

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
November 14, 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
		Ralph Garrison Jr
		Patricia Maher

Absent: Kristie Hall

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

Public Works Supervisor Perna introduced new employees, Aidan Badendyck, Michael Conklin and Thomas Wohlrab Jr.

**Alcohol Waiver**

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve the request for alcohol waiver for the 105th Left Airlift Wing Stewart Air National Guard Base for an event on December 2nd, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Presentation – Community Power**

Peggy Kurtz made a presentation about renewable energy

**Trustee Pearson:** I know we thought we would have this in front of us. I thought that you were supposed to get us a packet so the board could at least read through before the meeting.

**Peggy Kurtz:** I'm sorry about that. I was supposed to do it last month and then it was canceled. So, it's been a while.

**Trustee Pearson:** What is your relationship to this Joule again?

**Peggy Kurtz:** I work for the program as a Program Administrator. I'm on staff.

**Trustee Pearson:** What happens when Joule is not making enough money from our community? Do they back out? Do they stay?

**Peggy Kurtz:** No. Are you saying like, let's say not enough people sign up?

**Trustee Pearson:** No, I'm just saying, like, if the village signs up and decides to do that and all of a sudden your company doesn't feel, how does your company make money?

**Peggy Kurtz:** It makes money from the supplier. So, this supplier is paying us. It's a three way contract that you would be signing between the municipality, the supplier and Joule. And Joule is being paid by the supplier once the program begins.

**Trustee Pearson:** If the supplier is not making enough money, you said anybody can back out at any time. Does that mean the supplier of utilities also?

**Peggy Kurtz:** No. I'm sorry. I'm glad that you asked that question. No. Any participant, any resident or any small business can always leave the program. They can come back in. Whatever they want to do. Can the municipality? It is a contract.

**Trustee Pearson:** Who is the other company that's in the area?

**Peggy Kurtz:** The other company in the area is called Good Energy.

**Trustee Pearson:** John, at one time, didn't you do a study about our electric with the dam and how we save money? We have a pretty good rates because of the dam.

**Manager Revella:** It's true. And we did an energy audit and they found that it didn't make sense for us to have solar in the village. But I'm not sure how the supplier and the supply chain works and how those benefit us. If there's some incentive to the supplier to do this that makes the rates lower. I'm not sure why the supplier doesn't give us the direct benefit. You're saying that there's some conglomerate that benefits us somehow. I'm just not sure how that works.

**Peggy Kurtz:** What you were talking about was for the village buildings. Is that correct?

**Manager Revella:** Village properties and buildings. Yes.

**Peggy Kurtz:** So this is different. It's really not designed to be specifically for the village buildings, although it could. It is possible that you may have multiple. I would think this building is too big. I said residences and small businesses. Some of your buildings may qualify as small commercial properties. I would think this building is too big to qualify for that. I don't know what the calculus was. This is really quite different because it's remote and it's feeding into the grid and it's not quite the same. It's a sort of different model.

**Manager Revella:** So, we wouldn't save money on our electric bill as the village residents pay taxes to pay for this building.

**Peggy Kurtz:** You could potentially, but I would think this building is too big. But let's say that you had a shed.

**Manager Revella:** What do you mean is too big? How does that work? Why is it too big?

**Peggy Kurtz:** If the energy demand, if the energy usage is too high, then that puts you into a different category that puts you into the larger commercial category, even though you're not commercial.

**Manager Revella:** Would our bill go up?

**Peggy Kurtz:** No, the commercial rates are usually lower actually, than residential rates. Residential and small business are usually at a higher rate for whatever reason and they are eligible. So it's possible that some of your buildings may be eligible or some of your accounts. Most, it

seems to me, for the most part, what I've heard is that municipalities have multiple accounts. Like you might have one for traffic lights, street lights.

**Manager Revella:** We have about 40.

**Peggy Kurtz:** Some of those 40 accounts might be eligible, some of them not.

**Trustee Pearson:** How many are connected to NYSEG of your utilities or however that works?

**Peggy Kurtz:** The utility would stay the same.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, it's still going to be NYSEG.

**Peggy Kurtz:** Yes, that's correct. They're still going to deliver the energy, repair and maintain the lines. They're still the ones to call in power outages. They do the billing. The only thing that changes is, I don't even know if I can find it on the bill. I have a picture of an Orange and Rockland bill. But if you look in the electric portion of your bill, if you look carefully, you'll see there are two subsections. One is for delivery and one is for supply. This is the delivery portion of the bill doesn't change because that continues to be the services from the utility. The supply portion of the bill would. That's where you would see the CCA program.

**Trustee Pearson:** And you talked about 10 communities in the Hudson Valley. Do you know who they are?

**Peggy Kurtz:** Let me see if I can quickly remember them. The Town and Village of New Paltz, you can see this on the Hudson Valley Community Power Program. Town and Village of Saugerties, Gardner, City of Poughkeepsie. Phillipstown, Marbletown is another one. Nelsonville, Red Hook and Rhinebeck.

**Trustee Pearson:** I happen to watch the Village of Montgomery meeting that you were at. There was a comment at the end about a lawsuit that was brought about. How did that ever turn out and why was there a lawsuit with Joule? They didn't supply enough energy or did they back out?

**Peggy Kurtz:** It wasn't Joule's fault in any way. I think you've probably heard the Village Attorney say that. He still said, yes, I think it's a good program. But the supplier in that case was not doing well and tried to back out of the contract. The supplier was being sued. What I want to emphasize, that everybody still came out ahead. It's just they didn't come out as far ahead as they would have. The contract ended prematurely. It ended at 13 months. But over that 13 months, that's where the municipalities saved \$7 million over 13 months, which is a lot.

**Trustee Pearson:** You were saying that anybody could back out at any time. Does that mean any resident can come out of the program at any time?

**Peggy Kurtz:** Correct.

**Trustee Pearson:** Then they'll go into probably a higher rate, because sometimes if they've been with the electric company for a long time, they get lower rates. But maybe it'll be a higher rate if they have to go back.

**Peggy Kurtz:** 2 completely different things. The municipality or the supplier they can't. They're in a contract. So is Joule. Joule has never backed out of any contract, but the supplier in that case did try to back out and the program ended prematurely.

**Trustee Pearson:** What happened to the people that had that supplier?

**Peggy Kurtz:** They were sent back.

**Trustee Pearson:** Their rates were higher or not higher?

**Peggy Kurtz:** Their rates were higher on the utility, but they were still spared that 13 months where they came out well ahead. So, they were unhappy to be back with the utility, but they had still come out well ahead. I don't know that any of the municipalities were in the lawsuit, but it was completely up to them whether they wanted to join it. I believe that this is state aid and maybe it's the Public Service Commission joined Joule in the lawsuit against the supplier. I don't think it's resolved yet. I don't know that much about it myself.

**Trustee Pearson:** My last question would be to the board for them to think about that. We had talked about at one time giving your constituents and citizens a relief for their sewer and water along their sewer lines and this board didn't want to do that because it was a private company that they were dealing with and they didn't want that. They thought that that wasn't proper for the community. I'm just putting that out there. Thank you.

**Trustee Maher:** Basically, what you're selling or I'm sorry, presenting, is a second option for residents. Currently, right now we only have one option.

**Peggy Kurtz:** I guess I would say it's a third option. The first is the utility. The second is anybody can always go in the energy market on their own to look for a third party supplier or ESCO. This is a third option. But in this case, the municipality is vetting it very carefully and is looking everything over very carefully for their residents.

**Trustee Maher:** This would be a third option for them. They could opt in or opt out at any time.

**Peggy Kurtz:** Correct. There is no contract for consumers.

**Trustee Maher:** You had mentioned that it's a non-binding contract, Right? We could opt in, opt out at any time.

**Peggy Kurtz:** It's just not a contract. There is no contract. The non-binding that I had mentioned was for the two first actions that the municipality could take. Passing the law and signing.

**Trustee Maher:** Is that also non-binding for the supplier?

**Peggy Kurtz:** No. Once the contract is signed at the end of that process, which generally takes about eight months, the end of that process, then it becomes a contract. The contract is vetted carefully for the municipality by Joule. Then I'm sure it's also vetted very carefully by your attorneys also, as well as the attorneys for the other municipalities that would be in it. But then it becomes a contract between the municipality, the supplier, and Joule. The supplier is bound by that contract.

**Trustee Maher:** I think it might be helpful to maybe speak to our local representative from the Public Service Commission and just get more insight.

**Peggy Kurtz:** I can supply references as well.

**Trustee Garrison:** You mentioned there's like an eight month period of time where usually from if you want to do it to potentially locking it in. What caught me is you said that your company comes in for two months to push their, essentially what you're selling. You would put out your advertisements and you would try. You need a high percent percentage of people to opt into this before you would even consider coming to the village, right?

**Peggy Kurtz:** No.

**Trustee Garrison:** What I gathered from your model is the higher the percentage of people that opt in, the lower the rates could be.

**Peggy Kurtz:** That's true, but still. First of all, I want to say it's not something where we're coming in with a ton of advertising or something like that. We're doing information sessions. We are advertising the information sessions, but it's not something where the residents are going to get a blitz of advertising material. No, that's not going to happen. As far as, that's a question that's asked a lot, does the village has to sort of deliver, in effect, a certain number of people? The answer is, no. The suppliers, when they make that bid at the end of this process, they have an idea of the typical range of opt outs in any program. It generally ranges from 5 to 20%. They build that into their rates. Even if a larger than average number of people opt out, the bid is already accepted. It is what it is. And we don't know what the rates are going to be. We don't know what the opt out rate is going to be until we are past that contract. We're essentially investing money in the community. We're essentially doing the work, obviously hoping that it will work out. Does that make sense?

**Trustee Garrison:** No, but its okay.

**Peggy Kurtz:** That's what's required by the Public Service Commission is to go through this whole process, which we understand no community is going to want to sign a contract until they've seen the bids and they see what the rates would be. And none of that is possible without the whole process. We have to collect the information we're required and it's the right thing to do.

**Trustee Garrison:** You also said the rates aren't locked in, so why are they bidding on a rate that they can adjust and change? Like you just said, in your slides and presentation, that rates will vary from month to month.

**Peggy Kurtz:** The utility rates will vary from month to month.

**Trustee Garrison:** Okay.

**Peggy Kurtz:** There are a couple of different models for how the rates could work. I'm a little bit hesitant to talk about it because it's kind of more technical than I feel comfortable with. One model is the fixed rate, but there is a second model that we're also working with increasingly. It's a little bit different than that. And I if you want more information than that, I can connect you with somebody who can give you more information about that. But it's the utility rate that fluctuates and we don't know where it's going to be in December, let alone next year. That's why it makes it a little difficult.

**Trustee Batson:** Very basic level, you sell energy to NYSEG or the utility provider and then that preferable rate passes down?

**Peggy Kurtz:** No. The utility continues to do the delivery. We would be the supplier. We're not really the supplier. We're contracted with the supplier, as are you. But since 1998, the Public Service Commission divided up supply and delivery in order to lower costs on the supply side and with more competition. So, since that point, the utility really has become the middleman, delivering

the energy, repair and maintaining lines and billing customers with just the supply portion of the bill. We're supplying it. If you're asking physically, how are we doing it? We're not going to be supplying it to your house directly, if that's the question in a lot of people's minds. It's fed into the grid.

