

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
January 4, 2022**

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:
Present:

Mayor:	John Ramos
Deputy Mayor	Willie Carley
Trustees	Lynn Thompson
	Patricia Maher
	John Elliott

Absent:

Brian Sebring
Cheryl Baker

Also Present:

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

Manager's Report

Manager Revella: We've had some staffing issues in a couple of departments due to COVID. We'll discuss a couple of personnel things in exec after the meeting. Went through project status, if anybody's been down to Olley Park, they'll see the progress on the community center down there, it's going pretty well. Still waiting for the final plans for the waterfront park, but otherwise projects are on schedule. Went over some restrictions, PPE, went through and made sure we had masks available in departments. There's been County conferences on COVID updates. There'll be another one this Thursday. The last one was about distribution of the tests, which they're distributed throughout the Cities and the Towns and we're supposed to disseminate from the Towns to the Villages. Which our Town did. Covered for a couple of departments when they had time off from the holidays. Thankfully, no major incidents. A couple of days, the guys had to go and salt, but that was about it. I did and I need to let the public know I did receive a letter of resignation and thanks for the service from Judge Mishk effective December 31st. I did call for and receive the PD full time officer list. We have a potential full time position opening. We're anticipating filling that as soon as possible since we have a staffing issue there already with full timers out for different reasons. All departments are working on their inventories, budgets and employee evaluations. They should be back in the next couple of weeks, hopefully by the 15th. Rec has been continuing their winter maintenance, reviewing the community center progress. Indoor soccer was completed. Indoor basketball starting and the Harvest Fest meeting is just before the next Community Council meeting in January. Building Department, the Inspector is out for a week's vacation but still had done 2 building permits and 3 CO reports. The department conducted and continued fire and safety inspections. The Code Enforcement Officer assisted and issued 6 permits, 6 fire and safety inspections and had to issue a stop work order and has been monitoring progress on Falcon's Rest project on North Montgomery Street. Clerk has been updating Facebook, website, updating 207c issues, working with me on some personnel and FOIL matters, as well as with the Village Attorney. MSD reports for the county and provided the packets for the Village Elections that are coming up. There will be a resolution later about the polling places. Finance Department has been working on 2021 audit, doing bank recs, budget prep for the departments, attended some Edmunds year end

webinars. Met with the engineer for Ulster Avenue. DPW has been maintaining the Village vehicles and equipment. The Water Department replaced 7 meters, 2 endpoints, 9 mark outs and 1 inspection. The Superintendent closed out 21 of the street permits, was great. The super met with me about 8 Wileman Ave. There is a drain line issue that we're going to follow up on that we have right away for that goes down to the Rail Trail. Sewer has been utilizing the belt filter process as much as possible while weather permits. Then won't be able to do it for much longer. The sweeper was out a few times while the weather was still good. It's probably done for the season now. The Mechanic has been working on the trucks for the storms and they moved some signs on East Main St. PD has been trying to do their best with staffing. Working on the accreditation and policies, which is on the agenda later. Since last meeting, 12 tickets were issued and for the month of December, 588 blotters were entered. Courts and library, regular schedule and our attorney did help review the Ambulance District memo that was circulated. Helped with some FOILs and some emails.

Trustee Thompson: You said you met with the Recreation Coordinator, are we going to be changing anything with our upcoming programs?

Manager Revella: We're talking about delaying basketball. We're not sure yet. Probably until February.

Trustee Thompson: Will anything else be affected?

Manager Revella: No. For now, that's it.

Trustee Thompson: When will you and he have to make a decision on that?

Manager Revella: This week. The sooner the better.

Trustee Thompson: Thank you for trying to get things going again with the cameras. I appreciate that. As far as COVID policies for here in our buildings and things, have there been any changes to the existing policy? And are we going to be getting more vigilant with enforcement? What are we planning on doing?

Manager Revella: We talked about and considered the shutdown policy that was done before for the building. Not sure yet. We have had some staffing issues with positive cases, so we may have to do that anyway. Otherwise, we're still masking in the common areas when people come into the building. Residents have to be masked when they're in the building at all times. Staff, obviously, we're here all day in our areas and we're exposed to each other all day. We try to stay apart as much as possible, but sometimes it's unavoidable.

