

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
September 19, 2023**

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

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

Absent: Kristie Hall

Also Present: John Revella, Village Manager
Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk
Robert Wallner, Building Inspector
David Donovan, Village Attorney

Orange County Transit

Manager Revella: I hope everyone got a copy of the update from the Orange County Transit attorney. Should have gotten an email. There was also a hard copy in your box.

Trustee Batson: I just want to validate they said the work was done?

Manager Revella: Mr. Wallner, can you confirm the lids on those septic's were put in at Orange County Transit?

Building Inspector Wallner: I have not been there to verify.

Manager Revella: It said the Building Department was sent notice on September 14th.

Attorney Donovan: I don't know, because I went to law school not septic school. But I did get pictures for Mr. Mirando that appeared to show a septic lid properly affixed.

Manager Revella: To a septic system. Somewhere. We hope it's ours.

Trustee Batson: I guess from my perspective, it's done when our Building Department says it's done.

Mayor Ramos: Mr. Wallner, you're going to check on that for us?

Building Inspector Wallner: Yes.

Manager Revella: Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Carley: We're going to postpone it to the next meeting?

Mayor Ramos: Well, if we don't have verification.

Deputy Mayor Carley: If it's verified, they can move forward.

Attorney Donovan: Well, what is it that you're doing?

Manager Revella: Approving a sewer waiver for the septic system at Orange County Transit.

Attorney Donovan: Is there any indication that the septic system not properly functioning?

Mayor Ramos: It was just the lids.

Attorney Donovan: So, the system's not properly functioning.

Building Inspector Wallner: It is functioning. According to the Mr. Queenan they weren't properly capped.

Deputy Mayor Carley: My question was, instead of just postponing next two weeks, if everything is fine and is properly capped and it's verified by the Building Department, it can move forward.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the sewer waiver for Orange County Transit, with condition that if determined by the Building Department, that the lids are properly capped. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Pearson: I would like something in writing, please.

Public Hearing – NYForward Grant

Trustee Garrison made a motion to open the public hearing. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Pearson: Planning Board meeting last night. I believe that the applicant that is looking for this grant is looking to put people in there already. Is that what I'm hearing? That they're ready to put people in there? So does that affect this at all?

Manager Revella: No, it doesn't.

Trustee Pearson: Do we have a plan for this? I have not seen a plan for this. Why we're working with this grant. Is there something we can get that shows what is going to be?

Manager Revella: It was emailed to everyone.

Trustee Pearson: The plans were emailed? How long ago?

Manager Revella: Yes. Several months ago. There was a bunch of renderings from an architect on the outside and inside.

Trustee Pearson: It's going to be retail on the bottom and apartments on the third floor. But now he's asking for senior apartments on the third floor.

Manager Revella: It could be.

Trustee Pearson: We're just going to go and do that without knowing what the final plan is going to be.

Manager Revella: We are discussing whether you want to support a project at this location or some other location in the village for a NYForward Grant.

Manager Revella: We're not going for the grant. There's an applicant. We're supporting the application for the owners at 29 Grant Street to rehabilitate the old building there.

Brenda Adams: The plans that you're talking about is that the one that the gentleman showed the Zoning Board back when we were dealing with the medical shop building?

Manager Revella: Yes. Those are the original renderings. That's correct.

Brenda Adams: He had a fancy restaurant going. An upscale restaurant. He also had a pub going in the other end.

Manager Revella: That's the plan. That's correct.

Brenda Adams: And then apartments over top?

Manager Revella: That's right.

Brenda Adams: Same owner?

Manager Revella: Same owner.

Brenda Adams: Everything's the same as that gentleman proposed?

Manager Revella: Yes. The only difference is they updated some of the renderings. They look the same to me. But he said they're updated. He added some outdoor tennis courts and things over by the outbuilding. That was the only change that I saw in the renderings. But there may even other ones I didn't notice from the ones that you saw at the Zoning Board.

Brenda Adams: Is that the only project that's in front of you?

Manager Revella: That's the only people that have come to us with a proposed project. Yes. So far.

Trustee Garrison: Just to be clear, so the public knows that people at home. 29 Grant Street, is the Package Lighting Building, correct?

Manager Revella: It used to be Packaged Lighting, yes. Before that it was Rider Ericson Engine Company. Spence.

Trustee Pearson: It's for the amount of how much?

Manager Revella: \$2 million they're seeking.

Trustee Pearson: Did he submit the form that he had to submit to do this?

Manager Revella: For the state, yes.

Trustee Pearson: We actually prepare the application, not the property owner.

Manager Revella: The village doesn't prepare it. They are working with the Town IDA and the Town Business Association, I remember there's four letters.

Mayor Ramos: BCGM.

Trustee Pearson: It says communities prepare and submit application. That would be us.

Trustee Maher: Typically, like NYForward is driven by members of the community, business owners, can be board members. In this case, I think, correct me if I'm wrong, but, this process started a while ago. The final applications are due I think in ten days. We couldn't start something now. But this person wanted to.

Manager Revella: We tried to do this last year, but the timing wasn't right and we didn't have all the specs in time. So we told them when they came last year that we would try to talk about it again this year. And that's why it's up again this year.

Trustee Pearson: And there's no monetary anything from us.

Manager Revella: From the village no. Zero cost to the Village of Walden. The owners have to match minimum 50%. I'm told the project is about \$14 million. This will be 2 million towards the 14.

Trustee Maher: John, could we get a copy of the final application? Because I didn't see that.

Manager Revella: They don't have it done yet. They're waiting for the public hearing to know if there are any comments to add.

Trustee Pearson: Could we get that after it's finalized?

Manager Revella: Yes, they have to give us a copy.

Brenda Adams: Is this firm? Are they going to do this? Or if they can see if they can get enough money to do it?

Manager Revella: I was told they were going to do it. They're trying to get grants to help go towards it so they can do more of the project faster. But I'm sure they'll do it in stages if they can't get the grant.

Brenda Adams: It's definitely a firm project.

Manager Revella: That's what the owner says and the representative.

Brenda Adams: Not going to fall through. Use that money and it doesn't work out.

Manager Revella: The state won't let them just use the money without doing the project. That's a reimbursement.

Trustee Pearson: Do they have to have a final plan to do this?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Maher: You can't even submit unless you have an actionable plan. It's very strict.

Trustee Pearson: How come I heard yesterday at the Planning Board that they're putting senior apartments up above? Is that part of the plan?

Manager Revella: I'm pretty sure that's part of the plan with their application. We'll see the whole one when it's done. But they wanted to comment from the public. They have to have it from the public before they can submit.

Trustee Pearson: I just thought they were apartments. I didn't know they were senior apartments. I think they were asking for senior apartments last night. How could they have finalized the plan yet if they're asking for the Planning Board to give them senior apartments?

Manager Revella: Because they can have alternate plans. They can have one with senior housing and one without and submit depending what gets approved. They have, as Brenda said, plans for restaurant, bar, bistro and other commercial space downstairs. I'm not sure if they said what it could be, but there's space.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Do we have any type of design or some kind of concept?

Manager Revella: They sent it to us.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I didn't see it. Respectfully, I apologize for not having it here, but I think we all need something to look at.

Manager Revella: This public hearing is just whether you're in favor of this project or some other project. Any ideas for projects potentially in the village. I'm just not aware of anyone else that has a potential project from the village. If anyone else is, this is the time to say it. That's all the public hearings for. You're not voting in favor or against anything.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm just seeing the project, what they're proposing. So if somebody else has a project, it's not an abstract thought. It's something that's tangible. We can say, so this is the project. Just something in writing that we can see and touch.

Sue Taylor: They submitted an application, on the application they put **inaudible** apartments upstairs. Can they modify that so the state can say no we don't like this plan. Then try and figure out, do I have a better chance if I put regular apartments? Do I have a better chance if I call them senior apartments? What they're going to do is formulize their application, that's what they're going to submit to the state to see if they're going to approve it. I guess what I'm saying is, you're asking us to comment on something that isn't solidified.

Manager Revella: You're commenting on whether there's a project in the village at all that falls under this grant.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I guess once we get to the point where we know more, then do we close?

Trustee Maher: NYForward is a program where the whole mission is to support smaller villages and hamlets and economic development and drive more people to sort of revitalize the area. Similar to the main street downtown revitalization. Only two applications per division throughout New York State, like we're in the Mid-Hudson region, so only two applications will be approved from the Mid-Hudson region. If we don't put anything in, we're missing out on a grant.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm good with that. Put something in, but I just don't know what we're putting in.

Trustee Maher: I get it.

Trustee Batson: Can you just clarify, when you say "we're" not "us". The project owner.

Trustee Maher: The project owner, right. But as a village, we want to obviously see the village benefit from it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: It should be in compliance with our comp plan and all that.

Trustee Maher: For sure.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Right now, I'm just saying it should be collaborative.

Manager Revella: It is.

Mayor Ramos: Public hearing is open. Why don't we keep it open until the next meeting, until everybody's refreshed their memories on the plan.

Trustee Maher: Can you if the application is due in ten days?

Manager Revella: I don't know on the public hearing part.

Attorney Donovan: The purpose of the public hearing is to solicit comment. You could close the public hearing, but if you're not comfortable, you don't have to vote. What the ramifications of that? I don't know. But generally, when you do a public hearing for things like this, you ask for public comment and it doesn't stop the board from having a conversation. You can foreclose public comment. Up to you again. If you're not comfortable to vote, you're not required to vote. If that requires time period lapse. That's a decision of the board that you have to make.

Manager Revella: There's nothing to vote on tonight for the board for sure. They just had to have the public hearing from what I was told. I don't know if they have to close it or not close it.

Trustee Pearson: When is the application due for these people?

Trustee Maher: NYForward application deadline, I believe, is September 29th for final applications.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That's only ten days.

Trustee Pearson: John, are they looking for a letter of support? Does that go into the grant application?

Manager Revella: Yes, they want a letter support from the village that we support the project.

Trustee Pearson: We don't have a letter written up to show what it would look.

Manager Revella: No, but it's pretty standard form letters for most grant support. It just says that the Village of Walden supports the project at x location for x dollars in accordance with the plans

submitted to the Planning Board. That's all that I can say about that. They're awarding these grants all around the state. It'd be nice to have some project in there for it so we can get some funds instead of other communities. I don't know any other project in the village would qualify right now.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I must admit I like the way that the pictures look and if it's even close to that, it's going to add to us. I guess we shouldn't have it out there to the public to see it too, if they haven't seen it yet.

Manager Revella: It's pretty.

