

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING
April 2, 2024**

Mayor Ramos called the organizational meeting of the Village of Walden Board of Trustees to order at 6:00 pm.

On roll call the following were:

Present:

Mayor	John Ramos
Deputy Mayor	Chris Batson
Trustees	Becky Pearson
	Kristie Hall
	Ralph Garrison Jr
	Liz Kyle
	Bill Taylor

Not Present:

Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager
Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk
Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

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

Reconvene

Trustee Hall made a motion to reconvene. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Appointments of the Mayor

Mayor Ramos appointed Chris Batson as Deputy Mayor.

Appointments of the Board of Trustees

Trustee Taylor made a motion to table the appointment of Village Clerk. Seconded by Trustee Garrison.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Can we just outline what the repercussions of that are?

Attorney Donovan: As a result of tabling it, the position becomes vacant. The law in the State of New York is when there's a vacant position such as this, that the current holder of that position remains in that position until such time as the vacancy is filled. There's a holdover. Question that has come up as to whether there's a specific time limit on that. I don't have an answer for the board tonight, but I will look into that and get back to you, prior to the next meeting. But as a result of tabling, the position is vacant, but the current holder of that position remains in that position.

4 ayes. 1 no. 2 abstentions (Trustee Hall and Trustee Kyle). Motion carried.

Trustee Batson made a motion to reappoint Jean Degon as Village Treasurer. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hall made a motion to appoint Dickover, Donnelly & Donovan PLLC as Village Attorney. Seconded by Trustee Garrison.

Trustee Pearson: Mr. Revella, you asked me and you told me to look in the budget for what the consultants will be getting paid. I looked at that and I only saw one under his. Am I correct?

Manager Revella: He's the only one that has a flat retainer. The other ones charge by the hour. If they don't work, they don't get paid.

Trustee Pearson: All his, including Zoning Board and Planning Board?

Manager Revella: No. That's separate. That's paid by the applicants.

Trustee Pearson: That's what I said, it's not in there. And that's engineering as well.

Manager Revella: That's correct.

Trustee Pearson: It was a 52,000?

Manager Revella: It's water, sewer and general fund.

Manager Revella: About \$65,000 total.

Trustee Pearson: Thank you very much.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hall moved to re-appoint Lanc & Tully as Village Engineer. Seconded by Trustee Kyle.

Trustee Pearson: John. Again, I looked in the budget. There's \$20,000 for Planning and Zoning put in there that we've never had before.

Manager Revella: It's for reimbursement.

Trustee Pearson: Reimbursement of what?

Manager Revella: From the fees that we collect from the Zoning and Planning Board applicants.

Trustee Pearson: I saw \$87,000 and I saw \$7500 and I saw another \$2000.

Manager Revella: Those are what we have holding there. The one for \$87,000. That's VRI, that's the sewer consultant, the one that does the sewer operations.

Trustee Pearson: Okay, so that's not under the engineering.

Manager Revella: No, that's separate engineer.

Trustee Pearson: What is this amount? The total, that we have \$7500 under miscellaneous.

Manager Revella: That's general fund.

Trustee Pearson: Then there was \$2000 for something else.

Manager Revella: Probably regular water and then there's some for sewer as well.

Trustee Pearson: Sewer was VRI.

Manager Revella: Plus a little bit for the regular engineer if we need them. If they don't work. They don't get paid. And there's depending what firm does the work. That's the hourly rate. I think the highest rate they have a \$105 an hour. But I have to check.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Garrison moved to appoint Becky McNally as Ethics Board member with term ending April 1, 2029. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to appoint Feerick Nugent MacCartney & Nugent, PLLC for all Police Matters and Naughten and Torre for all other matters as Special Counsel. Seconded by Trustee Garrison.

Trustee Pearson: John, that's the email you sent to us, that's raising from 225 to 275?

Manager Revella: Right, that's for the special counsel for police matters. The other ones didn't change their rates yet.

Trustee Pearson: Do we not have any others to look at that might be less expensive? Or why do we go with them?

Manager Revella: You're able to solicit and change at any time. You're not bound by this. Until we choose another one, that's what I'm supposed to use for police matters.

Attorney Donovan: You can always change that if you haven't signed a retainer with them.

Trustee Pearson: Yeah, but if we're approving it, you're going to sign a retainer or no, you're not signing retainers, it's by the hour?

Manager Revella: Yes, by the hour.

Trustee Pearson: What do they run, Dave? What's your salary?

Attorney Donovan: What's my hourly rate? \$425. That's what I charge private clients. I seriously charge less to the village because you pay me a retainer. That's a benefit to me, so you get a benefit back. I think I'm \$200 an hour.

Trustee Pearson: I just didn't know what normal rates are.

Attorney Donovan: In Orange County, you're going to run is \$350 to 500.

Trustee Pearson: Okay. Thank you.

6 ayes. 1 no. Motion carried.

