



with it. It was like the deadest issue in the Village of Walden. Then we had during the 2005 comprehensive plan, we had a special study done for Railroad Place to become an MX zone. When we did that, everybody there became nonconforming, which is still, to me, a big issue for a property owner shouldn't become non-conforming. But the board at that time, said that's fine. So they were all voted into place. And it never went anywhere. It's still a dead issue. It still isn't going anywhere. It's still in place. Then we extended it along Orange Avenue and it still isn't going anywhere along Orange Avenue. Nothing that the MX zone covers has come to fruition on Orange Avenue. I don't see that extending now to one building across the street is going to change the impact of the MX zone in the Village of Walden. It's always been a dead issue. Now, if they start doing the building on Grant Street, well, maybe the idea that the MX zone contains about multi-use of a building and stuff might become a reality. But right now, that's just in the talking stages, and that's before the Planning Board. I have a big issue with, I know anybody has a right to come to the Village Board. As the attorney said in describing the roles of the boards, they don't have to come to the Zoning Board. But when somebody stands before you and this was from the meeting of September 5th. The person who would have been the applicant if they came to the Zoning Board said, I didn't have an attorney, when questioned. And that would have been a question that maybe the Zoning Board would have asked them. It would seem appropriate if they were coming to the Zoning Board or with them coming to this board to ask for a zoning change to have an attorney. The person representing them is not an attorney. The person who's asking for the zoning change is an engineer and that person then is preempting the Zoning Board by saying on page 18 in the minutes, as I said, there is absolutely zero record. They would have to find hardship and we can't demonstrate that. So he's putting you in the position of either you act or act in the direction he wants you to act. He's holding you hostage. He knows he wouldn't be able to prove his case before the Zoning Board. He told you that point blank. I just think it's a problem. And it's a problem. It puts the members of the Zoning Board in a problem. Because even my standing here talking to you could be problematic with what I say because I'm on the Zoning Board. If you don't give him a zoning change, then what's he going to do? He's invested money in a building. The building looks good, much better than it did. We want it to be a productive building. But can he come to the Zoning Board after they've conceded that they would have no case before the Zoning Board. They've really put the cart before the horse and they're holding the village hostage over it.

**Marjorie Cragan:** I wanted to maybe add to your docket to your next meeting, a forum about to discuss separating the residential housing that we all bought our homes for on Liberty Street from the apartments that are right in our backyard. I want a fence. I really do. We're getting 50 doublewide trailers back there soon. From what I understand as well. Building Inspector showed me a plan that they have. We all got letters about these doublewide trailers that are coming in. The trailer park that's there, they're putting in 50 double wides. That's my understanding. There is a drop in the back. I've lived there since 77. My parents have lived there since 1977. I can tell you now that kids at night go through our yards. Kids are kids. I'm not one of those crazy people. But if they go through that yard in the dark and they go down, they will go right down. Somebody is going to get hurt the way they have built this particular. I don't even want to think about it. The whole thing drives me crazy. We used to have views of beautiful mountains. Now we have views of these apartments. I know it was something that we were all supposed to come and talk about, but I didn't think it was going to look like it does. It's obtrusive. It's just horrible. All I'm asking for is a fence to divide that. I know there's progress. It's going to happen. I know it's not 1977, but I believe that we all bought these homes on Liberty Street thinking we were living in residential homes, not in the middle of an apartment complex, which is right in our backyards. All I'm asking for is before you give them their certificate of occupancy, that you really think about telling them they need a fence there. That's all. I don't know if you can discuss that at the next meeting or how we go about that.

**Sue Taylor:** First of all, I really feel terrible for the Harvest Fest Committee because we couldn't have that event because of the rain. They work so hard. Maybe we need to consider where we have

it. When my son played Little League the field. For years. Maybe it's time given all the work and the effort that's put in. Maybe we need to move it back up in the square again so at least you can attempt to have it. John, what's the current timeline for the Tin Brook Pump Station?

**Manager Revella:** I'm meeting with the DEC on Thursday to talk about that, because they haven't given us the contract documents yet for the funding. We've been trying to get that from them.