Deputy Mayor Carley: If it's even close to that, it's going to be really nice. So, we just got a letter of support from the village.

Manager Revella: They didn't even ask for that yet. We're just supposed to have a public hearing. Which we are. That's all I was asked to do.

Deputy Mayor Carley: If Trustee Maher said the 29th, that's in ten days.

Manager Revella: This board supported a NYForward application at last year's meeting. That part's done.

Mayor Ramos: This is the only project that's come up in the time that they were asking.

Trustee Pearson: The public hearing is for?

Manager Revella: Any comment from the public.

Trustee Pearson: Just to know what's happening in that area.

Manager Revella: Correct.

Trustee Pearson: And they're not looking for a vote to send another letter, to do something else.

Manager Revella: I was not asked for any of that. No. The best request you can get.

Sue Taylor: You're asking for comment on whether we support the project in that area.

Manager Revella: And if there's any other projects that you can think of.

Sue Taylor: The pictures are nice. But you're asking us to comment, okay, it's nice that somebody is going to go for a grant to do the project, but we really don't know what it's going to be because they haven't finalized their application and the contents of that application would be critical to making a cognizant decision about whether. Initially, I guess the board is just going to say, yeah, we want grant money for that area, we're going to support it, but we don't know what it is.

Manager Revella: An improvement to that area. Correct.

Trustee Maher: We know it's going to be retail and residential housing.

Sue Taylor: That's what they're proposing. That makes sense New York State would ask you to approve something *inaudible*. Typical New York State. I know we have to have a public hearing. We want the village to be revitalized. I get it. But still, it would be nice to have a little more

confidence. You send a letter as the Village Board, yes, we support this. Wouldn't it be nice to be able to embellish that a little bit? Here's why we think this project would be great. Maybe that would look nice with the application.

Trustee Maher: I think it would be helpful and I've seen a lot of other villages do this as well, I think it's come up before where we have like a grant committee. It doesn't have to be, just members of the board. It can be people from the community, business owners, where we're not reactive to things like this and we're more proactive and can really go after things because something like this obviously takes an incredible amount of time, planning, effort from all people. Just a thought for future reference.

Manager Revella: The village benefits from the town grant writers. We don't pay for them anymore, which is helpful. Town tax dollars.

Trustee Maher: But it would be great to sit at a roundtable with them and really brainstorm even just once a month.

Manager Revella: We try to do it every few months. So, if anybody wants to come, I'll let them know when next meeting is.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I don't want to muddy the waters here and I understand that we want something done, but I just like, she just said, a little more substance behind the why we support it. I don't remember what the project manager, the owner said.

Manager Revella: It was the rep that came last time. Jeff Lyons. If there are other things that have to happen before then, then we can put them on the agenda again for sure.

Trustee Batson: If the Village Board already voted on this last year.

Manager Revella: In support of the project.

Trustee Batson: The vote from this board is already done.

Manager Revella: There's no need for a vote at this time for anything.

Trustee Batson: Did the plans for this, the email that you reference preexist? Three of us being elected to this office?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Batson: Okay. We didn't see it.

Manager Revella: I think that I forwarded it when you came on, but I don't remember.

Trustee Batson: Fair enough.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Village Manager's Report

Manager Revella: Since the last meeting, we did receive the Police Officer candidate list and we sent out canvass letters. Hopefully we get some potential new officers. Very short staffed down

there, part timers and full timers. We are getting applications in for Public Works and for Parking Enforcement. Hopefully, we get that resolved and filled up soon as well. We did have to survey a lot of storm damage with the DPW Super. The guys were out a lot in the evening of the storms and also a few days after cleaning up brush and debris. Pretty extreme. Went over some personnel matters with the Building Department and the Finance Department which I'll talk about in exec. Went over status of projects with the Village Engineer and the report from the Wait Street cameraing of the sewer line and drain line, which both need some work. We're waiting for a proposal on that. Met with Rec Coordinator and Lynn Thompson to talk about beautification projects in the village, updating those before winter. Went over some prosecution matters with the Village Attorney, which he represented the village in court for. Went over payroll with the Deputy Clerk and Treasurer. Went over the summer camp stats with the Rec Coordinator. Had a few discussions with different members of the board, including the Mayor on the West Main Street stairs and what the state is doing over there. Went over rehab loans with the Treasurer and the Building Department for updates and a new loan. Went over billing with the new company and the Finance Department. Went over the punch list for the Falcons Rest Project. The Building Department and the engineer met at the project location with the owner to make sure the punch list was finalized before a CO is issued. Had a good meeting with Trustee Pearson, Dean Stickles and the Building Inspector to go over short term rentals, and updates for that. Went over NYSEG pole replacement. Tree cutting with the DPW Superintendent as well. The company that NYSEG hired had done some hacking jobs on some of the trees. We're trying to get that rectified. The Recreation and Parks Department, preparing for Harvest Fest on the 30th. Hopefully, the weather's good. Continuing to do maintenance, programing. Outdoor soccer has begun and the Jets trip is September 24th. The Building Department, the Inspector issued 14 new permits, 3 COs, 13 property violations and 4 properties were prepared for unsafe structures to be evaluated by the engineer. The Part Time Building Inspector completed 4 commercial fire and safety inspections, 15 residential fire inspections and 91 apartments and 4 letters were issued to make corrections to owners and assisted with planning and zoning matters. Clerk's been updating social media, FOILs, handicap permits and responded to resident requests and issues that are going and personal. Finance Department went over the water, sewer and commercial garbage bills. The lockbox returns on those. Still working on year end for 2023. Went over office staff with myself. Working on bank reqs, payroll, coding invoices and updating reports and vouchers. Public Works, the new mechanics started yesterday. We'll try and get an introduction for next meeting. They are pressing sludge as they can at the sewer plant and doing updates to the pumps and repairs as they can. Water Department did 21 mark outs, replaced 6 meters, 2 end points, 1 inspection and 3 closings. The work on well 5 is ongoing. There's some completed and there's a motor replacement that's on the agenda later and preparing for work on well 4, which is also on the agenda. Public Works have been responding to requests for assistance with several questions, trees, water issues and finishing patching the roadways as they can. Police Department still has issues with staffing, as I discussed earlier. Issued 1 traffic ticket, 3 parking summonses, responded to 4 MVAs, had 7 arrests, 33 vehicle traffic stops and 267 blotters since last meeting. Also, attended the 9/11 ceremony. It was great, out on the triangle.

Trustee Garrison: With the police staffing, any good candidates looking? Are we having a hard time?

Manager Revella: It's a hard time. There actually was already another test. There'll be another list coming in a few months, but we're hoping to get at least some hires off this list.

Trustee Pearson: You met with the Parks Department with a review of summer camp statistics. Can I get a copy of that?

Manager Revella: Of course. Just remember, when we go in the room.

Trustee Pearson: You and the mayor met with the stairs. What's up with them?

Manager Revella: Met with me on the stairs. That's the problem, its the State's.

Trustee Pearson: But I thought they were fine. They said.

Manager Revella: The state said they're fine. And they were supposed to be putting railings in and I don't think they even did that yet.

Trustee Pearson: You don't know if they're going to put them in or not.

Manager Revella: They have to put them in eventually. We were getting a lot of comments about it and I was trying to respond as respectfully as possible to some people from the public. Let them know that we really don't have control over it. The mayor and I have both been corresponding with DOT reps to try and get it resolved as soon as possible and they're having issues with their contractor. I don't know why they could pull a bond or something. Just need to get it done.

Mayor Ramos: They were there last Tuesday with the railing. They had a whole crew. But they didn't do anything.

Trustee Pearson: In the Building Department when there's an unsafe structure and it gets evaluated by the engineer, what does that process look like? Can you tell me?

Manager Revella: They have to evaluate exterior and interior structurally, if it's sound, if there's an issue with the soundness of the structure, it can be condemned. The Building Department can issue a temporary condemnation. Permanent would come to this board. The attorney would advise you on how that process would go at that point.

Trustee Pearson: Met about the electrical vehicle grant. Can you tell me something about that?

Manager Revella: I can only tell you that we are at NYSEG's mercy.

Trustee Pearson: This is through the treasurer. Something with the grant, was there an issue with the grant?

Manager Revella: No, we were just making sure the budgeting was proper to make sure we have all the parts because we have the NYSEG bill. We have the contractor's bill and we have some pieces we have to buy for DPW to do their part.

Trustee Pearson: We're still waiting for NYSEG?

Manager Revella: To run the line, yes. They are doing poles and lines throughout the village and a couple of areas for updates. So the crews in the area, it shouldn't be long.

Trustee Maher: How long will they be doing storm cleanup?

Manager Revella: It's over.

Trustee Maher: No more leaving tree limbs up the curb.

Manager Revella: They can leave things at the curb that are meant for brush pick up from the garbage company, but it has to conform to those rules. Public Works isn't going to go out on patrol

anymore. They've exhausted that. They have a lot to do before winter.

Trustee Pearson: And you also sent pictures to about the trees that were cut. Did you get any responses?

Manager Revella: Yes. The person in charge from NYSEG was appalled that the crew that they hired, the contractor, did that to the trees.

Trustee Pearson: So, nothing gets done. They just don't hire those people again.

Manager Revella: No, they're going to make them fix it. I just don't know when.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Maybe you can't really talk about it here, but it just concerns me always. With the police hiring off the list, there's always issues. I'm not sure like the criteria that we're using. Since I've been here in the village, it's always been an issue with the list. I'm not sure why there's always an issue with the list.

Manager Revella: We're required to hire off the civil service list. We don't make the list, the county does based on the tests and results to the physical. So, whoever passes the test and meets that criteria is on that list. Now the list is scored from 100 to 70 for passing and you're required to start at the hundred. And it's a rule of three. So, you got to get three candidates. If there are 100 and there's thirty 90s, you have to canvass the 100 and all 90s before you move on to 85 or anything in that range.

Deputy Mayor Carley: And we can't find one?

Manager Revella: We have made offers to several that have declined.

Chief Herlihy: We have also hired. The last one didn't make probation. There was a couple that didn't pass background. The last civil service test, which is the list that we have right now, 750 people took it. 600 something passed it. After physicals were administered a list went down to about 289. There are 31 police agencies in Orange County that all pick from the same list. Some of them like us, may only pick up 1 or 2 people, some are canvassing 5.

Manager Revella: The sheriff's office, numerous. Off the same list.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So, that's a difficulty. It's not so much of us being particular. It's competition. Thank you for clarifying. Appreciate it.

