

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
April 16, 2024**

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	Chris Batson
	Trustees	Becky Pearson
		Kristie Hall
		Ralph Garrison Jr
		Liz Kyle
		Bill Taylor

Absent:

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

**Public Hearing – Village Budget 2024-2025**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to open public hearing for Village Budget 2024-2025. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to close public hearing for Village Budget 2024-2025. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Village Manager’s Report**

**Manager Revella:** Since last meeting and in the budget sessions, we discussed potential for 12 hour shifts in the Police department. That'll be something we'll talk about further with the PBA. Meetings with the Building Department regarding property maintenance. They've been working hard on that in different parts of the village, responding to complaints, but also, out patrolling. Went over capital projects and budget updates with the Superintendent of Public Works, the Treasurer, Village Engineer, who is here tonight to talk about some of the capital projects. Went over staffing with a couple of department heads. Agenda updates. Went over the flooring project updates with the contractor. Scout cabin work with Rec Coordinator. Went over claims with the insurance rep that we have right now. Both worker's comp and liability claims. Went over the different permits with the Building Department and the fee schedule that that was passed. Went over some vouchers and conference with some residents about some parking enforcement issues as well. Recreation Department has been continuing with maintenance and getting the parks ready. Registration is open for tennis, flag football and summer camp. Teen center and indoor pickle ball are going well, adult gym. Building Department, the inspector issued 17 new permits and 4 violation notices. Code Enforcement sent out 22 violation notices, 30 letters, 33 follow ups, 4 complaints, 6 inspections, follow up addresses for 4 different places and 4 final inspections. Part time inspector did a certificate of completion, CO report, 10 residential fire inspections for 24 apartments, 4 commercial inspections, 2 follow up letters and helped with Zoning and Planning Board. Clerk has been updating Facebook, website. Going over things like personnel with insurance companies, helped move everything back to the 3rd floor, along with the other people in the office, processed water and sewer penalties and payroll, worked on minutes. Finance office, went over invoices with me,

went over some support calls with Edmunds worked on finalizing the budget, assisted with resident concerns, journal entries and working on retirement and health care for the state. Public Works maintaining vehicles. Sewer plant still pumping sludge. Working on the motors, making sure to clean the rags out of the motors and the impellers. Water department did 12 mark outs, replaced 4 meters, replace 31 end points, did 4 closings and 2 inspections. They were able to put up the veterans banners again for the season. Worked on capital projects, cleaning catch basins and flushing and jetting. Police Department obviously still working through overtime issues with the officers in the academy. Hopefully, that will ease that pain in a couple of months. Park Enforcement Officers out on patrol. There were 10 traffic tickets issued, 26 parking tickets, 7 MVAs and 5 arrests, 257 Blotters. 2nd floor is done. The 1st floor, next part will be tomorrow, we won't be able to walk on the entry way in the 1st floor. You have to enter through the library or through the side police door.

**Trustee Pearson:** You talked about signing the contract for Millspaugh Park. Definitely got signed?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** You were meeting with the Chief? Are we going to talk about that later? How did that go before we talked about budget? I'd like to hear some input.

**Manager Revella:** I had a labor management meeting with the Chief and the PBA. Not really a budget impact item.

**Trustee Pearson:** It can be. You want to go to the 12 hour shifts.

**Manager Revella:** That's in the budget.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'll talk about in the budget. Conference with residents and parking enforcement. What happened there?

**Manager Revella:** They're complaining about parking in the lot and having to move every 3 hours.

**Trustee Pearson:** Is there a resolution that we need to work on or is there something that the board should be doing?

**Manager Revella:** That's what the board wanted. Parking enforcement to make sure the cars are moving and they're doing it. They're just not used to it because we haven't had one for couple of years. Maybe we could look into options with a master meter or something out there. But it's up to you guys.

**Trustee Pearson:** Will we have pickle ball in the summertime?

**Manager Revella:** There are pickle ball courts all year.

**Trustee Pearson:** On the inside.

**Manager Revella:** I don't know. If there's a demand, yes. If there's not, then no.

**Trustee Pearson:** If there's air condition, you might have a lot of people wanting pickle ball in the summer inside. Something to think about.

**Manager Revella:** They are considering it. They're talking to the people that are in it now to see if there's interest.

**Trustee Pearson:** There are a couple of things that are not on the agenda tonight. Are we going to be able to talk about those tonight?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know what you mean.

**Trustee Pearson:** Orange County Transit was going to be on the agenda and also the park request that was supposed to come back to this meeting.

**Manager Revella:** The park request was going to come back if we got the insurance in time. I don't know if they got it in touch with the people to come to this meeting or the next meeting.

**Trustee Taylor:** Just for my own edification. The 257 blotters. What does that entail?

**Manager Revella:** 257 blotters mean there are entries by the Police Officers for activity. It could be, I checked Olley Park after hours and there was nobody down there illegally in the park after hours. That could be one. It could be, call for suspicious person somewhere. It could be a welfare check. It could be a house check. It could be any one of those things. It could be assault. Those are all separate blotters.

**Trustee Taylor:** It's almost like a log in.

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Garrison:** I just want to say thanks to the DPW for the veterans banners. They look great. Hopefully, we'll get more of them up as more people purchase them.

#### **Approval of April 2, 2024 Re-Org and Regular Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the April 2, 2024 Re-Org Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to approve the April 2, 2024 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Public Comment**

**Mary Ellen Matise:** This budget transfer, the rationale for needing the budget transfer was because they had to use more part time staff for the pickle ball program. Does that mean the staff stays there all the while, all day while they have pickle ball in the building in the youth center?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Really, the question is going to be and I don't know which one of these figures is the overtime for the pickle ball. It sounds like we're having a great program and that it's profitable.

**Manager Revella:** There's no overtime for pickle ball. We're reducing overtime from another line to put money into the regular line for pickle ball.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** So, it's not taking away from what we're earning from having pickle ball.

**Manager Revella:** There are no overtime personnel for that. I just want to make sure that was clear.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Because that isn't how I'm reading this. Just that it's over budget, part time recreation staff line is over budget. To go along, I did tell you that people have been asking about having pickle ball during the summer because a lot of the older folks want to play indoors where it's air conditioned. It could continue to be a good program for us.

**Theresa Brown:** Based on the subject you guys were talking about. I live on Northgate Drive in Walden. Last year, there was a bidding and paving done for Northgate. I had made several calls in July and August in regards to DeGroot Paving throwing asphalt into the ditch by my house. Also when the paving was put down, with 90 to 100 degree weather. You shouldn't have 8 feet by 5 feet of ponding on our road. I put calls in, I have pictures, I have videos to show you guys and nobody contacted me back. I had to go to the state and speak to Charlie through the DOT and your village guys, Bobby Lynn came and removed the asphalt from the ditch. But again, nothing was done about the way the pitching was done. There was no extra piping laid down. There was no drainage put down. We have kids now in the winter, getting off the bus and falling in ice. In conjunction to that there have been 2 visits out. The first part of Northgate, there was a drainage that was leaking. We made calls, me and another resident, I don't know how many others that the manhole was not tightened or broken. We were running water for well over a week. Then finally, 2 weeks later, somebody came out, pulled it up, tighten it down, paved it right over the manhole and then had to come out yesterday and the day before to pull it up to have the paving around the manhole. There are several issues on Northgate and not only is it an issue for people walking, driving. You have salters coming out. It's hitting our cars. Then you have our property that's getting saturated where, what happens when you have continual saturation. It's ruining our properties. We've had 2 people move out of that street because of this issue in the last year. Now the houses are on the market or vacant and being on the end right there, I'm getting a lot of abuse on my property. I've had to remove over \$7,000 worth of trees and brush and replant my yard because of this. That's my first agenda today. I went to the chain of command, calling the Village Manager and so on and so forth. I got no return calls.

**Trustee Kyle:** Do you live on the side, on the corner by 208 or by Ivy Hill?

**Theresa Brown:** I'm the 1st house as you go on the right. If you look at Google Maps, they still have 50 to 60 year old pine trees. There are 6 of them that have basically convoluted my house. I have now several repairs. This is all for water because water has come up my property since this paving has been done. Now, I understand we've had Ida in 2001. I respect that, but this is strictly to that paving job. When you look at the drainage by the mailbox, which is halfway down, there's only one drainage there with piping. There was nothing additional put in. I understand there's a budget, but nobody came back to check it. Nobody answered any of my calls. Or Miss Paige, who lives all the way at the end and her kids are in kindergarten, elementary school. I am a retired woman. I am outside constantly, especially with break ins that we've had in our cars overnight. I am vigilant day and night. I see these kids having trouble. I see cars having trouble. I don't need a car coming in my house next.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can I ask you a question about the pooling? Is it on the street or on the side of the street?

**Theresa Brown:** It's not in the middle. If you take yourself from my property, half way from my property and 8 feet out into the road and 5 feet long in front of every residence. I have videos and pictures from 5:00 in the morning, when it's raining all the way to 3:00 in the afternoon and nothing has been dissipated. It has stayed pooling. Winter time. Tragic. I have one other item, when codes come up. I've been a resident of Walden for over 30 years. I've owned my house for over 20. When

I bought the house, of course, you pay for a lawyer, you go through inspections and so on and so forth. I have had 2, 1- 6 by 10 shed and 1 under 120 sq. ft. on my property. When I bought the house, it's checked off. I now have a new Code Enforcement Officer giving me a violation for sheds that were, quote unquote observed being put up. "Observed shed installed on property without approved building permit". Now, number 1, I immediately called, Ms Steady and said, what is this? What do you mean you observed me? I have MS and there is no way I'm putting up sheds. If you see anything, we're taking out old railroad ties that are now damaged from the weather that's underbrush and such and we are putting it in the back until we get somebody to come out and remove it for me. She said no, we're driving around and we observed sheds being that and we don't have it on this document. What they have is a metal shed, which was a fort that was put up in 1974 for the grandchildren and we kept it. But in 1983, the 2 sheds were put on the property by Mr. Colegrove, who was a contractor. No permits were needed. Orange County New York State law says anything under or a 120 sq. ft. needs a permit. I'm being harassed. I went into the office to personally speak to the officer and I said, so how much are these fines that you're going to violate me with? And how much do I need to have to have this shed? I got 3 different answers. 1 was no sheds because we're going around checking all town houses. No sheds are allowed. Number 2, the sheds are new. We don't have it on the map. I said, when I pay for a lawyer and inspection and I have the deed that have the 2 sheds listed, that's a problem for me. And it's been there since I moved in in 2001. Then, I said, how do the residents, because she said there were updated codes. I'm on your website often and I'm part of the community in different silent ways and I don't see any updated code. So if you mail a violation, why don't you mail an update, whether in your newsletter, on your website or place it in the mail, that there's been an updated code? Mr. Revella walked in the office and not even being part of the conversation, even though he respectfully deserves to be. He says we put it in the paper. How many people use the newspaper? Number 1. Number 2. That's a blatant lie. I did a research. There are no codes updated in the newspapers in Orange County. The only thing that's listed is July of 2023, where there were complaints about mattresses with free signs and people doing work on the weekends. Then recently, the eyesore around the bend on 208, which is property that was bought years ago and they're doing work on it. Nothing to do with sheds or updated codes. Your website still has the same codes, so she needs to get off my back. Number 1 and number 2. I don't think it's fair, especially if you're hitting elderly people with this stuff and people on fixed incomes. I find it unprofessional. I'd like to know what would be done about the 2nd one, if you please. Thank you.