**Trustee Batson:** Okay. From a different source than what they currently get it from one.

**Peggy Kurtz:** Correct. I looked it up online today and from the last environmental disclosure form, it looked to me like NYSEG was at about 54% or maybe 57%, something like that, powered by fossil fuels or other fossil fuel type sources. Think about 57%.

**Trustee Batson:** The contract discussed frequently. What is the length of the contract signed for a municipality?

**Peggy Kurtz:** Good question. They seem to be getting shorter. They have been as long as three years. Currently, I've seen, I think a year. Anything in between those two.

**Trustee Batson:** There's no change in infrastructure.

**Peggy Kurtz:** No change in infrastructure. That is NYSEG.

**Trustee Batson:** Again, on that portion is the rates of the municipality at all dependent on the amount of consumers that sign up?

**Peggy Kurtz:** No. Absolutely not. Nobody knows that. The supplier has put in their bid and then the people opt in or people choose to stay in or they opt out. The suppliers have their experience. They know what the rates are of opt out. So, they're building that into their bid.

**Trustee Batson:** Hypothetically, the savings comes from that the supplier is supplying the demand at a lower rate and that amount is passed on to the consumers.

**Peggy Kurtz:** Correct.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Thank you for the presentation. Appreciate it. Renewable energy has to be done by 2030 based on, is it 30 or 35?

**Peggy Kurtz:** 70% of the grid has to be powered by renewable energy.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Basically the suppliers have to get to that point because we can't get to that point as a homeowner or a business. We have to get ours from whoever, whatever agency, private, whatever. I guess what I'm getting at is that the onus is not on really the homeowner to say, hey, we're energy at 70%, but it's on the state to make sure whatever their suppliers are to get that energy to 70% and you're helping them achieve that goal.

**Peggy Kurtz:** There is something called the renewable portfolio standard that the state is requiring the utilities to have a certain percentage of their what's called standard energy. Standard energy is a mix of energy. They're kind of trying to up it slowly. But right now, it's quite low for most as well. There was a fair amount of hydropower for NYSEG. But it's being kind of increased gradually. And most of the utilities are actually below what they're supposed to be doing and they're paying a penalty. So this gets you there much faster, let's put it that way.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Well, it don't get us there. It gets the supplier there. That's what I'm getting

at. It gets the supplier there, it's not really the homeowner or the business. I appreciate what you're doing, don't get me wrong. One of the hurdles that we have here, just for complete disclosure, is what Trustee Pearson brought up about privatization and working with that, because we made a, I guess we said president's like try not to dictate who our community's supposed to sign on to, so forth, so on. I think it's a good idea to have this presentation so they know that you're there and they know that there's different options out there. Regardless, if the price goes up or down, at least around the community knows that in 2030 they're going to have some changes and what the requirements are based on your supplier. They have to start making some choices.

**Peggy Kurtz:** But if they decide, let's say that you're your constituents decide, I really should be doing this. I really should be getting my energy from clean energy. They're going out on their own as individual homeowners on the energy market. And that's where you get into the ESCO's and sometimes really exorbitant rates that people get locked into because they're brought in at a teaser rate and then they raise the rates. I've spoken to people paying really exorbitant rates. What this does is put that sort of protective canopy around people and says, we've carefully vetted this program for you.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I know what you're saying because I grew up in California and when they went to decentralization, a whole lot of companies popped up and not saying just throw people. I guess the other questions have been answered. I just wanted to put that out there. It's a supplier that has to do that and we need to kind of connect with the supplier. Later on it may be higher, because if we don't do it as a municipality.

**Peggy Kurtz:** Then people may want to do it or they may not be able to afford to do it on their own. That's the difference. I think most of us understand that we need to transition as a society to clean energy, and we need to do it quickly because we're facing a serious situation with climate change.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Former Trustee Lynn Thompson, she was big on the climate smart and all the information, and she really put that out there so that our community is very aware of it just because of her initiative and everything that she's done. I appreciate it. I just want to say thank you and I understand what you're going through.

**Peggy Kurtz:** Yes, Joule is a company. Everybody keeps using the word, sell. I see myself as trying to persuade. I'm a longtime climate advocate and the people who are at the top of Joule are people who are really innovators in renewable energy. They found it. They were among the principals who founded Sustainable Westchester, which is a nonprofit, and they're really among the leading innovators in renewable energy.

**Mayor Ramos:** Thank you for coming out, sharing your presentation with us. Why are the contracts diminishing years compared to the three years? If we're supposed to be in 2030, why are contracts reducing to one year or from three years.

**Peggy Kurtz:** The volatility of the energy market.

**Mayor Ramos:** The industry is volatile. How are we going to sustain themselves as homeowners, as a community? When one day that company decides, we can't do this anymore and shut us down and we're forced to go to the most expensive carrier.

**Peggy Kurtz:** Just realize that, first of all, that right now the community is vulnerable to the utility rates, which are also quite volatile. This can protect the constituents from that volatility. I'm kind of a little bit hesitant and reluctant to talk about the different kinds of rates because it's not my area. I

don't want to get to sort of above my pay grade and above my proficiency, but I know that they are now developing and about to launch a new kind of rate that will sort of be more flexible without being kind of just anything is possible. I'd prefer to have my boss talk to you about that if you're interested. But the whole idea is to protect people from the volatility of the energy market.

**Trustee Batson:** How long has your company been in business?

**Peggy Kurtz:** I am not sure. That's a good question. I think 2018, I believe, but I can check that if you want. Realize that this whole program, the CCA program only started in New York State in 2016. As I mentioned, two of the founders of Joule were among the founders of Sustainable Westchester, which was founded in 2016. Then two years later, I believe they founded, I'm pretty sure, about 2018. You can go to Joule Community Power, Hudson Valley Community Power, Rockland Community Power. I'm glad to send you references.

**Mayor Ramos:** Thank you.

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

**Manager Revella:** As the board members may know and just want to make sure the public is aware. If you look at the minutes, the board did approve a couple memorandums to the PBA and with the county for police service, while we're building up our police force. I'll get to that a little later as well. Had meetings with DPW Super, reviewing the banners, the banners got up and that project did a great job there. Had a meeting with the EFC, the DEC and the Village Engineer to go over the DEC consent order and updates to align it with the funding that we received. So the public's aware we did get an additional 0% interest loan from the state so that we can work on our sewer plant. Had a conference with the Village Engineer, we went over the waterfront project and the extension of the grant. They did finish putting in the barrier and the initial grading. He has to get the contractor back to do final grading and get the sidewalks in and start working on the boardwalk. Had a conference with the PBA, going over some updates for that and the bids that we got for the HVAC down there and some other updates and upgrades. Met with the New York State Comptroller to go over audit progress. DPW Super regarding some tree issues around the village. Went over some of those with NYSEG due to some cuts they did to fix some ugly tree cutting they did. Had a conference with the New York State Insurance Fund and the Rec Coordinator to go over worker's comp matters. Had correspondence with the Building Inspector to go over a couple of problem properties for court. He went over those with a Village Attorney as well. We'll discuss some of those later. Had a webinar with DOT to go over funding opportunities in the next coming year. It's a requirement to get the funding. Rec Department, in parks, they did repair the Gazebo at Olley Park. They winterized a few different parks. The outdoor soccer has finished, indoor soccer and basketball registrations are now open, they did have a great trunk or treat at Bradley Park was almost a thousand attendees. The Building Inspector issued 23 new building permits, 14 COs, 61 property violations. 13 of those have been resolved as of the date of the report. We're waiting for the list from the county for Code Enforcement Officer for full time. The part time inspector issued two compliance letters, one CO, one sign permit, 41 violation notices for failing to schedule fire and safety, conducted 14 residential fire inspections on 46 apartments, 18 commercial fire inspections, and 15 follow up letters. Clerk's been updating Facebook, website, 207c, workers comp. Met with me and went over a couple of things with special counsel on some personnel matters, including some retro and some payouts for people that have resigned. Went over the hire packets and has been helping with the canvas letters for PD. Finance Department finished the 2022 internal audit. Hopefully they get that ready so that we can get 23 done and have that presentation from the auditors. AUD was also completed for that year. Had support calls with Edmunds. Met with me over some staff issues and duties. Worked on bank reqs, escrows, journal entries and the lockbox at Orange Banking Trust. Public works, getting everything ready for winter, replacing parts at the sewer plant and stations, working on pump repairs, press and sludge. Water Department did 23



mark outs, replaced 6 meters, 48 end points, 3 inspections and 7 closings. They did repair the hydrant over on Coldenham Road, water valve on Bradley Lane at the intersection of Ivy Hill. They finished the hydrant flushing and put on the reflective markers on the hydrant so that the fire district can see those when they go out for calls when there's snow. They did finish the repairs at the bus stop, putting in the tables at the firemen's triangle. Made sure the clock outside Village Hall is repaired. Put up the banners and made sure the electric was fixed on the light poles that they could get to. The electrician has been there. EV station is prepped. We're waiting for the pieces to come in for the charge. We did get two new full time police officers, one part time police officer and two new part time dispatchers. We're continuing to canvass and hopefully get a couple more in in the next week and a half. The Sheriff's Office have been real helpful. You will probably see them on the C and the A line until we get our staff back up and trained. They did issue 11 tickets, 7 mvas and 8 arrests and was 440 blotters since last meeting.

**Trustee Batson:** The conference with the Village Engineer to discuss the waterfront project and the extension for the grant, are we going to be able to get the extension for the grant?

**Manager Revella:** We did get the extension.

**Trustee Batson:** The updates from the police station that you mentioned were around the bathrooms and the HVAC.

**Manager Revella:** We're just waiting for additional bids. We had only had one so far.

**Trustee Batson:** Gotcha. The review of the tree complaints were the NYSEG cutting them.

**Manager Revella:** That was some of them. We had a couple other ones that people just complained that the trees looked like need to be cut. So we had to evaluate to see if they're even ours or if they're private.

**Trustee Batson:** Review of the resident complaint from William Street regarding PD and eviction, is the complaint around the eviction, around the PD or both?

**Manager Revella:** That's a personnel matter. I could talk to you about that in personnel.

**Trustee Batson:** The damage to the gazebo Olley Park. How was it damaged?

**Manager Revella:** It wasn't necessarily damaged. It was just old. It needed some upgrades.

**Trustee Batson:** For the water department conducting markouts, replaced meters. Is there an end to that? Is this a constant process?

**Manager Revella:** Still constant process. End points go dead. They have to replace them.

**Trustee Batson:** Is there's any risk to the citizens of having a poor equipment or something that can alter or impact the cost of their utilities as a result of that?

**Manager Revella:** So, they may get an underreported or overreported bill. Eventually, when we get a true reading, it may be too much. That's the risk by not having it done in time. But we do encourage everyone to get it scheduled as soon as possible or we have staff to do it. But people don't make the schedules.

**Trustee Garrison:** Good to see the clock prepared outside village hall. I got a lot of questions

about that from people. So, that's good. I'm happy to see the waterfront project is continuing. It took a while, but good to see there is some development going on there. It's good to see that the police force is getting staffed. New full timers, couple come part timers. It looks like things are generally going in a good direction.