Approval of September 5, 2023 Minutes

Tabled

Public Comment

Sue Taylor: We are very fortunate in this village to have two competent boards in our Zoning and Planning Boards. I have attended their meetings and read minutes of those I could not attend in person. They are fastidious in their due diligence and have exemplary counsel at their disposal. Regarding the gentleman that appeared before this board last meeting and the gentleman that appeared before the last ZBA meeting I attended, I find both situations odd. Caveat emptor. Let the buyer beware. I wonder if those two gentlemen engaged in any due diligence prior to purchasing their properties. Both seemed unaware of just what was allowed in the zones where their properties reside. It seems a bit ridiculous that anyone wouldn't research properties to make certain that the location would meet their needs prior to purchase. From what I heard, this doesn't seem to be the

case. They made their purchases and are now incredulous that their goals cannot be met under the law and expect one of our boards to change the rules to suit them regardless of the impact it may have on others in the village. This village is not in the business of making certain that those making investment property purchases will make a profit on those investments. All three village boards are charged with upholding the laws that are in place in order to benefit all property owners, not just those who seek to make a substantial profit. The spokesperson for the gentleman, as I understood it, who came before the Village Board, admitted that they circumvented the Zoning Board because they knew they would not meet the criteria needed to be granted a zoning change. I was astounded that statement didn't raise a red flag with the Village Board. Your attorney even counseled that you did not have to take any action. Instead, the majority voted to return the issue to the Planning Board. I'm not aware that any Village Board member contacted any member of the Zoning Board to inquire about this request and understand why the applicant would not qualify under zoning laws. While it is true, applicants can appeal decisions to the Village Board, it escapes me why you would even entertain such a request unless you were willing to do the same research and due diligence that the Planning Board and the Zoning Board do. Before making their decisions, it would seem that those kinds of critical decisions should be left to the boards that are trained to handle them. I am also aware that this is a small village and that many board members own or work for businesses within our borders. I am also aware that family members may also fit into those categories. It's my opinion that it's vital that all board members, regardless of which board they happen to sit on, be aware of possible conflicts when it comes to decision making and the possibility that a vote you make may financially benefit someone in your inner circle or even yourselves. Taxpayers are becoming more aware of potential conflicts involving elected officials. Better that people in those positions err on the side of caution when entertaining issues from any dais, especially those with financial implications. One thing I learned about my time on the Village Board is that there is no shame in asking for more information in order to make a qualified decision. There is no shame in tabling something in order to get that information. And just because a motion is made, don't feel obligated to offer a second. And finally, you asked for this job. Do it and do it to the best of your ability. Number two, why is Orange County Transit absent?

Mayor Ramos: Don't know.

Sue Taylor: Nobody knows. Supposed to be here to give an update. I understand he gave a letter. Is there anything in the letter that would be beneficial to the community? To know why they're not here.

Manager Revella: The only thing in this letter is talking about water/sewer connections. Update on the permit with the DOT issued, its approved use occupancy permit. The next step is DOT issue highway work permit. They haven't given a timeline on that yet. Septic inspections and sewer waivers is the other part which the board already discussed. That's all that's in this letter.

Sue Taylor: I'd like to thank Trustee Hall. She's not here tonight for suggesting a shorter time period for an extension for them. They got their year. Why bother showing up to give any more information? Short term rentals. Problem that I have with that is enforcement, enforcement, enforcement. Just like a lot of other things in the village, why bother doing things? I know you have to do it because of the governor of the State of New York, but I don't understand how we're going to enforce this at all. I'm an early riser, 4:00 in the morning, I'm out of my deck having my coffee and there's a guy or a girl, don't know who it is, on a motorcycle early in the morning, racing up and down village streets. I can hear it and it doesn't sound like he's going anyplace. It's just riding around and just making as much noise as possible. People are trying to sleep, but just wanted to alert you that there is somebody doing that early in the morning. Thank you.

Tom Olley: I did not hear you mention it before that it was on the agenda for a revote for technical

matters. But I would ask that the board table the petition for this evening, because we submitted some additional information that I think addresses the previous person's comments. We think that the board should consider that. Also we submitted an EAF that the board's attorney had requested advises that we needed to do. Because it involves a local law, there is a narrative that has to accompany that and that maybe more of a collaborative effort. We respectfully submit the information regarding the EAF and the supplemental information and just request that it be tabled for the next meeting or as early as you feel it appropriate.

Village Code – Review of 111-117

Mayor Ramos: I thought it went very well. We've had a couple issues that we're going to come back on. The cannabis research and what was the second one?

Manager Revella: There was a couple.

Trustee Maher: Tree permit.

Manager Revella: There was the child safety zone as well. How the committee works. I think that was it.

Mayor Ramos: Our next session will be 121 to 144. 5:30 Next meeting.

Short Term Rentals

Manager Revella: The committee did meet. We went over the short term rental law that we had in front of us. We had some comments from the county that didn't really fit. The Planning Board has been back and forth. Actually just got their comments today. The committee that met also had some updates that we sent to the attorney. He did make some updates, which we also got back today. We had to clarify one of the sections. I think it's behoove us to table to next meeting so we can have comments and the updated version to discuss.

Trustee Pearson: Can we also get the application that the Building Department is going to put together for the next meeting?

Manager Revella: Yes. Those four pages that we went over.

Trustee Pearson: You did say this county report was wrong.

Manager Revella: It didn't match, but they got the last version that we had, they received.

Trustee Pearson: They talked about no MX zone.

Attorney Donovan: There were two comments. The first one says the village to state clearly what zoning districts short term rental properties would be permitted in. Which it says very clearly. Then they gave some subjective view.

Trustee Pearson: I read it and it just seemed like they maybe got sent the wrong thing. I guess they didn't.

Manager Revella: They got it.

Attorney Donovan: It's just an opinion.

Mayor Ramos: Did the rest of us get that?

Manager Revella: I sent the one from the county. I just got the one from the Planning Board today, which I responded to.

Mayor Ramos: That's the one I was talking about. Tabled for next meeting.

Justice Department Audit

Attorney Donovan: All you need to do is accept. It's technically not an audit. It's like a review of the financial practices. But just a motion to acknowledge that it's been received and filed.

Trustee Batson made a motion to accept the RBT 2020 Justice Department Assessment. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Pearson: I do have a couple of questions, in here they make a couple of recommendations. Do you know if those recommendations from have been taken care of or looked at? I know it's 2020, but they may still be happening.

Manager Revella: The judge did. I'm not sure if they're still ongoing, but the judge did notice the recommendations.

Village Wide Camera System Bids

Chief Herlihy: The quote we reached out for, we received. Then we were requested to get another quote and then a following third quote. The third quote only gave us the connectivity issues. Which from the quote was like \$975 a month for the basic unit forever. It's kind of a huge expense all in all. The other two quotes came in opposite ends of the spectrum. But before I comment on any other proposals, I would have to reiterate here though. Today we gather to deliberate a significant decision concerning the safety and security of our community, the replacement of our village street cameras and park surveillance systems. This choice carries profound implications for our village, its residents, and particularly the taxpayers who have entrusted us with their resources. As we embark on the evaluation of these proposals for our village street cameras and park surveillance systems, it's vital to keep in mind a fundamental principle. The price attached to the proposal doesn't inherently correlate with superior quality, just as the lowest cost option doesn't automatically guarantee the greatest savings for our village and its taxpayers. This decision extends beyond immediate costs. It requires us to consider the long term value and adaptability of these systems to meet our unique requirements. It's crucial to acknowledge I'm not a trained expert in the intricate systems and materials presented by these vendors. My exposure to these systems have been limited and primarily focused on the needs of our Police Department. Given this, I believe it would be unwise for me to delve into the technical intricacies of these products as I lack full training on their systems. Considering this decision we make ultimately carries a significant financial responsibility for our taxpayers to ensure a fair and transparent process. I propose that we provide the contractors who submitted these proposals the opportunity to address any inquiries or concerns you may have. They possess the most comprehensive knowledge of their respective domains and products, and their insights can offer a valuable clarification. Allow me to reiterate, I firmly believe in doing things right the first time sparing our community from future concerns and expenses. This commitment underscores our collective dedication to ensuring the safety and security of the Village of Walden. As we navigate this pivotal decision, please know that my primary aim is to guide us toward the most well informed choice for the Village of Walden. I wholeheartedly encourage open discussions, the seeking of clarifications and a thorough deliberation among our esteemed board members who bear the responsibility of representing the best interests of the community and its residents.

Trustee Pearson: I was going to suggest possibly having them come before us. I don't know. I'm

not that person, that computer person. I would feel more comfortable listening to what they had to say, why they were doing what they're doing, which one might work better at night, maybe day time. I don't know the difference for what they're writing down, but if they could maybe do a presentation or talk about what their plan is, I'd like that to happen. I don't know if the bigger company would do that. The first one that was submitted.

Trustee Garrison: I know a couple of the things that I observed. Number one, the huge costs in between the two on the opposite ends of the spectrum. One was a company that in the *inaudible* for their bids or their bid process upon hiring external people, they have to go by prevailing wages, which is a huge labor cost that was associated with one of those as opposed to a small business owner, independent. That does not have to be because they're doing it all themselves. So, there is the savings there. But then we also have the comparability of the equipment. I don't know well enough whether or not what was quoted is comparable to one another. I only know from the shorthand opportunities that I had to see systems in place. I don't know the shelf life of all of them. One of the contractors showed me a camera and said, this one has been up for two years. Another contractor has showed me a system that has been up and running for over five years. Normal shelf life on one of them can be anywhere from 3 to 10 years with proper maintenance. But what is going to be the best outcome for us? Do we pay obviously the upfront cost now and a larger amount to help us over the future, or do we piecemeal and then continue to build on repairs, if they go down within a certain period of time? Nothing is ever guaranteed. So, I can't guarantee that if we work with either person that their product is going to be superior or that it's going to last the longest. There are other factors and elements that are involved with that. I can only explain from things that I've gone over and observe.

Trustee Pearson: Do you know how old the old ones were? How long we had them before they stopped working?

Chief Herlihy: We probably had them for at least 12, probably now, 14 years. And technically, one of them was still working. But there's other equipment that when the proposal, when the contractors came in to look at it, or some of them were like, man that things old and antiquated, you can't even get replacement parts. So for us to try and repair that.

Trustee Pearson: I understand that. One of them also would be here to fix things and do things for a certain amount of time. I don't know if that makes a difference to people too. I'd really love to hear the presentation by each of them. I looked at the last one and it was just a number for a monthly fee.