### **CDBG Discussion**

**Village Engineer Queenan:** I'll start with the water that's the easy one. Basically 2 projects are estimated. 1 is to restart the well rehab program that we did. We do that every usually every 5-6 years cycle. We will go back through, redevelop your wells and basically clean them. Start that cycle back again. We kind of already have. We just ended up doing well 5. We want to continue that cycle. That's going to be now well 8, proposed for that. We can get your biggest producer going. Then your time is up now for having your water storage tank inspections completed and the tanks cleaned, both interior and exterior. That's what we're looking to do for the water system. Everything else. I don't want to say it, but it seems to be running pretty smoothly for water. I'll get to my long lost friend now sanitary sewer. We are in the midst of utilizing the, what they call the WQIP Grant money, from the DEC. They just recently increased that from 1.25 million to just over 3 million for the village. That money is going to be allocated towards the Tin Brook Pump Station. I'll say decommissioning. We're in the midst of designing a boring to go from the existing pump station underneath 208 down Bradley to eliminate that station for gravity flow. We're right now in the process of doing the soil boring logs and testing to see what kind of profile we have there, what kind of rock we have to go through. That's the 1st component of it. 2nd component would be the improvements that have to be done at the actual plant itself, that they call the head works, the intake, and then the treatment train throughout. That's going to be probably a 2nd phase of it, which will see how much the Tin Brook is going to cost, what's left over from that WQIP Grant and then

we'll most likely be applying to the New York State EFC, Environmental Facilities Corporation, for a loan to cover the rest of the improvements necessary at the plant. Those are the 2 big ticket items on sewer.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can I ask timeframes? Water projects 1st.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Timeframes right now, water projects as soon as it goes in the budget, they can go out to bid. Well rehab usually is very quick. Depends on the companies scheduling. But that can happen and that usually gets done within a couple days once they arrive. The water storage inspections again based on company scheduling bid. But once they get here, that usually again is completed in about a week.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, within the next few months we're thinking.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Yeah, once we put out the bid, we get bidders, if it gets awarded that we can talk to the low bidder and see what their schedules are. I'd like to have that wrapped up prior to the end of fall.

**Trustee Pearson:** I know when the sewer part with DEC, you still have to up the project 1st before it can go to the DEC?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** We have the project, so now we have to basically make it real.

**Trustee Pearson:** Tunneling, was that an issue? You have to be okayed for that through them.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Yes. There's a lot that goes into that. The tunnel will get it to work. It's what you do after that. Now you have a pump station that's kind of, it's serving it's serving purpose. It's slowing flow down. It's actually saving your plant. We're going to essentially break the dam and let it come down the hill. Before we do that work we need to address the plant. We can't address the plant until I know what we're doing at the pump station. We're flip flopping back and forth. That all has to get reviewed and approved by the state and their timeframes. That goes through their environmental facilities, their pollution control people. There's a whole list.

**Trustee Pearson:** We're talking about 3 years from now.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** No, I think you're probably more in the line with fall this year to start certain components of that work and it's going to be over probably a 2 to 3 year period. You're going to get start and stops of various components of that work.

**Trustee Pearson:** That grant money is good for how long?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** The grant money, as soon as we open the box per se, it goes with the projects. Once we get the total project approved, as long as we're not sitting here doing nothing for 10 years, that will stay active.

**Trustee Pearson:** 3 million.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I'm sorry, can you just clarify that none of this can start until the new budget hits?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** The water. The sewer, we have the grant money. We just have to get through the steps to get it allocated and approved.

**Manager Revella:** There was a question when we were talking during the sessions. There's another project that you call the STP Internal Facility Pump Vault - Renovate and Replace. Is that something that could fall under the QIP or EFC?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** I put it as a separate project because it's kind of an emergency right now. Internally to the plant, how the plant disperses sewage. There's an internal pump vault, it's 3 pumps and it takes it to the different components of the plant. Right now we're down to 1 pump that's been cannibalized from the other 3 pumps because they're about 40 years old. And the control system is failing. If that final pump goes, the plant will cease to operate and it will be in emergency status. That component, if it gets rolled into the grant, won't happen immediately. That's why I pulled it out. Put some light on that because that has to get addressed.

**Trustee Pearson:** Which amount was that?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** 200k. That's why I did pull that out. I just don't think we have time to wait. They tried to take the 2 pumps that were broken and make a new 1 and it's too far gone.

**Mayor Ramos:** Water tank, cleaning and resurfacing. Is there any DEC oversight on that? 1 week it's done. We don't have to wait for them to come.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Correct. 1 week they'll come. They send diver down to the tank. He does his inspection. They will actually vacuum out the sediment in the tank at the same time. And then they'll do an exterior inspection and then a power wash.

**Trustee Pearson:** On my paperwork for that last line, it says at the bottom FEMA funding already received. We have the money for that already that, the 200k?

**Manager Revella:** No. Should have the new one that has nothing on the bottom.

**Trustee Pearson:** We have to find 200k to do that. Out of the sewer fund?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Or bond.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** There are 2 more on sewer. We're continuing with the smoke testing and the hammering of the downtown area through the CDBG grant that was awarded in 2023. That is actually out to bid now. County approved it. That'll be the last phase. That that cost is covered 125k. Then we've been doing that work for the prior 2 years. Down on Grant, Hepper, Elm, Sherman, that whole area moving towards Village Hall here and down Scofield. What we found there is there's a lot of I and I, there's a lot of drainage connections, into the sewer system. The last component of sewer is to disconnect those drains from the sewer system and get them into a storm water collection system and out to basically approved outfalls. That will also help. That's also part of the DEC consent order going on. That will help reduce the flows going to the Tin Brook Station. I don't think it'll be enough to get the station so that it's not problematic, but it will help just overall flows the plant.

**Trustee Pearson:** The funding in that bottom now 200k, is not covered and the 2 million 225 is not covered because the 3 million is going to go for the head works.

**Manager Revella:** That's not true. EFC funding.

**Trustee Pearson:** How much is that? I have 5.2 million used but don't know the grant money.

**Manager Revella:** The 2 million to 2.5 million.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** You have a grant for 3 right now. The Tin Brook Station we're estimating is about probably 2.2 million. That's the 1st line. The money left over from the grant would then go be applied toward the 2nd, which is the sewage treatment plant.

**Trustee Pearson:** 3 million.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Correct. And then whatever the balance is left. Say, the pump station gets done for 2 million, you have a million left that will get applied to that and then the remainder has to be a loan from EFC.

**Trustee Pearson:** Thank you.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** We have the I and I work. I think that's also very important. We need to get started on that. That doesn't have to be done, in mass, the whole thing. But I do think we should start to work in some improvements, get the bigger, low hanging fruit off the system, and then continually work at that in the years to come. Then I did, talking with the DPW Superintendent in sewer, they had identified Ivy Hill Pump Station as quite problematic. We did basically put that in here as well.

**Mayor Ramos:** That's water and sewer. What's next?

**Manager Revella:** Water, I think we're okay with funding in both those projects. Sewer, a little more problematic. The 1st two, we have a grant and a loan already. That's covered by the state. Which is available to us. Not a problem. The 3rd one, CDBG grant, covered. Not a problem. The last one, which is probably the priority. The 200k. Not covered. Need to find funding for. Then doing the I and I work on Sherman, Elm area would be the 2nd one we need to start getting funding for. We propose as whatever ban we can afford and sewer fund. We would get to cover that 200k STP plus whatever as much as we can of the other part of it. That's the request. Since the other items are covered by grant already and loan. Ivy Hill Pump Station is not the priority at the moment, but it's on the horizon. Correct?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Correct. That's why I was explaining that the I and I component, that 375k, again, we compare that down to whatever is budgetary acceptable to at least get started on that.

**Manager Revella:** We'll start at the main trunk and work our way back to whatever we can afford every year.

**Trustee Pearson:** We can't use the CDBG for that?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** No. It does not fall under the category. Quite honestly because it's an overall collection system issue. The county is now saying because the village only has one census tract, that all the other census tracts outweigh that one, and therefore it's not a low mod.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes, but now we can do roads again because of ADA.

**Manager Revella:** Sidewalks.



**Trustee Pearson:** Sidewalks. The roads would be us. The sidewalks would be CDBG.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Correct. With the CDBG program now has come out and said is that any project that improves ADA accessibility and mobility is applicable, but not within governmental buildings.

**Manager Revella:** Everybody okay with sewer and water? Where our priorities are?

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** What our priorities are. Yes.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** On the general fund which is your roads. We basically targeted 2 streets for, I'll call it curving sidewalks and paving. The 1st one was Gladstone Avenue. Essentially in its entirety from Scofield to Hillcrest. The total amount estimated for that 689k to go from one end to the other with new sidewalks, curbs, and then milling and filling of the pavement. 2nd road that we took a look at was Pleasant Avenue. From Sam Wright Way to Bergen Avenue. Again, same theory replacing curbs, sidewalks and milling and filling, new pavement section. That estimated cost was 475k for that road. I gave you just a general cost of milling and repaving at a square yard basis. Just for an estimate, a typical 500 foot long street. 25 foot wide. You're looking at somewhere in the range of 42 or 45k, just so you can get a gauge on length. Gladstone Avenue is about 25-2600ft long. You can kind of just see the totality of what it's going to incur.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** You had that math handy?

**Trustee Pearson:** He said, your email was 501,500 and some thousand dollars for sidewalks in that for Gladstone without the streets.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** So what happens is, Manager Revella asked me to take the overall paving out of it, which is the cheapest piece when you do curbs and sidewalks because you're ripping up the pavement to put the curbs in. You got to put pavement back. So you're not getting a 100% reduction on blacktop, essentially. You're just taking out the mill and fill, which is the simplest piece of the equation.

**Trustee Pearson:** Unless we take out all the sidewalks. Don't worry about it. Perfect. Just do the streets. Make the streets wider and be done with it. People walk in the streets anyway. Sorry. I'm being practical.

**Manager Revella:** What was the Gladstone number without the paving?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Without the paving, \$521,500. Pleasant was \$401,500. I gotta be honest, you gotta pave Pleasant Avenue. If you're going to do work there. That road is in horrible shape. Putting in curb and sidewalk is just going to make it worse. Gladstone is not as bad. From my perspective. But again, you could probably do curbs and sidewalk up there and get away with not paving it for like another year, but Pleasant Avenue. I don't think you will.

**Trustee Pearson:** John said we can't do like chip and tar anymore.

**Manager Revella:** It's hard for us to do chip and tar. Lose a lot of gravel in the basins.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** You can do it. You'll get 5 years.

**Trustee Pearson:** Well, 5 years better than 500k.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Your paving is not the cost.

**Trustee Pearson:** Well it's 100k or something if you take that away.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Where tar and chip, probably at 40-50k. It's half. But the cost is the infrastructure. The curb and the sidewalk. That's where your money is. Then there were just a few other projects for Recreation. Which was the Wooster Grove Gym roof replacement. We're still working on a general estimate, but this is based on square footage and the type of roof that it is. Apparently it's got numerous leaks throughout it that have been repaired over time. I think it's probably about 150k to replace that roof.

**Manager Revella:** Complete replacement.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Correct. It's a metal roof now, they would take the old off and put new on.

**Mayor Ramos:** How long has that been alive? That roof?

**Manager Revella:** I think it's 2000 it was put in.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** I think when the building was in 2000. I know it's been patched several times. I guess parks did call a roofer to come up, and they can't seem to locate where the new leak is at this point. So, it must be running down, probably down your rafters and then dropping wherever it sees fit. That was tied into the original project. There was the lobby bathroom remodel. My opinion, I wouldn't do that till you solve the roof leaks, obviously. That was roughly around 70k. Then I know the board was looking at the possible village lighting project, but I have not seen any estimates for that yet.