Trustee Thompson: Is the person at the dispatch window going to be the one taking note of who's entering the building? Because I've seen a lot of people coming in and out with no mask.

Manager Revella: If they're able to see them and not busy doing something else, then they'll go on intercom and tell them. If anybody sees them in the building, they'll tell them as well. Sometimes they make it up here and we tell them up here and hand them a mask.

Trustee Thompson: I had asked last meeting about the amount of code violations we're issuing, and I had pointed a few things out to you on the telephone. How are we doing with that? Has there been follow up on that?

Manager Revella: Yes. The Building Inspector came back from vacation yesterday and he's

following up on a couple of them. There was one on the corner of Riverview and Rifton that was pretty bad that he's followed up on yesterday afternoon. I'm sure he's going to give them a violation notice.

Approval of December 21, 2021 Minutes

Tabled

Public Comment on Business of the Board

Brenda Adams: 31 Valley Ave. I see a lot of ambulance people here. I was sure that you probably got a lot of the answers that you were asking for some more detail. I was just hoping that you would discuss those answers. I see them here, so I imagine that there's going to be a bigger discussion than just you guys having information and then talk to yourselves.

Manager Revella: Just so the public is aware, we did forward the questions from the public to the presenters. We did give them to the Ambulance Corp and the Town.

Becky Pearson: 167 Walnut St. I hope you all discuss it. *inaudible* I didn't see this information online.

Manager Revella: We got it updated today.

Richard McNamee: 14 Clinton St. I have lived in Walden for most of my life. My father was raised here, I will raise my 3 children here. I have a degree in paramedicine and I've worked full time on an ambulance for 10 years. For the past 6 years, I've been a Commissioner of the Walden Fire District and I'm here to speak in favor of the ambulance district as proposed by Supervisor Maher. Emergency medical services are in a national crisis. It's not unique to Montgomery, except that our Town is proposing a sustainable solution. It's hard not to underestimate the severe stress that the EMS system is under. It is not by any stretch of the imagination to be resilient. To do anything but approve of the district and correct the course of our community ambulance, would be feckless and wholly shortsighted. A fundamental question that I get a lot is what is the difference between an EMT and a paramedic? An EMT is trained to assess, recognize, treat life threats with basic interventions and a handful of medications. They operate AEDs, that I didn't see a public access AED in this room, but they are no more advanced than that. Paramedic training is about 10 times as long. They carry over 30 lifesaving medications, powerful pain medications, they perform a variety of technical invasive procedures that would surprise you of what actually happens outside of a hospital. What's most valuable about a paramedic is that someone's walking into your home that brings with them a depth of experience and expertise that the vast majority of EMTs cannot replicate with the disparity of training. There's amazing EMTs here in Montgomery who are very experienced, but when somebody is critically ill, the first question that of any competent EMT will be, "Where is the medic?" And as great as that may be, for profit ambulances routinely decline to send paramedics to Walden. It happens just about every single day. The pandemic has strained many parts of the health care system. And as people remain home and avoided hospitals, call volumes plummeted around the country. And for the only emergency service that is expected to build to survive, that has made it much more difficult to keep the doors open. Longer response times and failures to respond at all have become the norm all across the Hudson Valley since long before 2020. Dispatchers are very used to dispatching 5 or more different ambulance services. I fail to respond after another until someone finally begins responding after 20, maybe 30-minute delay. Kiryas Joel has been in the village of Walden because that many closer services failed to respond. We're 2 years into the biggest challenge to ever face the EMS. A year ago, politicians and the public thanked paramedics and EMTs at every turn. They don't need thanks. They need to know that they have the support and the resources to do their jobs. Help is not coming from the private sector, from the State or the County. And because so few Towns have actually prioritized ambulance services,