Chief Herlihy: You also have to consider that there are things that are still to be paid for that are not in those quotes. There could be another pole or two that needs to be added to that, which at that time we would have to have an electrician come and install power to the pole in order to provide power for the device that will be mounted there.

Trustee Pearson: I know when we first start talking about it again, we were talking about possibly doing part of it first and then the next part would be done at another time, so it wouldn't be done all at once. One of them actually broke it down that way, which I thought was pretty clever. But that doesn't mean it's going to go that way, if the board makes that decision. Whether we can afford it all at once or not.

Chief Herlihy: We'd be building our own five gigahertz network. So, it's really point to point avenue. It's basically a camera that sees an antenna that sees another camera that sees the antenna that takes us all the way back to the server at the station here. So, depending upon what we would have to do, more than likely we would have to build inside first and then expand. Because if we

tried to build from outside in, then we would have to have all the necessary components to get us back to the station in the first place. We'd probably have to start with the Main Street camera and the school and then maybe in the Bank Street camera. Or it can be incorporated. But once we get into valley, then we have to worry about the jumps back. Once we get the Scofield, we have to worry about the jumps back to the station. It might be, if we were to do it in sections, we would have to build from here first and then outwards, not outwards and in.

Trustee Pearson: Just to see whether it's beneficial to do it all at once or to do it in stages. I don't know. Thank you.

Trustee Maher: I agree. I would like to hear from both. And it sounds like you know more than you think you do. Thank you.

Trustee Garrison: I agree. I think we need to have these at least come in here and give us a presentation on the product that we're investing in. Like you said, some of this could be better than others. Other than that, I think that's our best plan of option.

Chief Herlihy: Some points that I would consider also would be proven experience. Does the company have a track record of a successful large scale installation? This is a big project we're talking about here. Future ready? Is there an integrated system designed to accommodate any future security enhancements with ease? Where we don't have to recreate the wheel. It's basically a plug and play if we could just add on to. Do they offer a holistic security approach providing more than just cameras? What is the company's expertise in large scale installations? Especially in traffic safety. And do they have confidence in their ability to deliver a reliable and robust system for our village? Long term value. Do the proposals provide scalability, ability to adapt and future security needs without major overhauls? Do the proposals align with our goal of enhancing security comprehensively? Not just through cameras, but with the flexibility to incorporate additional measures when necessary. Then obviously that budget concern would be the biggest one, whether it be monetary consideration.

Trustee Pearson: The storage is going to be an issue? I know the storage is expensive.

Chief Herlihy: The storage is very expensive. But in the proposals, it takes into consideration what we need it for by New York State and the guidelines that we have. No matter what we have, we have to keep for a minimum of six months and then longer if it's attached to a case or something. Like a body cam. If I went out and did a traffic stop today and a warning was issued, that body cam footage has to be kept for no less than six months. Then the same thing would be for any of our cameras. Right now it's just streaming. We're not recording. Once we start recording again, it becomes a six month minimum retention period.

Trustee Pearson: In the cloud or it goes to a service?

Chief Herlihy: Either in a cloud or a storage location that we have.

Trustee Batson: I think these hardware packages are great, but I've been in the private security industry for my entire adult life. And to me, these cameras won't do their job. But I think we first have to uniquely define what their job is. But unless there is a strategy to take advantage of them, which I'm glad to see you here, I think that that's what really needs to be discussed. I would be incredibly remiss voting on something of this cost if there is not a rock solid plan to take advantage of it. Which may require some changes on you or your departments in. But from a policing perspective, it's not my experience that cameras deter crime. It simply displaces it. It's not going to lower crime in these areas. A real criminal will commit it regardless of that and other criminals that

are criminals of opportunity, it will simply displace the crime to other methods. I think the most important and maybe not the most important piece, but an equally important piece of this that is maybe not in this proposal, maybe it is. I didn't see it is the software that drives this. If I worked for Stewarts right now, I could get an alert for every time that someone walks into Stewart's with a baseball bat. I think that your department needs that. From a software perspective, the expectation should not be that you dedicate an officer to watch a camera, nor do I think it is. But in the world of cameras and software, it is very expectable that that generates an alert for you that says there's a possible weapon on Wait Street. I would love to hear from these companies from a hardware perspective, but I don't think that's worth the value without a quality software piece. When I think about going back to this purpose, what is their purpose? It feels like that is just for the collection of evidence. Should a crime occur in these areas? This will provide us the means to investigate it. And I think that's fine. I think that's fine as we explicitly state that. But I would be interested in knowing if they do have any sort of data that says camera in cities reduce crime. And if it does reduce crime, I just want to make sure that there's no other considerations that if the Walden crime rates get cut in half, that has an impact on police head count. I want to make sure that other resources aren't pulled from that from a financial perspective. I just want to make sure that the Police Department is engaged in the strategy and the use of this before we vote on such a significant expense. I think the software component, it's the analytical component has to be a key consideration in what these cameras do because they can just provide you with vital intelligence. The other piece we've talked about in the past is that certain towns with cameras have the ability to act upon what happens to those legally. I believe that we referenced that if a resident says someone sped down my street, we could follow up on that and act as if we experienced that ourselves. We could issue some sort of tickets or anything like that. We are not that village, but if we're going to invest in a significant camera package and we're going to use it correctly, is that something that we can also explore? I know I've said this before, I think the viewing rights should be public. It's a public asset. You want to watch your kids at the park. I think the public should have full access to it. That's my soapbox.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I have some philosophical differences with Trustee Batson and that's okay. I don't think public should have a view of everything that goes on in a village because you can turn away on that. I'll leave that there. The second one was that the strategy, my experience with the closed circuit TVs and videos and things of that nature, it can never stop a crime. The expectations for that, it can deter, it can slow down, it may have that ability. Some might even have a second thought. But when somebody puts their mind to do something, they do it regardless if there are cameras there or not. I think the ability to grasp evidence and things of that nature is significant. It's been proven over and over in my field, in other fields that with evidence you can find and track down and hopefully solve some things. I think that's the importance of it. However, from my experience, I think that we should get a consultant in. What I mean by a consultant, not so much somebody we pay for, but maybe we can work from a collaborative effort with another department or I don't know, the Orange County and the State Police, how they're closed circuit TV or I.T. people that Police Department base work with the villages and things of that nature because it'd be nice to reach out to them and have them evaluate what's going on here. I appreciate what Trustee Batson said about the software and all that. I'm not an I.T. person, so I can't speak to all those different nuances that go on there. But I believe that the human factor where for example, you said I'm not an expert in this, which is fine. Maybe there are others in the PD and other areas that are experts and say, hey, is this a bunch of smoke or is this actually solid stuff that they're saying? If they say, yes, this is solid, because one of the questions I had and I'm not an expert either, what's the difference? One quote is for one number and another number. Why is this a disparity? What's the difference between the two? Respectfully, I'm not that guy. Maybe somebody who doesn't have a dog in the fight can look at it and say, this will fit better for your area and what you're looking to do. I personally believe that it cameras is not going to catch a person and put cuffs on him. It won't do that, but it will give us evidence and track people and hopefully move a lot faster versus word of mouth. I'll leave it there. If we could reach out to them or whomever it is that can assist us as a

village with that. I think that to be more. If we're going to spend those dollars, we want to make sure we get the best bang for our buck.

Mayor Ramos: I agree. We need to talk to the experts. Come to us, show us what they have. We'd love for it to be on video or what their capabilities are. Maybe some case notes from certain PDs that are using this type of technology. Cameras outside, ten degrees below zero. How do they sustain the actual workings of that? How does that connectivity between the camera to the server, stay fluid. We're not the US Government, we're not NSA where we can reach from the satellite down and look at things. We have to assess that and make sure that when the experts come, that they have the answers to the questions that we hold. We will be waiting bated breath for that. It is an expenditure that we need and we want to do it like you said right the first time.

Manager Revella: I just want to make sure the public is aware, I don't think we announced. The two bids that actually were complete. One was \$148,500. And the other was \$194,386.87.

Trustee Pearson: They all did the whole area?

Chief Herlihy: I believe Mike's worth separate from that \$198.

Manager Revella: The \$198 doesn't include the parks. That would be an addition.

Trustee Pearson: One of them included the parks and one didn't include the park. Do you have any statistics from your department?

Chief Herlihy: Off the top of my head, when we use the cameras for 12 years that they were useful for, we had a lot of things that we caught on camera that were beneficial to us. The last one, we'll talk about the "G" that was stolen off the Masonic Lodge. We had a grainy picture from our street camera that was working that focused in on a vehicle and specific description of it. Then through the efforts of the investigating officers, they were able to track that down, track the owner down, and essentially come up with the suspect. They work, they give us a little bit of over watch so they can be in an area where an officer isn't. We all seen the instances of, I have a speeder complaint. I go set up a directed patrol. A police officer sits there for a period of time. Nothing happens. The police officer leaves. Something happens. So, there's a constant watch of the police as well. Those added cameras will give us the benefit of an over watch. So yeah, they might unconsciously know that it's there, but it just might go by the wayside and they might still commit that crime. There have been many of instances hit and run motor vehicle accidents that we were able to track down because of the cameras. Unfortunately, the way a camera was set up, it had a 50 second swing from side to side. So we didn't get it all the time. But we took into consideration some of the flaws in our old system to incorporate them into the proposal to make sure that we could benefit from that with this system. It definitely is a useful tool. The issue about having an officer dedicated just to watch that. The cameras are set up inside of the dispatch office. There's a dispatcher on 24 hours a day. There are the TV screens right in front of them. Specific software? I don't know, aside from software that maybe the school employees now about whether or not it could pick out a weapon or such. So, I can't guarantee that. I do know some of the specifics of the one quote was there's an ability for it to set up triggers. So, if the park closes at dusk and we have a trigger set up on the park in a specific area, a car, a person coming into the park, it would trigger an alarm. The picture would pop up, full screen, on the dispatch screen, and then they would know that there's an issue there. It would be beneficial, the integration of the panic alarms inside the building, they could have the ability when a panic alarm is pushed, that camera corresponding to that area would automatically populate to the dispatch and then we would have a clear picture of what was going on in addition to the phone call or the alarm panic button that we receive. They do play a good part. I could give you a pros and cons for every situation. It's just at the end of the day, we have to put our wants in one hand and our

needs in another and then figure out which one balances at the benefit of the taxpayer.

Trustee Batson: What are your wants?

Chief Herlihy: The camera system. In open forum, I will not go for any one particular person.

Trustee Batson: Understood.