Trustee Hall moved to re-appoint Joseph W. Coburn IV as the Special Prosecutor. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hall moved to re-appoint Naughten and Torre as the Conflict Counsel. Seconded by Trustee Garrison.

Trustee Pearson: Money involved in that? I don't know where to look for that in the budget.

Manager Revella: The miscellaneous legal expenses. It's for both of those councils. For Naughten & Torre and Feerick, Nugent & McCartney.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to appoint Rev. Jim Van Houten, Ani Kunga, James O'Connell, Nava Herzog, Gary Swinger, Nicole Homley, Father Thomas Callucci and Willie Carley as the Police Department Chaplains. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Hall made a motion to re-appoint RBT as Auditors. Seconded by Trustee Garrison.

Trustee Pearson: I did look that up and I don't remember the number. Do you remember the number?

Manager Revella: \$24,000 I think is for this year.

Trustee Pearson: We still have a year to catch up. Where does that money come from?

Manager Revella: This current year's budget. We'll encumber it and pay it when it's done.

All ayes. Motion carried.

Designations of the Board of Trustees

Deputy Mayor Batson made the motion to designate the Wallkill Valley Times and Times Herald Record as official newspapers of the Village. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Taylor made a motion to designate Key Bank, Chase Bank, M&T Bank, Webster Bank, T Rowe and Orange Bank & Trust as official depositories for the Village of Walden. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolutions of the Board of Trustees

Resolution 21-23-24, Setting the Dates, Times & Locations of Board Meetings

Deputy Mayor Batson moved to adopt Resolution 21-23-24 setting the dates, times and locations of Board meetings. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Resolution carried.

Resolution 22-23-24, Adopting an Investment Policy for the Village of Walden

Deputy Mayor Batson moved to adopt Resolution 22-23-24, adopting an investment policy for the Village of Walden. Seconded by Trustee Pearson All ayes. Resolution carried.

Resolution 23-23-24 Adopting a Procurement Policy for the Village of Walden

Tabled

Trustee Pearson made a motion to table Resolution 23-23-24 Adopting a Procurement Policy for the Village of Walden. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Appointments of the Village Manager

Appointment of Acting Village Justice – Sean Hoffman

Appointment of Deputy Village Clerk – tabled

Appointment of Registrar of Vital Statistics – tabled

Appointment of Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics – tabled

Appointments to Planning Board – John Thompson with term ending April 1, 2029.

Appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals – Brenda Adams as Chair with term to expire April 1, 2029.

Appointment to Village Historian – Mary Ellen Matise and Mel Wesenberg

Discussion

Manager Revella: Hopefully everybody got those copies. You should have one for DPW, Parks and for the Building Department.

Mayor Ramos: Didn't we also have other fee schedules for other municipalities to review?

Manager Revella: Those are samples from the Building Department to show the differences between them and us.

Trustee Pearson: They are new ones or are they pretty much the same?

Manager Revella: There are some updated from Public Works because he had to go and check for the cost of things to make sure it was reasonable. Those are current fees, like for horns and things.

Deputy Mayor Batson: I certainly don't have these committed to memory, but during our code discussion, we have lots of discussion with the Building Inspector about their desire to change the fee structures. Did they adequately make the changes that they wanted in here?

Manager Revella: Yes. There should have been an email as well that kind of laid out what that was.

Mayor Ramos: John when it comes to "To Be Determined". What sets that? In the Public Works schedule.

Manager Revella: It depends on what time of day they go. If you look down below, it says off hours, this rate. Weekends, this rate and holiday, this rate. Depending on when it happens, depends on the rate.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Just a comment on a job well done from our Building Inspector. That's a well-articulated email that outlines examples that help laymen very clearly understand some of the challenges that go into this.

Trustee Pearson: Ditto.

Deputy Mayor Batson: They're not wildly inconsistent with the other village examples here. There's some higher. There's some lower. There's probably based upon volume that we experienced locally.

Manager Revella: If you're comfortable with the fee schedules and adopt them, we'll put them into effect.

Trustee Pearson: Basketball, flag football, tennis, soccer. Were those raised up at all? Or they the same?

Manager Revella: They didn't change from last year.

Mayor Ramos: Is there anything out of bounds on that?

Manager Revella: No.

Trustee Pearson: He's fine with the summer camp being what it was last year, moneywise? The whole registration and everything's fine with him.

Manager Revella: It worked out pretty well.

Trustee Pearson: Is the beach going to be open this year more than it was last year?

Manager Revella: It depends on how many life guards we get.

Mayor Ramos: I didn't see pickleball.

Manager Revella: Charge \$10 a session.

Trustee Pearson: Basketball, flag football, tennis, soccer, indoor soccer, summer camp, half day, full day and beach. Senior rec and mom and tots. We still do mom and tots?

Manager Revella: We haven't done in a while, but there's fees there in case we do. They do the program here at the library.

Trustee Taylor made a motion to approve Village Fees for 2024-2025. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Batson: The fee schedule will be updated on the website in June?

Manager Revella: Now.

Motion to Adjourn

Trustee Hall motioned to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.