wages remain remarkably lower than career firefighters and police officers. This has created a revolving door of many experienced paramedics and EMTs, leaving the career without looking back. It has made the entire EMS system more fragile. We have the ability here to insulate Walden from that fragility. As our State, County and neighboring Towns struggle with the worsening ambulance coverage, we will finally actually have reliable service. In another year's time the conversation won't be whether it's more important than an ambulance coming at all, but the level of excellence that we should expect for each other. The 4 fire districts that we have cumulatively collect the tax 3 and a quarter million dollars. With that investment, there are no professional firefighters. They answer much fewer calls for services and the municipalities have no oversight over them or their spending. For a quarter of the price, the Town is providing a service that will ultimately cover 98 percent of about 2500 annual calls, including any salaries, and actually will be answerable to a municipal body, the Town Board. During the ambulance district presentation, Mr. Revella interjected that the Village is not required to have a contract for ambulance coverage. He's right. No level of government in New York is responsible if no ambulance responds to you or your loved ones. That apathetic approach to public safety is a problem. The Village is also not required to fund the library, its own police, recreation, building, justice and a number of things. But it does. And it appears to prioritize each one of those above an ambulance response. I implore the Village Board to do the right thing, approve this measure because I have 2 toddlers and a newborn and I'd like to worry a little less about whether an ambulance is going to come in a hurry if I need them.

Mary Ellen Matise: 54 Gladstone Ave. I want to just second everything, he said. I've been championing the Town of Montgomery Volunteer Ambulance Corps since 2003. Going back that far dealing first with Medicare billing, which took forever to accomplish in the Town of Montgomery because the Ambulance Corps was being held hostage by the then supervisor. "I won't buy you an ambulance, if you bill." What kind of nonsense was that? I guess everybody's pretty smug with the thought that we survived it, it didn't we? Well, now we've got huge warehouses going in and we have a hotel which we never had before. We may have another hotel on 208, City Winery. We're talking about development in this Town and you can't go forward with development unless you have the emergency services to deal with it. I'm in favor of the district. I think it's time for a leap of faith. Stop with all this, we've got a million questions. If you had a million questions, where were your questions 6 months ago? Where were you questions a year ago? Where were you questions 5 years ago? In terms of doing due diligence, when you sit there, your job doesn't end when you get up out of that seat. Your job is like a 24-7 job as far as I'm concerned, as a resident and as a voter. If you're representing me, then do the homework necessary. You could have had all these answers months ago. As many answers as they had and then kept up a dialog so that it's going to be an ongoing evolving issue and it's always going to change. It's going to be organic because things get thrown at us left, right and center by the State and you have to roll with it. But it's time to take a leap of faith and make a district, please.

Karina Tipton: I am not a resident of the Village of Walden; I live in the Village of Montgomery. My tie to Walden is that I teach taekwondo down the street. I wanted to offer my opinion because I'm a resident of the Town of Montgomery and I listened with great interest to the meeting a couple of weeks ago. I appreciate the depth and the intensity of the discussion that you had, but something that I took away from that was that this decision that Walden and Maybrook are responsible for are going to impact the entirety of the Town of Montgomery. We have, in my family, had the opportunity, unfortunately, to call on the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps a few times for my elderly parents, as well as for 1 of my children. They've always been wonderful first responders. When I think to myself, Mr. McNamee mentioned, about the dark time that our first responders have had to go through over the last 2 years with COVID and the professionalism and the integrity and the tenacity that they have continued to serve our communities. It behooves us to think of that very carefully and to think about the motivation that they come to the table with this request for an ambulance district. And I'm asking you to definitely please do continue with this ambulance district.

I think it's very important to the Town. The ambulance is a harbinger for all of our emergency services in Montgomery. I've spoken to members of our volunteer fire departments and they all agree, it's hard to get volunteers right now. We're not sure how we could go forward if we have to do a pay force. These are decisions that we have to make. And for 1, I think it's admirable that the Ambulance Corps has put so much work into coming up with a serious plan. They have a plan that's going to keep them sustainably moving forward. Honestly, I think that the rest of our emergency services in Montgomery are going to look to them for that experience as they deal with the fact that volunteerism is down for a number of reasons. The last thing that I would just like to ask you is just kindly consider if you do make this decision, if the Ambulance Corps does not go forward with the Village of Walden, if you could also kindly, please share with the rest of the community, not just the Village of Walden, but the entirety of the Town, what is your plan for ambulance services in the Village of Walden? Because the rest of the Town is going to have to figure that out as well. And if you've got a plan and that's what's going to allow you to say no, I think the rest of the Town would like to know that as well.

