

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
January 6, 2015**

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

On roll call the following were:

Present:

Mayor	Brian Maher
Deputy Mayor	Sue Rumbold
Trustees	Bernard Bowen
	Willie Carley
	Sean Hoffman
	Edmond Leonard
	Gerald Mishk

Absent:

Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager
Tara Bliss, Village Clerk
Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

Manager Revella introduced our new Full Time Police Officer Anthony Tolve who's first day was this past Friday, January 2, 2015. He is filling the position left open by Officer Morris' recent retirement. He has been working with the Village on a Part Time basis since 2011 as he was full time with the Orange County Sherriff's Office so he was a lateral transfer to us on a Full Time basis.

Public Hearing – Local Law #1 of 2015 – No Parking, Highland Avenue

Trustee Hoffman made a motion to open the public hearing for Local Law #1 of 2015 – No Parking, Highland Avenue. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Manager Revella explained this law puts a no parking zone on Highland Avenue approximately 170 feet from the intersection of East Main Street on the North side (Nash side) of the street as well as approximately 150 feet from the intersection of East Main Street on the South side (Nicoli side) of the street. This will help with the turn radius and sight distance issues there.

Trustee Hoffman asked if the zone went through to the curb.

Manager Revella replied yes. It ends about 2 and ½ car lengths before the Nicoli driveway. The Board may be inclined to change it about 20 feet on the South side (Nicoli side) of the street but he believes the homeowner in that area will be speaking about that tonight.

Geno Nicoli, 3 Highland Avenue, asked why this came into effect to start with and is it related to the bus stop issues. He also asked if the bus stop will be coming back there.

Manager Revella replied that they began the conversation due to the bus stop but it has always been a problem with sight distance in that area.

Geno stated that as a resident that lives there, there has always been issues with the people parking there due to the bus stop. He would not like the stop to come back there.

Manager Revella replied that there was discussion by the school district but we stated we did not want it back there as it was problematic. They were looking at a few options but that was the least likely option they would select; going back there.

Mayor Maher added the options were to move the stop to Oakland on the boulevard, leave it where it is now, or put it back to where it was. We did have a meeting with the school and the school district will make a decision shortly, it was not our decision to move it. Let anyone know that asks that the school will make the decision soon, it's not this Board's decision to make; we don't have the authority to move it.

Geno asked if there was a way we could decrease it a little at all on his side of the street.

Manager Revella replied that 15-20 feet is possible. He's spoken to the engineer about that already. We are at 32 feet right now from the edge of his driveway. That's enough for 2 cars to fit there.

Kathleen Mahoney, 5 Highland Avenue, stated that people are going to say they are "standing" there not parking. If there is no space near his house it moves everyone else up and causes no parking in front of her house either.

Manager Revella replied that we agree on the no standing zone but because the bus stop moved they didn't see it as an issue. If they move the stop back there they will likely do a no standing zone there as well.

Kathleen stated that when you put the sign up they are not going to listen; just be aware.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to close the public hearing for Local Law #1 of 2015 – No Parking, Highland Avenue. Seconded by Trustee Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mayor Maher asked if everyone was ok with changing the additional 20 feet difference on the South side from 150 feet to 130 feet.

Attorney Donovan stated that he is fine with this change as it is barely 10% and is de minimus and means we don't have to re-notice the law and have another

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to issue a Negative Declaration for Local Law #1 of 2015 – No Parking, Highland Avenue. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard made a motion to adopt Local Law #1 of 2015 – No Parking, Highland Avenue. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hearing – 17 Liberty Street

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, explained that there is a couch on the side of the home in the driveway. There has been no response from the owner to date and as of today the couch is still there.

Neither the owner nor representative is present tonight.

Trustee Mishk made a motion to have the couch removed from the property of 17 Liberty Street and any costs charged back to the property owner. Seconded by Trustee Hoffman. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion carried.

Village Manager's Report –

- Our Treasurer wanted to have a discussion about our Water and Sewer rates so he consulted our attorney and asked him to explain what a Benefit Assessment is lieu of actually raising our rates.

Attorney Donovan explained that perhaps he should prepare a memo to the Board to explain this better, but briefly, we can do a Benefit Assessment which is based on the benefit the property receives. You can do this assessment by different methods; by acreage or flat assessment. There are pluses and minuses to each one but you are allowed to do a special benefit assessment. It would be better if he put the information into a memo format to lay out the details.

Trustee Hoffman asked if expires or if we have to renew it annually, basically how does it work.