Chief Herlihy: Closed session, we could discuss whatever. I just don't want to show as if it's favoritism. I don't want to stand up here and take away from one person compared to another, whether it be big business, whether it be small business, whether it be local person, whether it be corporate person. They all have their pros and cons. We have to make the ultimate decision which is going to fit the village and the taxpayers the best.

Trustee Batson: But as explicitly stated, you, the leader of our public safety of this area, believe that your department can return an increased value of safeness to this community through this investment?

Chief Herlihy: Yes.

Trustee Batson: Thank you.

Manager Revella: Someone asked if they can come to the next board meeting. If they can't and there's a conflict, we'll use the 14th of November. Since some members won't be here at the second meeting in October.

Chief Herlihy: I'll reach out to them.

Manager Revella: We'll talk about it. October 3rd meeting.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I hear the vendors, and I'm always skeptical vendors, because they're just going to give you the best pitch. That's why I put out there about an outside of the vendors to hear and to see if we can do that. I'm not saying who. You didn't address it yes or no.

Manager Revella: We would have to figure out who that might be and have them here for that.

Chief Herlihy: One of the vendors came highly recommended. Their system, much like the one proposed to us, is set up in a municipality in Orange County. A second one is being taken over from their old system and they're coming in and installing the new one in another municipality. One of the municipalities is Woodbury. One of them is the City of Middletown. They're both using this vendor, highly recommended, very user friendly. That's all I can go off of because I haven't played with the system myself.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That's why I was seeing somebody who's in the PD, Woodbury or whomever that can say, I know about this system similar to Trustee Batson just said, I'm familiar with this, familiar with that, and this is why we chose these people and then give you that same warm and fuzzy versus, oh, because they did it. We're going to do it too. Because I think there's a little too much of that personally, in my own opinion, because another village did it, we're going to do it also. But if they can articulate the why and then somebody can speak to it to give you that warm and fuzzy. I would like to see and hear it from them personally outside the vendors. So that the public can know that it wasn't just somebody like, you just said, it's very objective. No one can say it was because of this, because of that.

Chief Herlihy: Would you accept a letter from them or would you want to hear them actually speak here?

Mayor Ramos: Hear them.

Manager Revella: They have to see both systems and compare.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That's where the challenge come in. They have to see your quotes and hear your speech. If they're willing to do that and if they're able to do that, however that may work.

Manager Revella: We'll have to find one.

Trustee Garrison: I'll reach out.

HVAC Bids for Village Hall

Manager Revella: This is for the second and third floor hallways. Their systems are done, they're broken. They're not repairable. We have a quote from one company for second and third floor. The other quote is for just the second floor and it's more than the combined quote for second and third floor from the first vendor. And this is a company that we've used. It's reputable. We've used them in other areas. They've put systems in our facilities already. It's up to you guys. I hope that you can approve us to spend the funds for A.C.T. to do the third floor and second floor replacements for the HVAC.

Trustee Batson made a motion to approve the HVAC bid for the second and third floor A.C.T. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Carley: When I was looking at the two and I see the second floor and the other one has it like broken down, the third and the other floors. Then it has, is this by project? Because I see, five of them.

Manager Revella: The fifth one is for water fountain on the first floor. That's separate.

Deputy Mayor Carley: When I look at this, is it all or none? Are they're just going to piecemeal it together?

Manager Revella: It's all or none. It's four combined from the one company.

Deputy Mayor Carley: What's the total with that?

Manager Revella: It's less than 30.

Trustee Garrison: \$28,760.

Manager Revella: The other is 36k just for the second floor.

Mayor Ramos: You said Advanced Comfort Technologies has done work for us?

Manager Revella: Yes. They did the first floor HVAC for the PD and they were happy with it. There was the one bid in the back to do the water fountain on the first floor. I don't know if anybody's used one on the third floor. The replacement for bottle fills. It's been helpful. It's going to help cut back on water bottle usage. Is everyone okay with replacing them on the first floor? I'm not

sure if the board's used the one on the third floor. It's been helpful. The ones on the first floor are pretty old. Not very helpful, especially with the usage of all the water bottles and paying for refills. It's a little excessive. We have great water. We just need a better fountain. It's up to the board if that's okay.

Trustee Pearson: Where are we getting this money from?

Manager Revella: We have the funds allocated to this building for improvements.

Trustee Pearson: Along with the floor? We'll have enough?

Manager Revella: Yes. Along with the HVAC.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve the bid from A.C.T. for the water fountain for the first floor hallway. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I just need a little clarity, because I know this has been a topic with not cleanliness, but the face of the building and everything. Everything that we're planning on doing, we're fine with that and that's in motion before we try to incorporate a water faucet?

Manager Revella: Yes, the outside is almost done being painted. The back stairs have been completed. There's a little touch up paint from where we did the weld's. We're waiting for the bid from the new flooring guy that we got from the library. HVACs are being updated now that you've awarded that bid. And this is next. The painting that has to happen here is pretty cheap. We're within budget on that.

Trustee Pearson: Just in this room or the whole building down the hall?

Manager Revella: Just what we need in here for now.

Trustee Pearson: Not downstairs, not on the first floor.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I thought that was part of our discussion before.

Manager Revella: We don't have bids on that, yet. We might do it in house.

Trustee Pearson: We can't use this money somewhere else that we might be able to benefit the public better?

Manager Revella: The money's allocated for this building. Whatever we can do to improve this building, we have to use it for. Unless you want to allocate it for something, I don't know what else you would use it for.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I guess this is separate from the water faucet, which I'm good for the water faucet, but I just want to make sure that we take care of all those historical issues. If the painting for the floor, the first floor or second floor wasn't done.

Manager Revella: We did it in house last time, we should be able to do it again over the winter on down time. It's just a matter of the cost of the paint. This room is separate because there are some issues that they have to take care of. Professionals have to come fix.

Veterans Banners

Cheryl Baker: Our first set of banners have come in. Thankfully, we got eight of them. We got more in the pipeline. I did bring in the example of one because I'm sure everyone you see on a computer screen looks different than what you have in person. This is what they look like. We would like to have an unveiling ceremony for those that have done the banners on November 4th in the afternoon between one and three in the center square between one and three.

Trustee Pearson: They'll already be hung up by then or you're going to just have them in the square for people to see?

Cheryl Baker: As long as they're here by October, the first set should be. They're still working on some clean up and things. And Fred and his crew took some today. So, they should start going up with the next couple of weeks for the first set and we'll start adding them as they're coming.

Trustee Pearson: Where is the first set going up at?

Cheryl Baker: It's going to be starting on Main Street at this light going around the circle and then down towards the bridge.

Mayor Ramos: What are you looking for on the presentation?

Cheryl Baker: An approval to be able to do that between one to three on November 4th.

Mayor Ramos: What resources do you need?

Cheryl Baker: We're going to need the podium and stage up.

Manager Revella: One piece of stage.

Cheryl Baker: Just one section.

Trustee Pearson: Can it be over by the library? So, you're not redirecting this traffic or it's going to be in the square?

Cheryl Baker: I was looking for in the square.

Manager Revella: That's where they're going to be around.

Mayor Ramos: Is there a rain date?

Cheryl Baker: No. If it ends up being horrible weather, possibly indoors if we have to. Up here. I expect there's probably, right now, we have about 15 banners. I don't expect there to be more than 25 to 30 at most. So, if we have to bring it inside.

Trustee Pearson: Are the banners going to be on the outside of the pole, on the street side? Or are they going to be on the sidewalk side?

Cheryl Baker: Street side. There's enough clearance between where it goes, our awesome DPW and Chief had gone out with the ruler to make sure that it wouldn't be a problem with cars or anything that was parked and there's several inches of clearance. The only spot where there might be problems in the center square by Catholic Charities is, where they get delivery trucks. So, we might lose a lamppost or two there. We'll try. If we find that delivery drivers are not observant, then

we just won't use those lampposts.

Trustee Pearson: I just went through a community the other day and they were on the inside, on the sidewalk side, and they still have the flag on the outside. I thought it was really pretty because the banner was there and then the flag was right next to that. It's just really a pretty design, but you can't have the flag and the banner at the same time on the street. I just happened to see it the other day.

Cheryl Baker: Right, but their banners are smaller, the ones that are on the inside. If you're referring to Montgomery.

Trustee Pearson: No. I don't remember where was. Maybe over Marlboro way, over by the Raccoon Saloon. Up that street in that village there. They were on the street side, but they still had the flags on the outside. It was really cool because you're able to still utilize the flags with the posters. Just a thought.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve Veterans Banner Unveiling Ceremony on November 4, 2023, from 1 to 3pm in Village Square. Seconded by Trustee Batson. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Maher). Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Carley: What's this?

Cheryl Baker: In speaking with our DPW Supervisor, he asked that the board consider changing the size of the holiday banners to be the same as the veteran banners in order to streamline. That's less brackets on the poles and it's easier for the guys as they take one off, put the next one up. I can hold up so you can see what size these are. They're very large.

Manager Revella: And they're old.

Cheryl Baker: We only have 14 functional banners holiday banners and several of them are tearing. They're obviously considerably larger than our banners. If you go through the Hamlet of Wallkill, theirs is very similar to the size of our veterans. Certainly more sizable, large enough to be able to see. That was the request of our DPW Supervisor. Traditionally, the costs of the banners typically came out of the holiday line, Park and Rec, which is decorations. I can find estimates from different companies for what it would be to replace.

Mayor Ramos: Did we want to discuss the holiday banners?

Manager Revella: We've got to budget to see what the cost is.

Mayor Ramos: We'll effort that when we figure out what the budget is.

Mayor Ramos: Nice job. I know we have like 180 veterans here.

Trustee Maher: I just wanted to give kudos to Cheryl because it's a lot of legwork to get something like this up and going and you might think it's just a form that people fill out. But there are many, many questions and phone calls that she's yielding. You're doing a huge job voluntarily. Thank you. It's going to be beautiful.

Cheryl Baker: On September 30th, that Harvest Fest, I will have a table set up. So, if anyone would like to come to fill out applications, I can scan them as well as your photos. Or if you just want to do the paper form and then contact me later to send the photo. I can do that and scan and

send them right off to anybody that needs it.

Well 4

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve Well 4 and 5 work. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 6-23-24 CDBG

Trustee Pearson made a motion to adopt Resolution 6-23-24 CDBG Authorize Village Manager to Sign. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

36 Orange Ave

Manager Revella: 36 Orange Avenue, there was a motion last meeting. One of the trustees recused themselves due to a conflict. So, the motion has been rescinded. There currently is no motion for any action at this time. The matter is tabled.