**Sue Taylor:** I know the clock was ticking when I was on the board, and that's three years ago.

**Manager Revella:** They still haven't given us the documentation to use the funding yet.

**Sue Taylor:** So precious, aren't they? So, we haven't secured any grant funding?

**Manager Revella:** We did. We're waiting for them to give us the documents. We got 1.25 million for it.

**Sue Taylor:** Did we have anything saved as a village?

**Manager Revella:** The board did budget additional funds to go along with that.

**Sue Taylor:** How much?

**Manager Revella:** I don't remember exactly. It's in the last budget for capital projects, but it's more than enough for Tin Brook. It's Tin Brook and some at the plant.

**Sue Taylor:** The price tag that we had when I was on the board is still current?

**Manager Revella:** The price tag for Tim Brook went down since then. Thankfully.

**Sue Taylor:** From the plan that you have. What about the plan that the DEC was insisting on?

**Manager Revella:** They approved that plan. This is another plan since then.

**Sue Taylor:** For people that don't know that weren't on the board, then in March of 2015, a presentation was made by a committee that was formed to explore the issues with the water and sewer funds. They were always running on a shoestring. Back then, a committee was formed. It was comprised of board members, the Treasurer, John Queenan, and as a result of their findings, using graphs, usage, the board decided at that time that it was prudent to increase the rates. At that point. The plan that was presented was at least a five year window to get those funds in a position to serve village residents into the future. That five year window passed in 2020 and the future is here. We found that forming that committee was invaluable. I don't think it's a bad idea to create a new committee and have John Queenan and the Treasurer and board members to work together to get a better idea of how those funds are operating. Since obviously, in the last eight years, things have changed, salaries have changed, usage may have changed, impacting the revenue into those funds. I believe that now we can only recover unpaid water bills on taxes, whereas in the past you could.

**Manager Revella:** You can do both now.

**Sue Taylor:** Both. I thought you had to choose one or the other.

**Manager Revella:** Water was suspended for a little while, but they put that back on after COVID.

**Sue Taylor:** Now we're still collecting both. By having such a committee would serve to give a clear view of those funds, I think people are confused by those two funds. I think people still believe that their taxes drive those two funds. It really would give the community, um, a strong idea of how those two funds work. They would be able to determine if the current rates would be able to sustain the operation of the water and sewer departments and also be able to bear the cost of any more major infrastructure projects that might need to be funded without the aid of outside finance. I don't think it's a bad idea. You talk about reviewing codes. I know that we have an aging infrastructure just like everybody else practically in the state. At least in the past, I know there were very few infrastructure grants and the competition for them were fierce. The DECC really doesn't care if you have the money or not. They're going to force you to do something. I don't think it would be a bad idea to be proactive and get that committee explore. John Queenan did a great job. The Treasurer at the time was Peter Sullivan. They gave a nice presentation. They showed us what would happen if we didn't increase rates. But if you get hit with a major, major project and you have no outside funding, I think it would be devastating for those two funds. I don't think it's a bad idea to explore and see where we are, especially because of the cost of that kind of infrastructure. We've been trying to keep up with it for years and years and years. Every year I was on the board, we did some kind of water sewer. Tried to do water sewer infrastructure. You fix this over here. This over here is now three years older. I just think being proactive, we really need to be proactive because it's really an issue. And like everybody else, not being able to use tax money and it's dependent on the revenue. Do we still have a problem with, because I can remember back when I was on the board going in the office on the third floor and there was the stack with the little yellow stickers, unpaid water and sewer bills. Now you can't find the person. I can remember when I first got on the board, there was someone in the office that was dedicated to water and sewer. I don't know whether we can figure out a way to be more aggressive, to get people to pay those water and sewer bills. That's part of the issue. Thanks.

**Diane Sandbothe:** I want to thank the mayor and John for coming and all the board members that came to Liberty Street to have that meeting. There were over 30 people who were there and it was really a good turnout. Is it against the law for the landlord to say you cannot park in this driveway?