Action Items:

Discussion – Ambulance District

Trustee Elliott: 1 of the questions I had was not really answered. Maybe I didn't worded correctly, but if we do go ahead with this tax district, what happens to the Walden ambulance building? And will it be manned 24-7 going forward? The answer we got was, we have to start that way because the new building won't be built yet. But I want to know is when that building is built, will this 1 still be manned 24-7?

Sylvie Rainaldi: The question was if the tax district is approved, will the Walden ambulance building be used as a substation? And if so, will it be staffed 24-7 starting on day 1? This question, as well as a handful of others, were related to the Ambulance Corps moving to a more central location. I talked to Brian about this. It's really realistically 5 years out for that ever to happen with a lot of planning up until that. So, I think

Trustee Elliott: Your question is, can we guarantee you that it's going to be staffed 24-7 5 years from now? The answer is no. I don't think that we can sit here and say 100 percent, that's going to happen. In my opinion, I think it makes sense to have some sort of presence in the Village of Walden when 24 percent of your calls there. But is that going to change? Is that going to grow? Is that going to decrease? We don't know. The statistics are going to change.

Sylvie Rainaldi: What's the cost of that when we get to that point? I think when we look at changing our location of services, what's the time? Lynn had a bunch of questions about how much time would you really save if you moved into a more central location and some of the time responses on that. That's not finalized. It's up for discussion. Signing up for the tax district does not guarantee that the Ambulance Corps will be moving ever. They're not tied to each other. We have a plan as we should have. Everyone should have a strategic plan and should have goals. But these 2 things are not like this. If you sign up for 1, you have to have the other. We're open to these discussions and I hear you about your concerns about the Ambulance Corp moving out of Walden. It's not going on deaf ears.

Town Supervisor Maher: At the end of the day, everything we do, we're going to do together. We're going to have Village representation moving forward on decision making process that we have. We're not just going to do whatever we want. That's not how we're going to roll this out. I think we did answer your question by saying we can't sit here and guarantee 24-7 coverage. This concern of yours, I understand it.

Sylvie Rainaldi: We would have to look to see when you get calls to see if you even need 24-7

coverage, but that's part of the due diligence of deciding where the bays are going to go.

Trustee Elliott: I would imagine everyone needs 24-7 coverage.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Well, the second ambulance is 12-7 coverage in the plan because there will always be 24-7 coverage in the Town of Montgomery. It's just where the staff would be located. It's open for discussion.

Trustee Elliott: I hear everyone talking about the response time too. That's not going to help us. The response time going to go down in Walden. That's my concern.

Town Supervisor Maher: I don't think we can sit here honestly and genuinely tell you, 100 percent, that will never happen. But we also can't sit up here and say, it's definitely going to happen. Is there a plan to have a central location? Yes. Do we already have a location where ambulances come into Walden because someone else has been called out and they come from Scott's Corners right now? Yes. It's already happening right now and that's also important to consider and to know. Either way, we can't give a definitive answer whether you vote on or against the ambulance district today. There still might be an issue that arises. And then the Walden site has to be removed for other reasons, even if this doesn't happen. I don't think that should be a turn either way. But to answer your question, we can't sit here and guarantee it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So, if the numbers remain the same as they do now as we see the highest calls, then it will make sense to keep it here.

Sylvie Rainaldi: It's the Town of Montgomery that has the highest calls. Village of Walden has the highest call of the Village. It's the second highest call volume. We're not saying that we don't think there should be a presence in Walden. We're just not saying that the tax district is not tied to a guarantee 1 way or the other because we have several years of planning as far as what our options are for where a location could appropriately go or what kind of upgrades are needed for the current building.

Manager Revella: I think he means the density of calls are more concentrated in Walden.

Town Supervisor Maher: I will say this to the point you're trying to make. It's a legitimate concern. Before we even started districts, and I hope I'm okay saying this to the Ambulance Corp folks watching, they already have a proposed schematic of a location that is not in the Village at Walden. So even if we didn't come forward and come in with this proposal, the plan for the Ambulance Corp on its own is to have a centralized location that is not in the Village of Walden. So that's something that was completely separate from the district discussions.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I think that's where we're trying to parse out versus centralized versus substation. And what I believe Trustee Elliott was referring to and correct me if I'm wrong, if we move forward, will we still keep a substation here? Not just centralized, where everything is out of Walden, but you keep an ambulance presence here in our area that we have now. But my question was based off the numbers, if it continued the same, would you still keep 1 here?