Attorney Donovan: Just to embellish a little bit. The trustee who made the motion subsequently recused herself, rendering that motion a nullity because you need four affirmative votes from the board because you're a seven member board that would have rendered only three because Deputy Mayor Carley was absent. So, that resolution is a nullity. In order for you to take any further action, you would need to vote again. It is on the agenda but there's been a request from the applicant to table it. The board's inclination got new information today. You can do that. You could pretty much do whatever you want on this.

Mayor Ramos: Thank you, Mr. Donovan. I do believe that we did table it for next meeting.

Public Comment

Sue Taylor: Thank you to the Walden Fire Department for hosting the 9/11 ceremony. I was unable to attend, but I heard from people that were there, that it was a wonderful and very moving ceremony. Thank you to them. I understand that the Town of Montgomery has once again reduced the library budget that they're giving to us. The Village of Walden.

Manager Revella: I didn't see it yet. They may have.

Sue Taylor: I've heard that the amount, Supervisor Rod put them into near parity. They had a five year plan to put them into parity to pay their share for usage of the library. And it's since been pared down again.

Manager Revella: That's correct.

Sue Taylor: I have to say, our librarian keeps excellent records and she's given them the data that shows the amount of usage the Town of Montgomery citizens exercise for our library. I really think it's egregious for them to reduce that amount. I know that our citizens support our library, but if you're going to use it, I think that they should pay their fair share and put them into parity. So, the Village of Walden residents aren't subsidizing usage by town residents for the library. I hope we're moving ahead with the Hill Street Bridge. We need that in the village. It's really tough when you utilize Stewarts or the laundromat or anything like that to have to pull back out on 52 to get back to your residence. It would be nice to be able to use Hill Street. I know the Town of Montgomery doesn't feel that way, but boo to them. They rarely come to the village. I'm surprised they can find it without a GPS. I'm sure they don't realize what it's like to try to have to pull into the traffic out on 52. Becky, please stop apologizing for asking questions. You're part of the board. If you ask questions, you get answers. As I said before, it's important to ask questions. If you sit there like a bobble head doll and just put your head back and forth, what good is it? You need to ask questions.

Because those of us that are sitting in the audience, we're not privy to a lot of information, as I well know. Getting discussion and asking questions lets the citizens kind of know what more is going on in your minds before you make a decision. I'm happy to ask questions and that should be the way that it is. Thanks.

Diane Sandbooth: First, why is the audit for the Justice Department for the year 2020? Shouldn't they be on 2022? When are they going to do 2021, two years from now? You file your income tax return timely or you get an extension and then you have to file it. I don't understand why it's three years and they haven't filed their 2020 report. My black cemetery. At the last meeting that I attended two months ago, you said to write to my representatives. I've written to our two senators, Schumer and Gillibrand. I wrote to our Assemblyman Brian Maher. I've written to Pat Ryan and Bob Ralston. A friend of mine, knew the president of the Westchester NAACP. I wrote to her. That was two months ago. I have not heard from a single person. All I want is somebody to come verify that we have six bodies, eight bodies. We have something like that. Then I want a blue and gold sign that says, here lies X amount of slaves during the 1800s. It seems like it's an impossibility. I don't know what to do. Do you know the president of the Orange County NAACP? Yes.

Diane Sandbooth: Can you email me the name? And I'll see what I can do. Short of that, what else can I do? Any suggestions?

Deputy Mayor Carley: Are you part of the SPOMA? When Town Supervisor Maher was there and they can probably help with that and to put some inroads in there to collaborate with you to get this done. Do you have anything Mr. Ortiz?

Raymond Ortiz: My daughter Mercedes is a member on that committee. *inaudible* I can talk to my daughter, I can give you her email address.

Diane Sandbooth: Thank you very much. The steps by the bridge. That has an orange fence around it. What's happening? And don't tell me the New York State has to take care of it.

Manager Revella: It is New York State's stairs. They're not ours. New York State DOT project.

Diane Sandbooth: That's going to stay like that until New York State.

Manager Revella: We discussed that at the meeting earlier. They came with rails and then left. I don't know what they're doing. We complained about them. We told them they were inappropriate and they were not the appropriate stairs. They told us they are. They said they need a landing, they told us they don't need a landing. They took them out once, they put them back in. And now I don't know what they're doing. They're not giving us a clear answer.

Diane Sandbooth: The house that's boarded up across the street from the small firehouse, the fence is now falling apart. It's an eyesore. I think it's bringing down the values of the communities tax structure here, having something like that on the main street. I thought that last year, two years ago, it was sold. It was supposed to be torn down. What's happening?

Manager Revella: 35-37 North Montgomery Street. The address was sold. They had a permit. It has since expired. I know they've been violated several times. It is on list for structural for condemnation. It's a process.

Diane Sandbooth: The parking signs on Liberty Street, I'm here. There's nobody else here from Liberty Street but me. Can I suggest that the village rights of the residents of Liberty Street and see how they feel?

Manager Revella: We're having a meeting on Liberty Street on September 27th at 6 pm for any resident who wants to come out and talk to us with the entire board. On Liberty Street.

Diane Sandbooth: Where are you meeting?

Manager Revella: The first intersection.

Diane Sandbooth: I understand that the garbage people are throwing the recyclables and the garbage together in one truck. That shouldn't be happening. You have to have two separate. The recyclables have to be recycled. I don't expect to be thrown together and I'd like somebody to check into it.

Raymond Ortiz: This past weekend, me and my wife Carolyn went to Empanada Nirvana to hand out book bags. Unfortunately, we were there from 1 to 5. Nobody came. We still have about 20 to 25 bags. If you know of anybody is in need of a bag. Please reach out to myself. My daughter's is on Facebook. You can send her a direct message Mercedes Carmen. Trustee Pearson and Trustee Hall. Get in contact with them. Anybody needs school supplies. We do have stuff available. Sometime in October, hopefully by the next meeting, we're going to start doing a food drive for the students of Valley Central. It's about 25 families that we're going to try to feed. So we're going to ask for donations, whether the monetary or if you want to go buy groceries, you can buy the groceries, you can drop off in my home. We're going to take these groceries to the school and the school will distribute it to the families in need.

Ellen Hudson: I wanted to thank Mrs. Taylor. I haven't seen you since high school and you are an amazing contribution to this community. I really, really appreciate everything that you do and everything that you have done. Thank you. I also wanted to thank former Trustee Thompson and former Trustee Sebring. I also know them from when I was a kid and they were a huge contribution to the board. The new members also wanted to thank you, especially Mr. Trustee Batson. In the review of the SRO protocol, the extra attention that you took with the research on protocol for what the SRO would be allowed to do in the school system. I really, really appreciated that. I also appreciate the questions that you ask. The privacy issue of what goes on behind closed doors here. Should be addressed. That being said, the reason why I'm here is because of code enforcement. And the word enforcement is the key word that I want to focus on. Code being and why I say this is because October is Domestic Violence Month. We are going to be going into a lot of news articles about local domestic violence with Fearless. Enforcement with Fearless is very important. Specifically, if you take code enforcement one step further and go into enforcement of orders of protection. I was unfortunately, had to become a client of Fearless in March of 2021, and I was issued a temporary order of protection. This was valid from one year 3/19/21. I couldn't get one police officer in the Village of Walden to honor this. Not one. It was an issue. I had false calls made that were retaliatory after I had this issue through Fearless. The calls were made to 311. They reported me as being an emotionally disturbed person. I was just emotionally disturbed because the police wouldn't acknowledge my TOP through Fearless. My father is a retired police officer from New York City. I'm a cop's child. My uncle's in law enforcement. I know a lot of people in New York City that are retired police officers. I was raised in the police department. A matter of fact, John himself will tell you he was my neighbor growing up. Me and my dad lived alone. Last week or two weeks ago. I was watching this. I reached out to Fearless. Fearless has been a wonderful asset for me. However, Fearless has given me some feedback, and I'm kind of here on behalf of them. There is an issue with selective enforcement, with our law enforcement in the Village of Walden. I've experienced myself that if you happen to know of somebody or if somebody has a rumor of you that's in law enforcement, that there could be what's considered profiling, implicit bias. I don't feel like the law enforcement officers that I've interacted with have proper domestic

violence training. When I look at the statistics, for instance, I had a domestic violence issue in October of 2022. I had to leave my home. I was injured. When I called the Police Department to follow up. The officer hung up on me. I had to go stay in a motel for my court date the next day. I still have had no follow up from this officer. I reached out and emailed several of you. I've gotten no response. I came here on behalf of Fearless, because every week John goes through the blotters and two weeks ago there was like 520. I appreciated you asking why they were so high and it was because of the three weeks. But when you the village of this population and 520 blotter entries in three weeks to 267 over the past two weeks, that's the lowest number that I've ever seen. I watch these meetings every two weeks. When you say 267, what's the breakdown of those? How many of them are domestic violence? How many of them were child protective services? How many of them are fentanyl related? Is there any way that A. I can get that number? B. The officer that I had the issue with in October is separate from the issue that was mentioned before two weeks ago. However, when I did some research, I was told that he was part time officer. Then when I did some other research, I found out that in 2022 he made over \$167,000 in one year. I could be wrong about that number. I looked it up as a public info on the internet, but in the Village of Walden and having a police officer make over \$160,000 as a part time and he's the one that's hanging up on me during domestic violence calls. There seems to be an issue.

Manager Revella: I don't mean to interrupt, but that officer works for multiple agencies. That's why the number is so high. Not justifying anything.

Ellen Hudson: Okay. Do you think that the police officer in Orange County should have an income of over \$160,000 a year?

Manager Revella: I don't know how many hours worked overtime. I can't speak to that.