**Trustee Pearson:** You have a guesstimate?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** For the village lighting?

**Trustee Pearson:** Is that for the all the street lights on the whole square and on Main Street?

**Manager Revella:** We met with a lighting company, but they're trying to get another contractor because the first contractor from New Jersey said they wouldn't do the job.

**Trustee Pearson:** Have you done any in other communities and what they run?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** They run, it all depends on the fixture. You need new wiring. Your poles, each one probably, my guess, 10 or 15,000 a pole to redo it. Probably going to be. And then you could go upwards to 20-25 depending on the fixture that you choose. My opinion again is if you're going to do it, do it in one shot because lighting changes, fixtures change and all sudden you've done 12 and it's been discontinued. You can't get the fixture anymore and then you're stuck.

**Trustee Pearson:** Are there any grants for lighting through like NYSEG or companies like that that give out lighting grants and that kind of stuff that we could go for? Have you done that before?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** There are a few NYSERDA grants. They were they were big about 8 to 10 years ago. I have not seen one recently come out. They pop up.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can it be under another safety something instead of lighting? Can we stretch it underneath of another title?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Yeah, Every program comes out of they have their own set of requirements. What's eligible, what's not. I have not seen one that is specifically targeted.

**Manager Revella:** For example, if we look at the new, we don't have it yet, but Downtown Revitalization may have a streetscape beautification component and that might help. We just don't have that yet from the state.

**Trustee Pearson:** Nothing from the county.

**Manager Revella:** No, but that one from the state should be out, I think in May.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Yes. The CFA.

**Manager Revella:** We'll try and look at that and see if we can fit something in that one.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** I think you're doing the correct path. I think you got to get your information together, get your cost together. These grants drop and then they want applications and plans within 2 weeks of the grant dropping. Those are short term quick hit grants because the state gets 5 million to dole out in a certain amount of time. You need to have all the background information on it and your application is so much easier.

**Trustee Pearson:** Thank you.

**Mayor Ramos:** Do you see anything in the 237 billion dollars that she's going to pass to help villages and state budget?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** The state budget? Yes. They're concentrating now on climate change and housing. A lot of flood resilience, floodplain work, culverts, drainage, that sort of funding is now very big in New York, along with fair housing. They always do very well though on the QIP grant. Always very good for water and sewer. That's always around out there.

**Trustee Pearson:** How often can you go out for them if you haven't used an old one, can you go out for another one?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Yes. If it's a different project. You can't piggyback on the one that you have.

**Manager Revella:** Can't add to. Saying we were doing the sewer plant like we are and you wanted one for a well, you can do that.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Correct.

**Manager Revella:** One more thing, CDBG Projects for the coming year. He's here to talk about those potentials while he's here.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** It's that time of year CDBG program again. A couple tweaks this year, that you may or may not be aware of. There are no longer 3 year applications anymore. They've done away with those. Every application is a 1 year. The maximum is now 175, up from 125, which is moving in the right direction. The rest of the program remains generally the same. Infrastructure,

ADA improvements, etc., based on low to mod income census tracts. They're still using the old census tracts. Because the government hasn't finished the data on the new ones. Unfortunately, there's only one census tract in the village that applies. That's this area right here, right around Village Hall, downtown area. It's very restrictive if you want to do a project in that zone, if you want to do a project outside that zone. Really, the only thing that would apply at this point is sidewalks for ADA mobility. That would be about it. If that is the case, we'd have to basically target a location. Then they want a full report as to why it doesn't meet ADA requirements. You got to prove out the mobility challenges and then have a plan as to how you're going to rectify it. It is pretty straightforward.

**Trustee Pearson:** We don't get that till next year.

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Correct. Your application is due June 21st. The county will get back to you in December of 2024 with awards and then that work gets bid out in the spring of 2025 and has to be finished by the fall of 2025.

**Trustee Pearson:** We could take one of the sets of sidewalks that we're thinking about for this year and go for that grant and apply that money to that, which would offset some of that cost?

**Village Engineer Queenan:** Correct. Which you can't do the work until, but yes, you could 100% do that. The other one that a lot of towns I see are going for are, raised crosswalks, stamped raised crosswalks. That's a big push all of a sudden. Otherwise the program is fairly identical. I think we've exhausted our sewer I and I work at this point.

**Manager Revella:** The board needs to set a public hearing for next meeting to discuss this, if that's okay. May 7th, 6:30 pm or soon thereafter. Mr. Queenan can maybe give some areas to look at. These 2 already that we talked about, but any other ones that might be acceptable that might qualify. That'd be great.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to set public hearing for CDBG Application for May 7th at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Village Budget 2024-2025**

**Trustee Taylor:** John, I asked you and thank you for the Treasurer for getting them together and budget transfers. My questions to you, are what did you learn from last year that you've implemented some corrective action because there were significant numbers of budget transfers in the last year.

**Manager Revella:** Some of the ones last year were year-end, always happen. There'll be another one year end, because when there's a balance we have to fix everything to go to balance. A couple of them were police related due to the staffing, which hopefully the implementation of 12 hour shift will help some of those from happening because it was to cover overtime or part time or whatever it was. So those should stop. Then as we see different things like for example, electric bill, this one we budgeted this, but it really came out to this. We try to adjust those as we go through the budget.

**Trustee Taylor:** I understand that. I'm a simple guy. I break down budgets. They're pretty much the same, whether it's municipal, departmental or in your home. There are contractual obligations, I understand that. Then there are corrective actions that we implement. My question really is what have you done from a corrective action standpoint to mitigate that number of budget transfers that we went through. I understand emerging conditions.

**Manager Revella:** There's not a lot you can do with this budget that way, because it's so broken

down into pieces that they can't anticipate all of those little things from happening. They're going to happen again. Maybe not the number. But they're still going to happen.

**Trustee Taylor:** Have we gotten with department heads and said, hey, they really boiled down sometimes and I don't mean to simplify things, but like I said, I'm a simple guy. There are wants and needs. Have you gotten with the department heads and said, hey, you need to tighten this up if we've got X amount of money in one line that was budgeted. But now we feel as though we can take from that line because we need it somewhere else.

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Taylor:** Then where is the stopgap here? What happened?

**Manager Revella:** We did a couple of those with water and sewer especially because there were some costs that happened, overrun on chemicals. He saw that said hey, listen, we're not spending as much on this, but we are overspending on this because the price doubled. We moved money from that line to that line. That's one of the examples.

**Trustee Taylor:** Go back to my original question. Have you implemented anything that is going to try to mitigate this or are we just going with the flow like we have been?

**Manager Revella:** We moved the lines to mitigate it. If you're going over on this line because of the cost went up, you still have to have polymer. You can't not do the chemicals, otherwise we can't press sludge. But we weren't spending it on electrical repairs or something else. We could reduce that to increase the other side.

**Trustee Taylor:** So, we're really kind of going the same way we've been going. We anticipate a budget, a line item and it could go up or down.

**Manager Revella:** Yes. We try to get pricing as much as we can for the start of the year, because we know about how much we use for a year on each thing like, oil use or gas use or parts.

**Trustee Taylor:** Those are essentials, I get that.

**Manager Revella:** Using those numbers, say, what's our numbers this year for this product, is it different than last year? If it is, we try to get that caught in the budget so there's not a transfer later on. They do that pretty often. All the department heads try.

**Trustee Taylor:** You have that discussion with the department heads on a regular basis prior to budget?

**Manager Revella:** Yes, they look at it prior to budget and throughout the year. Even now they're still looking at stuff this year like, hey listen, this is what's going on with these lines, we got to work on this for whatever reason it was.

**Trustee Taylor:** You have those conversations on a regular basis as we move through the budget year?

**Manager Revella:** Few times a week with some department heads, less frequent with other ones because they have less lines. But yes, often.

**Trustee Taylor:** Do you find that effective doing it that way?

**Manager Revella:** Yeah. They obviously don't like to do it either. They're upset about it. They're like, I had to go over in this line because this happened, we didn't anticipate this disaster or whatever it was. What can we do next year to make sure we're covered? We may implement something else to make sure it doesn't happen the next year so we don't have to worry about that.

**Trustee Taylor:** On our fund balance, I think you told me once none of that has been assigned yet. Is that correct still?

**Manager Revella:** In this budget coming up? That's correct.

**Trustee Taylor:** Do you have any idea what you may assign there?

**Manager Revella:** Zero. Unless the board changes something.

**Trustee Taylor:** You haven't assigned anything so far?

**Manager Revella:** Not for this upcoming budget. Not for the general fund. Water and sewer, I think there was some minor stuff, but not the general fund.

**Trustee Pearson:** I have a concern about the police department. I understand the 12 hour shifts and I understand having to hire 3 new full time officers for that. If we need to do that. But you took a lot of money out of the part time line or foot patrol line that you're calling really part time line. It's not really a foot patrol line, it's really a part time line. I still have a concern, if we do not get those people hired, we're still going to need overtime money, because you're not going to have the full staff that you think you're going to have. I want to know, be assured that you think we have enough money in that budget for what you're planning on doing.

**Manager Revella:** Say you didn't hire someone. You have a salary line that's not going to be paid. That could be used in overtime to cover if that happens. It's there. The money's there.

**Trustee Pearson:** Okay. You were going to check on the videoing. Did you do anything with that?

**Manager Revella:** We have to talk about that. It really depends on whether the board wants to continue with the current method or not. There's ways to do it. I'm just not sure what the board's pleasure is.

**Trustee Pearson:** But we don't have amounts. What would it cost?

**Manager Revella:** There's some that would just cost the product, getting whatever the piece of equipment is. Whatever that is, that's it. There's not an ongoing cost to that. Streaming is free.

**Trustee Pearson:** Maybe other board members will have questions on that, I don't know. With that budget transfer at the end, I have a parks question. We got the part time people. 1 was for pickle ball, 1 was for summer camp. Why are we getting and it's I'm going to go back to the budget because are we budgeting enough for overtime and budgeting enough for pickle ball in this budget for having to pay overtime for these people?

**Manager Revella:** We're not paying overtime for that.

**Trustee Pearson:** What are we paying for then?

**Manager Revella:** Just part time staff. Regular hours.

**Trustee Pearson:** You had pickle ball on there. What is the pickle ball? What were we paying for pickle ball?

**Manager Revella:** A part time staff member.

**Trustee Pearson:** To do what?

**Manager Revella:** To be there for the program.

**Trustee Pearson:** You just have to open the gym and people go in and they can play pickle ball and then they leave.

**Manager Revella:** I don't know, I don't play pickle ball, I don't keep score, I don't regulate who's there and who's not.

**Trustee Pearson:** You play outside, you don't have anybody watching.

**Manager Revella:** We don't charge for that. When its inside, they charge, make sure that the people that are going there are paying. So they have to stay.

**Trustee Pearson:** Are we budgeting enough for that service? And if we add to that service for maybe a summer pickle ball, do we want to do something different in that line is what I'm saying.

**Manager Revella:** No, it's not budgeted for the full year. Not at all. It's only for the season that it is now.

**Trustee Pearson:** But we could have a whole season.

**Manager Revella:** You definitely could. If people will come. Absolutely. And if they come, we would have to budget more money in payroll, but also more money in revenue since we're collecting more.

**Trustee Pearson:** Why are we now paying summer park transfer when it was not 9 months ago that summer park was finished.