**Attorney Donovan:** I don't know enough to answer that question.

**Diane Sandbothe:** No one answered the question before. Is it against the law? If it is against the law, then the people who are parking on the street should be able to park in their driveway. The house that we were meeting in front of, they have three cars. The other day I was coming up through, all three cars were parked on the road. The driveway is big enough for six cars to park in. I don't think anything is going to be resolved. You'll have war there. People want it. People don't want it. And I hope something turns out. All I know is that last year the ambulance came four times to take me to the hospital. They had a whine their way through whatever was there. And now they go through Wait Street down Seely Street. Then turn on Liberty Street. It's ridiculous if somebody is really, really sick and seconds count on the ambulance getting there on time. It's a terrible thing. Also a fire truck cannot get through that road if there's even one car or two cars. That red plumbing truck is always on the road. Now they have a driveway. He can fit in there, but he doesn't. Everybody seems to be able to get off the road during the winter time when there's snow. So, what is the problem? I just think that there shouldn't be any parking on the street. And if leave like 15 minutes for, let's say, UPS or the oil truck or any of these deliveries to come up, and if you have a visitor at night for an hour or so but then at night, then they have to clear out. They can't park there. That's my feeling on that. Bulk pick up is in two weeks, I think. Meanwhile, by Jacobowitz & Gubitz, there's a couch and two chairs that's been laying there on the street for about two weeks. I think 21 South Street, there are four or five black bags of garbage just laying there. I think on 36 Liberty Street, there's a TV stand there. These people just leave their junk there. It decreases the value of the property in Walden and on our street. Something should be done. Not send them a letter

and say you have to move it. They're not going to do anything. My black cemetery. I haven't given up hope yet, but I have to like think about what else I can do. Anything that you suggested. It has not worked out. The Town of Montgomery has not helped. The New York State representatives have not helped. And I'm at a loss. The NAACP has not helped and I am completely at a loss. Maybe call the TV station. I don't know what to do, but certainly for six or eight slaves buried on that property, somehow somebody should recognize it. You have the cemetery out on 416. I don't know how they got their property got designated, but we just can't.

**Lynn Thompson:** When a previous board wrote the law about the electric bicycles and the scooters, we followed what New York State had, and the discussion was that we would revisit that and see how that was working. I don't know what any of you were seeing, but I'm seeing some pretty scary things with these electric bicycles and scooters. They are on the sidewalks. They're running in the wrong direction of traffic. I've called the Police Department a few different times. I don't know what's being done, but I think it might be time to rethink or revisit or I would like to see the board have a discussion if maybe we need to adjust the language or if it's just an enforcement issue, which we seem to have a lot of those in the village, enforcement issues. I was wondering too, if there's been any further action on the train tracks on Grant Street being fixed. I thought we had been told that would happen about a year after Coldenham Road was fixed. It's been well over a year. I know that my husband had spoken to, I think his name was Mr. Rabbit from Senator Skoufis's office. He came, he evaluated. They were working on a few things. He's no longer our representative, so I don't know if, John, you've reached out to Senator Rolison's office, but those tracks are getting worse and worse. I it's scary driving over those. So I just wanted to make sure that that's not getting forgotten about. I certainly hope that you're not going to wait too long to get another Code Enforcement Officer. I know that department is incredibly busy. I thank the Building Inspector for all the hours he's putting in. I'm told he's there before the office opens and he's there after the office closes and you drive around the village. There are a lot of issues that have to be addressed. I sent you some photographs. I still would love to know what the deal is with that property on Scofield Street. There's one like that on Riverview Street. They're everywhere. As this lady was saying, I remember we had discussion about bulk pick up years ago that people should really not be putting things out until about a week before bulk pick up. There's stuff out all over this village. Crazy stuff, piles of stuff. It looks horrible and it all needs to be addressed. I hope you're getting him more help. I know there are union rules and regulations, but I do know from being a nurse for many, many years, we always had staffing shortages and we had to get very innovative with scheduling. We have people in this village who do not get building permits. They know what time the Building Department closes on Fridays, they rev up the power tools and the work begins and they work like demons all weekend long because they know there's nobody watching. There's nobody coming. They can get their project done. If we get a new full time person. I'm hoping maybe there could be some innovative scheduling done and maybe somebody, instead of working Monday through Friday, being off every Saturday and Sunday could have a different work schedule. Perhaps someone would be interested in being off on Sundays and Mondays and they'd be around seeing what's going on in the village on Fridays and Saturdays. Just a thought. The library looks beautiful. The new community room. I hope everybody goes and looks at it and I hope we can use that as like a little model for what we can make our third floor office look like. I think the people that work in there would be very happy coming to work in a lovely office like that. Hopefully that's moving along. Thank you.