**Manager Revella:** We're hoping to phase out the sheriff's office by the end of the month.

**Trustee Maher:** It's been a really busy couple of weeks and the reports really show all the hard work every single department is doing in the village behind the scenes. I just wanted to say I've seen a huge difference in the reports from the past couple of meetings and the progress is really evident. Thank you.

**Trustee Pearson:** Could we go back to the waterfront park, please. I know that you said you got the grant to be extended for how much was it? Was it 125?

**Manager Revella:** The grant, what's left. I don't know exactly. We're still waiting for the contractor to give us his final bill on the initial grading. The grant initially was 125k.

**Trustee Pearson:** I thought it was 150k.

**Manager Revella:** Maybe. It could be. It was the DASNY grant. It was probably 150k sorry.

**Trustee Pearson:** What more are you doing this season?

**Manager Revella:** We're trying to get final grade before the winter and hopefully we can get the sidewalks in before it gets too cold. We may have to cover them.

**Trustee Pearson:** I had asked before about the programing for the community center. Somewhat of a report, just so we can see what events have been happening there. Just to see how much it is being used. I know the seniors meet there, but are there weddings? Are there parties? What's been going on since it's been opened.

**Manager Revella:** The new group that got the grant, Lisa Ruiz. She has programs there twice a week as well now.

**Trustee Pearson:** Mr. Phelps reached out to me and wondered if the, I recused myself, but the Village Board did something for the Masons. He hasn't heard from anybody here about whether it was approved or not approved.

**Manager Revella:** The fee was waved.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes, but somebody needs to probably get back to him.

**Manager Revella:** Getting an updated bill.

**Trustee Pearson:** When the Parks Department meets with the engineer to go out for the bid on the Scout Cabin. What are we bidding for?

**Manager Revella:** The work that you guys approved with the budget. I don't remember exactly what it was during the budget session. Pretty sure it was the front section and kitchen of the building.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm going to talk about this because it's still bothering me. The whole thing with the Wooster's Grove doors. I know you all voted it in last time what you wanted to, but I have an issue that we didn't get the breakdown that we asked for it, number one. Number two, Mr. Garrison saying that it was in the budget and I looked it up. It was \$15,000. So for me, I think that any time that we have a bid or RFP that goes out that I think this board should have a breakdown of what is going to be in that. I'd like to make a motion to have the manager actually supply that to us. If it's a bid, we want to see the bid breakdown. If it's the RFP, what the breakdown is for, how much is costing for the pieces.

**Manager Revella:** I can't dictate to a contractor how they bid. We give them the bid documents, how they turn it back to us. If it's insufficient bid, we would reject it.

**Trustee Pearson:** Why couldn't the board say, we want this to be in your in your bid package or we want that to be a part of the bid package or we want it to be part of the RFP that you're putting out?

**Manager Revella:** You could, you may not get any responses, but it's possible if that's what you're asking for. We barely got one bid as it was. That's up to you. You can make that motion and dictate that. But if it doesn't happen, that's up to you guys.

**Trustee Pearson:** I don't know if there's a second or not, but I feel that there should be things broken down so that we know as a board what things are being spent on money, taxpayers money being spent on. I get that it's hard to get people to do the work, but they can at least break it down for what you paying for.

**Manager Revella:** You know what you're paying for. The doors at Wooster's Grove. It's not a secret. It's not like you're paying for floors or something else. It's the doors.

**Trustee Pearson:** Okay. And how much was the labor? How much are the doors?

**Manager Revella:** But that minutia is not always in a bid. You're getting a bid for the project as a whole. I hear you.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to make bids and RFP's include a breakdown when returned.  
Seconded by Trustee Batson.

**Trustee Pearson:** I think when you put out a bid package most of the time bids come back with just say it's a roof, they're going to do X amount of shingles and they're going to be X amount of this and it's going to take this much time and this much time for X amount of dollars. I would say that's legitimate. I think that that would be, if I'm paying bills, I want to know what's being paid for it. Just like being a budget in your own home. Wouldn't you want that?

**Attorney Donovan:** I understand that. If that's what the board wants to, that's fine. But my suggestion is because when you when you ask for fire rated door. One bidder may bid containing some information. Another bidder may contain different information. If you don't like the bid, your remedy is to reject the bid. Your remedy was to reject all the bids and rebid it. I'm saying if you want to do it, that's fine. I don't think you need to do that. I think if there's a bid in front of you that you say, I don't understand how you got to this number. It's within your purview to reject that bid.

**Trustee Pearson:** We did ask for that. We asked for a breakdown and we never got it. I would like to see that happening. That it is going to happen from now on, that we get that information.

**Mayor Ramos:** I agree with it. But the bid was passed.

**Trustee Maher:** I agree. I also in thinking back on past projects, we usually do get a very healthy breakdown. That particular one there wasn't. I agree, we should have more details. If the Village Manager can't ask that of the bid or bidders who does?

**Manager Revella:** I can ask, doesn't mean they're going to give it to me. That's the problem. I have no problem asking.

**Trustee Pearson:** If it's board policy then becomes the policy.

**Trustee Garrison:** I think in theory it's great. I would like to see it too. I just think the fact that we've put out jobs for bids and we're not getting any in. Now you're asking contractors to include X, Y, Z, more data. We're just going to start getting less and less and less and then we're going to have nothing getting completed. I like the idea. I love seeing, it was this much for the doors and labor costs this much. I get that but nobody's going to do that. They're going to give you their rate based on, this is what it is.

**Trustee Pearson:** When you have somebody do work on your house you just say, okay, it's going to be this much money. Go ahead and do it. You don't get a breakdown?

**Trustee Garrison:** No. When I had my roof replaced, I had somebody give me an estimate. I had somebody else give me an estimate. I went with the estimate and the person that I thought I wanted to do the work. They didn't say, on this day we're going to do 10 hours of work at this rate and put this many shingles and at this this amount of cost. It was no, this is the final cost of completion. Then they got up there and they were like, Hey, there were some other stuff in here we didn't see, but we're not going to charge you for it because we already gave you our amount that we're going to do it for it. I think the only time I've ever seen a breakdown where it's man hours to cost was body shop repairs and mechanic bills. I've never seen a contractor come to you and say, I paid my guys \$15 an hour for 10 hours of work. At that rate, based on this, it was this much money, and I've never seen that. I think in theory it's a great idea and I'm not knocking it. I think it's a wonderful idea to see where the money is going. But I just don't think it's feasible in the construction world to get something like that. I've never personally seen it. My dad did construction for 30 years. I don't think he's ever put a bid out or went to somebody's house and said, it's going to take me 18 man hours at my rate of \$30 an hour. No, he goes, okay, it's this much for materials. This is your final cost. I've never seen it. I don't think it's a bad idea. I think it's a great idea. I'm not against it. I just don't think it'll happen.

**Trustee Pearson:** You just said that he had the materials listed out. You're telling you how much the materials the rest is going to be man hours. I'm just saying.

**Trustee Batson:** If the bill would have landed as it is back there, I would not have signed it. I regret voting for it. Every provider and every person since the bill at the end of a project sure as hell can lay it down pretty detailed and I struggle with why they can't do it up front.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I had to do deal with a lot of contractors in different sizes in my job and just home. One of the things I see as a bid, you say, hey, how much it is to cut that or do this? And they'll tell you, well, this is our estimate. They give you an estimate. But when you set out for a bid, you have a scope of work. We need two doors. We need this, this and this or whatever you want to put in the scope of work. And then they come back and see if they can meet it and give you a dollar amount. And then you say, okay, we look at the different proposals. People have replied back and you said, okay, let's see which one is best advantage to the person or to the company. Then after that, you can't get a work breakdown structure, because once they sit down with whomever they're

going to do it with, they'll tell you how many doors, how many nails, and how many whatever's and how long it should take, or they should have some type of work breakdown structure is what they call it, after they really scope out the work, but it has to be scoped out and then they they'll give you a price. They typically don't put all those details upfront. Typically, unless you're really doing some big type of project where you sit down with the engineers and it's over long term periods. Something small like the doors, respectfully, that'll be a little much. However, after you do the bid, you look at the dollar amount because that's basically what we're looking at, how much this is going to cost. Then we say, we picked this company, but we want to see exactly what you're using, what you're doing. Can you give us a work breakdown structure? The engineer and bill, they'll have their little papers and they can come through and they can show it to us. I just think, you know, maybe we put the cart before the horse, but yet, that part still is being done. And when do we want to see it? It's going to be difficult. As been stated for quite a few companies to do it upfront because they said, hey, we know that to put up a wall, it's going to cost us \$1,000. Why do I got to go through a whole work break down structure to kind of demonstrate that. I already know what the numbers are going to be based off their past experience. Then they give us a number and then we accept it or reject it.

**Mayor Ramos:** Yes. The RFP was light in its verbiage, but these were two doors that needed to be taken care of like ASAP. The other two doors are damaged. It's been since how old are those doors?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know, but we knew at the budget session they needed to be replaced.

**Mayor Ramos:** Exactly. They needed to be done. We got one bidder to send a bid in. This is exigent circumstances to me. It has to be done. We all know what doors are costing. I don't even know if it's been completed yet. Just ordering the doors is going to be a task in itself. That's probably the only RFP that I've ever seen that came out that way. The rest of the RFPs that we've looked at, I've always had the scope of work, have always had the materials, has always had this. We're talking about two doors with one bidder that was able to do the work at this time.

**Manager Revella:** I just want to make sure the board's aware and the public's aware, when we do public bidding, there is a breakdown in the scope of work in the bid package. It's usually a binder that has everything broken out. This was below the threshold for public bid. That's why it didn't have that kind of detail to it. It wouldn't be worth the cost for an engineer to do that kind of detail for this small of a project and that's why it didn't make sense to do that and waste money on that. We knew the doors needed replacement. We're replacing them in kind. We knew kind of an estimate from the engineer about what it should cost. It was within that estimate. That's why I don't think it was a huge deal. But I did ask, as the board requested for a break down, I didn't get it because the people didn't have time to get it back to us. It's getting colder and they needed the doors to get fixed. That's why it was kind of put with a little pressure on. But usually you're correct. We get a breakdown of a lot of things on there. For example, when they did the Oak St sidewalks, it said now there's a cost per ton of material, there's a cost for removal of per foot of sidewalk. Those things are broken down in a public bid. When a project of that scope comes in, it's worth it to pay the engineer to do that kind of work. When something this small, it doesn't make sense for him to do that part. Obviously, we asked the contractor to do that kind of work. If they can get to it, great. If they can't, you get to talk about that as a board.

**Trustee Pearson:** I understand the large bid package because that has been happening forever. I'm talking about things like this. Leave the doors aside. Just say maybe another project. Trustee Batson said it right. How much are all the doors? How can you bid something without knowing how much the doors are?

**Manager Revella:** That's his problem now, not ours.

**Trustee Pearson:** It is our problem.

**Manager Revella:** No, he said he can do it for this price. He's got to do for that price.

**Trustee Pearson:** He's got to know how much the doors are.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** If a contractor says I'm going to do this job for \$100 and then the doors come in and 99 or whatever that is at 99, and then he said, Well, I don't want to buy that. I'm gonna buy this. Our part of our job is to go and look at the doors and make sure they're fire rated or whatever the code is. And if it is okay, great. If it is not, then we get to say that's not sufficient. You need to redo it or we go to the next steps.