**Manager Revella:** What do you mean?

**Trustee Pearson:** In this thing that you sent, it said what it was for was for summer park program help and pickle ball help.

**Manager Revella:** Has nothing to do with right now. Because summer park program was more, we also got more revenue. Now we're going over. We wouldn't have gone over if there wasn't more summer help. We didn't go over during the summer. We're going over now because of pickle ball.

**Trustee Pearson:** We're going over because of pickle ball, not because of summer camp.

**Manager Revella:** Correct.

**Trustee Pearson:** We're not paying someone from summer camp that money now?

**Manager Revella:** No.

**Trustee Pearson:** Thank you.

**Trustee Kyle:** I have a question about the budget transfers. They're done at the end of every fiscal year?

**Manager Revella:** There's always one at the end of the year just for allocations that have to be done to clean the budget to go to zero at the end of the year. It's usually done sometime in June after the year's over every year. There's other ones throughout the year.

**Trustee Kyle:** Just moving numbers around on the budget to zero everything out. It just seems like how is that helping the following year's budget? If everything just looks like it was zeroed out and worked out perfectly?

**Manager Revella:** You won't see that. That's not what's in the budget that you're looking at. When you look at the pages from the prior year.

**Trustee Kyle:** Because it says how much that's those numbers are prior to all of them.

**Manager Revella:** It was actually what was used for that line.

**Trustee Kyle:** I don't really understand the purpose of having to move all the numbers around then.

**Manager Revella:** Say like at the end of the year, you had \$9,700 in revenue on line X, but it was really only budgeted \$9,500. So, we have to budget, that extra 200 to make it correct. Say you spent \$9,200 on the line. It was only \$9,100. You have to move that 100 to correct it. We're not going to zero because we didn't use it. That's not what I meant.

**Trustee Kyle:** Yeah. You like adjust the next year's budget based on how much you spent. It's just all like the budget transfers.

**Manager Revella:** That's the budget transfers at the end of the year to make sure they're balanced.

**Trustee Kyle:** You're updating the numbers based on that current year. Like what you spent as opposed to what they were budgeted for.

**Manager Revella:** Yeah. Say you spent \$900 on light bulbs and you budgeted \$1000. There's no need to do a budget transfer. You're still under budget, but if you spent \$1,100 thousand, you had to move 100 to balance it. You can't be over.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I think the question is, why can't we be over?

**Manager Revella:** You have to have a balanced budget to send to the comptroller for AUD.

**Attorney Donovan:** New York State law requires that your budget be balanced. Sometimes it's little fictional.

**Trustee Pearson:** I do have one other police question. We don't know if this is really even going to happen this 12 hour shift. With everything we're putting in here, we may be way over on the police budget if it doesn't happen.



**Manager Revella:** Correct. Which would end up being part of the fund balance for next year and we'd be able to reduce the tax for next year.

**Trustee Pearson:** Thank you.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** It seems like some of these seem self-inflicted as a result of so many accounts. I go back to Fred's example in our budget sessions where he said, if I just had 3 lines, I wouldn't have to budget transfer anything.

**Manager Revella:** Correct.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** How laborious are they? Do they take a lot of time?

**Manager Revella:** It's a lot to keep track of. Say he was going to buy this tool and coded it for tools, but it should have been out of this tool line and not that tool line. Then we got to do budget transfer because it was wrong.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Budget transfers you do not have to transfer if you are under budget. However because of a controller requirement you must budget transfer if you are over.

**Manager Revella:** Can't spend money you don't have.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** That is the final say is that if you want to spend money that exceeds, you have to budget transfer because of controller requirements and there's no way to get around that. That's fairly definitive then. I don't know, I think in the long term, the board has to decide if all of these accounts are worth it. Previously we decided that. But we either have to, it's pick one or the other. If you want all these accounts, we're going to have to have budget transfers. If we don't want all these accounts, then we lose all sense of accountability, in essence. We then don't have budget transfers. Pick your poison, I guess. My other questions on here is it looks like we reduced salt purchasing by 10 grand. Somewhere in here, we picked up an entirely new account. There's a new education line somewhere in here.

**Manager Revella:** That's the one with the judge. Remember the judge asked for that and took away the \$2,500.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I did not until you reminded me. Then it looks like the biggest bump in the budget comes from a change in estimated revenue. We doubled our projected insurance costs from 40 to 80 grand and there was another \$10,000 bump somewhere else, building, due to the new fee schedule. That was kind of the only changes that I saw in here.

**Mayor Ramos:** The open 12 hour shifts. I see we budgeted salary amounts and perk packages.

**Manager Revella:** Correct.

**Mayor Ramos:** Guesstimate? He asked for 200k for this program, right?

**Manager Revella:** Those are mid-range entries, depending if we get transfers to start right away. Those would be mid-level. We could get people for less, depending on where we get on the list.

**Mayor Ramos:** What's \$74,734?

**Manager Revella:** I think that's step 2 or 3. I think, 56k is the step 1.

**Mayor Ramos:** Obviously with the perk packages and everything else doesn't come out to 200k, does it?

**Manager Revella:** No, it's a 200k difference between the 8 hour shift that we were on before and the 12 hour now. Total is about 200k.

**Mayor Ramos:** Do you have the estimated amount on what's going to cost but the 12 hour shifts from soup to nuts?

**Manager Revella:** Yeah, it's everything that's on here. You have to add those together. The wages, health care. It's 2 million. Then benefits is another, retirement is another 80 around. The police budget is around 3 million. I'm sure it's like 3.1 something or 3.2, this time.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** You're saying that if you just added in the raw numbers of these positions, it would be this. He's saying you have to deduct other numbers, such as part time and other things, to be able to get down.

**Manager Revella:** 75 from overtime, 110 from part time.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** 239.

**Manager Revella:** That's about right.

**Mayor Ramos:** Capital.

**Trustee Pearson:** I don't know what you think about capital. I think we need a new roof. That is my top.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** We had agreed that we most likely are going to have to look at some sort of bond for 550k.

**Manager Revella:** That's what we're looking at.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I'm not completely sure if what we need for the sewer fund also has to be included in that bond.

**Manager Revella:** No. Water and sewer are separate.

**Trustee Pearson:** I think we need a roof for the gym. If you have a program in there that's successful and you have teens and you have kids. That to me is a priority. When you're looking at that, you're talking about 554, we were talking about the ton truck and sander plow, DPW car, asphalt hot box, one ton stainless steel truck. I don't know how to fix that one. I don't know. I want to hear from other people because I have my thoughts.

**Trustee Garrison:** My opinion is, I don't think the DPW needs all of this this year. I don't like to take away from anybody. But you're asking for a new car, a new truck with a sander and a plow, a new asphalt hot box and you want to refurbish a truck that you already have. I just don't think they need all of it this year. I know they're probably going to be upset about that.

**Manager Revella:** Their argument is going to be, how do you maintain what we have if you don't have the equipment to maintain it? So we just have to be careful with that.

**Trustee Garrison:** That's fine. You get one truck with a sander and plow and you don't get to fix the truck you already have. Like you have to pick which one you think is the best option for now.

**Manager Revella:** Prioritize. Gotcha.

**Trustee Garrison:** I understand you need this stuff and this is stuff you want to complete your task at hand, but sometimes you're not going to get everything you want. You have to get the necessary. I know I might ruffle some feathers with that, but I mean, realistically, you're asking for a new car and a new truck and to fix another truck and to get something else. You got to figure out what's the most important and what's not.

**Trustee Pearson:** What about a new car? Why does he need that now? Why can't we do that maybe next year or something? Does he need a new car?

**Manager Revella:** It's to rotate a car out.

**Trustee Pearson:** I know that's what the plan was, but then they figure out in the Building Department how they're going to go out on calls. Dean's not there every day of the week. So, there's a truck that's 2 days of the week that's not being used. Somebody could use that 2 days. They can do shifts and go out. I think that that's something that may not necessarily have to happen either. We're looking at a lot of money. I just think we need to really be conscious of that. If his truck isn't as old now then we don't switch it out this year, use that car, get the dump truck that he's looking for and the necessary part and figure out the Building Department to deal with what they're using there now.

**Trustee Garrison:** If I'm reading this correct, the cost of the new car is the exact same cost of him getting the hot box and refitting the truck that's there. Instead of getting a new car, he can get the new truck and the 2 other things he needs and still save 60k in the budget.

**Trustee Hall:** I do think that we should replace the roof in the gym. It makes money. If you just keep patching it and patching it, you're just wasting the money doing that.

**Trustee Kyle:** They don't even know where the leak this time, so it's not even patchable.

**Trustee Hall:** You can't do the lobby area or the bathrooms until you get the roof done, because that's just a waste.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Just to play devil's advocate to all that. I don't disagree, but if we go with the roof, it just eliminates the roads. Just done. Because you can't work in the roof plus the roads and be under 550. You will exceed it.

**Trustee Hall:** Both of the roads?

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Either one. The cheapest road is 475. 475 plus 150 is more than 550. If you did everything, I agree absolutely with Trustee Garrison on the math that comes to the general projects for the DPW. But if you eliminate the roads and you did everything else, it's 460. Well under the 550. I'm assuming that a lower bond would be preferable or is it not?

**Manager Revella:** No. It's fine. If that's what the board wants to do.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** If you take the everything, which I don't think we're going to take

everything. I think we're going to take everything minus the road. Eliminate the roads and then add up from the 150 down, you get 460. Take away the 60 that Ralph said.

**Trustee Hall:** Right, but if Pleasant is as bad as he says it is, which it is pretty bad.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Yeah. If you choose Pleasant, you just can't have a new route. Unless, of course, we gamble that John's sealing of the roof.

**Manager Revella:** Or get the grant. This is something that we can consider if we get a CDBG grant for 175. We can play that into Pleasant.

**Trustee Pearson:** That's not until next year.

**Manager Revella:** This is all not going to happen this year. The bond doesn't come in until the end of June the bidding is going to be in the fall. These are going to be spring/summer projects anyway. If you cut that pleasant to 300, you can afford some things below. Think about it.

**Trustee Pearson:** Because you're thinking 175 for the CDBG.

**Manager Revella:** If we get 175 from CDBG and work that into it, maybe we can get that to happen and work some of the other projects in at the same time.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Hypothetically, we gamble on that if we don't get the CDBG, no harm, no foul. We still have a bond for 550 and we consider other things on here. Because some of them may have to happen later on.

**Manager Revella:** Correct. If that's the pleasure of the board. That could work.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** The value of the bond is 500 to 550. The value of the grant that you mentioned is?

**Manager Revella:** 175k.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Hypothetically, our spend would be closer to 725, assuming that we wanted to. I bonded at 550 rather than 500. We discussed upwards of 550 bond. But let's be physically responsible hypothetically say 550. So that would be 675, which then puts Pleasant Avenue and the park, well within striking distance, because that would be 625.

**Trustee Pearson:** Let me ask about the trucks in DPW. I know when he proposed that, I asked him how many trucks he had. He said a lot. I don't know what that means to me.

**Manager Revella:** I really think that you should consider retrofitting the one for stainless steel so we don't lose the truck. It will buy us a lot of years with it and the hot box, so we don't waste asphalt. Those are priorities I think and then we can work on the other 2. It'd be nice to get everything.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Hypothetically, 300k for Pleasant Ave, 150 for the roof and then the asphalt hot box seems like a potential. 40 plus 20 is 60. I think that puts it at 510. Which is reasonable for our bond since we were shooting for somewhere between 500 and 550.

**Manager Revella:** If we don't get the grant for Pleasant, what would be your next priority?

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Bathroom, truck with stainless steel.

