

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019**

Mayor Rumbold 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	Sue Rumbold
	Trustees	John Ramos Larry Kraus Brian Sebring Dan Svarczkopf Lynn E. Thompson

Absent: Faith Moore

Also Present:	John Revella, Village Manager Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk Kelly A. Kelly, Village Treasurer Dave Donovan, Village Attorney
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Village Manager's Report

- There's been some progress on Ulster Ave, but they're done for the winter. They will start back up in the spring.
- Oakland Ave sidewalks have been replaced. There is one spot they have to check on. A car is not making it into the driveway very well. Otherwise they are finished over there.
- They're waiting for a piece of equipment on Pine St, to get more progress for the Pump Station.
- We have some work going on at the wells right now. Problem with one of the shafts. Fixing that now.
- Had meetings with the Engineer on some projects going on and the DPW Superintendent.
- We had updates from the Transportation Council, including the railroad crossings. Coldenham Road is done. Now they're working on Neelytown Road.
- Went over the Annexation and Zoning proposals with the Village Attorney. That will be tabled until the 2nd week of December, while the Town works on some issues with the applicant.
- Went through some audit issues, including the library fund, with the Treasurer, Comptroller and Attorney. Discussed with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor. Will have discussion in executive session tonight.
- Had an arbitration hearing on Monday for CSEA, DPW Superintendent. It was adjourned.
- The seasonal decorations are up. The tree is going up on Friday. The Sager's have donated it from their yard. The bucket truck has helped. The holiday decorations went up quickly. Tree

will go up quickly as well. It's been a good asset.

- Snow Policy stayed the same as last year. No request for changes.
- The Locksmith will be here tomorrow to work on the doors at Village Hall. Have a lot of upgrades going on, including the front door. If there is a need for keys for anyone on the board, please let me know, so I can get extra keys tomorrow.
- Went through the CSEA contract with the special counsel, DPW Superintendent, Trustee Sebring, and Trustee Thompson. We sent those to CSEA. Waiting for a response. Also, sent them the policy package.
- Gone over the Workers Comp matters and updates with the Clerk as well with the Workers Comp Carrier. We are doing pretty well with claims right now.
- The Police Awards dinner went very well. Very well attended. Officer Hall and Mrs. Hall decorated. Very well planned, very well attended.
- I was out of the country for Veterans Day ceremony, but I heard it went very well. Pictures looked great as it does every year. Thanks to the Committee for all the work there. Public Works and the Rec Dept. for helping.
- Had a wonderful Department Head meeting. If you saw my report, you could see the updates from the departments.
- Leadership Day is coming up. Clerk is working on that.
- Chief wanted everyone to know that Halloween went well. Cars are in good order. He got the basketball hoops out of the road. Some officers went to training last week with the Chaplain upstate. It was called the Conference of Women in Law Enforcement. They all had a great time. Night Range went well. They have contacts on the new radios that came in. It might be tabled as the Attorney has a couple things that he has to go over with the County Attorney. That's the police report, since the Deputy Mayor is not here.
- We did interview some candidates for the D.A.R.E. Officer position. We have one more to go and will likely select a new one.
- We interviewed and hired a new Part Time Dispatcher. She'll be at the next meeting for introductions.

Approval of October 15, 2019 Minutes, Tri Board and November 7, 2019

Trustee Ramos made a motion to approve the October 15, 2019 Regular Meeting, October 15, 2019 Tri Board and November 17, 2019 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Svarczkopf). Motion carried.

Trustee's Committee Reports

Village Offices Liaison – Trustee Svarczkopf

Trustee Svarczkopf: The audit is winding down to a few items. Working through submissions with the Edmunds software and how to pay for it for the Building Department. Treasurer went to Cyber Security Conference in Brooklyn. Clerk was mostly normal duties. Renewed Bingo licenses, updated website and flyers around the building.

Town of Montgomery & Library Board Liaison – Trustee Kraus

Trustee Kraus: Talked to Ginny, she didn't get the calendar of dates for December, yet. They are going to have a computer coding program with Rod Freeman. They have that every season and she has a real good turnout. Kids have a good time, they learn a lot about coding computers. Mr. Sandbooth will be in again with his train display. They will start something new. Rev Ani, will have Giants of our Faiths, features historical figures of each of Faiths. Will go until May, on the second Thursday of each month.