Attorney Donovan replied that it depends on what the purpose is. It can expire when the debt expires if the purpose is to pay off a debt, but he will outline that in the memo as well.

Peter Sullivan, Treasurer explained that he did an analysis as he feels we are running into debt and we will be in the negative if we don't do anything about it. The Sewer fund has a big debt increase over the past few years. He would like to point out that he thinks we need to increase the rates for the February 28th billing even though this only came up today. Can we take existing debt issues in years past and make that part of the Benefit Assessment.

Attorney Donovan replied that he had just asked Manager Revella if part of the reason we are looking into this is if we are paying debt because you can do a combination with a special assessment to pay the debt and raise you regular rates on usage. For example in the Village of Goshen they have a large debt that is paid through a Special Benefit Assessment paid on a quarterly basis in addition to their regular water/sewer bills based on their usage and the rate set by the Village. They have done different combinations over the years but all debt is now being paid through the Benefit Assessment there.

Manager Revella explained for the benefit of the public, in 2009 the DEC put us on a consent order due to incidents that they noticed in 2006 and 2007 which we are still on and will likely not take us off of. It requires us to do certain improvements that may not be immediate renovations but something they would like us to do such as the Pump Station improvements we brought up earlier this year. We did apply for CDBG funding to cover

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that cost but we did not receive that funding. We are applying through our engineers again for some other CDBG funding for the Pine Street Pump Station that we just learned about. Hopefully we will get that funding. We have done about \$4 million in improvements since that time. Each pump station needs alarms and generators based on this consent order and we need to start thinking about how we are going to pay for it which is what Peter is trying to get to.

Mayor Maher stated that the DEC gave us the consent order and we need to have this taken care of. They have threatened SPEDES permit revocation which is something we cannot have happen.

- Been working on lots of FOILS with the Clerk and Attorney Donovan regarding old water sewer rates and how that came to be. The Clerk has been organizing files as we go along.
- If anyone hasn't been to Village offices, we are under quite the renovations at this time. The new rugs are going in shortly, it's been painted and we are organizing as we go to make it have a better flow.
- All evaluations and inventory have been completed with the help of the Department Heads. We just have a few part timers that need to be completed who don't work very regularly.
- Received notification of a new Police Chief Exam so that we have a current list should we ever need to use it.
- Went over grant funding sourcing for projects with the Mayor. We are continuing to apply for any funding opportunities that come up with the help of the senator's office.
- We hired a new full time officer. Been working out well. There are no training costs associated with this hire as he's a current employee who is already trained.
- Attended the Orange County Transportation Council meeting, some of you may have read in the Times Herald Record about projects that are dormant and reviving them. We were erroneously named in that article as a dormant project. We are not a dormant project, we aren't even on that funding list so we should not have been included in that article. A lot of other projects in some cities and villages in the county have been held up on their ends by not being very diligent in pushing through them which holds up multi-million dollars of funding which we are pushing for on our committee. Ours project was held up due to DOT but seems to be going forward at this point. We have done everything we need to at this point and the state has said we are on schedule for April/May this year. The remaining items to do don't take that long and the Clerk, Engineer, and myself have been very diligent on our end to get what we need to get done. Once we get the statement of donations from the property owners we are finished on our end.
- Met with the bus company with Chief Holmes to discuss the bus stop issue on Highland Avenue.
- There was a web conference to discuss the Casinos in the Hudson Valley and Orange County did not get awarded one. One was awarded in Sullivan County and we will benefit from it.
- He took vacation and holiday time over the holidays with his family to Las Vegas to visit his father.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold asked the Manager to address the missing department reports.

Manager Revella explained that some departments didn't provide reports in a timely fashion. Can't speak to the personnel side of it, but one had a personal matter and will likely be excused but not sure about the other individuals. It is a dereliction of duty.

Trustee Hoffman asked him to please remind them next time there is a holiday and vacations come into play. Even if it's a brief report.

Manager Revella replied that he did and appreciates the feedback.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold added to remind them it is part of their job responsibility and that they are expected. She finds it difficult as they are not even here tonight to give a report. If they are not here you will hear about it as it is your responsibility to make sure that we get them.

Trustee Leonard asked if we knew why the metered revenues are down 7% this year.

Peter replied that it could be due to vacant properties where water is actually turned off so there is no consumption so no billing.

Trustee Hoffman added that it could also be in connection with our shut off policy as we've been more aggressive in that regard. So people may have been watching their consumption and not letting their bills rise to the levels that they once were.