Town Supervisor Maher: It makes sense to me based on what I see to have a presence in the Village a Walden. And maybe that means you're not going to have the substation, but you'll make sure that you park an ambulance for a certain period of time when calls generally are at a certain threshold. But you still have your headquarters because you want to get ahead of the response time. There's a lot of ways to do it, and there's a lot of things that we can do. What I would again say is we'll make the decision together. If that were ever to happen in the future and we lost that specific

location in the Village or decided it made the most financial sense to move. We would put a plan in place to cover and make sure that that response time didn't get damaged. I think it's a legitimate concern and you're making a big decision.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So, if that was the case, the committee will make the decision? Or the Ambulance Corps?

Town Supervisor Maher: The committee would be part of the discussion. Any decision that's made is going to be made by the either the Town Board or if the Town Board were to contract with the Ambulance Corps by the Ambulance Corps. But we're always going to keep that constant communication and that committee intact. It's going to have Village representatives. I believe in that and that's how it's to go forward.

Trustee Elliott: The fly car. The purpose of the fly car, from what I know of it, is usually driven by the medic. So, you had in there that a volunteer would be using it.

Sylvie Rainaldi: It would be a secondary use. So, if you have a medic, 24-7, that medic is going to primarily have the car because it allows the medic to go to a scene. A secondary use would be like, I'm just giving an example of what a secondary use would be. You have a second fly car, which is used for your paramedic supervisor and that paramedic supervisor. It's if there was the ability to have the overflow for it, it would be agency specific. The primary use for us would be for a medic and a medic supervisor. If there was any kind of overflow or availability, we'd be open to having volunteers use it. What if we ordered the fly car and it got here in December of next year, but the paramedic supervisor for 6 months wasn't hired. What would we do with it for 6 months and when we didn't have a medic? We would use it for volunteers to be able to respond to services. It would not be a primary use.

Trustee Elliott: I wasn't clear on it, because what I was thinking was you have a volunteer coming from their house to pick up the fly car and then go to the scene.

Sylvie Rainaldi: No, the fly car is at their house. Right now, what happens if the ambulance is in Walden and there is a call over on Kaisertown. If there's a volunteer closer to Kaisertown, they get in their personal vehicle and they drive to Kaisertown to beat the ambulance. They're using their personal vehicle for that. So, they don't have the right lights, they have the personal equipment in their bag, but if we have a problem with call volume, that's how we can get to calls faster. The person who's on shift or on call for that volunteer can respond from home with a fly car and get to those faster. You put the fly car closer into the community, than your ambulance would be. Which is what we're doing now without a fly car in personal vehicles. Which is not ideal because you don't have lights on them. They're showing up at people's houses unmarked. It's not great.

Deputy Mayor Carley: In reference to the fly car. You can put the lights on appropriately, blue lights for volunteers similar to the fire department. So, they don't have to have a fly car in order to demonstrate they're heading.

Sylvie Rainaldi: It's not required. We're doing it now without a flying car.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm not saying you should or shouldn't. I'm just saying that when you say you have to have a fly car, you don't have to have a fly car. What I'm referring to is that the volunteer can leave from home and they can have the lights or whatever to demonstrate that they're part of what is happening.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Correct. That's what is happening right now. That's why I said that would be a

secondary use. It's a nice to have. It's not a have to have. The most important use would be for a medic. That is that is standard. I'm sorry, I put a secondary use. I don't want fly cars to sit unused. If we had one in, the medic wasn't hired yet. That's kind of what I had in mind.

Manager Revella: I don't mind there not being mileage on it. If a medic is not available. If they don't have to put mileage on the car, it can sit there for a day, if it has to. It doesn't have to be the volunteer's house. They don't leave them at the base for other people. Say you have a 5-man crew there and you only have 2 or 3 in an ambulance, the other 2 can take a fly car to a call?

Sylvie Rainaldi: These are very specific operational questions.

Town Supervisor Maher: Let us know if you really want an answer to that in relation to the district.