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

Trustee Thompson: I didn't meet with Dean, because I was away and now he is away. I went to the Planning Board meeting. A lot of things going on. We still are having a problem that our Chair people are relying on the Building Department to hear whether members are going to be attending the meetings and people are not getting to Dean and the Chairman last night didn't have the emergency phone numbers with him and by the Grace of God, he had a quorum. It's an ongoing issue and I did speak to Mr. Plato about it. We need to figure out how we're going to handle that. The Chair People are relying on their board members to contact Dean if they're coming or not and most people are not doing that and then they're not coming to the meeting and the Chair People don't know. It was a pretty full agenda last night. They're only meeting once a month. So, it really does not go favorably for applicants that want to come here and get to work. I did send Mr. Stickle photographs and a detailed e-mail of several problem properties. I did not hear back from him and I believe he contacted you. Hopefully he's moving ahead on that. I realize we have an issue because we're down to a Code person. Town of Montgomery, Brian and I went to the November 17th meeting. The big topic of discussion is funding for the ambulance service. There's still a lot of dialog about the Parks and Rec. Is it in the A fund? Why is it not in the B fund? One of our residents brought up about the collection fees for the school taxes and wanted to know why we're one of maybe two municipalities in the state, that does not let the school collect the tax revenue and it costs the taxpayers an extra 1%, comes out to something like \$450k. There were questions about the funding in their new budget that is nowhere near being complete. They're having a special meeting tomorrow evening at 6:00. There were questions about why they are not using an official Comptroller or why they don't have an MS4 officer. A lot of people want to know why health insurance benefits are being paid for very part time employees. Someone made an inquiry about \$15k. There was no reply.

Manager Revella: The Town Montgomery is earmarking funds for the Village of Montgomery Senior Center. Just not sure why.

Trustee Thompson: They didn't give an answer.

Mayor Rumbold: Is that in the proposed budget? Or it that an expenditure that they've been making?

Manager Revella: That's in the budget.

Police Department and Justice Department Liaison – Deputy Mayor Moore

See Village Manager's Report

Recreation & Parks Department and Valley Central School Board Liaison – Trustee Ramos

Trustee Ramos: There is going to be a football game on Sunday. Jets vs. Raiders. Have plenty of tickets left. We have over 70 kids for the indoor soccer program. The bucket truck has been an instrumental piece of equipment that we purchased in the Village. Definitely helped out Parks and Rec to beautify the Village Streets. Saved us money by not having to rent other equipment. I have nothing new to report for the School Board. Mr. Xanthis and I will have coffee on Friday and catch up. I will definitely ask him about the 1% tax receiving from the Town.

DPW Liaison– Trustee Sebring

Trustee Sebring: DPW was cutting back the trees for the winter. Been sweeping the streets to get a lot of the leaves up, cleaning basins. All the Sanders and all the plows are ready for snow. Salt shed is full. They've been flushing sewers for the maintenance program. The Water Department replaced twelve meters and they're having problems getting into a lot of people's houses to replace the meters in. They're ignoring the letters and the cards. Going to have to be talked about in session about people that don't want to let the Water Department in to change the meter. They replaced two fire hydrants and they winterized some of the fire hydrants that don't drain from the bottom.

Mayor Rumbold read the community events into the minutes.

Public Comment on Business of the Board

Mary Ellen Matise: 54 Gladstone. I just want to make a correction to what Lynn said. 2 school districts in the county. Valley Central and Highland Falls. Someone on the School Board said that they are afraid the Town will take things away from them. Well, the Village pays for Crossing Guards here in Walden and the Village pays for Crossing Guards in Montgomery. What will they take away? Can't be the Resource Officer because the Town is going to pay for that regardless. I don't know what the fear is.

Trustee Ramos: I'll have some more info for you.

Mary Ellen Matise: Last night was a work session. They are looking to cut money from different lines. Some of it is from the police lines and some from highway. They're saying if you get a bad winter, you're going to need all that extra money. They did bring up about the \$15k for the Senior Center. For coordinators. But I signed up for Business of the Board is to ask about the Amthor Annexation. I heard John say it was tabled. They still didn't send a complete proposal or something?

Mayor Rumbold: It's tabled for numerous reasons.

Mary Ellen Matise: It was brought up at the last Town Board meeting.

Trustee Thompson: They just talked about setting a date for another joint hearing.

Action Items

Temporary Sign Request – VFW Breakfast with Santa

Trustee Ramos made a motion to approve sign request for VFW – Breakfast with Santa. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Amthor Annexation

Tabled

Intro to Local Law #9 of 2019 – Parking on West Main St

Trustee Ramos made a motion to set Public Hearing for Local Law 9 of 2019 – Parking on West Main St for December 3, 2019 at 6:30pm or shortly thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Intro to Local Law #10 of 2019 – Water Meters

Attorney Donovan: The issue that Trustee Sebring spoke about before, this is the idea to set some sort of fee, a monetary incentive for people to allow the change to new water meters.