Approval of the December 9, 2014 Minutes

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to approve the December 9, 2014 minutes. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. 5 Ayes, 0 Nays, 2 Abstentions (Trustee Bowen and Trustee Carley). Minutes approved.

Trustee's Committee Reports

Town of Montgomery & Library Board liaison – Trustee Leonard

Trustee Leonard read a list of the upcoming Library programs in January.

Village Offices Liaison – Trustee Bowen

Trustee Bowen stated he had nothing to report at this time.

Police Department Liaison – Deputy Mayor Rumbold

Deputy Mayor Rumbold reported that from January through November 2014 the total calls for service was 9,437 which includes medical calls. Our Police Department is kept very busy. We were reimbursed for stop DWI program and we also got our vest reimbursement from Attorney General.

Manager Revella stated that we have been very successful obtaining those grants every year as well as a DARE grant. Every little bit helps.

Planning and Zoning Boards as well as the Building Department Liaison – Trustee Hoffman

Trustee Hoffman reported that he and Dean have not been able to meet due to the holidays and scheduling conflicts. Will likely meet this week if anyone has any questions he'd like to speak to Dean about just let him know.

Manager Revella announced that there is a new sign up for Midas the façade is up down at the Thruway Shopping Plaza. The new Auto Zone building is up and looking great. They are moving along and looking great. The Albany Avenue access road is open now. They are looking to open this spring. The Gym is also scheduled to open in April as well and will be a 24 hour Anytime Fitness.

Recreation & Parks Department, Emergency Services, and Valley Central School Board Liaison – Trustee Carley

Trustee Carley stated he has not had time to get together with the Recreation Coordinator but in his report he states that Indoor Soccer and Christmas in the Square ended and were great. The fireworks were a success as well.

Village Justice and DPW Liaison - Trustee Mishk

Trustee Mishk stated he had no report at this time.

The Mayor read the community events calendar into the minutes.

Public Comment on Business of the Board

None.

Action Items

Hearing Request – 47 S. Montgomery Street

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, explained that there is a lot of debris and garbage on the porch and surrounding the property. He was contacted by the owner who said it would be removed by December 16th and it was not removed. There has been no further clean up or response from the owner to date. He's cleaned up things in the past not sure what is going on this time.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to set a hearing for 47 S. Montgomery Street for January 20, 2015 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as could be heard. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. 7 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None.

Payment of the Audited Bills

Deputy Mayor Rumbold made a motion to pay the audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Trustee Carley stated he received correspondence from a resident about snow pick up and the Code Enforcement Officer said that snow was not cleared and he argued that it was cleared. The resident stated they should let the resident aware instead of leaving a note on their door. A while back he made a request that when Jay does this that he takes picture with the date and time and so forth to protect him.

Mayor Maher stated that he thought that specific individual was at our snow disputes last year and he was arguing what was his responsibility to clear. So he believes it is not an issue with the time/date stamping but rather some confusion of what is the property owner's responsibility.

Manager Revella replied that we have that in place and he has been doing that.

Trustee Bowen added that Jay said he talked to him today and everything has been worked out between the two of them.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Mishk stated that the fireworks were great, he didn't see them himself as he was ill, but he got a lot of great comments. The Bus stop issue he got a lot of feedback and a lot of people hearing they have to walk the kids across the bridge they are concerned that it will not be cleared of snow in time.

Mayor Maher asked him to share with the residents that the bus stop is not our decision but that of the school district.

Manager Revella replied that we do maintain that bridge and it is shoveled before the guys go home. If not there is likely not school.

Trustee Leonard added that parents can drive down and park on the boulevard if they want to.

Trustee Mishk stated that the people he has heard from walk their children, not drive.

Trustee Hoffman welcomed back Trustee Bowen, good to have him back.

Deputy Mayor Rumbold echoed that the fireworks were great, Midge would be proud, they were always considered her fireworks. The monument by the triangle when we do snow removal there is always a huge pile of snow there. Can we work on cleaning it up better in that area as you can't see around it and it is left there until it melts?

Trustee Bowen stated he is happy to be back and Achilles tendons are no joke.

Trustee Leonard stated that he and his wife watched the Fireworks which were great.

Mayor Maher added that the fireworks were amazing and he's very excited about the committee meeting on January 12th about Col Bradley Day. Thanks to everyone for coming out today, he knows Trustee Mishk is not feeling well and he's sticking it out. Very appreciative for everyone being here and doing a great job.

Adjournment

Deputy Mayor Rumbold moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Bowen. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

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Motions & Resolutions**

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