**Dave Sperry:** The parking on Liberty Street. All those streets off Wait Street are only 21 feet wide. I've been up there, I measured. I'm sure John's measured. You live up that way. There's no solution to that. The only solution would be to widen roads unless you're going to start making one way streets. Nobody wants a one way street. The problem you're going to have is who has the right of way. And my question is, who has the right of way when two vehicles are coming down and they can't fit through the roads as they are now. I guess the problem is the village knows there's issue

with just about every street here and you're going to have to take a stand and make some decisions on Albany Avenue. I see there's a new no parking sign in between the Girl Scout Cabin and the other road. But it doesn't make any sense because it's not where the yellow lines used to be painted, but because there's not lines there anymore. But even Albany Avenue was like zig zag traffic. They're two way street. All these streets of Walden are two way streets, and you should be able to drive a vehicle up and down the street. What I happen to worry about zigzagging to traffic and looking for little kids, cutting out between cars. Short term rentals. There are issues and they should be enforced and looked at. And some of the issues are, there's apartments that I know of, short term rentals on the third floor. There's only one exit from that third floor. There supposed to be more than one exit when they're up in the attic, number one. And windows aren't of size also. They should have a law for that, which they do. That's why I think this should be enforced and looked at. Orange Avenue. I agree with Ms. Pearson said. The owner should have done his due diligence before he bought the building and he knew what he was buying when he bought it. I can't buy a single family home and say, listen, I need a two family home now and I'm asking you to give me a two family home. If it's not zoned for that. It's not zoned for that. And you can't claim hardship after you purchased it or shouldn't be able to claim hardship after you purchased it. Cameras. Without a doubt, the village needs them. The gentleman gave a good talk about them. The next group came up, gave an excellent talk. You are talking apples and oranges between the two. Unfortunately, the Village of Walden is not Woodbury Commons. We don't have the tax revenue here to do such things. Without a doubt, the village should look in the camera system. I don't believe, as the officer stated, everyone should be able to look at the parks. Because if I had little children down there, I don't want everybody in Walden to know my little kids are down at the park right now. That's my opinion as far as that goes. The lady stated about the senior citizen housing that it's going up and you've got a steep retaining wall. Up on Overlook Terrace. The Village Board made them put a fence on that retaining wall with the option that whosever wall fell down. They could go between the two properties to fix that wall when it happened. That might be something to look at as far as the kids falling off a retaining wall. But that was done on Overlook Terrace. Also on Overlook Terrace and off of Wait Street. Retention ponds had to put fences around them. I see there's two retention ponds there. I don't know if you're going to make them put fences around them. Like Overlook Terrace had a put two on them, on the first street off of Wait Street.

**Manager Revella:** Gracewood Court.

**Dave Sperry:** I have an issue with the parking on Wait Street at the bottom on North Montgomery Street. There is a car parked there all the time. He's probably there every morning. He must work sometime in the afternoon as everybody who lives over there see it. Parked right underneath a no parking sign. If he got a ticket once in a while, I'm assuming he wouldn't still park there. I don't know. That's my thought.

**Manager Revella:** He does get a ticket once in a while.

**Dave Sperry:** The other day, somebody parked in front of the firehouse on that little strip. I don't know if we got to put a sign here or if we got to paint the curb yellow. But it's very difficult coming out on Wait Street onto North Montgomery Street, no matter which direction you're going. Thank you very much.

**Joe Intriary:** Just for the record, the day that there were three cars parked out front was having an appliance delivered. I never have three cars in front of the house. I do agree that if you do one side of the street parking, is going to create a whole set of new issues because Amazon trucks, fuel trucks, they're not going to park, if there are several cars on one side of the street, they're not going to park all the way down. They're going to block. So now there's no way through. Whereas the Amazon truck as of now, generally makes a conscious effort to not be directly across the street from