Manager Revella: It's supposed to cover the cost of personnel, administration, in lieu of having to go and read them, we can just read cellular. We have to follow up, sometimes go into the building and make appointments to go more than once to get readings.

Mayor Rumbold: This is about getting the meters changed?

Manager Revella: Correct.

Manager Revella: Someone refuses to allow you to have the device installed in their home to do what we need to do and read their water. Is that a reason to turn their water off?

Manager Revella: We're going to charge a fee. They don't pay their bill, we will still turn their water off.

Mayor Rumbold: So, the only two options are turn the water off or fine them.

Trustee Thompson: Is it a large number of people that are being noncompliant?

Manager Revella: Yes. 2003-2004 we changed the meters and there were still over 100 that did not change them out and not made appointments on purpose. We have changed over almost 1200 now. We have over 1000 to go.

Attorney Donovan: Typically what happened, those meters are not accurate, on the low side. So, you find people are not necessarily paying their fair share. It says \$75 based upon discussion at the last board meeting. There is at least one member who thought the \$25 was insufficient.

Manager Revella: We talked about the actual costs. Every time for manpower as well.

Trustee Svarczkopf: Does the \$75 cover all of that?

Manager Revella: It should.

Mayor Rumbold: You think that'll be as effective as turning the water off?

Attorney Donovan: So, turning the water off is a fairly drastic measure for people who don't pay their bills. But for people that are paying their bills, I have not had the occasion to research the ability to shut off someone's water supply who is in fact paying their bills.

Manager Revella: The other problem is that you can't turn off a lot of the houses during winter, because the heat runs off water. It's a real difficult challenge for half the year. Some of them are apartment buildings that have subsidized housing where the water has to be on as well, so we have to be careful. We believe this is a more practical way.

Mayor Rumbold: How often with this \$75 be?

Manager Revella: Every quarter.

Trustee Ramos made a motion to set Public Hearing for Local Law 10 of 2019 – Water Meters for December 3, 2019 at 6:30pm or shortly thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes.

Motion carried.

Intro to Local Law #11 of 2019 – Stop Sign Northern Ave and Ivy Hill Rd

Manager Revella: So the board is aware, discussed this with Chief as well and he's in agreement.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to set Public Hearing for Local Law 11 of 2019 – Stop Sign Northern Ave and Ivy Hill Rd for December 3, 2019 at 6:30pm or shortly thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review of Proposed Police Department Entrance Sign

Manager Revella: We had one up for a long time. It got a little weathered, to say the least, so we took it down instead of having it out there looking poor and being dangerous.

Mayor Rumbold: Where is this going?

Manager Revella: Above the door on the side.

Trustee Svarczkopf: It's not wood, right?

Manager Revella: It's the same as what the library's sign is made out of and the entrance signs to the Village.

Trustee Svarczkopf: It's still engraved?

Manager Revella: Absolutely.

Trustee Thompson: Are these the signs that graffiti can come off of them too?

Manager Revella: I'm not sure if it is that but it is supposed to be pretty resistant.

Discussion – Code Enforcement Position

Manager Revella: In your packet is a quick cost comparison between part time and full time. Obviously, full time is little bit more, but we've been having some difficulty getting part timers and a full timer will be a little more productive in that position. The idea was to try and get 2 part timers to fill the role since because there's just not much work to do. But in lieu of that, trying to get a full timer to try and do the same task, same number hours, we think would be more beneficial in the long run.

Trustee Thompson: I would like to explore the possibility of contracting this out. When you talk about the long term costs for insurance, retirement and all that. That would be money we would not have to spend if we hired some of this out, correct?

Manager Revella: The amount per hours we looked to contract last time was almost double the amount of a full timer. Was about \$65 to \$95 an hour, for the amount of work that we're talking about. It would be cost prohibitive. Then we don't have control. The problem is that we have a contract that's usually a year to year basis. There's no telling what happens in 3 years. Maybe those

guys aren't in business or maybe their contract goes up 50% and we can't find anyone else. It kind of puts us in the same position again. I think if we were able to get the position like we're discussing, it's a civil service position. There's longevity potential. That is what we're really hoping for. You never know with that either, but we will look at it.

Trustee Thompson: I just know a lot of other municipalities seem to be contracting out a lot more services because of how expensive all these benefit packages are.

Manager Revella: Some are using engineering firms as well. But they're not getting the compassion and passion that comes with someone who's from the community trying to work in that community, as opposed to someone who's contracted from 40 miles away or doesn't have any roots or foundation in an area.