**Trustee Pearson:** I just don't know how the board can make that decision and not know what you're paying for.

**Manager Revella:** You do know. You're paying for the doors to get done. A door project.

**Trustee Pearson:** How much are the doors?

**Manager Revella:** \$13,700. That's what it cost us. Doesn't matter if the door costs us \$13,699 or not. That's what the project costs.

**Trustee Pearson:** But \$15,000 was in the budget. So anybody could look at the budget, say, I'm going to come in underneath that and I'll be fine.

**Manager Revella:** It'd be great if we had four people do that. That's a competition. We had one.

**Trustee Pearson:** Who knows really what happened. I'm not blaming anybody. I would just like the board to have that say that you're going to have a little bit more of a breakdown on things that we the taxpayers are paying for. Period. That's my motion. - Roll call

**Trustee Pearson:** aye

**Trustee Maher:** aye

**Trustee Garrison:** no

**Trustee Batson:** aye

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** no

**Mayor Ramos:** no

**Mayor Ramos:** 3-3.

**Manager Revella:** I'm going to endeavor to get that information to you regardless.

**Attorney Donovan:** I don't want to beat this up too bad. But you have a procurement policy required by state law. You adopt it at your reorg meeting every year. When it's under the public bid threshold, you're supposed to get different proposals and you can ask for proposals. Your remedy, if you don't like what you've got is to say no. If you say, listen, we got this proposal. We don't know if it's a solid door or hollow door, nor we don't know if it comes with hardware or without. The point I'm trying to make it, you have a remedy. Your remedy is to reject a bid. You already have it.

**Trustee Pearson:** A question for the Building Inspector, did you tell me that there was a fence being put up all of Liberty Street next to the new apartments that are going in?

**Building Inspector Wallner:** It's up.

**Trustee Pearson:** It's up all the way of Liberty Street from the very end to the top of their property.

**Trustee Batson:** I don't think it goes all the way to the end of the property. But it goes where someone would have to make a significant effort to walk around it in order to get it to the drop off.

**Trustee Batson:** Does it is it block line of sight like the residents wanted?

**Trustee Pearson:** What kind of fences it is?

**Building Inspector Wallner:** Chain link fence.

**Trustee Pearson:** John, the quarterly tax. Is it more or less than normal?

**Manager Revella:** The last quarter one that we just got. It's within the range that we got last year.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The HVAC, which rooms downstairs in the police department?

**Manager Revella:** There's 3 different rooms that we got bids for. We did the main lobby in the first floor. We did the second floor and the third floor are done. We got bids for the 3 remaining areas in the PD. We just got one bid, though. We need to get 2 more. We're trying. It's over the threshold.

**Mayor Ramos:** Did we take care of the first floor bathroom yet?

**Manager Revella:** The public one? They did go in the public bathroom. I'm not sure if they got the parts that they needed to fix it. I haven't been down there. I don't go to the bathroom down there. But I'll check.

**Mayor Ramos:** Please check.

**Trustee Pearson:** Cannabis was supposed to be put on the agenda a couple meetings ago. I haven't seen it. Is it going to be put on the agenda?

**Manager Revella:** I have a note to put it on for next meeting.

**Trustee Pearson:** You are also going to check the bills on that food, \$2-4,000. Did you look at that?

**Manager Revella:** You were supposed to remind me when we went in the room last time. When we go in, let's look at that.

**Trustee Pearson:** The surplus car. What's happening with that?

**Manager Revella:** That's being put on the auction block. Auctions International.

#### **Approval of October 3, 2023 & October 30, 2023 Minutes**

Trustee Batson made a motion to approve the October 3, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. 4 ayes. 2 abstentions (Trustee Garrison & Deputy Mayor Carley) Motion carried.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve the October 30, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes.

Seconded by Trustee Pearson with changes. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Carley). Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

**Susan Taylor:** A comment about the presentation that you had. I found an article The Times Union published on this subject and I thought a couple parts of this article were really pertinent. \*read article into minutes\* If I'm understanding this correctly, by signing the contract, is the municipality automatically opting their residents into and then they have to knowingly figure out that that's been done so that they can personally opt out if they're not interested in participating? They have to know that you've done that and then they have to knowingly be able to opt out if they don't want to participate. You're locked in. Evidently because of the contract. But they need to know that you and this article happened to talk about it, municipality that did it. The residents, for whatever reason, they didn't read the newspaper. They didn't, whatever the case may be, didn't realize that until they got their bill and saw the strange name on it. And then they didn't realize they could opt out. I just thought that was pertinent. Thank you.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Sort of following up on that. Once or twice I think NYSEG send you that thing, do you want to get your energy from this one or that one? Which you can do now individually. You can still do it. And one time I did it and it was a thing. A neighbor did it and she said, if you do it, I get \$100 rebate and I did it. And then somebody else, I got a rebate. Then the rates turned out being worse than NYSEG's rates ever were. I just got rid of it and went back to NYSEG. So far, thank God it's not Central Hudson, but I think we've always been lucky with NYSEG. In a follow up to that, something that the manager said about the charging station starting to do the install and get it ready. People who are going to use that charging station, are they going to pay for the electricity or is the village going to pay for it?

**Manager Revella:** The board voted that they were charging. We're just making sure NYSEG gets the fast charge. That's what people want.

### **Village Code – Review of 128**

**Mayor Ramos:** I thought we had a good session for 128. We're moving right along. It was decided on by the board that we're going to conduct three more sections of the code and we're going to provide a red line copy of everything that we've done. Some details that needed to be rewritten or taken out. Next meeting, we're going to have one. One more, 135 to 144.

### **Short Term Rentals**

**Manager Revella:** I'm not sure if the board is ready to go to the next step now with the revisions to send it to the Planning Board and the County for the review. Once that's back, you could set a public hearing for it.

**Trustee Batson:** Nothing has changed on it?

**Manager Revella:** Not since the last meeting. You asked for that checklist to be put in there, which is in the packet now.

**Trustee Batson:** I think the lingering question is where else was the obligation of do we pass it without potentially having a means to enforce it?

**Trustee Garrison:** I think it looks great. The checklist is good. I do know we did have the issue with the enforcing of the code, but until we get it in law, there's not really anything we can do about that. I have nothing further on this.



**Trustee Maher:** I'm good with moving it forward. I think if we don't move forward with some sort of legislation, there will be nothing to regulate. And like I said last time, if the committee felt like this was something they could enforce with just starting with 10, I'm sure that they can make that happen. I'm good with moving forward.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm going to go to 305-85 number four. We discussed this last time and I don't think there was an outcome because it didn't get changed. "Only one short term rental permit shall be allowed per property. Property owners who have more than one approved dwelling unit on a property, they rent up to two units." But we had talked about one unit first and then the second round going around. It would be the second one. It doesn't state that in here, so maybe allowed up to two, but they have to be waiting for the second round. Like if you were allowing ten to happen in all different parts of the neighborhood. And if they didn't happen within a certain amount of time, they'd be able to have a second one but not two right up front. That wording was supposed to change. Also on number eight, "the short term property was supposed to be if it's not served by municipal water and sewer wouldn't be approved at all." That was supposed to change, that it was not going to be approved or wouldn't be allowed. However you want to word that.

**Manager Revella:** Short term rental prohibited?

**Attorney Donovan:** I have it changed on my copy. "If short term rental property is not served by municipal water sewer. It shall not be allowed to receive a permit for short term rental."

**Trustee Pearson:** I don't have that.

**Attorney Donovan:** The one I sent the John on October 6th, that paragraph eight was modified to disallow that.

**Trustee Pearson:** I don't have the copy. If that's in there that's fine. Also on number 305-86 we talked about or wherever you want to put it, 305-88, we were talking about, it says "the responsibility of the property owner to comply with the terms and provisions." But we also talked about whether you want to put it up under penalties or we want to put it under suspension that would be paid for by the property owner. Because that's not anywhere on what I have either. Maybe you put it in somewhere.

**Attorney Donovan:** I have 305-86A, it is the responsibility of the property owner to comply with all terms provisions of this article.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes, but then we were talking about the penalties as well. The penalties would be paid for by the property owner.

**Attorney Donovan:** If you want to add that in. If the property owner is responsible to comply with all terms and provisions, they're responsible for any violations.

**Trustee Pearson:** We talk about putting that under penalties, but I don't know if we want to or not. Those were the only things that I found different. Did I get a different copy than everybody else?

**Manager Revella:** For some reason, the red line version copy didn't print that change they had on this one. You wanted to change 305-85 (4), that's a new change.

**Trustee Pearson:** No, that was discussed last time.

**Manager Revella:** It's not changed on the version that we have. You're talking about, if available after first round of permits?

**Trustee Pearson:** We had talked at one time people in different parts of the village and different spaces would be able to, it's one per property owner. But then if they weren't filled up, somebody could apply for a second one. So, however you want to word that.

**Manager Revella:** Okay.

**Trustee Maher:** Are you going to do a time frame for that?

**Manager Revella:** There is a time frame in here already. 30 days.

**Trustee Maher:** 30 days. But I'm just saying, do you want to do a time frame to wait for the second one?

**Trustee Pearson:** They have to wait for the first round for 30 days so if whoever wants to sign up can sign up within those 30 days.

**Trustee Maher:** So, after the 30 day.

**Trustee Pearson:** After that first round of signups, then round 2 of second person having a second property.

**Manager Revella:** He revised something in a different section.

**Trustee Pearson:** 305-85 number four. Did you revise that?

**Manager Revella:** No.

**Attorney Donovan:** I have to be honest with you. I don't understand what you just said.

**Trustee Pearson:** In this law, you're only allowed one per property. Until, maybe there's 12 properties that want to do this. Let's say there's only 8 properties that are going to do this. So, within 30 days, the next person who comes in after the 30 days that wants a second property to be a short term rental, they can apply for it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** So you're saying, anybody can do it the first. And then the second round comes. Because you have 2. Now you can say, let's apply for that.

**Trustee Pearson:** But it's after the first round.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** That's from June 1 through 30. And then after that, you can go up to 2.

**Trustee Pearson:** If they want to do a short term rental. They have to do it within that first month. If not, then they can apply for a second one. Only up to two.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** And that's between July 1 through July 31st.

**Trustee Pearson:** That's a good point. I don't know. We didn't put a date on that.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I guess we should.

**Trustee Pearson:** Probably should. Exactly right.

**Mayor Ramos:** For an additional 30 days after that?

**Trustee Pearson:** I think that's good. Another month. I don't know. It's up to the Building Department. You guys okay with that? Because that's in a whole other month that someone's gonna sign up. Do you want it for maybe two weeks after? Because people who are going to want it, they're going to do it right away. I'd say two weeks after, a ten day period. Three weeks? What are you thinking?

**Building Inspector Wallner:** Anyone that has more than one short term rental, we'll be watching closely.

**Trustee Pearson:** I would say two weeks that way it would take the pressure off of you for having to do another month of stuff.

**Building Inspector Wallner:** 10 business days.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm fine with that.

**Attorney Donovan:** What subdivision are we on?

**Trustee Pearson:** 305-85 number 4. Add language that says the first round, the 30 days from June 1st to June 30th would be one property owner per one rental per property. After that they'd have ten days if the 10 slots are not full, they will have ten days to apply for a second one if they wanted it.