a car parked there. I'm one of the few people on the block with a toddler, me and my next door neighbor, probably the only two. We have parents come up and generally they park in the street. I don't want it to be an issue where either now there's more traffic in front of my house on my property. Or now we have to cross the street to put the kid in the car. I like the convenience of parking in front of my house. To be fair in agreement with Ms. Hall. I drive up and down our block every single day, multiple times a day. I have never been unable to get through that block. I have never seen an issue with a fire truck or ambulance getting through that block. If they have expressed concerns, I would like to know. I don't think we should be restructuring the entire parking situation over the complaints of a few people. If people feel that it's dangerous, either walking, biking, jogging, they can simply not go that route. You have the option to not make that turn. With all due respect. Honestly, I came straight from work because it's a very big issue for me. We do have three cars and 99.9% of the time, at least two are in the driveway. I tend to keep one truck out because I have a single wide driveway and at 5:30 in the morning, it is a pain to move cars around because of the order in which me and my wife work. It is a convenience. If someone wants to pay for a double wide driveway, I'll happily keep all my cars off the street. There is an issue with the people behind us, building that building. We've had trees come through the fence already. They did do the right thing and take care of it. But I'm in agreement that some type of fence or a privacy barrier in some way would be nice. I don't know how much you could enforce that. I would really like to consider it because I am here on behalf of me and my neighbor, who is the other family with young children on the block. The ability to park in front of our house is very important to us. If it's just an annoyance to people and not necessarily a cause of emergency concern, I would like to be considered that nothing be done. Or perhaps certain spots down on the front of the block. Perhaps we could just sectioned off an area where there's no parking. It's hard for me to hear a lot of over exaggeration as people are talking specifically about my property and the so-called zig zagging where I measured exactly how far I am from the plumbing car, who is a volunteer firefighter. Perhaps we would like him to be able to just pull out instead of having to move a plumbing truck around to get to his vehicle to get to the emergency. I'm about 175 feet away from him. So to say you're zigzagging around is a little over exaggeration. It's bearing to the right and bearing to the left. It would be a very big inconvenience. I think it would cause a lot more harm to have all the cars on one side of the street if it does bring that many cars down our way. I'm right on Second Street. There's not a lot of cars that come that far. There's me, my next door neighbor who occasionally keeps a car on the street and across the street keeps his plumbing. Those are typically the only three cars on the street. Other than down the block. You're going to have a lot more problem with emergency vehicles if they're pumping oil to my neighbor across the street and there's other cars on this side of the street and then a fire truck comes down because I'm assuming it's much harder to stop pumping oil and move the oil truck out of the way. If there hasn't been any accidents on record and there hasn't been any issues with emergency vehicles, I would strongly encourage you to just possibly not act on it and leave it as it is. If people are just annoyed by the way other people park. I am a city transplant, so annoying parking is something I've dealt with my entire life. I am looking to raise a family and be part of Walden's fabric for a long time. Little things that are just taken away, if you're taking away parking, it's not going to convince me that it's going to anything. Adding inconveniences would only make me want to sell my property rather than wanting to be part and keep being intertwined with the fabric of Walden. We love it here. We're happy we moved here. Since we moved here, we've had issues behind us. I've never had an issue with the driveway. No one's ever come to me and kindly asked me to move a car. And all of a sudden there's 30 people standing on my front lawn. That's the first knowledge we had of this issue. It was a little alarming. I've never had an issue here, but it seems like since we moved in, all of a sudden, we weren't under the impression that was always going to be woods. I also was told that it was going to be single family housing and then all of a sudden it was a monstrous three or four story building being put up directly staring into my backyard. Nothing I can do about that. But now you're talking about the parking situation. I don't want a bunch of strangers parked in front of my lawn because they got to walk a couple houses down because they can't park in front. And I'm sure they don't want to walk

six blocks down. I don't know about everybody else. We have small kids. My neighbor of small kids. We have a lot of visitors. I don't want them to have to park and walk children a block and a half around when they should be able to just park in front of my house. To my knowledge, I have not seen any issues with emergency vehicles. Unless I'm wrong. I feel like that would be the only reason to institute an entire change of parking on a block.

**Marjorie Cragan:** To add what that gentleman just said, my father had the ambulance there quite often and he was always taken care of. I never had an issue with them not being able to get through. Like I said before, I have no problem with it either. I think there shouldn't be one side of the street parking. I don't think we should do anything. It's like playing Frogger. Once in a blue moon. It's not every day, but it happens. I agree with this gentleman here.

### **Payment of Audited Bills**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve payment of audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

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

**Trustee Batson:** The cameras. There's just has to be a strategic component there for the police to be able to use them. I think that's very important. I don't want to vote on something that is a massive expense that we don't have a plan to use. I would love to see the Chief. I think that he probably can build a strategy off of either one of those cameras. I think that his input and the commitment to getting value out of them is what is needed.