Mayor Rumbold: You're looking for a consensus of the board.

Manager Revella: Yes, to continue to look through this option. We'd like to explore it more. Put something in the budget, going forward. If that's okay. Can also try and get some contractor numbers and get some more figures together.

Trustee Svarczkopf: I'd like to see those numbers.

Trustee Thompson: I agree that we need to move on from trying to hire part time people because it's not working.

Discussion – Potential Employee Benefit Liability Reserve

Manager Revella: This is something that's been coming up since the Gadsby changed a year ago. It's going to be reflected in this coming year on our reports. It's our accruals and what that cost may be in the future. So, we're trying to kind of adjust that, put a reserve together for those potential retirees or people needing employment in the next couple of years to have that fund available so we don't worry about killing the budget all at once. This will kind of set up a reserve for that purpose.

Trustee Svarczkopf: Just to clarify this is vacation days, comp time, sick time that we pay out because they're retiring.

Manager Revella: Yes. It's anywhere between \$15-\$40k per employee.

Trustee Svarczkopf: Does the new contract that we're negotiation put a cap on any of that?

Manager Revella: There were caps on that too.

Trustee Svarczkopf: Are we trying to lower those caps?

Manager Revella: There are provisions in the contract for Unions that discuss those, but I can't talk about that right now.

Mayor Rumbold: Do you have a figure in mind that you want to start out with?

Manager Revella: We were talking about \$75k to start, because we have a potential for at least three people coming up and we looked at their accruals. That's the idea anyway. Obviously, it's

something discussed and is not something immediate. We're going to discuss putting it in the budget.

Treasurer Kelly: We're intentionally going to try to use the fund balance, instead of trying to work into the budget. Segregating part of the fund balance just for that. Once you put it in the reserve, it's reserved. You would only be able to move it in to another reserve.

Trustee Thompson: If we don't do that, then we will have to continue what we're doing now, trying to move things around to come up money.

Trustee Svarczkopf: Does it accrue interest?

Manager Revella: All of our accounts accrue interest.

Trustee Ramos: If they retire within the next few weeks, how would we pay?

Manager Revella: We would have to try and allocate fund balance for that purpose and right now it's just difficult. It would kill a few lines in each department.

Resolution 6-19-20 – Budget Transfer

Manager Revella: This is the transfer that you were requesting so we can show the funds for the software for the Building Department. It stayed within the department. Just so you're aware, the money is there because of personnel savings since we don't have the Code Enforcement Officer.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve Resolution 6-19-20 – Budget Transfer. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Setting Public Hearing for Comprehensive Plan

Trustee Sebring made a motion to set Public Hearing for Comprehensive Plan for December 3, 2019 at 6:30pm or shortly thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Contract with County for Radios

Tabled

Public Comment

Anita Vandermark: 76 Highland Ave. The Community Council did a great job in every facet in whatever this Village needs. They came together for Candidates Night. It was out of sight. A lot of time and work. Veterans Day was awesome. Best I've seen in years. Children from kindergarten and MPB had their song. We meet once a month and occasionally there is a member of the board that comes to see us. Our December meeting will be at the Walden House on the 11th. It would be nice if you could come out. We're decorating to pay tribute to the Veterans. It's gonna be an awesome site.

Mary Ellen Matise: I mentioned to John, Dave Church has made an offer to the Village that he will come and make a presentation about new grant programs that DEC has. Programs for property purchased around the wells and different types of things that he wanted to come and put him on the agenda before he retires, which is the end of January. They were also talking about trying to get impaired listing for the Wallkill. Because if it gets impaired listing and then the ability to get grants for municipalities along the river increases. That was a topic of discussion at that meeting. I haven't