**Attorney Donovan:** 305.84 subdivision C. You guys all have that? Somehow the one that I sent to John on October 6 has not made it to you.

**Manager Revella:** He had updated 305-84C to say the following, see if this is right.

**Attorney Donovan:** "Subject to the limitations of paragraph 305-85 B4, each zoning district may have a maximum of two permits per village fiscal year unless the total permits issued village wide within 30 days of the village fiscal year or due to renewal applications are less than ten, in which event the number of permits allowed in the zone may be increased up to a maximum of ten permits."

**Manager Revella:** 305-84 B is split into two new sections. If you look at 305-84 B that you have in front of you. It's pretty much in there.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I don't think that's saying what she said.

**Trustee Maher:** I see.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** But that's not what she said.

**Attorney Donovan:** Well, however you guys want to do this is fine by me. I just want to make sure I understand what you want to do so I can put it in here.

**Trustee Pearson:** What that is saying then is that all ten of them can be in one zone. What I'm reading there.

**Manager Revella:** One village zone, but not one building.

**Trustee Pearson:** It says it's all one zone. We're not talking about that.

**Attorney Donovan:** It says each zoning district may have a maximum of two. Unless the total permits within a certain period of time are less than ten.

**Manager Revella:** She's talking about per owner. Not just zone.

**Trustee Pearson:** We're talking about per owner.

**Manager Revella:** 305-85 (4)

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I think what she said June 1 through 30 is our first round. Authorize ten per property. And then if only three get filled, then the second round, then whoever filled those three and they have two units, they can fill the second unit within ten days.

**Attorney Donovan:** Within ten days of what?

**Manager Revella:** Of June 30th.

**Trustee Pearson:** It would be the middle of July. Do we want to talk about a fee? Do we not want to do that now? There was a fee schedule years ago we had it but I don't know if you've ever given to them.

**Trustee Batson:** The fee you're talking about specifically is the permit fee?

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes, we're talking about permit fees. And we're talking about penalty fees.

**Manager Revella:** When we have the meeting, we have talked about \$150 fee for each rental unit. And you had a reinspection fee, right?

**Trustee Pearson:** Right. The reinspection fee was the first one was free.

**Manager Revella:** Each reinspection is \$50.

**Trustee Pearson:** There supposed to inspect this after every rental.

**Manager Revella:** That's part of the permit.

**Trustee Pearson:** I know that, you're all good with that.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** So, what's the initial fee?

**Manager Revella:** We talked about \$150 as initial fee. First, re-inspection is free, each additional \$50. That's the annual \$150. Unless you wanted like that other town had. It was Nelsonville had \$250 as a registration and the annual renewal was \$150 with the reinspection as we discussed. That better?

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes.

**Manager Revella:** \$250 initial registration, annual renewal \$150 and then the first re-inspection is free. Subsequent re-inspections is \$50 each.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm good.

**Trustee Maher:** Good.

**Trustee Garrison:** Good.

**Trustee Batson:** Pending all those changes. Good.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I'm good. I just want to say, for Trusting Pearson. This is a good job. Thank you and your committee? I don't know who was all in your committee.

**Trustee Pearson:** I had Lynn in the beginning, myself. I had a Dean, Mike and John, and then we brought in the Building Inspector when he came along. He added some really good things, it was great. Thank you.

**Mayor Ramos:** On the short term rental application, on the back you have owner affidavit. You have duly sworn deposed, but you have no affirmation.

**Manager Revella:** Got it.

**Trustee Pearson:** We'll get a new copy next meeting.

### **Liberty St Parking**

**Manager Revella:** I don't know if you guys had anything you wanted to do with that. We had a discussion last time the public came, had comment. I'm not sure if the board wants to take any action or not.

**Trustee Batson:** I can't foresee any action on there that satisfies everyone. I think after doing the best research I possibly can, I would reluctantly say that the best course of action is to leave it as is. No action.

**Trustee Garrison:** I drove up and down the road a few times after that and I didn't see anything extremely out of place or abnormal for a village road. Any road you drive on in the village. I don't foresee making any change over there because I think it'll set a precedent for other streets and we just don't have the ability to do that.

**Trustee Maher:** I agree. We should leave it, but definitely keep a pulse on it and just monitor the future of how the residents are feeling. Maybe we can do a check in this time next year and just revisit. I think leaving it as it is makes the most sense.

**Trustee Pearson:** I agree. I think that the majority of the homeowners I spoke to were fine with how it is. Every street has an issue. Every street you have to wait for somebody to go up and down and making it parking on one side, I think will be a very bad thing for emergency vehicles and people to get by. I think probably leaving it the way it is the best.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I have no comment. I wasn't there at the meeting and nor did I really hear the views of the community. So, I'm willing to go with whatever the board said.

**Mayor Ramos:** I have spoken to a number of the residents after our little gathering and on Liberty

Street, all the residents seem to have enlightened a lot of the neighbors and a lot of the landlords that refuse to let the tenants park in their parking lot. I don't know if it was your doing, sir, but if you did, thank you. Because now they're parking in their parking spots that they're supposed to. I'm reluctant to proceed with any type of action on that. I think we should review it if we keep getting complaints. But I think we should leave it as is.

### **Village-Wide Cameras**

**Manager Revella:** We had the presentations, some feedback, some additional documents after that. I'm not sure if the board wants to move forward or what they'd like to do.

**Trustee Batson:** I fully support the village getting cameras, but I could not in good faith vote for it until there's some sort of strategic plan put in place to maximize your utilization or just to know that we're not going to spend \$120-250,000 on an asset that we don't have any intent to use. I could not vote for them until there's a plan that we commit to using them.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I can't vote on it right now because I wasn't really here because I was in travel. But please help me, Strategem provided a proposal and Seamless.

**Manager Revella:** They both came for presentations. Stratagem has a contract with the state. Them or anyone less than them is a viable candidate.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I just need some time to review it also. That was videotaped, right, so I can go back?

**Trustee Maher:** It was.

**Manager Revella:** Yes, on Facebook.

**Mayor Ramos:** We can bring it up next meeting.

**Manager Revella:** If that's what the board wants to do.

**Trustee Pearson:** I have comments. I just wondered about everybody. Did everybody get that email that was sent out? I don't know if the village wants to start with the whole section or start with part of it. That's just something to talk about in the future. Whether you think you want to start in a certain area or whether it's feasible to do that or to break it down, whether we have the funds for it, where we're getting the funds from. I'd like to hear that as well. I understand. Somewhat maybe being necessary, but if we don't have a department that can manage the cameras and Trustee Batson is correct, I agree, what will be the what will be the outcome of having them and what will we use them for and what is the procedure that we're going to use them. So, I'd like that kind of perspective as well.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Sustainment is my issue. Small company, large company, I don't know what Strategem is. Sustainment and then accessibility and then all the issues that you just talked about.

**Manager Revella:** I can answer one question pretty easily for funding, it would be from fund balance. There's no other source of funds for this project.

**Trustee Maher:** I remember you saying that previously.

**Trustee Batson:** Fund balance is at a healthy amount.

**Manager Revella:** It is. We are fine tuning it with the audits. Hopefully we have a better grasp on it once the 2023 audit is done.

**Trustee Batson:** Just math off the top of my head, this would be ten percentage of the fund balance.

**Manager Revella:** Less.

**Trustee Pearson:** Will we get something of a plan or something?

**Manager Revella:** I'll ask for that from the departments that are going to utilize it.

**Trustee Pearson:** We already have cameras at the park. Why are we not utilizing the same companies that, I know we have at the DPW, correct. We have it at the park. Why would we not be using the same company and kind of keeping it consistent to begin with?

**Manager Revella:** One of those companies is one of the bids?

**Trustee Pearson:** Both of them?

**Manager Revella:** At the DPW.

**Trustee Pearson:** Why would we not go with the same company a second time? I don't understand.

**Manager Revella:** Those cameras were bought as part of the Olley project. That was just a different time.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Respectfully, thinking about this is like really high as a priority, but high has an impact. I guess more questions should be answered and dig in just a little deeper to see what we can do. I don't know if each company could break it down.

**Trustee Maher:** They did. The presentations were very thorough. I do think it is a necessity. I completely agree with what Chief was saying and how the intent of cameras is not to monitor and police the cameras. The police will still monitor the village. I think that's where there may be some misunderstanding as to we're not going to be using them. No one needs to sit there and monitor the cameras for them to be utilized. I think they can be utilized throughout many different departments and different ways and especially with public safety.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** It has a dual use. It's not just for one.

**Manager Revella:** Correct. I'll go back and look at it. I don't know if that's something that I don't know if you how much you want to put it on or just a link to it so that the public can see it if they really want to, because it's such a big issue.

**Manager Revella:** It's on our Facebook page and on acquisitions marketing Facebook page.

#### **Resolution 10-23-24 Exempt Properties**

Resolution 10-23-24. Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to adopt Resolution 10-23-24 Exempt Properties. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **November 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

**Mayor Ramos:** Is there a need to have the meeting on 21st, especially with it close to this meeting?

How does the board feel about canceling the November 21st?

**Trustee Batson:** So far, the only thing we've got on the next agenda is a cannabis discussion and short term rentals, but probably wait as well.

**Trustee Garrison:** I'm okay with moving it.

**Trustee Maher:** Yeah, that sounds good. December 5th.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm fine for keeping it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I'm fine with moving it.

**Mayor Ramos:** So am I. Just for reiteration on the cannabis thing. Albany has gone through a big fight with the commission right now. I don't know if anybody's been following that. Google commission cannabis arguments.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to cancel the Village Board meeting on November 21st. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. 5 ayes. 1 no (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

**Attorney Donovan:** In an amazing bit of serendipity, your October 3rd meeting was on my father's 100th birthday, and your December 5th meeting will be on my son's 26th birthday. I will be here, of course. But it's interesting the way that worked out, just want to let you guys know that.

#### **Public Comment**

**Susan Taylor:** I read the report that was commissioned by the previous supervisor from the Town of Montgomery. I believe we paid for part of that. Did it come out of the A fund for that report? I believe it did. When did we get a copy of that? I think it came out in August.

**Manager Revella:** I still haven't received a copy.

**Susan Taylor:** Never thought to ask?

**Manager Revella:** We did ask.

**Susan Taylor:** And they never gave it to you.

**Manager Revella:** Correct. The first time I saw it was in the newspaper. I heard about results from it, but I didn't get a copy.

**Susan Taylor:** When did you hear about the results from it?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know. It could have been in August.

**Susan Taylor:** Of 22, that's when it came out.

**Manager Revella:** Yeah, easily. It could have been.

**Susan Taylor:** I guess my issue would have been, ask for your copy. We, the citizens of this village, paid for it. It would have been nice to see it, and it was worthy of a discussion. Obviously, your Town Chief has plans for the three village police departments. I think it would be nice to know what the plans are for each village. I'd like to know what our plans are for our village police



department. It was kind of a cheeky statement, but I think we need to know what our plans are. We've had a nice exodus of personnel. I would think that that would have warranted some public discussion from our board. Do we do exit interviews with personnel that leave?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Susan Taylor:** Do we have any idea what the issue is?

**Manager Revella:** I can't speak to what individual personnel matters were.

**Susan Taylor:** In general.

**Manager Revella:** In general, overworked.

**Susan Taylor:** Well, when you have less people to do the work then you do get overworked. I'm concerned about the remaining meager full time.