**Trustee Hall:** I agree with the cameras. It'd be nice to hear what Chief Herlihy has to say with all that. I want to thank you guys for sitting here this whole time just to voice your opinions on the Liberty Street and other issues there. Also, St. Baldrick's the 6K went really well. We had, I think, 26 runners and hopefully next year we'll get a little more. Thank you for that.

**Trustee Maher:** Sorry, I apologize if you've seen me, like, going like this all meeting. I have a migraine. I wasn't trying to be rude to anyone's comments. I've been pushing through. I've been going around to local businesses, helping some people out with tricky trays and things like that. Purchasing gift cards and made it a point to check in with business owners. There are a lot of concerns that have come up. Four out of five of these businesses that I specifically went to, and all very different types of businesses, they were part of the BCGM program. I advised them we want to hear our local businesses and what concerns they have. We want them to be happy and not be moving out of our village, which a few of them honestly are considering. And one of them is in the process of actually leaving right now. I don't want that to happen and I want to try to have a conversation. I did mention that we are in the process of going through our code and fixing up some things that were outdated that maybe we can work on. I don't want to say it was all about code enforcements or Building Department concerns. There was a few other departments that were mentioned as well, so I thought it would be helpful. I advised them there's many different ways they could send an email to the board. They could come here and speak. A lot of them felt that they didn't want to be sort of, I don't want to say targeted, but put on the spotlight and have their business be put on the spotlight. I thought it would be helpful if we had the president of the BCGM sort of work with them. I advised her and I just wanted to bring it to everyone's attention that I think it would be helpful if we had Randy Picarello come to a future meeting on behalf of people who are part of her organization, the BCGM to sort of have her be the spokesperson for their concerns and have them brought up to the board. I think it's important that we hear what they have to say. I don't know if the board is the forum for that or if that's a separate meeting, but just something that I thought would be helpful. Another thing I was going to bring it up earlier when we were talking about the code enforcement and going through the codes that I know we had talked about doing department head meetings and I'm not sure where we were with that, but I think that that's

something that I know we discussed maybe quarterly or bi-annually.

**Manager Revella:** What are you asking about?

**Trustee Maher:** Remember we were talking about doing sort of like department head check-ins with the board just so they could give us like updates?

**Manager Revella:** That's what the reports are for. They're not under your purview. That's why they don't report to you. I don't know if they would want to or feel comfortable doing that. But if any one individual board member wants to talk to a department head, they can come do that. But that's where the separation of duties is.

**Trustee Pearson:** Are you finding that people are looking for that? Department heads are looking to have something like that?

**Trustee Maher:** I thought we were talking about it during an executive session maybe, where we were saying it would be nice to get a, not executive session, but it was something that came.

**Attorney Donovan:** Because sometimes you try to keep those private.

**Trustee Batson:** I did ask for financials quarterly.

**Trustee Maher:** Okay.

**Manager Revella:** Yes, the Treasurer is under your purview, absolutely entitled to that.

**Trustee Maher:** Becky, when you mentioned your comment tonight about wanting to see the police reports more frequently and getting more in-depth, I kind of thought that would be part of the quarterly review. But if we're not going to do that, that's fine.

**Trustee Batson:** I did meet with her today.

**Trustee Maher:** Okay.

**Manager Revella:** I thought it was a good meeting. She thought it was a good meeting.

**Trustee Maher:** Yeah, I think it's a good idea. I saw your notes. They seemed really helpful. Insightful. A few other things here. I'm going to look into. I just need a refresher on the date for the Sam Wright.

**Manager Revella:** I mentioned to the mayor this morning that we were to announce that I don't know if he was going to do that during his comments. That the date is actually the 22nd at 1 pm. It's on my phone

**Trustee Pearson:** Leadership Committee met last night. Marisa put that together. So, we're back on track for the leadership, which is going to be on January 11th, 2024, in this room. The forms have been revised and they will be ready for pick up. I emailed you back, Marisa. Are they going to be picked up at the office and the library? Where else are they going to be?