**Manager Revella:** Just to make sure, because I can put that in there as a backup.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I don't know, it's of course up to the group.

**Trustee Pearson:** But you're really going for the grants anyway. You really think most likely you may get it. Let's say 80% chance you're going to get it.

**Manager Revella:** I'm hoping. We can put a stipulation there's like hey if by chance we didn't get the grant then X and Y.

**Trustee Pearson:** Then why can't we come back to it later?

**Manager Revella:** Because you have to put it in the bond upfront.

**Trustee Pearson:** If we don't get this, we're going to do that. We have to put that in the bond?

**Manager Revella:** Correct. The projects that are potentially paid from the bond have to be in the bond.

**Trustee Garrison:** What we're saying is if we don't get the grant and we can't do Pleasant Ave, we do the bathrooms.

**Trustee Pearson:** We can still do Pleasant Ave and just not do anything else.

**Manager Revella:** It's possible. We can talk about that. We can address that later. But I just want to make sure we have those backups in the bond when we do that bond resolution.

**Trustee Pearson:** Because then you would just find another way to do the roof or patch the roof or something. Then you don't get anything else. You're either getting more or less.

**Trustee Taylor:** Didn't we discuss a coating or something?

**Manager Revella:** Yeah, we were trying to see if that would work. The engineer doesn't think so.

**Mayor Ramos:** Just gotta find the leak. That's all. Let's just get this clear. Plan A, bond for 510, 300 for Pleasant Avenue, with the caveat of the 175 CDBG grant. 150 for the roof at Wooster, which totals to 450. 40 for the asphalt hot box and 20 for the retrofitting of the one ton truck with stainless steel body. Which brings it up to 510. Are we all good to that? Plan B is if we don't get the 175 CDBG grant, we go with the bathroom and the truck. Correct?

**Manager Revella:** As a potential backup. We can address it at the time, but yes, as a backup. Then the board can discuss it whether they want to do that or something else.

**Trustee Pearson:** If you don't get the grant, you could do the whole rest of it. If you don't get that grant, which I don't want to put it out there, that then maybe we won't try hard to get the grant and get the rest of the stuff. I think I'd rather have the street done. Because the other amount would be if you added up the bottom of that, you would be at 460.

**Manager Revella:** Got it.

**Mayor Ramos:** Everyone in agreement with that?

**All:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes. But I really want the road.

**Manager Revella:** I agree. I hope.

**Mayor Ramos:** Are we all ready to approve the village budget?

**Trustee Pearson:** John, you want to let people know what it is?

**Manager Revella:** We're at the tax cap. We did not pierce the tax cap. It ends up being for a house valued at 150k, it's \$39.86. Most houses probably here are assessed value at least 300k. It's about an \$80 annual increase.

**Trustee Pearson:** Nothing with the fund balance?

**Manager Revella:** No use of fund balance and not piercing the tax cap. Not for the general fund. For water and sewer, we are using a little bit of fund balance so we don't have increase rates. Before you vote, we didn't decide on how to fund the water and sewer. For water, you can use the fund balance to fund water, which we should.

**Trustee Pearson:** What do we have in there? Extra.

**Manager Revella:** There was like 500k. Add about 80k to do that. Is that okay for water?

**All:** Yes.

**Manager Revella:** Sewer, you're probably gonna have to separate bond to do the items at the plant, because he said it's not worth waiting for that grant. You should probably do 275k so we can do some work on Elm Street to get started on that I and I work. 200 for the sewer plant and 75 to start working on I and I. He says the area Sherman, Hepper, John, that project.

**Trustee Pearson:** When they do I and I work. Then what happens? Do they actually do the work or is it just scoping it out?

**Manager Revella:** That's already done. We got the grant for the scoping thing. Now we actually have to separate the pipes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Do homeowners have to pay for that or the village pays for that?

**Manager Revella:** Separating the pipes? It's our pipes, our drainpipes going into our sewer pipes. They never separated it in the 30s and 40s.

**Trustee Pearson:** That would be a bond for 275.

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Let's talk about paying that bond back. You said to raise the sewer rates?

**Manager Revella:** Not yet. We'll have to address it when we finish the 5 million project to see

where we are. Will have to look at that. When we start, not when we finish. We'll see what we get. It should be a 0% interest rate on that EFC loan. If it is, it's a lot easier to pallet. We may not have to do much, but once we get to that point, we'll definitely need to look at it.

**Trustee Pearson:** About the police again. Sorry. If the police, if that falls through, you just said we're going to have extra money.

**Manager Revella:** Yes, we over budget and by about 200 and something thousand.

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve Village Manager's Budget for 2024 2025. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Mayor Ramos:** Good job, Ms Degon. John, good job.

### **Village Code Updates**

**Attorney Donovan:** If the board is okay with those changes, you could schedule public hearing. If you're not okay with them, you could let me know and if you're not prepared to act because you've been preoccupied with other things, there's no time frame on any of these things. Whatever the board's pleasure is.

**Trustee Pearson:** On the first one about, called special meetings for the village. You took out on the back of the first page, the whole thing in blue, "special meetings, maybe called by the mayor or any two trustees" I'm not so sure I want to leave out that one hour before meeting. Why would we be taking that out of there? What if it was really something that we needed to do quickly and it's not in there? I really would like to see that one hour left in there.

**Manager Revella:** Right now, there's no limit under the change.

**Attorney Donovan:** The language is in there for special meetings, I plagiarize from NYCOM. That's their suggested language for calling a special meeting. You could call a special meeting if you needed to within 10 minutes. Whatever time period is necessary if there's truly an emergency.

**Trustee Pearson:** What constitutes an emergency?

**Attorney Donovan:** Difficult to anticipate what that would be. Let's assume that there was another, I guess it was another Covid like thing where there was going to be a shutdown and there needed to be some emergency action taken by the village. And the directive came from the governor to do X, Y, and Z, and you put together a meeting within 15 minutes. I don't know.

**Trustee Pearson:** Because when we go down to like 5-3 notice to the village board, notice of any special meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be given to the Board Members by the Village Clerk or the Village Manager, by telephone, in person, by email or written instrument delivered to hand at least 24 hours in advance unless an emergency. I still would like to still see an hour before if needed. I get that it says emergency, but we don't have anything that says what an emergency is. I'd rather keep something in there that we can do something within an hour's notice and not leave it at 24 hours.

**Attorney Donovan:** That's certainly up to the board. You can do that. That's not something I'd recommend. I think you want to give yourself some flexibility, but that's just my advice to the board.

**Trustee Pearson:** You're saying we can just say in an hour we're going to have a meeting, but it has

to be an emergency situation?

**Manager Revella:** Correct.

**Trustee Pearson:** Again, what makes it an emergency?

**Manager Revella:** That would be the circumstance, who knows. It could be there was a house fire and the building needs to be demolished immediately because it's a threat to the health and safety. That would be something that would be an emergency. The board has to take action.

**Trustee Pearson:** The only time we can meet under 24 hours is if it is an emergency.

**Trustee Kyle:** I feel like that would be like the emergency. It can't wait 24 hours to be dealt with.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'd rather have time in there in case we needed something.

**Attorney Donovan:** I have to say I would be disappointed if you didn't question.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm sorry. I don't mean to.

**Attorney Donovan:** I appreciate the fact that you've taken to read it.

**Trustee Pearson:** Maybe I'm the only one who thinks that.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I don't disagree with Becky, but then again, if it's consistent with NYCOM, I would probably just stay with consistency. Your call outs is excellent though, but I would just keep it with the broader piece in my opinion.

**Mayor Ramos:** I agree with you.

**Trustee Kyle:** I think the emergency circumstances would be something that couldn't wait the 24 hours to be dealt with. I feel like that's how you would consider it an emergency or not. Like if it can't wait 24 hours, then it's an emergency. And if it can, then it's not.

**Trustee Pearson:** It's fine. I just want to throw it out there.

**Attorney Donovan:** I put this in final form. You schedule for public hearing, whatever meeting you want to do it and then remember, you get public comment. You can act on it or not. You're not on any time frame here. And if you get public comment or if you have second thoughts and you say, you know what, I want at least an hour. In all seriousness, you agree with Becky. You can modify it. Whatever the board's pleasure, if you wanted to do a motion to schedule for public hearings, then I would assign introductory law numbers at that time. It's up to you if you have any other comments, suggestions, changes. We can do that now or you could do it later.

**Trustee Pearson:** I do have another question. The next one is and I talked about this before, and I know I talked about the parking enforcement guy and I know you put Police Department down there, but it still doesn't list parking enforcement somewhere. Down on letter F, back page.

**Attorney Donovan:** Just clarify, what would you like to add to that?

**Trustee Pearson:** I just think that we don't have, I get you could change it to, instead of Chief of Police to Police Department. And you go for chapters 94, 167, 181 noise. But it doesn't say



anything about parking enforcement anywhere. Up above that, it talks about the Building Inspector, Fire Inspector and their duties and who they do and what they do. Then you have Superintendent Public Works and then you have water and sewer and manager. But underneath that police, it doesn't say anything about parking enforcement. You get over to the next page 9.54, it talks about appearance tickets, but it doesn't talk about the person giving those appearance tickets. I would probably like to put some type of parking enforcement somewhere.

**Attorney Donovan:** You want to put parking enforcement in F?

**Trustee Pearson:** I would say somewhere there. Yes.

**Manager Revella:** Or G?

**Trustee Pearson:** No, I would probably put it underneath the Police Department.

**Manager Revella:** They are under the Police Department now.

**Trustee Pearson:** There are other things are listed in there. Oh, we'd have to make a new law, though.

**Attorney Donovan:** Understand what I only, in connection with an issue raised by former Deputy Mayor Carly, I put in the definition of appearance ticket. Everything else is already in your code. We changed Chief of Police to Police Department. Based upon our last discussion. I think the intent of the code is to set forth what village official is authorized to issue what appearance ticket. Which is fine.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes, but he is an important one because he is one that gives them out. That to me is the important part and he's not even listed. The parking enforcement.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Would it be acceptable, Becky, under F to make a comma?

**Trustee Pearson:** That would be fine under F.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Maybe a parentheses that says something along the lines of parking enforcement officer only. I just imagine a comma after the word access roads, some sort of parking enforcement after that.

**Attorney Donovan:** With the code section called out.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Right. But then specifically though, you want something in parentheses or something that indicates that because I'm assuming by default a police officer could write a ticket.

**Manager Revella:** Anyone in the Police Department.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** But you want something specifically called out like parking enforcement on there. You want to see those words?

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes. If we're paying for one, I want to put it in there. Yes. You make another letter, G for parking enforcement and I don't know how you want to do it, but I'll leave it up to you.

**Trustee Taylor:** I think it'd be easier just to add it as a G.

**Trustee Kyle:** Yeah.

**Attorney Donovan:** I would, I think just as Trustee Batson suggested, after access roads comma parking enforcement and then reference to code section parking.

**Trustee Pearson:** Perfect.

**Trustee Taylor:** That works.

**Trustee Pearson:** Perfect. Thank you. That's all I have.

Trustee Garrison made a motion to set public hearing for local laws as discussed on May 7, 2024 at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Kyle. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Trustee Hall:** I had a question. I don't know if it's now or if it's later. I had asked for, residency to be added in to the agenda and I was told it was during code updates. That's what I was told.