**Manager Revella:** I'm sorry. I do have a copy. I got a copy on July 2nd, 2022.

**Susan Taylor:** I don't remember hearing any discussion on the board level. We paid for it. A lot of people found out about it from the newspaper. They didn't even know it existed until they saw it. I think that when our taxpayers pay for something. You should look at it. You're the manager. The mayor should have looked at it. There should have been a public discussion about it. I never heard anything about it.

**Manager Revella:** The memo that we got was there's going to be a formal presentation of the study at the August 18th Town Board meeting, August 2018, 2022.

**Susan Taylor:** I don't think that happened. I also noted after the executive session from the last meeting, there was a vote to provide coverage for this village from the sheriff's department. When was that discussed in public? I don't remember.

**Manager Revella:** After they reconvened meeting.

**Susan Taylor:** It would have been nice if you mentioned it that people could have kind of stuck around for that. If you had a discussion about the issue with the police department to begin with and then said, we have some ideas of how to handle that, it's kind of when everybody leaves and you come out of executive session, there's no one here or at least recorded that discussion so people could have heard how our board members feel about it. How much is that coverage costing?

**Manager Revella:** \$120 an hour.

**Susan Taylor:** We're keeping track of how many hours they provide so we can.

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Susan Taylor:** Where is that coming out of the budget?

**Manager Revella:** The police personnel line.

**Susan Taylor:** We have a lot of money there because I know there's been a lot of overtime?

**Manager Revella:** We have enough to cover because we don't have the cops right now. We're not paying police officers.

**Susan Taylor:** I'm assuming that while this budget goes until June so you have to have money in the budget for new hires, no?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. We do.

**Susan Taylor:** We're going to be kept abreast of that where this money is. What's up with the Walden diner? I don't see anything going on. I don't see any construction. It's just going to be an eyesore. Somebody bought it and it's just going to sit there?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know what else we can do about it.

**Susan Taylor:** You'd think when people invest in that kind of property, they'd have some kind of an idea, or we would of what's going to be there. Maybe we should pay more attention. It could be anything there. Veteran's Day ceremony was fabulous. For those that don't know, we only have that park because of former Mayor Pearson. She was dogged about it to get that particular piece of ground so that we could have a beautiful memorial park there. It's really grown from what it was. Bunch of grass, a bunch of wildflowers, whatever was there. Now it's absolutely beautiful and really the pride of the village. Thank you to Becky Pearson for all her work on that. What's up with the kitchen and Olley Park?

**Manager Revella:** They're working on bids for it. They don't have a bid for it yet. They had a design. They're waiting for bids.

**Susan Taylor:** That's been a while. We have the money. What's the budget for that?

**Manager Revella:** I don't recall off the top of my head. There was a budget.

**Susan Taylor:** Where are we hiring a Code Enforcement Officer before we kill off the new Building Inspector? Because he's working his tail off.

**Manager Revella:** We're waiting for the list from the county still, they haven't sent it. We asked for it.

**Susan Taylor:** I hope we're really working on it because there's just a ton of work to do.

**Manager Revella:** There's an active county list. We did request it. I think it was the week before last. I still haven't received it.

**Susan Taylor:** Get on the phone and harass somebody.

**Manager Revella:** They're having some issues in that department.

**Susan Taylor:** Who isn't having issues in departments? I guess we can we can identify with that. The job, the RFPs and things like that never would have happened a little while ago. We just had and you can identify with this, Ralph, we just changed our insurance. When I tell you a breakdown, I know how many pencils the girl used to write out the piece of paper. And I don't think it's bad to know. We should have learned our lesson with water and sewer. When Fred came in, we started to now map out our repairs, what equipment we're using, what did we take out of there? So if there's another break, we know what we use there. I don't think it's a bad idea to know what kind of doors

they are. What brand are they? Do we love them? Do we want them other places in the village? That should just be SOP. Any contractor, I know you needed to have somebody. I get it. But anybody that does business like that, I don't know.

**Manager Revella:** We tried to go with Architectural Doors. They've been doing a lot of our doors and they wouldn't bid. And there was one other company that did doors also wouldn't bid.

**Susan Taylor:** I have to tell you, those doors have been rotten for a while. This isn't something that just happened because I used to go down to that for the music and try to get in there and forget it. It was a nightmare. DPW, the guys were out trimming trees. I think they really save our taxpayers a lot of anguish because they go out, they trim those trees. They're very mindful of the wires and where they are and knock on wood. I think we would have many more outages in this village if it wasn't for them getting out there and being conscientious about trimming those trees. So, I'm very grateful to them.

**Manager Revella:** Absolutely.

**Susan Taylor:** Salary for the Deputy Clerk position. We're talking about the position, not the person, correct?

**Manager Revella:** Correct. Deputy Clerk/Treasurer.

**Susan Taylor:** When was that discussion in public about that salary?

**Manager Revella:** Last board meeting.

**Susan Taylor:** Was it after you guys came out of executive session?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Susan Taylor:** Isn't that wonderful? I really tried to avoid that back in the day because I thought it was unfair to the taxpayers to have those kinds of discussion. When you come out of executive session, at least note that there may be possible action so that people can hang out and hear those discussions just to see a change in the salary of that position. Gee, when did that happen? Well, it wasn't in public. Well, it was in public, but it wasn't in public. I really think we need to be mindful of those public decisions if you're going to change things like that. I guess that's it for now. Thank you.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Mayor Ramos, I think you know what I'm going to say, because I heard the manager say something in his report about a gazebo. All week leading up to Veterans Day, living Veterans have been taking vows all over the village, all over the town. This gazebo, now it's repaired. Now it could be rededicated to Joel Cook. A deceased Veteran.

**Mayor Ramos:** We'll work it.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** You've been telling me this for 4 years.

**Mayor Ramos:** I wanted it fixed, too.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Now it's fixed. So, let's set a date.

**Mayor Ramos:** Patience.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** It takes a lot of patience to live in Walden, I have it, believe me.

**Raymond Ortiz:** I paid my water bill online. I go online, my bill was \$308. I click on another thing. It says an additional fee of \$1.95 will be assessed to the account. I said, okay. The next day I get an email that the water bill was paid in the amount of \$317. What is it, \$9-10 extra coming out? Finance for using a debit card? I clicked on the link, it said a. \$1.95. I'm thinking it was \$308 for what I had to pay \$2 extra, \$310. I got a bill for \$317. I got the email.

**Manager Revella:** I don't know. You would have to bring it in to the office when we're open to check it out.

**Raymond Ortiz:** I got the email on my phone. You had mentioned that we had to mail the payment to the company in Jersey and to me that didn't make any sense. You're going to send it on a stamp, send it to Jersey, and it's coming back. Then the company is supposed to bring back two water bills and the checks. Now it's like its false information. You could just use the drop box that we've been using.

**Manager Revella:** You can.

**Raymond Ortiz:** I didn't know that until that date. Me thinking that I had to do it, I didn't want to be late. Late fee wouldn't make me or break me. What I'm complaining about is a \$1.95 turns out to be an additional \$11. For why? What is the reason?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know. You have to bring the bill in while we're open to check that out on the computer.

**Raymond Ortiz:** The second thing that I can say is that I came back and we did the Ortiz Food Drive. So far, my family, my coworkers that I work the Sing Sing Prison have donated over \$900. This is going to feed a list of 20 families on the 17th. On Monday, we're going to take the food up to the high school. We did most of grocery shopping. We still got odds and ends to pick up, which we're going to do between now and Friday, probably the weekend. Then Monday, we got to go back to BJ's to pick up a pie because each family is going to give a dinner to we're going to have a pie. I was able to email Ms Pearson and Ms Kristie Hall what items were needed. So far so good and knock on wood, everything's going. I look for this food drive because as a Veteran, Thanksgiving was my holiday. I left my home in New York City to join the service. On the 17th of this month, it'll be 46 years since I joined the service. Thanksgiving Day is very important. What had happened with the food drive, we made a request of items that we needed and anything extra was going to be donated to Empanada Nirvana. I spoke to Nelson. I went to Hannaford. I bought him three turkeys. Nelson is going to be open on Thanksgiving Day. He's going to prepare meals for the village. He's going to have a sign up sheet. So if anybody needs a meal, he's going to have cooking go trays. If people sign up. I need a party of two. Party of three. Whatever. And he's going to prepare foods himself. He said he's not going to be home for Thanksgiving. He's going to open up his restaurant to feed the community. To me, that means a lot because a lot of people don't have food. If we can help people, that might make the difference in somebody breaking somebody's car, that might make the difference of somebody grabbing somebody's purse, we don't have those problems here, but sooner or later they're going to get here. That's another thing. That's why I'm really hard on this. We got to help our community and this is what we got to do as a community and take care of one another. If anybody would like to donate any money, you could go to the cash app, \$OrtizDrive, or Venmo, @OrtizDrive. We collected \$920 and we're still going. Mercedes said whatever money left over from the food drive she's going to use that money next year to help out with the book bag drive so we'll be ahead of the game. Looking good. We just got to get there. I want to say thank you. This is

Mercedes third food drive and she really wants to make this a good drive. We have families in this village that need help and this is our way we can help this community. I can't say it anymore. I'm there for you. Anybody want to drop a package or from my home or whatever. I want to say thank you and also to Veterans. I'm a writer myself, as well as other people on this board and I was happy to be out there Sunday. I was stationed at 101st Airborne Division in Fort Campbell, Kentucky. I was the Screaming Eagle. Believe me, I know what I'm talking about. I also spent 18 months in Germany. I've been to some somber events, and this was a happy one. I'm grateful that and the people to put it all together. I thank you and salute you all.

**Cheryl baker:** I just want to thank the board on November 4th, we had our Walden Veteran Banner Ceremony. Very well attended. We had 75 plus individuals there. I can't begin to explain to you how happy so many of them were to see themselves or their family's banners. We had people fly out from Puerto Rico and other states to come in to see their family's photos. That's because you guys approved having the extension of the banners on the streets and that means so very much to them. I also wanted to thank, we had a profound response from our businesses and our community. Almost every single one that I approached said, how can I help? Whether it was providing goods or their services or providing finances so we can do sponsorships or towards the veterans gift bags, which they really, really loved. I just wanted to take a moment to thank those. Hoeffner Farms. They provided very beautiful mums that were raffled off to three Veteran families along with little pumpkins. They absolutely love them. Walden Savings Bank really stepped up to the plate. They not only did sponsorships, but when they knew there might be a risk that we weren't going to have enough to do the T-shirts for the veterans, they contributed even more so we could make sure that they had their shirts. John Mensch from Orange County Transit also contributed a significant amount to help make that goal. Millspaugh Furniture, Pro-Ampac donated all the gift bags to put the goodies. Ozman Law Firm, Sweeter Than Sweet Cupcake made a very beautiful pull apart American flag cake. Nelson from Empanada Nirvana really hit it out of the park. Not only did he do the dying to donate, he also donated seven dozen empanadas which went out the door very, very quickly. I'm very, very thankful for him for doing that. Wallkill Savings Bank, Hannaford donated all the paper goods supplies, as well as the potato chips. Mixture Printing did a wonderful job. They took the time, we got in a lot of photos that were in very, very poor shape and they were able to rebuild those photos so we could put them on the banners for the families and we had some late editions and they stayed late to get those so we could get those banners up. We ended up having 30 put up for the ceremony and we have 5 more in that they now will go up for the spring. I'm hoping that we'll get more in. Acquisitions Marketing for live streaming the event. There were several families that were remote that weren't able to watch it, but they were able to watch it online. With that love and support for veterans, this means so very much. I just want to thank the board and the community for doing that very much. Thank you.