Ellen Hudson: That being said, I tried to complain. I actually sent you saying that I wanted to complain. This was February 16, 2022. I got a TOP referencing the complaint that I actually asked you on February 18, 2022. Didn't get any help. Still looking for help. Because what I see now is that people that have domestic violence issues in Walden, when they call the police, the police seem to have selective enforcement. The code enforcement problem, what's going on with people overlooking somebody mowing the lawn or maybe somebody buying a property that might be a little bit of a conflict of interest or even the package lighting property that's going on here with the public comment. I didn't know that was going on. I had my real estate license and worked for commercial firm for over two years. That property was actually for sale for the company that this brokerage that I worked for. I had no idea that that was for sale. I had no idea that that was coming up. These things are snuck in. My first and foremost thing is to protect the people that aren't having had the TOPs being enforced and having officers come up and literally tell me that I'm mentally ill because they didn't want to acknowledge this. That being said, I want to know how many other people in the Village of Walden have orders of protection that aren't being enforced. Because when I had the police come to my house, I literally had Fearless on the phone and I was told that, no, sorry, I can't help you. I don't want to come up here and do this because quite frankly, I don't like being on camera. I don't want to do this. But two weeks ago, I watched this and I saw a gentleman come up here complain about racism in the Village of Walden. He said that he was a retired New York City Police Officer, Detective. He was also a veteran. I saw this Village Trustee Board not really take into what he had to say into account about the racism. I've been around here since 1984. I've seen some pretty interesting racism. I don't think that it's something that people should overlook. Since you can't get a TOP enforced when somebody comes up here and makes the accusation of racism, it's very, very, very important because it affects our property values, it affects our quality of life, and it affects the response of the police that they should have. The police are not responding in the way that they should. When you say that you have a hiring problem. I can think of two or three officers off the bat that have left the Police Department, one that went over to the

sheriff's, one that was over at Wallkill. Why can't you get full time people? Is it because maybe the Village of Walden has a reputation? I don't know. I don't work in law enforcement. I was so upset about what happened with the gentleman that came up here and was talking about specifically badge number 30. I'm going to disclose that badge number 30 and I have had issues for many years, and I actually filed a public integrity complaint with the New York State Attorney General on May 23rd regarding badge number 30. Still having issues with this. I've reached out to several different people. Nobody helped me. Now in the city and this is the reason why I think that the gentleman that came up here that complained about the racism was so remarkable is because I was born in New York City. You go to Internal Affairs. Internal Affairs is the one that's, you've got a problem. You go down to Internal Affairs. IA opens an investigation. Not here. You got a problem with the police officer, you got to be careful that he's not godfather to somebody over at the sheriff's department. Day after I saw the last board meeting, I ended up having to go to the police station, because when I got this, TOP, I ended up getting other TOPs in retaliatory and then I rescinded it because it wasn't worth the paper that it was written on. I reached out to Fearless for a second TOP and they told me, don't bother, it won't be enforced. It's only going to work against you. Fearless needs some help. I reached out to Trustee Pearson about a year ago, asking for an advocate from Fearless. My experiences is that with domestic violence victims, there is not the correct response. You need an advocate from Fearless. You need a third party person to come here and monitor your police department. I had to file a complaint with the New York State Attorney General. Do you understand that I had to do that, being the child of a law enforcement officer? What kind of a blue wall thing that that had, how isolated that it might be, having to question whether or not to do that because you never go against the blue wall. This is a family. But what this officer did was so egregious. To have somebody come up here and say that he called 911 and then have a Trustee get uncomfortable in his seat because obviously the person was agitated, upset, but this person doesn't understand the lay of the land up here, that the former mayor, the brother-in-law, the real estate guy that's the partners with the broker. Everybody knows everybody up here. If you're from the city, you don't know that. I didn't know that. I just figured this out. I wouldn't have ever gotten my real estate license if I knew that the nepotism was so deep here. I'm going to leave you with A. I would like an advocate from Fearless because TOPs aren't being acknowledged. And B. the day after the last board meeting, I went to the police station and didn't get any help. I looked up Mr. Anderson's address on the Internet and I went and knocked on his door. I've never done that before. And I warned him and I told him, don't come to the village board meetings anymore and don't mess with the police because they would come after him, because they came after me. I gave Mr. Anderson a copy of the New York State Attorney General complaint that I filed. I also gave him a copy of this article from the Los Angeles Times that was published in March 17, 2001. You have to be pretty remarkable for a police department to have an article about you in the LA Times. The title is Rogue Police Department Faces Federal Monitoring. I'm going to not read the entire article, but what I will tell you is that when I graduated from Valley Central, you couldn't report sexual harassment. You couldn't report sexual assault. It was very, very hard. I got a job in Middletown, and you couldn't get pulled over. If you got pulled over and the police officer thought you were cute, you had a problem. *reads portion of article into minutes*

Mayor Ramos: Mrs. Hudson, it is part of the record, I would have to keep, if you don't mind, tightening it up.

Ellen Hudson: I want to leave with the main priority, and that's Fearless. If anybody wants to be the point going forward, starting tomorrow, I'll reach out to Marisa. We need somebody from Fearless in here because I can't call 911 without them coming to my house and telling me that this isn't real.

Greg Anderson: I don't think I could beat that. Thank you for having me this evening. Young lady, appreciate it. Young lady came to my house and I was like, what the heck? Who is this? And how

did she find me? Listen, I'm first generation New York City Police. My dad couldn't be in New York City Police because they had regulations back there preventing him from being so. Height requirement and it just wasn't looking for people of color. Plain and simple. Fast forward. I want to be a police officer and I did it. I did it to the best of my ability. Matter of fact, when me and my partner would meet in the locker room, get dressed, we would draw up a plan on how we were going to enforce and what we're going to enforce. But whatever we enforce, we enforce it with dignity, professionalism and respect. Even when we dealt with the baddest people. You do what you got to do under the law to bring them in. You treat them with respect. You feed them when they're in the cell overnight. You talk to them nice and then you don't have to worry about this bad guy in the future when he gets out of jail. All my life, I've respected authority and I truly believe in the color of law and treating each person with respect. Once again, I don't look for the spotlight, but when an opportunity presents itself to highlight the best in humanity or the best that I could offer, I'm ready to do so. No matter what the consequences might be. That's not to say I'm not fearless, but I have a little bit of courage that allows me to do those things. Just to move on. Last week you had a ceremony for 9/11 and 9/11 strikes me to the core. I was with the Special Operations Division of the New York City Police Department and I had just purchased my home up here in Walden. I was on vacation and my wife called me and said, turn on the TV. The towers fell. I have my 3 month old in my hand. I didn't have a television. So, I called the *inaudible* division and they said, come on down as soon as you can. We've a total of eight, maybe seven of my fellow officers I worked with, trained with, slept with, hung with. All those things. I don't really go to the ceremonies anymore. I stay home and I reflect. As I was reflecting, I was thinking about a few of the guys I worked with. One in particular, Paul Talty. He was a white gentleman. He would come to me and tell me, Hey, Greg. Listen, they're coming after you. This is what he would tell me. He would explain to me what the deal was. I respect him so deeply to this day, because what he was doing was of good will. I appreciate that so deeply. When this young lady comes up here and she highlights these things, I try to explain to you guys, I give it so much credit because people are afraid out there and they expect the best out of our law enforcement. I know law enforcement has a hard job. I did it for 20 years and I did it with SOD for like ten years. If you're in law enforcement, you need a friend out there. We've all heard about the young officer that got assassinated just recently sitting in his vehicle. Law enforcement needs friends. I don't know how in the world an officer wouldn't think that I'm not his friend and know that I'm a retired detective. Served my country in combat with the finest fighting force that ever existed. I gave my all. That's why I ask for so much in return. I will come here day after day, and I will continue to ask for the best of you. The best from the police officers. 20 years ago I spoke to the Chief, prior to this Chief and I asked him, what's up with the numbers of persons of color in your police department? We're all adults, right? He mentioned the list and we don't control the list. And 20 years later, can you tell me you have an officer of African descent or a black officer in this department? Probably not. Are we making an effort to actually diversify the police department here? When young people see people who look like them in any genre of employment, whether that's in education, in construction, they want to aspire to it. If young people see drug dealers in their neighborhood and that's all they see, they're going to aspire to it by default. I'm not going to go on too much, but let me give me five more minutes or three more minutes. I heard the Police Chief say he had some declines for police in the Village of Walden. Honestly, I would decline. Because I would be asking too much of the department. I don't need to mention shield number 30 again, because if you guys want to keep him on the street, if I see him, I'm going the other way. It's just that plain and simple. Today, I'm a student and I'm taking three classes, I was reading and writing, Immanuel Kant and Socrates. They talked about goodwill. And how do you know when you've done something wrong? You know you've done something wrong if what you did cannot be universalized and everybody else will do it. When you can say yes to that, you've done something wrong. That is what basically that Western philosophers saying. In the meantime, while I was doing this all day til I ran here late. Someone walked on my property and I had a shovel. That is my shovel. It was on my property and someone took it. Rusty, with an old handle. We talk about crime. Crime appears to me to be on the increase. As you guys spoke about security

cameras, I think, this is my own personal opinion, but it has some experience behind it, I remember when New York City was first initiating the cameras and we all were like, oh, brother, they're going to be watching this. I think it's the best move the city ever made. You won't be able to stop crime. But when people report crime and you have a system in place to monitor and reflect on all that footage, you see cars going down streets. You see people walking down the street with a certain description that met the complainants. Cameras do work. They don't always deter because a criminal will do what a criminal wants to do. I think it's something you guys should consider. I think that the Police Department should consider a more collaborative effort with the community and their cameras. If a crime happens, put your officers on foot and send them out to the community and view the ring cameras, etc. An interaction I had with the police and I asked them to view the cameras. Right over there. Right over there and right over there. And you know what the police department did? They didn't view the cameras. Do certain people get preferential treatment? I would say yes. Thank you.

Payment of Audited Bills

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

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Batson: Looks like there's some graffiti on the new lower bridge. Still the DOT that we have to press?

Manager Revella: Down by Hannaford? That's the county bridge. We have to let them know.

Trustee Batson: Backhoe. That was a significant purchase for us. I was afraid that might deteriorate in trade in value. Are we move it along with it?

Manager Revella: It's in the bills. We got it. The trade-in value stayed the same.

Trustee Batson: The next piece is kind of a call out to the public. One of the things that we consistently get from a public comment is the enforcement piece. As I look through the code, there isn't any piece about enforcement in any of them. Is there any sort of village strategy document or anything like that that should address how we go about enforcing a code. Like I don't necessarily agree with the public comment that we shouldn't make codes that aren't enforceable. Because I think what's right is still right. But I do think that we owe some level of diligence to these codes that we are going to revitalize to ensure that we can put a strategy in place that they are enforceable.

Attorney Donovan: I'm not sure I understand the question because in the zoning ordinance, for example, there are various different penalties that are imposed if someone violates provision of the zoning ordinance.

Trustee Batson: What I'm asking for is that is there any sort of written obligation that this village has to actually enforce the code?

Attorney Donovan: The Code Enforcement Officer or the Building Department is charged with both in state law and my local code to enforce not only New York State Building Code, but the local zoning regulations.

Manager Revella: All codes.