**Mayor Ramos:** You can when we get to.

**Trustee Pearson:** This was code updates.

**Trustee Taylor:** C was code updates.

**Mayor Ramos:** I know, but we did get to 63-1, yet?

**Manager Revella:** Well, we haven't had Dave do that yet.

**Mayor Ramos:** Right. He hasn't completed that section yet.

**Trustee Hall:** Well, it's on here for C, so can we discuss it?

**Mayor Ramos:** We can discuss it.

**Trustee Hall:** Residency, 63-1 A and B. In here it states that the village provides by this section that any person shall be eligible for appointed to be an officer of the village, provided such person is citizen of the United States, at least 18 years of age, and a resident of Town of Montgomery. I'd like to expand that instead of Town of Montgomery. Change it to a radius of about 30 miles, if that's a possibility.

**Attorney Donovan:** The state law provides that you can expand it to the county.

**Trustee Hall:** With Sullivan and Ulster being so close, Wallkill is Ulster.

**Attorney Donovan:** Interestingly enough, I don't think without authority from the New York State Legislature, you could expand outside of Orange County. Crazy as it sounds.

**Trustee Hall:** But you can do Orange County, though?

**Attorney Donovan:** You can do for Orange County. You need a local law to do that. I know it doesn't make a lot of sense to include Deer Park and not Shawangunk. I don't write the laws.

**Trustee Kyle:** I would be okay with that. I feel like it helps open up the pool of potential candidates

for positions in general.

**Mayor Ramos:** We would have to have a public hearing, correct?

**Attorney Donovan:** Typically something like this I would ask for direction from the board to prepare that introductory local law that I would provide it to the board and the board would decide if they were happy with it, just like we did with the last 3. And then you would schedule public hearing.

**Manager Revella:** Which code?

**Trustee Hall:** 63-1 A and B.

**Trustee Garrison:** Just to be correct, you're looking to expand to Orange County instead of just the Town of Montgomery.

**Trustee Hall:** Correct to Orange County.

**Manager Revella:** All positions.

**Trustee Hall:** For all positions.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** There are 2 sections of that, if I remember correctly. The second section of that excludes the Chief and the Manager, it excludes us.

**Trustee Hall:** That should stay. I'm sorry, I should have said that.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I think it just is the Clerk and the Treasurer.

**Trustee Hall:** The Clerk is the Treasurer in A.

**Attorney Donovan:** Because there are special rules for Justice of the Peace as well. Deputy Mayor Batson is correct, it would be just the Clerk and Treasurer.

**Manager Revella:** It's just A you're talking about.

**Trustee Hall:** Yes.

**Mayor Ramos:** It's the board's direction to direct the attorney to, you'll be addressing Local Law 1 of 2020 or just specifically section?

**Attorney Donovan:** It would be a modification to your existing code by local law to expand the geographic area for the Clerk and Treasurer to include Orange County.

**Trustee Pearson:** This was talked about a few years ago when you guys changed or didn't change it, but there was a discussion with the Chief and the Manager living in the village and who wouldn't live. I think Lynn was on the board at the time. I wasn't here, but they had that discussion a while ago, I don't remember why. John, do you remember why you guys didn't do it?

**Mayor Ramos:** The Treasurer at the time lived in the Town of Montgomery, not in the village. So they expanded the residence requirement to the Town of Montgomery.

**Trustee Pearson:** When I was Mayor, we had the Treasurer lived in the village, she moved out of the village. Every year the village board just made a resolution that she could live in the Town of Montgomery. That's another option. I don't disagree, because I think the pool of people that sometimes we need to look at, may be a little bit. We lucked out with Jean. But sometimes we may not. It's things like that that we may have to look further at some point or the board may down the road. Not today, but we always try to plan for the future. I don't think it's a bad thing. Again, I don't know why it was turned down. John, again, why was it turned down last time?

**Mayor Ramos:** We did it.

**Trustee Pearson:** You didn't go to the county. You just went to town. It wasn't the county.

**Mayor Ramos:** That's what they asked for. The town.

**Trustee Pearson:** All right. Thank you.

**Attorney Donovan:** Is that the consensus of the board?

**All:** Yes.

**Mayor Ramos:** So, we'll have that May 7th?

**Attorney Donovan:** Absolutely.

**Mayor Ramos:** Then we'll schedule a public hearing for that afterwards.

### **Discuss Traffic Surveys**

**Manager Revella:** Yes, a couple of board members asked to put us on the agenda to discuss how we can look at streets to see if there's a need for traffic improvements such as stop signs, speed humps, things like that.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I think we're just looking to understand. I think it seems clear that we are not the decision makers for where a stop sign goes. Is that the village is or is not?

**Manager Revella:** It is. But you can't arbitrarily put a stop sign. That's the problem.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** That's fair. So, what is the process? What is our diligence there?

**Attorney Donovan:** Local law. If you look in the code, it calls out every stop sign in the village. If you wanted to put one at the corner of every X Street and Y Street, you need a public hearing to do that.

**Manager Revella:** Our quandary is if you going to do that for one intersection, what's the justification for not doing it all intersections? We have to be careful with that.

**Trustee Kyle:** It's that someone to ask us though.

**Manager Revella:** That's not enough justification. Say it's because of maybe there's accidents. Maybe pedestrian traffic could be any of those things.

**Attorney Donovan:** Sometimes you enlist the PD or the Chief to say, hey, listen, is this an area of high traffic concern? And if you do have resident complaints, that's something to take into

consideration.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** You're right. I don't want to set a precedent where everybody can just come in here and press us to set a stop sign. That's not it. But there's not also a clearly defined process. There is not a plan. We need to develop a plan. There's not a step A, step B, step C. We need to look at several things. One of the things a traffic study, if we could come across this justification cost free, that would be preferable. You said, any sort of police.

**Manager Revella:** Some of the things we did in the past were a traffic count, speed count in areas. We've done that. We have a speed counter. We may have to check on it. See how that is. Then history of accidents, near misses. Those pedestrian issues have been a factor in the past for putting stop signs or speed humps.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** What about things like, so residency call outs was one. What about changes in residency? It's now younger children. Any of those types of things a factor?

**Manager Revella:** Depends on pedestrian traffic. That's one of the things. I would hope the board reconsider.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Who can we task to start this process? It requires physical work that we're not capable of.

**Manager Revella:** If there's a street you want to consider because there have been complaints or issues, you'd say, hey, listen, what's the traffic count on the street? What's the speed looking like on the street in this location? We did it for Oakland Avenue. The board thought they were justified based on that information, to put a speed hump on Oakland Avenue. And they did. It helped a little. I'm not going to say it's perfect, but it's something.

**Trustee Pearson:** We also went out to see Liberty Street parking. That was something the board did.

**Manager Revella:** The Town Hall.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** If I go back and pull the emails from citizens and I provide that information, can I task each one of us with at least driving on this road, validating ourselves? I know many of us went down these streets on our own. I don't know if we want to have a full on meeting and look at the street again. Valley Ave.

**Trustee Garrison:** We have a resident from Valley Ave. On the corner on Lincoln. Where all those kids play.

**Brenda Adams:** It would hurt, but I can tell you the stop signs in front of my house, very few people stop.

**Mayor Ramos:** Agreed.

**Trustee Pearson:** Brenda, do you have a crosswalk?

**Brenda Adams:** No.

**Trustee Pearson:** Maybe if we striped a crosswalk by those stop signs because I drove down that way the other day and I almost missed that one stop sign. James Street. Had Brenda in the car. She's

said, gotta stop. I said, oh, I didn't even see it.

**Trustee Garrison:** There is striping there for like a no parking zone.

**Trustee Pearson:** I mean like the crosswalk striping that's going to be yellow and it's going to be bright and like it's crosswalk. Maybe if we did something like that, people are going to be more noticeable of that part of the street. I almost missed it. Cars were parked all along that street on that side and I almost didn't see it. Just maybe striping could maybe possibly be a start.

**Manager Revella:** We put stop bars at the stop signs. Bright white stop bars are stop signs now. We have to repaint.

**Trustee Kyle:** Do we have one of those machines that tells you your speed?

**Manager Revella:** The one that shows your speed? We don't have one of those. They're expensive. We had one. It was stolen. It was fixed mounted on South Montgomery Street. Someone stole it in the middle of the night off the pole.

**Trustee Pearson:** We got that from a grant. Maybe they could get some more grants for something like that.

**Trustee Garrison:** Can we reach out to one of the other surrounding agencies? Orange County Sheriff, Town of Montgomery.

**Manager Revella:** We borrowed Montgomery's for a while for a couple areas, but there's not an area to put that kind of trailer on Valley Avenue.

**Mayor Ramos:** Maybe the funds that we get from the zombie poles we can pay for one.

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm so happy about zombie poles. Let's get that going. I'll go around and get you some pole numbers.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** To make this actionable, do we want to meet with people on that street like we did on the other street? Or should we request whatever it takes to start a traffic counter?

**Manager Revella:** I met with the people on the street. We installed the children at play sign in the location. They were happy with that and wanted to see if that would help. And I'm okay with that. I can also ask the police to do the speed count traffic count in that area as well to see if it's justified. Before we go any further.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Perfect. They did not let me know that. That's fine. Then plan A would be just simply the next step potentially is the data from the traffic count.

**Mayor Ramos:** We can imprint the word stop at stop signs. There stop lines on the pavement. You know in the fluorescent colors that they're supposed to be in.

**Manager Revella:** They're supposed to use retro reflective, high intensity paint, which they do. He's coming around now.

**Mayor Ramos:** Maybe we should buy a striper to paint.

**Manager Revella:** Not declining on that. We could talk about that. I'm sure Fred will be happy to

get a nice striper.

**Appointment of Village Clerk**

**Trustee Hall:** I think it's been discussed and discussed and discussed.

Trustee Hall made a motion to reappoint Marisa Kraus as Village Clerk. Seconded by Trustee Taylor.

**Manager Revella:** You guys discussed certain duties. Didn't know if you wanted to talk about that.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I think we do need to talk about that.

**Mayor Ramos:** Did you want to hold off on that or discuss it in exec?

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I think we're fine discussing it here.

**Attorney Donovan:** Depends, if you're going to discuss the duties of the clerk as opposed to the Clerk performance. There are no issues with you discussing duties in public.

**Trustee Taylor:** I'm fine with the appointment. I think we're in a position where it's a good business decision and I'm fine with that appointment.

**Trustee Garrison:** We are talking about the duties.

**Trustee Taylor:** I'll come back to that.

**Trustee Kyle:** We were just discussing us having some sort of way to be able to evaluate, especially if a new trustee is coming in at the same time they're having to vote on a person staying in a specific position. But in order for there to be any formal or informal sort of evaluation, you would need to have like the specific job responsibilities and then stick to them, because you can't judge someone based on a performance of what they're not hired to do.

**Trustee Garrison:** I think what the board discussed and if I could speak for, if anybody has anything to interject, is if the reappointment goes through, the duties of the Clerk would be the specified duties in the job description with no additional duties. Therefore, everybody in the office stays strict to whatever the job description is in that appointed position on paper. For example, if somebody did this duty, but it's not in their assigned job description, there will be no more of that.

**Manager Revella:** There was an assigned job duty in the Clerk's position previously, which was handling water and sewer billing and sometimes is payroll. Did you want to change that?

**Trustee Garrison:** If that is not the descriptive duty in the initial job of the clerk, then whoever the descriptive duty is, that's who it will go back to that person. If the Deputy Clerk, handles payroll, the Deputy Clerk will be handling payroll. If the Clerk handles FOIL requests, the Clerk will handle FOIL requests. If the Deputy Treasurer handles water and sewer, then that job will go back to the initial assigned person.