**Brenda Adams:** I just want to say thank you for all of you that was able to attend the Veterans Day Ceremony at Veterans Park. I appreciate it. We will get our thank you notes out, but not yet. We haven't done that. Public safety about the police and the cameras. Things are starting to get a little active in the village. It's like they realize you're short staffed as far as police. What I've noticed is the kids are getting a little and they're not really kids. They're 20 year olds there. They should be doing something much different than they're doing, But they're getting very bold and they're saying things to people that they should not be saying. The motorcycle or whatever the heck the kid is driving. I don't know if it's just a motor car or what it is. 1:00 in the morning around the street. I can't believe that nobody hears them. They went down Valley Avenue. They go up the street, up William down Ulster, then down. I can hear them go down 52. But they seem to be getting very bold. And having gone through in the early 2000s, which Becky will remember, she was the mayor at the time. And John Revella, will remember because his grandparents lived on Valley Avenue, we had to go to the point of having neighborhood watch. Quite honestly, I'm getting too old for that. So, we really need to step up because if it doesn't stop, it'll just keep going. I don't think it's hit your

street yet, but it's hit our corner and it moves. The other thing that I want to mention is I saw Keith Hunter today and he wanted to try to get the word out because he's giving away lots of coats and other warm things. I'm sorry, Trustee Garrison, if you had planned to say anything about that, but he asked to please get the word out. They're giving away food bags. They're giving away warm coats. Said that in the past they haven't had many people. Sometimes people don't come. It's a shame because they've really worked hard to try to help people. Oak Street, right at his insurance company, he's got the big signs. I don't know how anybody misses it, but it's a very nice event that they put together.

**Manager Revella:** It's coats, food and gift cards.

**Brenda Adams:** I think he said there was going to be some entertainment there. The last thing I want to ask you about and I'm not sure, I thought it was NYSEG doing this, but Sue just mentioned about the DPW trimming trees. I'm curious to know, in the past I always thought NYSEG only cut portions of the trees where the wires went through it. When they often left really ugly trees because they cut half of them or put a hole in the middle. Down on Oakland Avenue, was it our DPW or was it NYSEG? They took down two good trees and there's no wires where those two trees are. The first two trees that are taken down today or taken down at this moment, I'll put it, I don't know if it was today or yesterday, but somebody brought it to my attention. Another friend contacted me and asked me about it. I went down because I was curious. There's no wires through those trees. When NYSEG makes a mistake, which I'm going to presume that whoever they have cutting, made a mistake. Do they have to reimburse anybody? They're big old trees and you can see they're not dead. I'm just curious. I know that's something for you to think about. And who would they pay? Would they pay the village? Would they pay the homeowner?

**Manager Revella:** Trees between the sidewalk and the curb are the village's trees.

**Brenda Adams:** Okay.

**Manager Revella:** When somebody cuts a tree without permission, its treble damages. It's a DEC violation.

**Brenda Adams:** Does NYSEG have just sort of carte blanche permission? I could see if it was going to a wire. But the couple of those houses have no wires where the trees are.

**Manager Revella:** NYSEG is doing a village wide pole replacement project. I'm not sure where poles are going, where they're coming out. There's different things are doing to help. They cut some trees horribly. We made them go back and finish cutting them. They're working with us to make sure everything is done right on every street.

**Brenda Adams:** When I was walking down there, I saw a pickup truck that just has a sign in the back that said, NYSEG.

**Manager Revella:** The trees that you're talking about. We had a complaint from a resident about a dangerous tree, they were evaluated and found that they are potentially dangerous and that's why they were removed.

**Brenda Adams:** They're dangerous. Because they don't look.

**Manager Revella:** They didn't have the root base to support the size of the tree and were losing branches.

**Brenda Adams:** All right. Then there's no reimbursement for an elderly tree.

**Manager Revella:** They cut it with permission.

**Trustee Pearson:** Our permission?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Andrew Millspaugh:** My comments tonight relate to the Waterfront Park on Maple Street. Specifically, I came down tonight because the DEC permit that authorizes that work along the shoreline of the Wallkill River expires on December 31st of this year. I heard in the Manager's Report comments of the grant being extended. I just wanted a clarification if it's known today, if that permit application has been applied for for the renewal, I don't know if that's known at this point.

**Manager Revella:** Our engineer applied for the grant extension and was granted. I'm not sure on the results of that permit application.

**Andrew Millspaugh:** The permit expires December 31st of this year. Renewal applications have to be submitted 30 days in advance, which is December 1st, and extending the permit is a pretty ministerial act, filling out the form and getting it submitted. If it's not known if that's been done, I encourage you to find out tomorrow if it's been done and get that submitted so that it doesn't lapse. Extending it is much simpler than having to reapply once it's expired. I listened to the October 3rd meeting last month and was excited with the Manager's Report that construction had started up at the park. I've been tracking the progress and was disappointed. I think it was confirmed tonight that the current contractor is only authorized to do the clearing and grading of the site and potentially sidewalks if that gets put into to the scope. Again, it's clear that that work is not going to get done. The total work's not going to get done this year. Extending that permit is this pretty critical stuff to work into new next year. This part is on the Village website. It's advertised as a park, even though it's not done. And in the 2019 comprehensive plan, this park's highlighted several times as a short term goal for increasing open space enhancing connectivity with the Wallkill River. For quite some time now, this project has been designed, permitted and received \$150,000 grant to assist with the funding. In most aspects, those are the most difficult portions of a project to get locked in. So for all practical purposes, this has been a shovel ready project for quite some time. So I'm encouraged that that work is commencing, but I would appreciate some comments or discussion from the board as to what steps are in place or could be in place to ensure that this gets done in 2024, such as procurement schedules of this contract is only a portion of the work. What can be in place to get this done in 2024 so that the public can start realizing the benefit of this project? Then you can start advancing one of these short term goals of the comprehensive plan.

**Manager Revella:** The engineer, I asked him to confirm that, I asked about the permissions two weeks ago and he responded that the grant was renewed. I didn't ask which, but I know the SAM Grant was renewed because they responded to me directly. I'd asked him again, just now to make sure the DEC one is renewed as well. Just to make sure.

**Andrew Millspaugh:** As of today online, they show as not renewed, so I was encouraged to confirm for sure that they've been applied.

**Manager Revella:** I asked him and three other people at his firm to make sure somebody's got it, now. So, I'll make sure that happens. The contractor issue we had and the board is aware as well, we had a great contractor that are supposed to do the entire job. We had contracts ready. They came to sign and they said they're not going to come do it and just left. We didn't have any other bidders.

That was a huge problem for us and obviously disheartening. We went out to try and talk to local people to see if they would just help us with parts and that's how we got the contract that we did to do this part. We had to push them to get it done because he had other jobs lined up. He squeezed us to get it started at least. So, we at least got some stuff done preliminarily because maybe another contract can do the other part better and faster. I know that our engineer was asking two other contractors to try and get the next part is done. I'm not sure if they said yes yet. He's not here. He is on vacation this week, but I did make an inquiry of him to make sure that he's lined up for the next contract part. The current one, its GT, who's a local contractor who's capable of doing sidewalks, the waterfront part, I'm not sure if he's available or not. I don't know if he asked the engineer or did asked two other contractors that do and are capable to do that kind of work if they can come do that part once he gets out of there, which he should be out of there soon, if he gets that first part done. That's on the agenda right now. It's not a question of money, it was a question of getting the actual contractor to show up and do the work. It's sad and it's been discouraging, unfortunately.

**Andrew Millspaugh:** That's great to hear it's not about money. I know that can be a recurring agenda item or something that the board can have input on similar to the breakdown of procurement of bids to have a little more insight on what the schedule is that it's not just something that's out in the ether that we're all thinking about that's not actually getting done. It's encouraging to see that construction has started and is moving in a forward direction. But if there's anything that the board can do in terms of schedule and benchmarks and getting it done because it seems like this is a very attainable and reach item that's in your comprehensive plan that you can knock off and can have a showcase for the village. Thank you.

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

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

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

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm going to talk about the trees. When I drove by this morning, what is going on? I texted the manager and he said that the power company's taking them down. I Google Earth and there's no power lines next to them. I don't understand why they're being taken down. And number two whether they're going to be replaced.

**Manager Revella:** As a favor to us.

**Trustee Pearson:** Do we have a report on how bad they were?

**Manager Revella:** That they're a hazard to the houses? Yes. We know they're hazard to the houses. We were told that last time we were there. We just didn't have the resources to take them. It costs us probably \$9-10000 per tree to get removed privately.

**Trustee Pearson:** Are you talking from the arborist, we have a report?

**Manager Revella:** When he did Oak Street in general, that they were dangerous? He said that you need to look at those in the future at that time. There's an issue with the root base there. The homeowners were concerned because we've had trees fall there in the past on houses.

**Trustee Pearson:** Will we be replacing those trees. We're not replacing any trees on streets and it's really getting bare on around here. For me, I think if you take down a tree, you're going to plant another tree. I don't know why we don't. I know everybody doesn't want to do because of electrical lines, but the electrical lines on the other side of that street.



**Manager Revella:** We started replacing the trees. We did the boulevard this year. We'll try and do as many as we can.

**Trustee Pearson:** Oak Street is like a barren wasteland. It's nicely built up.

**Manager Revella:** The homeowners want it that way. They were very concerned about the trees falling on their houses.

**Trustee Pearson:** Many of the streets are affected by trees cut down that we don't replant. I wish we would come up with a plan for replanting and maybe be able to do that every year.

**Manager Revella:** I talked to the Rec Coordinator and DPW Super about lower trees, ones that don't get 80 to 100 feet tall. The higher ones are hard to maintain. They're a hazard. We're working on that. There's red maple and cherry that are the two low trees. They don't grow more than 20 feet. 30 feet maybe. Japanese maple, sorry.

**Trustee Pearson:** Leadership day, if anybody would like to do a Volunteer of the Year for business or Volunteer of the year, those applications need to be in by November 23rd. The application is on the website. Community center, I know we talked about parking issue is not going to happen this year?

**Manager Revella:** They marked out the parking for the left side today for 811.

**Trustee Pearson:** Is that going to happen before they close the plants?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** The plantings in the front of that building, that hill is there is something going to be done in the fall to plant that as well?

**Manager Revella:** Spring.

**Trustee Pearson:** Lynn had some great ideas for just low plantings along there. Hopefully will take advantage of that brain of hers that has those plantings there would be wonderful. I got an email and some information today. People are kind of upset with the back of Olley Park with the trail. It's a mess right now. Are we going to do something?

**Manager Revella:** They're not done getting the fill out of there. Once they're done getting the fill out, they'll remediate it.

**Trustee Pearson:** The bus stop, thank you. It looks good. Are we going to be painting that or not?

**Manager Revella:** He has to wait for season because it has treated wood. So, once it seasons, they'll paint it. I was thinking like a maybe a hospital gray or something. Not white.