been able to go every night because the Town Board meeting and couldn't go to the Tin Brook meeting. We went to the training camp for the Orange County Planning Federation. John Ramos was talking about setting up some monitoring days and it would probably be Monday, December 2nd. Patricia went to a workshop about applying the information that's in your natural resources inventory, which they did for the whole town and then revising it and maybe get revised again under some actions that she has in mind geared towards the Town Comp Plan. Maybe setting up some workshops about how our Planning Board can use what's in that would be useful. We had the Climate Smart meeting and thank you so much to John and John who came, because your contribution to the meeting is really valuable. As we go forward, you should probably keep a file of reports that the Task Force is doing, because this might be 2 points, having a public meeting. Some of the points that John Revella brought up were talking about the energy audit that's going on. He talked about applying for funding for the LED street lighting and that is applying for a secondary source for more money for that lighting. Maybrook already got theirs. Electric vehicle charging station. Things that have been done so far with the public works garage, bringing heat to the floor. Have you converted everything to natural gas?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Mary Ellen Matise: Ok. The insulated windows. Finding ways to use solar energy. Talked about the discount for NYSEG customers in the Village. John brought up the Wastewater Treatment Plant as being our largest energy consumption plant in the Village. We watched Paris to Pittsburgh, which is a good movie. The people who were there were 18 residents, the points that they brought up were requiring all public buildings to have roof solar panels. Something in the movie about floating solar panels. The extended idea about that is what about detention basins? Why not put solar panels there? More opportunities for solar to homeowners and businesses. Farm solar regulations. They're talking about agro photovoltaic, grazing sheep on their solar farms. Most people wanted to know about looking into the Town and Village laws regarding regulating solar and other types of green energy. Do a review of examining storm water and land regulations to make sure they are compatible with enhancing climate smart practices and looking into ways of expanding community gardens and other locations. It would be a great way to keep farmland open in the town. Find ways to involve the school district and youth in the Climate Smart programs. Setting up the Task Force and I think that Lynn has volunteered to represent the Village on the Task Force, but I think that that should be something that you motion or agree on so that she can to truly speak for the Village.

Trustee Thompson: I kind of thought you and I worked that out, but whatever we need to do is absolutely fine.

Ginny Neidermeir: Library Director. Most of the construction numbers are firm, but my experience with these construction grants have been that when you start the actual construction, some of those numbers change in the time that you get the estimate to the time that you begin. I built in furniture costs for the Community Room. But those can be deducted to kind of appropriate what we need to do and which I've done in the past. That's the soft cost that can be manipulated. This was the copy that was submitted to Albany.

Trustee Thompson: With her estimates, did we get samples from the existing flooring?

Manager Revella: We did that.

Payment of the Audited Bills

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

Correspondence

None

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Thompson: I would just like to thank Walden's Women's Club and the Library for doing such a nice job on the Climate Smart presentation. I'm really sorry I wasn't here for it. The Town is on board. I don't know about Village of Montgomery. They had a presentation from the county and I have not heard what they decided to do. I have had some conversation with Mayor Leahy the two Villages, Maybrook and Walden and the Town, really do want to work together to move that forward. We all want to be doing the right things for our community and getting all the ammunition we can to get the grant scores up. There's a lot of interesting things going on in the Waterworld. I'm hoping to meet John this week to go over some of that water samples becoming an interesting topic. Would like some feedback from John as to what might be available for us. I am going to a presentation at Bard College on Thursday and I know that will be part of the presentation.

Trustee Ramos: I would like to say thank you to the Walden Community Council and the Veterans Committee for the touching ceremony. Makes us guys that wear the uniform extremely proud. Nice job on the Coldenham rail road tracks. Climate Smart, thank you again. Will get some kids to come out and get involved.

Mayor Rumbold: Thanks to the Community Council and everyone involved with the Veterans Day ceremony. It was wonderful and very well attended. So good to see people that usually don't come out to things, come out to see the celebration. It was very nice. I have to say that when Coldenham was closed for the repair, the traffic on Edmunds Lane, Sherman Avenue and East Avenue was insane. So, I can only imagine what it's going to be like when Kidd Farm starts to be constructed. I sat and waited in traffic, never happened before on Sherman Avenue because the car in front of me was letting all the line of traffic off of Edmunds Lane onto Sherman Avenue. Never seen anything like it since I've lived in this Village. The Police Awards, great turn out. Was nice to have it at Angry Orchard. It was well attended. New faces at that award ceremony. It's nice to see people who usually don't come out to things for the Village, to come out. As far as the task force for Climate Smart Communities, I'm sure that our representative knows that, any decisions made on behalf of the Village are made by the Village and not just the person that happens to be serving on the Task Force. While she is the voice of the Village, you need consensus from your board about any commitments that you're going to make. Just be careful about speaking for the Village under certain circumstances.

Trustee Thompson: Understood.

Attorney Donovan: We need a minimum of 20 day's notice for the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan. Can we make an amendment to the motion to make it for December 17th?

Trustee Ramos made a motion to amend previous motion to set Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan for December 17, 2019 at 6:30pm or shortly thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Executive Session – PBA, CSEA and Personal History of a particular employee

Trustee Ramos made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular person and collective bargaining negotiations for the PBA. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
November 19, 2019
Motions & Resolutions**

Approval of October 15, 2019 Minutes, Tri Board and November 7, 2019

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