Trustee Thompson: What is the liability issue right now with people taking their own vehicles and going to a scene? Would that change with a fly car?

Sylvie Rainaldi: Right now, that would be covered by their personal car insurance if something were to happen versus the ambulance insurance if something were to happen.

Trustee Thompson: These people that are leaving their homes in their personal vehicles, and I'm going to assume driving very rapidly to get to a scene, that is all on them, if anything should happen.

Trustee Elliott: We would probably have to clarify that one to get you an answer.

Trustee Thompson: It would make sense that the Town would assume liability.

Sylvie Rainaldi: I think John actually called 1 of his, remember we talked about this, John, you called 1 of your friends who works in insurance to ask them who would be liable.

Mayor Ramos: They'd be covered on their individual insurance if anything happens. There is no special. They can apply for 1 when they obtain their insurance. But there's no special umbrella.

Trustee Thompson: But if they were driving in the Town car that would be a policy through the Town?

Town Supervisor Maher: That would be a totally different scenario.

Trustee Thompson: It sounds to me like the building seems to be a focus for some people. They're getting very upset about the cost of building a state-of-the-art building. For the \$800,000 number that you're coming up with. Does it have to be an all or none? Can that number be lower if we don't do all of the things you're proposing, you want us to do? Like if we take that brand new building out of the equation and put it back later down the road, is that a possibility? If people are not liking that large number, can that number be lowered?

Town Supervisor Maher: \$800,000 number is the \$800,000 number. We are doing it that way because we want to avoid having to come back and change it and have a tax increase in future years. We want to make sure that we do this in a way where we're not in the same situation and starving for resources. In the first year of the budget, we're not going to use \$800,000. The second year in the budget we're not going to use a \$800,000. That gives us the flexibility to be able to have some revenue to be able to have something put aside at the end of our first 2 years so that when it

comes to making an investment, we don't have to go to the taxpayer. That \$800,000 number, if you just take out building completely, there's still the \$800,000 number based on our business plan.

Sylvie Rainaldi: I think the majority of the costs for that \$800,000 are personnel and not related to building. So, if you are going to reduce a large portion of that, it wouldn't be the building you take out. You'd have to decide whether you want ALS or not.

Town Supervisor Maher: If people are afraid of the cost of the state-of-the-art building, what I will say is and what I've offered to the Ambulance Corps and what I think is the best route to go forward for the purpose of ambulance services. The Town of Montgomery has a building that we've had for decades and the Town has not spent a lot of money and has been very good on their finances. And that's great because we're in a great financial position. But it's bad because there hasn't been as much maintenance over the last several decades in certain areas, including Town Hall, where we probably could have maintained it better. We just went out for our first bond ever. We just established a credit rating for the Town of Montgomery for the first time. Moody's rated us with a Double-A rating just last week. Happy to report it. We're in really good financial shape, but it's because there are certain investments that probably could have been made over the years that weren't made. That is an opportunity. So, when we talk about a state-of-the-art facility, we're not necessarily talking about a state-of-the-art building. In my perfect world, you utilize the capital improvements that already need to be made to the existing building. Then maybe you add on a little bit to do what you need to do to get to all of the points that create the state-of-the-art facility to provide ambulance services. So, in my mind, building 112 in the Town of Montgomery would be a great place for us to fix the things we need to fix through a bond. Which we can afford and absorb through the A fund. And then we also can have the ambulance services and headquarters out of there. And maybe there's not enough room. So, we're going to need Walden. All of these things are still up for discussion and will be made together through the committee that we put together. I hope that answers your question. I hope that alleviates some concern of the thought of us just putting a building and putting it down because as costs continue to go up in every facet of every building project, I can understand why people might be scared of that. So, in my mind, it would be part of a larger capital project that the Town is already considering.

Trustee Thompson: Okay. I guess what I'm saying is a lot of people are very focused on the building. You're going to move forward with this district, if it's approved regardless of the building. And even if there's back and forth about location, we're moving forward.

Town Supervisor Maher: Yes.

Trustee Thompson: Okay. If the private ambulance are having a hard time staffing, why would you think that if we create a district, we're not going to have problems with staffing? What would be the difference between trying to staff this ambulance corps that you're proposing? Or if we privatized and used a private ambulance corps,

Sylvie Rainaldi: That was 1 of the questions in the document and the Ambulance Corps in Montgomery offers better benefits and lifestyle than the private ambulance corps.