Trustee Batson: I understand that. What I'm asking is that is there carte blanc? There's a generic strategy that says enforce all codes. My question is, should it be a little more specific when it comes

to strategy on how to enforce each of these?

Manager Revella: Right now, we do at times when we have full staff, we go and say, listen, look for this in this block. If you see any issues with 911 for addresses, numbers, make sure houses are numbered. Go through this block and check the numbers for 911. If you see anything else, obviously write it up. But that's our focus. As we go through, we do those things. A lot of times it's hard because we had to become so reactive to things that come up, but that is an example of the strategy.

Trustee Batson: When it comes to the camera piece, I just want to be sure I understand we are not obligated to take the lowest bid. We are obligated to theoretically take the best value.

Manager Revella: Correct.

Trustee Batson: We did our diligence in getting the bids. If we decide that a higher bid is better value, we can take that.

Manager Revella: The higher bid as the state bid contractor for that.

Attorney Donovan: But if the board elects to go with the higher bid, you're going to need to articulate a reason why you did that. Obviously, because you're spending taxpayer dollars. You have to say for whatever reason, it needs to be a valid reason, we've elected to spend taxpayer money for the higher bid because we think that's a better value for the following reasons.

Trustee Batson: Fair enough. The young lady who left who was talking about the black cemetery. I don't know if it would help, but I am more than happy to replicate her efforts if someone can put me in touch with her. If it takes 50 emails, maybe mine are the ones that get through.

Manager Revella: We have no evidence that there is one there at all. That was part of our problem. We have the state come to try and help. We've had different agencies come and try and help and no one can verify anything is actually there. There's an assumption on the owner's part that there's something there. And if there is something, obviously it would be marked and it'd be an obligation of the town to maintain the cemetery. Not the village.

Trustee Batson: I would be more than happy to dedicate a little bit of my time for that. I also would say that it's challenging to say, but another public comment I would love to address is that I want to encourage everyone to come to the meetings and I want to encourage you to be as emotional, as raw, as unfettered as you can. I think it's hurtful to hear that they don't believe that things are done. I will openly admit perhaps I don't do the best with following up with emails to whom they send or when they send them to me. But I do follow up with those emails to the person that I think can actually solve the problem. My ability to solve the problem is largely one seventh of a vote. But there are other folks who can solve the problem. When I do get an email, I do forward that to the person that I believe can actually take care of the issue. But I don't want people to think that it falls on deaf ears. Noted. I can do a little bit better of a job of following up, but I don't want anyone to think that they're not followed up on. The last thing is that a few meetings ago we talked about revitalizing that kind of citizen acknowledgment program on the back wall. Can we put that on the docket for a future meeting to discuss how we get back to recognizing exemplary citizens?

Trustee Garrison: I haven't been in that area, but how is the Mickey Millspaugh Park coming along?

Manager Revella: There's been a lot of rain and it's a very wet area that needs to be worked in. So,

there's been a slight delay, but it should be worked on this week since it's going to be drying up next two days before the next round of rain comes.

Trustee Garrison: The building looks nice, painting is getting done. Zoning and Planning Board, they do a great job. I just had to touch on that. I know Becky spoke about it. I know Ms. Adams and Mrs. Taylor also spoke about it. Just want to acknowledge that it doesn't go unnoticed, you guys do a great job, and you're really very diligent in your work there. I just want to say thank you for that.

Trustee Maher: First of all, I just wanted to let everyone know. With the last board meeting, there was an oversight on my part, which as soon as I recognized I was able to remedy. I think that goes back to myself and would like to challenge all the board members just to kind of do a little bit more research for the issue tonight. There was a public comment that it was swept under the rug, so to speak, and a big surprise, for that I can say that I don't feel that same way. I feel like we've been talking about NYForward for quite a while. It is a public initiative. If you're in a public office, I feel like those things should always be on our radar, especially when they have been discussed in previous meetings. But I myself even had to do some digging yesterday as I was prepping for this meeting because I just couldn't put apples to apples as to what we were going to be doing tonight. Had I not done that research, I wouldn't have known as much as I was able to speak about it today. I think that when we see something on the agenda that we don't know enough about, maybe instead of waiting for the meeting to divulge into that, we should, as soon as we get the agenda, maybe send an email back to Marisa, to John, asking for more information so that we're more prepared to tackle the issue and that is to myself included. When I was doing more research. I'm off the Facebook now, so I have a little bit less privy to information that's out there from the village perspective. I think that we do need to have a little bit more of a clearer cadence of communication to the public for other people who are not on Facebook or social media. So, maybe we can have a section of our website. I know we have announcements, we have upcoming meeting information, but maybe like a What's New section where we can update the community as well to certain projects that should always be on our radar. Just a suggestion. I did want to say the 9/11 ceremony was beautiful. Thank you to our Police Department and our Fire Department. It was truly, just really breathtaking. And I was very proud of everyone in our village that night. I think there was also the Firemen's Picnic that happened this past Saturday.

Trustee Pearson: I think we all received an email from Lisa Ruiz.

Trustee Maher: Yes.

Trustee Pearson: She hasn't heard back from the manager, mayor.

Manager Revella: About what?

Trustee Maher: I just got it today.

Manager Revella: She just emailed to say that she got the grant and she'd like to work on things. That's all I got.

Trustee Pearson: She was waiting to hear back whether communities could help, maybe even set up a space to do it.

Manager Revella: She was going to let us know dates and ideas.

Trustee Pearson: I don't know. It was just in her email. I hope somebody gets back to her. Ours was the second after you two. I think soon it hit the nail on the head about, I'm just going to go back

to the ethics part of our discussion that code enforcement that I believe that there are a lot of people sitting here that really need to look and see when things come up that they shouldn't be talking about. I get you recuse yourself afterwards. But I think that doing that research ahead of time and knowing what buildings we're talking about and knowing what's happening, that's part of our job to know that. And I think there are at least four people here that I think have some conflict of interest with people who are partners or people that they live with or people who they associate with. And I know it's very difficult because we live in a small community. I get it. But I find it very disturbing sometimes that some people vote on certain things that I feel should not be voted on. I think Sue said it better than I could ever say it. I was watching the Town of Montgomery meeting the other night and the money that they their audit was brought up and the money that they have extra that they didn't know they were going to have.

Manager Revella: They knew they would have it. They knew the PILOTs were running.

Trustee Pearson: They knew they were going to have it. Now they're cutting the library again.

Manager Revella: And they're taking money from the A fund to pay for the Police Department. Even though they have all these funds.

Trustee Pearson: I had a question for the attorney on that. I get that we have our own Police Department. We have our own funding for our own Police Department. It's a town building that is associated with the Police Department right now. But they're going to build a separate building. They're taking the money out of the A fund. Where does that lie for us?

Attorney Donovan: That's the first I'm hearing of it, Becky. Let me look into and get some more information.

Trustee Pearson: I would just be interested to hear about. We have our own Police Department we're paying for, we don't utilize them, unless there's an emergency and any department is going to run for an emergency anyway. State police would come, town would come, our village would go to possibly another one anyway on an emergency situation. I'm just questioning whether it should be coming out of the A fund or not. Thank you very much.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I've been out of the loop for several weeks, traveling and doing some work stuff. A lot of things that I had to catch up and I'm just hearing a lot of new stuff. However, what was more standing out to me was the conversations about the citizens have complaints about police and what's going on with different things going on. We can talk more later concerning all that because I'm not sure exactly what was going on. Maybe that's something we should be able to address and maybe it was addressed. I just don't remember anything about certain things. I think that's something that we have to look at. Also just a perception. If there's a perception out there, we got to make sure people really understand whatever the history of Walden was and is, whatever that is, that we're willing to make a change. I believe because I look at the demographics of the Walden and how it is evolving in certain ways that there needs to be some more transparency in some of the areas. That's where I'm at right now. I have some questions about other stuff that I can work through those. I appreciate the Village of Walden and what I've experienced here personally. I would never say racism is not a part of a fabric. It is. We just have to learn how to deal with people in their biases and present ourselves in a professional way, regardless of what they do to us is how we react to them. And I stand on that. I appreciate it. I just want to put that out there because of some polarizing things that were said that I think we should not ignore but address so that the public can understand that in that executive session or behind closed doors, people say things. But I believe in transparency, too, and just put it out there so that we can make sure we address all the issues that are here.

Mayor Ramos: I, too, attended the 9/11 ceremony. Thank you, Reverend Van Houten, for spearheading this and the Chiefs of Walden Fire Department and the Walden Fire Members that were in attendance. And it was just as always, a very humbling time. I attended the First Reformed Church up the Street on Scofield for the first English as a second language. There were at least 40 attendees from the local area. Every Thursday they're going to be attending that. So if anybody wants to stop. 6 pm. It's a wonderful thing giving English lessons to workers. It was really phenomenal. Thank you, Mr. Crist for facilitating getting them there. September 24th, like the manager said, Jets football game, there's still tickets available. Please call the Rec Department. September 30th. We have the 6k St. Baldricks Run prior to the festivities at Harvest Fest, which is September 30th on that Saturday. That will be the 36th Harvest Fest that we've we're going to be celebrating, which is awesome. October 5th, the DMV Van will be back at Wooster Grove for anybody needing driver's license, registrations and eye tests. This is our third time that they've come to our village.

Manager Revella: I did receive a letter from Stan Plato regarding his resignation from the Planning Board effective October's meeting. He started in 1984 and became Chairman in 1991 and has served ever since. He's selling his house and retiring, moving south.

Executive Session - Employment History of Particular Person

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

Reconvene

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
September 19, 2023
Motions & Resolutions**

Orange County Transit

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the sewer waiver for Orange County Transit, with condition that if determined by the Building Department, that the lids are properly capped. Seconded by Trustee Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Hearing – NYForward Grant

Trustee Garrison made a motion to open the public hearing. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to close the public hearing. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Justice Department Audit

Trustee Batson made a motion to accept the RBT 2020 Justice Department Assessment. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

HVAC Bids for Village Hall

Trustee Batson made a motion to approve the HVAC bid for the second and third floor A.C.T. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve the bid from A.C.T. for the water fountain for the first floor hallway. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Veterans Banners

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve Veterans Banner Unveiling Ceremony on November 4, 2023, from 1 to 3pm in Village Square. Seconded by Trustee Batson. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Maher). Motion carried.

Well 4

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve Well 4 and Well 5. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 6-23-24 CDBG

Trustee Pearson made a motion to adopt Resolution 6-23-24 CDBG Authorize Village Manager to Sign. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Payment of Audited Bills

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

Executive Session - Employment History of Particular Person

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Reconvene

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