**Clerk Kraus:** Website, office, Library.

**Trustee Pearson:** Both up and down and they'll be on the website too. It's about the four people in



the back. You have your business, your volunteer of the year. Jacobowitz does a student usually. And then there's the Sam Phelps award. There's four different awards that will happen that evening. We don't have a time yet. January 11th, it's a Thursday night, 2024. The forms will have to be back into the village by the 23rd of November. If you want to write one up for somebody and put it in the committee will meet after the 23rd and they'll do their selection on who they'll be picking for. There is a committee on it. That was great. John, do we have cameras in Olley Park? And who does those?

**Manager Revella:** We do. I don't recall the name of the vendor.

**Trustee Pearson:** We wouldn't have used the same vendor we did for DPW. Why wouldn't we do that? Why wouldn't we keep it consistent?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know if that was part of the bid or not.

**Trustee Pearson:** They're just on the building. Just protecting the building or not on the whole part?

**Manager Revella:** No, they're not in the whole park.

**Trustee Pearson:** The kitchen down there where we are, you were going to get prices and stuff. Did you get that?

**Manager Revella:** We haven't gotten them back yet. No.

**Trustee Pearson:** From who?

**Manager Revella:** Anyone.

**Trustee Pearson:** You put out a bid for that?

**Manager Revella:** The engineers helped them with that project.

**Trustee Pearson:** Well 5. Where we at?

**Manager Revella:** I don't think they've finished that one yet.

**Trustee Pearson:** Bus stop?

**Manager Revella:** We went there today. He's getting it marked out for gas.

**Trustee Pearson:** Floors?

**Manager Revella:** No pricing yet, but they're looking to break it out. Third floor, second floor, first floor. Separate bids so it can be done faster. And the contractor that Ginny recommended is hopefully going to be doing the work that did the work on the second floor.

**Trustee Pearson:** Planning Board is losing some people. Do you have people to put back on there?

**Manager Revella:** I have 1 so far that I'll likely appoint. I have two other potentials that could fill another spot.

**Trustee Pearson:** Another spot on the Planning Board. You'll have two spots or you'll have one

spot?

**Manager Revella:** I have an alternate and a regular spot. I may have another spot open.

**Trustee Pearson:** When will you be doing that?

**Manager Revella:** Before next meeting.

**Trustee Pearson:** And just something for Stan. The board should put something together for Stan to be able to thank him for his years of service. I don't know if that's being planned or not, but it should be.

**Manager Revella:** His last meeting is the 16th.

**Trustee Pearson:** Maybe he could come to our next meeting. Maybe we can invite him. It's up to the mayor.

**Mayor Ramos:** We're working on that.

**Manager Revella:** I just want to clarify the Street dedication is October 22nd, a Sunday at 2 pm.

**Mayor Ramos:** If anybody is available this Friday 5pm at Valley Central High School, Mr. Michael Bliss will be inducted into the Valley Central Hall of Fame. You can walk in at 5 pm. The program starts at 5:30 pm sharp in the auditorium. A short walk to the gymnasium for the unveiling of the plaque. And then there's a game thereafter at 7 pm for Valley Central. For those of us seniors, on December 2nd, there's a Jimmy Sturr at the Paramount in Middletown. There's a holiday trip. If anybody wants to partake in that. They'll be presenting the Drifters, which will be a nice little Christmas music event.

\*read events into minutes\*

**Executive Session – Personal History of a Particular Person, Attorney Client about Sewers**

Trustee Hall made a motion to enter into executive session for attorney client session to discuss sewers and employment history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

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

**Regular Meeting  
October 3, 2023  
Motions & Resolutions**

**Approval of September 5, 2023 & September 19, 2023 Minutes**

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve the September 5, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

September 19, 2023 meeting

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve the September 19, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Batson. 4 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Hall). Motion carried.

**November Board Meetings**

Trustee Hall made a motion to cancel and reschedule the November 7, 2023 Village Board meeting to the November 14, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution 7-23-24 – Budget Transfers**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to adopt Resolution 7-23-24 Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Hall. 4 ayes. 1 absent. Motion carried.

**Resolution 8-23-24 – CDBG Village Manager Certificate of Authority**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to adopt Resolution 8-23-24 CDBG Village Manager Certificate of Authority. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Payment of Audited Bills**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve payment of audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Executive Session – Personal History of a Particular Person, Attorney Client about Sewers**

Trustee Hall made a motion to enter into executive session for attorney client session to discuss sewers and employment history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

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