Trustee Thompson: But the taxpayers would be paying for those benefits.

Town Supervisor Maher: But you're also talking about an hourly rate that is still even higher and the benefits being higher than traditional ambulance services. A very small, small salary. It's not a massive, massive salary. And the benefits add up, sure. But at the end of the day, it's contained because of the amount of employees that we need to staff. We're never going to get to a point where the employees just keep doubling. That's not something that we're looking to create here. So, there

is a limit. There is an idea what that cost will be. It's budgeted and there is room for potential increases in insurance costs because that's what happens. They continue to go up. We have thought about that.

Trustee Thompson: But I'm talking about the long term. You're talking these people, I'm assuming, would become Town employees.

Town Supervisor Maher: Potentially.

Trustee Thompson: So, we're talking about health benefits, retirement benefits, payments. And you feel that the cost of all of that would not be significantly different, if there was a contract with a private company?

Town Supervisor Maher: I think it would be different.

Trustee Thompson: That's what I'm saying. So, if the private companies are having difficulty staffing. I don't understand how this would be different. Or you think the salary and the benefit package would entice people to work for you as opposed to a private?

Town Supervisor Maher: Yes. I think we're going to take something that's going to want people to work.

Sylvie Rainaldi: She means for the Town. She's saying if you switched it to the Town, would the Town be able to offer better benefits than like even the Town of Montgomery Ambulance, which is a private.

Trustee Thompson: This is something the taxpayers will ultimately have to pay for.

Sylvie Rainaldi: The intent for you to take over Ambulance Corps services as a department in the Town and then employ the EMTs.

Town Supervisor Maher: Either way, I think we're going to be able to staff the Ambulance Corp. I don't think it's going to be an issue. I think when you talk about staffing issues in the industry, in of itself, there are less people staying in the industry. But there are still people staffing ambulance corps that are getting paid.

Trustee Thompson: I'm not just talking about paying staffing. I'm talking about if these people become employees of the Town of Montgomery and things continue with salary, health benefits, retirement, those are long term costs. That's my question. Is it more cost effective to consider contracting with a private entity?

Town Supervisor Maher: Yes, it would be cheaper for the Town taxpayers to contract with the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps. I'd have to check the numbers. It probably would be a little cheaper. I don't know the answer to that.

Trustee Thompson: Has there been any sort of cost analysis done on that?

Town Supervisor Maher: No. We will definitely get to that. That's for sure. We're going to do the analysis. But when you take a look at what the cost increase would be, it's factored into the budget, both either or because the difference isn't going to be massive. It's really not.

Manager Revella: You don't have to have that decision now, whether it's going to be Town

employees or contract with the Ambulance Corps yet, right?

Town Supervisor Maher: We do not have to.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I think that's a good discussion. What is first, seeking and contracting side first or seeking the employee side first?

Town Supervisor Maher: I think there are 2 schools of thought and we just haven't gotten that far and that's something that I would really enjoy getting everybody's feedback on after we create the district.

Trustee Thompson: Let's say that this is not approved. We still would like ambulance service, obviously. How would you plan on keeping the current ambulance solvent until we get this sorted out? Because this obviously won't go into effect any time soon. This is a process. So, if we want to maintain the ambulance service, how do we get from A to B? How do we keep our current ambulance solvent?

Town Supervisor Maher: As long as I've been Town Supervisor, for 2 whole years, the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps if needed anything we've been there to support them. Financially and otherwise, and that won't change.

Trustee Thompson: It's my understanding that they are continuously underfunded, accurate or not accurate?

Town Supervisor Maher: They need more resources. That's why we're here.

Trustee Thompson: But if this does not get approved or from the time this does get approved until it can get implemented, are you going to increase the budget for the current Ambulance Corps so they can remain solvent?

Town Supervisor Maher: The Ambulance Corps is going to give me their needs. I'm going to look at them. We're going to take a look at what was budgeted, and we're going to figure out a way to best support that.

Trustee Thompson: Is the current budget appropriate for what they need or they're still on the underfunded end?