**Trustee Pearson:** Municipal building floor, any information?

**Manager Revella:** The contractor came out to look at the different floors to see what he can do and how much.

**Trustee Pearson:** Did you get the guy I gave you?

**Manager Revella:** I gave it to Queenan. I think that's the guy that came out.

**Trustee Pearson:** Trustee Batson said about weight limits on streets for the GPS. Did anybody do anything with that? Look into it and talk about it?

**Manager Revella:** I sent it to the Police Chief and all the department heads.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can we look forward more into that? Because it sounds like it was a pretty good idea to do that and be able to be on GPS for trucks.

**Manager Revella:** Yeah.

**Trustee Pearson:** Thank you from me, from the Veterans Memorial Park, PD and all of you for showing up in the park. Thank you, Brenda, for all you do down there, because it is a labor of love or hate. One of the two. It's a lot of work, but thank you. You do so much down there. It was a really nice day. Thank you everybody who could turn out I understand complex of things that happen. I would like to get a report on the police pretty much overtime. I'd like to get a report on the overtime from June. I know we got a report. I'm really looking for transfers from where all the money that was spent. I kind of worked it up.

**Manager Revella:** You have to ask the Treasurer for that report. She has that. Just email her. She's out this week.

**Trustee Pearson:** Because I'm looking at the numbers. It's a \$2.1 million. I'm a rounding up, of course, \$2.1 million, almost \$2.2 million budget. And if I looked at the report that we just got recently, we have already used \$1.7 and that was a September report. How does that?

**Manager Revella:** That doesn't make sense.

**Trustee Pearson:** I know. I'm questioning that report or maybe my numbers. I really need to look at that because we have six more months to go. How would we be funding that if we are already at 1.7? So those are my questions. That's why 480 left in the budget. That doesn't sound right. But I'll go over it with Kelly when she gets back. Let's talk about the Waterfront Park. I don't know what we can do about it, but since it's probably going to be put to bed for the winter. Can we really be diligent in looking for something to start first thing in the spring and beyond that phone and really see who we could get?

**Manager Revella:** He's talking to two contractors that are viable. Hopefully one of them does it.

**Trustee Pearson:** You told me we don't know how much money is left. We don't even know how much is left after we have them.

**Manager Revella:** I don't know exactly how much.

**Trustee Pearson:** Also, the family had asked about maybe making the scope a little smaller instead of doing the whole project. They talked about possibly putting the dock back in the river that belongs there that was bought and built and made for that river instead of being at Olley Park. There are issues that the family didn't bring up tonight. I'm not sure why they didn't, but they really would like that dock back on the river and not maybe now for winter. Their grandfather went up and down the river all the time and that's where he used it for the purpose of that. But they also talked about possibly making the scope of the project smaller if we could do that, which might suffice.

**Manager Revella:** That's what we did, we're doing it in pieces instead.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm just trying to put it out there that we really need to be diligent and get it done.

**Manager Revella:** We have someone that can do everything except the boardwalk part so far that committed. So, I need that part.

**Trustee Pearson:** Then don't do the boardwalk.

**Manager Revella:** Focus of the park is to do that. There's a launch there but to improve the launch is another part.

**Trustee Pearson:** That's the last step anyway is the boardwalk.

**Manager Revella:** Once the boardwalk is done he'll backfill into it.

**Trustee Pearson:** The boardwalk that's going to get ripped out with all the big chunks of ice.

**Manager Revella:** There's boardwalks all over the world that doesn't get ripped out from ice chunks. We'll make it work.

**Trustee Maher:** Thank you, Mr. Ortiz, for letting us know about the Thanksgiving Food Drive. I know there's a few other people doing similar things around the village as well, so it's just so nice to see. And please thank Mercedes for me as well and everyone involved. With the Veterans Day celebration. Again, it was just like everyone said, it was such a wonderful day for the village. Thank you, Becky and Brenda and the entire committee for doing that. It's one of my favorite things to attend every year. Very well done. Cheryl, thank you for Chairing the Veterans Banner project. I know all the work that you put into getting that from application status to following up to chasing down photos, all the behind the scenes work that you did and really securing donations so that no one felt like they couldn't afford a banner. Really great work and you're so thorough and so on point with your follow up. And you really did an incredible job of, again, bringing the community together. I got text messages from people all throughout the weekend of them wearing their t-shirts. Something that I was like, maybe we don't need that. It was very much appreciated and a great idea. I think that with Waterfront Park, if we can make sure that's added to December 5th Agenda, that would be good.

**Manager Revella:** To talk about what?

**Trustee Maher:** I think what's happening next. What are some ideas we can bring, brain pool.

**Manager Revella:** If you guys know any contractors I need that. That's number one. I need a contractor that can help do that part of the job. We have everything else kind of handled except for that.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can you also confirm with us that the engineer did get that put in? I know you said he's on vacation.

**Manager Revella:** The grant renewal is done. We have it for another year. The DEC renewal is the one he was asking about. I said I emailed three other people at his firm tonight while we was talking about it to make sure it's in.

**Trustee Pearson:** You'll confirm?

**Manager Revella:** Yeah, I message them. They're not working right now. I'll let everybody know.

**Trustee Maher:** And then lastly, on December 3rd, since we won't have a meeting before then, that's our annual Hudson Valley Honor Flight Lunch of Honor at Resorts World from 1 to 4. It is free for all Hudson Valley Honor Flight alumni. So if you have been on a flight or you know a family member that's been on a flight, they get to go to the luncheon for free. And then it's \$65 if you want to buy a ticket and go. If you are active duty or previous military. It's \$55. We're also looking for volunteers that day, just any citizens who just might be off on that Sunday, who might be willing to drive a veteran. A lot of times we get alumni that want to go, but they just don't have family members that can afford to go and they don't have a ride to get there. Anyone that is interested in helping out, definitely send me an email. Thank you.

**Trustee Garrison:** I missed the Veterans Ceremony this year. The first time in, like, five years I've missed it, so I'm sad about that. Sounds like it was great. Thank you again for everything that you guys have done there. Hunter Insurance Coat Drive coming up. Annual. I think its next week. I'll get a definite date and I'll make sure the signs are all up.

**Manager Revella:** It's Saturday.

**Trustee Garrison:** If you know anybody needs coats, we have plenty of stuff there. It's always a nice set up. It's a great day, come out even if you don't need a coat or stop in. Say hello. Waterfront Park. I definitely would like to see a scope of work on that. I know you're looking for a contractor. I'll reach out to some people I know.

**Manager Revella:** We have the scope on that one.

**Trustee Garrison:** DPW doing great. Police are trying. Bump into them every day and talk to him when I can. They are overworked. There's a lot of stress there, but they're trying their best to do what they can. If you see them out, just say hello. They're stressing a lot.

**Trustee Batson:** I just want to clarify first, anything we need to prepare for additionally, for our next meeting for the cannabis dispensary discussion. It is part of the code. I feel like that it perhaps carries a little more scope than some of the other code that we have discussed. Encourage the public to come and be a part of that.

**Manager Revella:** It's the Chapter 111, I'll give you a copy of it just to review that really.

**Trustee Batson:** I apologize to miss the Vet Ceremony. Unfortunately, I work in retail and I just can't get all of the Sundays off. I always like to try to go to those things, but unfortunately I had to work. The last thing I'll say is I'll make a public service announcement that I thought that I would never make, never say, but buyer beware. I suppose there's one of the properties that we've discussed contentiously that is mislisted from a real estate perspective as a two a place when it is a one apartment place. I know that we have discussed at length some of the dangers of these mislistings and they cause tremendous problems downstream. People buy them with one plan only to find out that they are not sold properly and we are up for discussing it. But please follow the correct procedures when attempting to get things zoned appropriately and make sure they fit your plan because it's going to save you a tremendous amount of trouble in the long run.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I missed the Veterans Day. It was our church anniversary. We had a big day with that. But I was able to attend Veterans activities kind of in and out in other areas. I want to say, I did drive by and I saw the big turnout, and I just wish I could have been there full force, but I

wasn't. I didn't see the police consolidation report, I don't know if I received it. I don't know who you sent it to.

**Manager Revella:** It was sent to me and the mayor in July of 2022. I don't know who got sent it after that, but everyone has it now. It was a draft. I don't know if there's a different one that came after that, but that's the one we were sent that said, we're going to discuss it at the next town board meeting in August and never happened. There could have been an updated version after that or several that I'm not aware of, but that's the only thing I got.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Thank you. Also I thought there was a committee for the Millspaugh Park. To kind of spearheaded to make sure that things were done.

**Trustee Pearson:** No. Your board approved that plan.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I know. And during that time, I thought it was a committee was supposed to follow and track that and continue to make sure, it could have just fell off. But I'm pretty sure it was in committee.

**Manager Revella:** We talked about volunteers to go down to do cleanup work. Which happened but that was about it.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** No. This was back a while ago when it first started. Okay. So, because we're doing our fellowship in our anniversary at Olley Park, we noticed that the lights are out. The parking lot was dark.

**Manager Revella:** There are no lights in the park.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Is there a plan for that?

**Manager Revella:** Yes, we had a scope on that, but it didn't get approved last budget.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Are we going to circle back.

**Manager Revella:** It'll be on the list of projects. Have to prioritize.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** For the cannabis. I know we talked at length when we voted for it, in opt and so forth. Past minutes will give you some insight on that if you want to look at it. That's all I have.

**Mayor Ramos:** First and foremost, I had the honor and privilege of attending a wonderful event on Dr. Carly's ten year service to the ministry and his church was phenomenal, exhilarating to be amongst, family, friends and parishioners. It was just a good pick me up. Which some of us needed. We do have the coat drive here at the Keith Hunter Insurance. Please come down, support them his wall radio will be down there for music entertainment. It's a really nice event. We do get some people, not a lot, but I'm hoping that we get the word out. Veterans Park. Thank you to the Veterans Committee for putting this on. We're going to continue that and serve the Veterans that have served our country and given the ultimate sacrifice. December 2nd, the senior club. Anybody wants to go. The Drifters will be at the Paramount \$30, bus leaves at the Walden Fire parking lot sharply at 12:00 so we can get there for the show at 1:00 in the afternoon. Should be a good time. There are still tickets to be sold. You can contact Lauren Hayes from the Rec Department and get your tickets from there.

**Executive Session – Attorney Client Session**

Trustee Maher made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss attorney client matters.  
Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried

**Reconvene**

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
November 14, 2023  
Motions & Resolutions**

**Alcohol Waiver**

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve the request for alcohol waiver for the 105th Left Airlift Wing Stewart Air National Guard Base for an event on December 2nd, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of October 3, 2023 & October 30, 2023 Minutes**

Trustee Batson made a motion to approve the October 3, 2023 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. 4 ayes. 2 abstentions (Trustee Garrison & Deputy Mayor Carley) Motion carried.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to approve the October 30, 2023 Special Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Pearson with changes. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Carley). Motion carried.

**Resolution 10-23-24 Exempt Properties**

Resolution 10-23-24. Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to adopt Resolution 10-23-24 Exempt Properties. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**November 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting**

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to cancel the Village Board meeting on November 21st. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. 5 ayes. 1 no (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

**Payment of Audited Bills**

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

**Executive Session – Attorney Client Session**

Trustee Maher made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss attorney client matters. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried

**Reconvene**

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