**Trustee Kyle:** I don't know. Not that I completely disagree, but I feel like if they have a very good rhythm of how things are done in the office and they're not necessarily done by the specific person, maybe it's worth looking at the job responsibilities and altering them instead of altering what people do on a day to day basis.

**Trustee Garrison:** I think what ends up happening is people take on other responsibilities and then they don't have enough time to get to their actual responsibilities.

**Trustee Hall:** Financial should stay with the financial.

**Trustee Garrison:** If you're a sales person at a job and you're strictly sales, you shouldn't be doing updating of customers like that. I think what happens, is if you intermingle them, some of your actual job duties get pushed to the wayside to accomplish these other duties.

**Trustee Kyle:** But there are definitely crossover areas that would fall into.

**Trustee Garrison:** But to stick to the initial responsibilities is I think, where it needs to stay. This way somebody is not deviating from their job titles description and not getting their actual stuff done because they're working on something else. Does that make sense?

**Trustee Kyle:** Yeah.

**Attorney Donovan:** If I can just interject for a second. By New York State Village Law, Section 4-402, there are certain duties of the Village Clerk that are set by law. That's a statutory requirement. There is also which is subdivision I, the Village Clerk shall also perform such other duties not inconsistent with the office shall be determined by resolution of the Board of Trustees. So, you can develop your own, if you will, job description. But there are certain statutory requirements that are in New York State Village Law that have to be followed by your office and Treasurer's office, the Clerk's office.

**Trustee Hall:** I think the financial office should stay with financial and the Clerk should stay with Clerk.

**Trustee Pearson:** I do want to talk about cross-training, though, because I do believe it's very important in a small office. They all need to know certain things. Let's just look at payroll that's been going on and I believe our Clerk has been doing payroll, with somebody new coming into play. I think that we really need to have people cross-trained. I can't stress that enough because somebody is out sick and maybe something happens and somebody has to fill in that space. Maybe 2 people are out, maybe 1 on vacation and 1 gets sick, and then who's going to do payroll? I think having that said, I get the limit of what you're trying to do. But I think having John be responsible for getting that cross training done, talking to the Treasurer and the Clerk and having them work together to get what needs to get done really needs to happen. I understand new people in the office, I get it. I just think that and to alleviate some of what is happening, maybe that position needs to transfer out. Not at the moment, but in a few months so that everybody transitions into where they need to be. I don't think it needs to be immediate, but I think if that's what you're planning, maybe it needs to be transitioned in, but also say a cross-training needs to happen.

**Trustee Garrison:** I'm not saying not to cross-train. What I'm saying is that your daily operational duties need to be defined and on your position.

**Trustee Kyle:** We can't evaluate people without having clearly defined.

**Trustee Garrison:** If you're assigned position is to do these daily tasks and that's the tasks that need to be done. That doesn't say don't cross train to pick up if somebody's out sick or if someone's is on vacation. What I'm saying is, if your daily task and what your task for your position is this, that's what you do.



**Trustee Pearson:** I believe the past boards and this board has kind of failed that we have not given reviews and talked to them enough and not given them things that they need to hear or maybe we can do something different for them. I know Chris and Bill and I are on that committee, that's going to happen in May, I guess, but I think that's part of the problem too, that we really need to have a program put together so we can give good reviews with John's input of what's going on in the office and how it's working. I think it's a good thing that we're stepping up and doing things a little differently.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I agree. I think when we were talking, our goal was not to allow positions to be built around a particular individual, but the position should be strong enough to stand on its own and we want to fill that with the right candidate, not constantly shift through responsibilities to meet particular preferences.

**Attorney Donovan:** At some point in time, reduce that to writing by resolution.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Let's finish the appointment of the Village Clerk and then can we as homework perhaps John review the duties that you have listed past and present, whatever is the closest fit to the job description and then pass that as a resolution at a future meeting.

**Trustee Hall:** Sounds good.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** At the next meeting.

6 ayes. 1 no (Mayor Ramos). Motion carried.

#### **Resolution 23-23-24 – Procurement Policy**

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** It's not really negotiable, correct?

**Attorney Donovan:** You have to have a procurement policy. Approval once a year. This policy is in a format that comes out from the comptroller. The only thing that's different this year is our auditor suggested, because we do get grants for federal funds, that we have a line in there that says we're going to comply with federal procurement policy, which is a little belt and suspenders, because if we didn't we wouldn't get the money. But it certainly can't hurt to put that in the policy. That's the only modification from the ones that's been adopted in years past. The form comes out of comptroller's office.

**Mayor Ramos:** Are we the only ones have this?

**Attorney Donovan:** The other places that I represent don't have that. They adopt that but they don't have the federal. They don't have RBT auditing them every year. .

Trustee Garrison made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-23-24 - Procurement Policy. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Resolution 25-23-24 – Budget Transfer**

Trustee Hall made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-23-24 Budget Transfer. Seconded by Trustee Garrison.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** We've sort of beat it to death. I do just want to ask what happens if, so the biggest thing over time probably passed. I get minor reduction there can be managed, beach personal services, probably good since we're done there, but are we at risk then of if we reduce A7110.110 parks personal services by \$3,450, are we at risk at some point of having to budget

transfer again, because we've reduced that line item too much and we need money to fill that?

**Manager Revella:** Are you at risk? I'll never say you're not at risk, but the likelihood is very low. Managed pretty well. There's a full timer in that department that does pretty well. He uses part timers as needed. Seasonally. We have about a month and a half to go. It's probably pretty reasonable that we'll be okay.

All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Memorial Day Parade Request**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve the Memorial Day Parade Request for May 27, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Mayor Ramos). Motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

**Lynn Thompson:** I'm glad you guys talked about the speeding. I texted John Revella and Chief Herlihy today. I was out doing some of the landscaping around the village and I was out on River Road and the planting with the entrance sign is very, very close to the edge of the road there. I was actually terrified. I'm never scared. The speeding there today, it was horrible. John did send or Bill, send 2 Officers over. They were literally there for 2 minutes and already pulled 2 cars over. It was crazy. Then I went over to route 52. It was equally as crazy. A gentleman in the house there, Mr. Munger came out and he said, you cannot do this after 3:00 in the afternoon you will be killed. I know the Police Department is short. I know they do a good job, but the speeding is bad. I did ask Mr. Revella if I can please have one of the jackets that the crossing guards wear, so maybe someone will see me out there. But I think we still have to work on that. I hear it from residents all the time. I see it on Walnut Street because I live over in that part of town. I really saw it and it was really scary.

**Trustee Pearson:** That one guy goes up all night. He must be doing 60 miles an hour.

**Lynn Thompson:** Everybody has been talking about that car and it's like at midnight 1 am. It flies. Please stay on top of that.

**Mayor Ramos:** Did he get you one?

**Trustee Pearson:** He said he will.

**Manager Revella:** It's in the office.

**Lynn Thompson:** I'm so excited. You guys will see me out there. Three?

**Mary Ellen Matise:** I just want to put this on the record now, Gladstone Avenue paving. I'm gonna put it on the record now so that I don't have to be out there this year or next year when they come along and do it supervising. Here's my idea, from Scofield to Clinton, the sidewalks and halfway down on the east side. On the even side. Take them out because they end before you get to Wiseblatt's old house. What do we need them for? They don't go anywhere. You have a full length sidewalk on the other side that goes from Scofield all the way to Grandview and even beyond goes to Kelmour. Then there are no more sidewalks at all but the streets a little wider down there, because it's a newer section of Gladstone.

**Manager Revella:** What side are the poles on? Your side, right?

**Mary Ellen Matise:** I think they're on the even side, but that doesn't make any difference.

**Manager Revella:** It does to widen the road.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** No, I'm not talking about that yet. Wait a minute. We're not getting to that point. Just taking the sidewalk out. I don't have a sidewalk down near me. It doesn't come down that far. I'm just talking about cost of replacement. Why replace a sidewalk that goes nowhere when you have it on the other side of the street? It's also a drainage issue and ice and all that. It's a savings in the long run and it's environmentally better. All these positive points on the other side, I think by now between Scofield and Mallard, all the trees must be gone. Let's take out that strip of grass. Because when you go to put in Belgian block curbs, you're not going to be able to drive down Gladstone. Because with the cars parked there now with the asphalt curbs that they park over. You can't even drive down Gladstone. I would take out that grass strip. You've got your sidewalks, make brand new nice sidewalks and then put your, the way you have on Ridge Avenue, put the Belgian block right along the sidewalk. Then at least that'll give you a couple of extra inches that you're going to need once the Belgian block takes up space in the right of way.

**Trustee Pearson:** And we'll be a treeless community.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Listen, there hasn't been a tree in that strip, Becky, for years. They're all gone. Completely gone. And they've uprooted your sidewalks. The sidewalks are all heaved in that section. I just want to put it on the record now so when they come and do the work, I don't have to stand out there.

**Brenda Adams:** First off, Dave, it's not, fictional, it's creative accounting. Secondly, when you did the budget vote, you didn't put in a dollar amount in. I think it's supposed to be in there. Motorcycles on Valley Avenue. I don't know what you're going to do to stop them, because not only do they race through there from one end to the other. No helmets, no nothing. Somebody is going to die someplace. I don't know, because the cars do run the stop signs. It's going to be a mess down there. What I came to talk to you about was the tour of negativity at Walden Elementary School. They're going to make a decision by the end of June. Which the Mayor is on the committee, right? They did not have one good thing to say. The whole tour was negative. They had nothing good to say, including the fact that there is no space there. So, after I got done with the tour, I believe they already have their mind made up. It's going to be a new school and my concern is the kids will eventually adapt to a new school, wherever they put it. Maybe I missed it, but did this board send a letter to the Valley Central School District to encourage them to stay in the village? I would think that you would want to go on record to say how important the school is in our village. My concern about all of that is the economic portion of Walden. If you move that school out on 17K, they were appraising how much space they have at Berea. How many, acres there.

**Trustee Pearson:** 56 they said.

**Brenda Adams:** I knew it was a lot. They were appraising that part. If you move the staff and the teachers out there, you're not going to have the people grabbing their coffee or their sandwich in the morning. You're not going to have the people dropping the dry cleaner off or their laundry. If they choose to have the wash 'n fold done, they're not going to go to Hannaford quick to grab things or a pizza or Chinese or any of those kind of things on the way home or to work in the morning, if it's out on 17K, unless you live in the village, unless you have to go through the village to get to your home. You're going to make other arrangements. It's going to be Shoprite, Dollar General out there. Carmela's pizza. I think we're going to hurt our village considerably economically. I would hope that you are all trying to do what you can do best to keep that village or to keep the school at least close to the village. Which leads me to another thought here. This is just me talking out and thinking out loud. The overlook at Kidd Farm, when I was on the board, they changed the

affordable housing percentage from 20% to 10%. I have to say I'm the only one that voted against it at that time, because it only affected one piece of property and it benefited the owner of that property. But it did pay us and the developer said that 2018 that had to be done because 2018 was the hot deal. That's when he was going to build. Everything was going to happen in 2018. It's 2024. I did ask Manager Revella if they signed the developer's agreement, which they did. You had told me that. If my memory is correct, there were certain timetables in that developer's agreement that they were supposed to, you're shaking your head yes so I'm not crazy. There were certain thresholds that they were supposed to meet, certain timelines, from what I can see and I haven't been studying yet completely. But what I can see, the only thing they did was take down a few trees. I don't see anything else being done over there. This is my thinking out loud. If they have violated their developers agreement, can the village withdraw it? Then maybe that would be a great place to put the school. There's a lot of acreage there. I know we wanted houses because we wanted tax revenue, but this is going on over 12 years. Look how fast the senior development went up over there. They've been fiddle faddling with this, but there's enough acreage there, I'm sure, to keep that school real close to the village. There are possibly ways that we could work that out. It's just me thinking out loud, but maybe something we could do. Thank you.

**Trustee Garrison:** Great idea.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Seeing as you're the committee member, we know we did bring up something in the talk after the tour and that is I suggested to Superintendent Avila that maybe make it a primary school K through 3. The building is sound. There are no problems with the structure. They cleared that after the earthquake. That gives them plenty of room to expand within the footprint they already have. I'd hate to see us lose some public school there.

**Trustee Pearson:** We don't need to lose any of it. It's a big to do.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** But there's ways that they can creatively deal with their issue and they're not. Somebody who's just got something in their mind.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to send a letter to the school from the Village Board. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Payment of Audited Bills**

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

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

**Trustee Pearson:** I do have another question about the school, and maybe, the Mayor can answer that for me. I asked the school the other day when the committee meetings were meeting and I asked if the public could go there and listen to what's being said. They didn't get back to me. Maybe you can let me know when the next committee meeting is, I'd like to go and just sit and listen.

**Mayor Ramos:** You don't want to go to the meetings?

**Trustee Pearson:** The committee meetings.

**Mayor Ramos:** School board meetings.

**Trustee Pearson:** No, your meetings.

**Mayor Ramos:** The meetings were only to set up the tours and that's it.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, you're not going to have any more meetings between now and the time the vote comes?

**Mayor Ramos:** Not that I know of.

**Trustee Pearson:** If you do, would you please let me know? Thank you. John, do you need to appoint a Deputy Clerk because you didn't do that last time? Does that not have to be done at this meeting or you don't have to do that now?

**Manager Revella:** They stay in the positions until they do a reappointment, which I'll do the next meeting.

**Trustee Pearson:** The heat and the air conditioning in PD has been cleared up and finished and done?

**Manager Revella:** All the units except for 1.

**Trustee Pearson:** Which 1?

**Manager Revella:** The 1 in the main patrol room. The dispatcher's room is fine. It's where the regular patrol room is.

**Trustee Pearson:** Right there as you walk in the door. What's happening? That was under warranty.

**Manager Revella:** Waiting for the part to come in from the manufacturer.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can we check on that, please? Did we get the extension on the waterfront grant?

**Manager Revella:** Yeah. We're good.

**Trustee Pearson:** I know we had to put the extension in before December, so we did get the extension. I didn't hear that. Orange County Transit was supposed to be on the agenda. I'm not sure why they're not here, but I don't know if Ralph wants to speak to that tonight.

**Manager Revella:** You want them in person next meeting?

**Trustee Pearson:** At this meeting.

**Manager Revella:** I have them as next meeting.

**Trustee Garrison:** Let's do that.

**Trustee Pearson:** The park request will be at the next meeting and the reason why? It wasn't just their insurance, it was about where they lived. What the amount would be to pay.

**Manager Revella:** Correct.

**Trustee Pearson:** Parking. I just had somebody talk to me today and about parking, about the lot and keeping cars out. Maybe we need to talk about meters and things like that. Maybe that's for another agenda item someday. When Trustee Batson ready and we can set that meeting for our

office people. Thank you very much.

**Trustee Taylor:** The zombie polls. I'm getting questions from residents. They're not seeing, some residents have it right on their property. Are they supposed to be notifying Spectrum, Frontier or what's going on with that?

**Manager Revella:** When NYSEG does their pole, what I'm told is they notify Public Service Commission of what they've done and they're supposed to notify the other utility companies on the pole. That's what I'm told is process.

**Trustee Pearson:** Even if it's a couple years old?

**Manager Revella:** When they do it, they notify them.

**Trustee Pearson:** We can follow up with that with a letter to them? That's what we're supposed to be doing with our new law.

**Manager Revella:** Regardless of when it was done.

**Trustee Pearson:** Just get the pole numbers. Maybe if we have residents call in a pole number.

**Manager Revella:** That'll be great. Take a picture.

**Trustee Pearson:** Take a picture and send it in to you or the DPW?

**Manager Revella:** They can send in to me, the Building Department. Whoever. They're going to be doing it for another year at least.

**Trustee Pearson:** The other company has doesn't have as much time to get those done. 30 days.

**Trustee Kyle:** Say that we wanted to have like a saturation patrol or just increased police presence and this is for the Valley Ave thing as an example. How would we go about doing that?

**Manager Revella:** We would need staff to be able to do that. Right now we're still have mandates due to staffing shortages. I don't know if we would be able to man that right now. When they're on duty, they can check certain areas more frequently for sure. We can tell them do that.

**Trustee Kyle:** Is that just a matter of you talking to the Chief?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. Absolutely.

**Trustee Kyle:** Real easy. The only other thing I had is I just happened to see this thing that New Paltz was doing where they had, No Mow May. No mowing in the month of May. It helps with pollination, but they don't do any fines for the grass being too long for the month of May. They sell signs that you can put in your yard that say you're not mowing for the month of May, that they sell for \$15. I don't know, it seemed like an interesting concept, an idea. I also wanted to bring it up.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Can we set the cost of the signs to be equal to the fine for not mowing?

**Manager Revella:** Or at least have those responsible for the insects that we'll have after?

**Trustee Kyle:** It's just an idea.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I think it's great idea. I do too.

**Trustee Pearson:** You can go into Massachusetts with these big, beautiful yards that are all wildflowers and stuff. Beautiful.

**Trustee Taylor:** I would be remiss. I wanted to thank the Treasurer for the binders. The budget, the blue paper for a rookie up here. That was extremely helpful. I know it was a difficult process, but much appreciated. Thank you very much.

**Trustee Hall:** I really like the tabs. That made my day. I want to say thank you to the DPW, the banners, I saw them. They look great. I drove down Main Street picking everybody out. I was in the passenger seat. My mom was driving. Trish isn't here, so I'm going to let everybody know, Honor Flight went great. We were out there 5:30 in the morning putting up the flag with the Fire Department. We had a little trouble. It was a bit windy, so the flag didn't end up staying up. But it was an amazing turnout. I'm sure everybody can see the videos on Facebook. It was a great morning. I wanted to let everybody know, Music for Megan. There's a, a fundraiser for St Baldrick's on Saturday at Union House, 1 to 5. There's some bands, 50-50 raffle, stuff like that. If anybody wants to come down. The generator on the first floor, was there I an issue with that?

**Manager Revella:** The generator for the whole building.

**Trustee Hall:** I knew when the power was out the other day.

**Manager Revella:** Today and Friday. Today they told us there was water in the intake or something and they have to order a part to come back and fix it. It's the third time we had an issue.

**Trustee Garrison:** Orange County Transit, if they can be here in person on May 7th, that would be great. Not sure, we haven't had any updates from them since then. That sounds about on par. I know there were some other issues down there. Has that been taken care of?

**Manager Revella:** We'd have to ask the Building Inspector what's been resolved on that problem? There was an issue with the septic's not too long ago.

**Trustee Garrison:** The elementary school. I'm not going to harp on it too much, but that letter should go out from all of us. Cheryl's not here, but I want to thank her again. The veteran flags look amazing. It really looks good in the town. If you're a veteran and you don't have one, myself included. I'll take the fault on this. Get with her to get one. I think it looks great. But to circle back, Orange County Transit has to here next meeting. If they're not here in person next meeting, I think we need to take some kind of corrective action on that. Physically here, not a representative or x, y, z. Somebody from the actual company or the lawyer. Or both.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Trustee Kyle, I want to encourage you to put out more ideas like No Mow for May. We all kind of laughed and joked about it, but it is a good idea. And you got elected because you brought those types of ideas to this group into the community. So, if you're serious about those, send some emails. Let's get them on the agenda, because I think they're good ideas that can drive some community engagement and just general goodwill. I think they're good ideas. We laugh with you. I think it's an outstanding idea.

**Trustee Kyle:** Thank you.

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** Trustee Taylor and Pearson, can I schedule that meeting with you through

email? I'm pretty flexible on that.

**Trustee Pearson:** Does May work for you?

**Deputy Mayor Batson:** I have a birthday and parents coming in town for a brief period of time. But, yes, I will get that on there. Then a couple meetings I mentioned project management as a spreadsheet. Jean and John provided me with something that already exists that probably does most of what we want. I didn't want to spend too much time on tonight because we were running late. I will just kind of maybe pass this around. It's a list of projects outstanding. It's a list of their spend. It's a list of all of the vendors that are involved, which is something mine didn't have and it's a list of if the project is complete or not. It most likely meets all of our needs without having to reinvent the wheel. I'll just kind of put it in mailboxes. I think we would just need to maybe ask John to amend the Manager's Report to specifically include a project section in there. I'll just pass this around. Perhaps maybe we can discuss just the project comments be consolidated so they can match there. Might be a good solution without having to reinvent something else.

**Mayor Ramos:** I attended the Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting for Walden Estates. He's gotten up to 47 occupants and still growing as we speak. It's a great piece of property, good apartments. Moses did a phenomenal job on the creation of this beautiful facility.

**Trustee Pearson:** I do have one more thing. I'm sorry, John. Can you let us know about that developer's agreement and where we stand with that?

**Manager Revella:** Dave made a note to check it.

**Trustee Pearson:** Okay. Thank you.

\*Read Community Events into Minutes\*

**Manager Revella:** I just want to let the board and the public know, we'll have a flyer out soon, but ASAP Scrap offer to give and place a dumpster for free at Olley Park for E-Waste the week after. April 29th, 30th and May 1st. E-waste will be available down there.

**Mayor Ramos:** Just 1 dumpster.

**Manager Revella:** 40 yard. ASAP Scraps giving us a free dumpster down there. People can bring their E-Waste, village residents. There'll be a list. I'm gonna try to 3 days. As it fills up, they'll come and pick it up and replace it. But you got to be a village resident to come and do it. If it's not a lot and people are coming from close by, I'm sure it'll be fine. We're not paying for it. Driver's license.

### **Adjourn**

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



**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
April 16, 2024  
Motions & Resolutions**

**Public Hearing – Village Budget 2024-2025**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to open public hearing for Village Budget 2024-2025. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to close public hearing for Village Budget 2024-2025. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of April 2, 2024 Re-Org and Regular Meeting Minutes**

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve the April 2, 2024 Re-Org Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to approve the April 2, 2024 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

**CDBG Discussion**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to set public hearing for CDBG Application for May 7th at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Village Budget 2024-2025**

Trustee Hall made a motion to approve Village Manager's Budget for 2024 2025. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Village Code Updates**

Trustee Garrison made a motion to set public hearing for local laws as discussed on May 7, 2024 at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Kyle. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Appointment of Village Clerk**

Trustee Hall made a motion to reappoint Marisa Kraus as Village Clerk. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. 6 ayes. 1 no (Mayor Ramos). Motion carried.

**Resolution 23-23-24 – Procurement Policy**

Trustee Garrison made a motion to adopt Resolution 23-23-24 - Procurement Policy. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution 25-23-24 – Budget Transfer**

Trustee Hall made a motion to adopt Resolution 25-23-24 Budget Transfer. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. All ayes Motion carried.

**Memorial Day Parade Request**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve the Memorial Day Parade Request for May 27, 2024. Seconded by Trustee Garrison. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Mayor Ramos). Motion carried.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to send a letter to the school from the Village Board. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Payment of Audited Bills**

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

**Adjourn**

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