Town Supervisor Maher: It depends on the amount of services they want to provide.

Trustee Thompson: I'm assuming they would, at the bare minimum, provide what they're already providing.

Town Supervisor Maher: Then what they have is enough for them to get through this year.

Sylvie Rainaldi: That's with 1 ambulance.

Trustee Thompson: But your goal is to get 2 ambulances.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Correct. Because we're having more than about 30 dropped calls a month. This is something that Brian and I have had many, many, many conversations on. You've seen me show up in so many meetings and municipalities and say the Town of Montgomery Ambulance wants more funding. Our goal is to get to staff 2 ambulances. The Town of Montgomery agreed to fund for

about what status quo, which is 1 ambulance with some additional budgeted items for assisting with a new stretcher system for an ambulance that was ordered to replace our ambulance from, I think, 2012, that we're above and beyond the operating expenses. But the status quo, from what I understand is that the Town has committed to staff up 1 ambulance.

Trustee Thompson: But you're already saying that we're dropping calls.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Correct. This is a major concern of ours and I absolutely would love to have additional funding if that was possible as an interim. I've asked for it.

Trustee Thompson: I'm just concerned about that if we want to grow in the right direction, if we can't provide the service until the district is approved, that's concerning to me. What do we do in the interim?

Town Supervisor Maher: I think if we can show the districts being created, we'll be able to get from A to B fairly easily with the knowledge that the district is going to be created starting in 2023. If it's not, it'll be a different story and we'll have to go back to the drawing board and make really tough decisions on making investments with the Town funds for setting coverage. That's going to be a really, really tough decision. I don't want to have to get to that point because I think the districts the long-term sustainable solution.

Trustee Maher: I don't know about everyone, but I've gotten several emails from concerned residents and I have to say, especially after hearing Rich McNamee speak tonight. Mary Ellen. Fully in agreement with everything that you've said. Our main responsibility as a Trustee is fiscal responsibility. We talk about it all the time. We have glazed over other issues and I see that we're taking a lot of time answering all these questions, getting into all the details. And I think it's excellent. I think as much transparency on this issue that we can have and the more details we can have, the better. But I have no doubt that this is such a great plan. The bones are here. I think that we should have trust in our elected officials to make the best judgment for our Town. I think that if we sit here and drag this on any further and dig into every single detail, obviously we're not all going to agree on every single piece of the financial aspect of the budget. That's for you guys to decide and for the committee to decide. And I think that if anyone has a huge laundry list of concerns regarding the financial budget, I would encourage you to join the committee. I think that you've said it's very open. You're looking for other people from the Villages to join in. I think that dropping calls is not okay. We've said this a few times, like what is the cost of a life? I think that it's something that people are very passionate about. I've talked to many residents about the issue and I feel like it comes down to if you've had to make that call or not. From the people that I've spoken to, when they're trying to get me to see their side or to see the other side of the issue. I ask them, have you had to make that call and they haven't. I just want to ask everyone to just consider that. If you haven't ever had to make that call, put yourself in those shoes in that moment. I want ALS services for my loved ones. I do hear your concerns about obviously wanting to keep the Walden hub. I have the same concerns there. But I think that we have to make this happen and it's the best thing for our taxpayers and I do want to stay involved as much as possible. I have questions on every page, so it would be silly for me to sit up here and say I don't have any questions. I have questions, but I feel like I trust you guys and I trust the Ambulance Corps to do the right thing. I think that you guys have a Board. You're a Trustee. So, you work full time. You're a mom and you're up here volunteering. No one can say we haven't done our due diligence. This is like 900 questions and the answers are very well thought out. They're not perfect, but I trust in what I'm reading here. Thank you all for your endless information and for answering all of our questions, for your transparency, and I'm completely in favor of it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Thank you. I appreciate your efforts and all that you have done. I won't be

as amicable as Trustee Maher, but I do have some questions. Let's start with the last 1 that we had to address on the committee. I'm concerned about that because it appears to me and correct me, if I'm wrong, that the committee is just going to be advisory. Or will it have teeth?

Town Supervisor Maher: It'll be an advisory committee.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That's a problem with me personally, because if we say just advisory, you can glance over and say we're going to do what we want.

Town Supervisor Maher: I think at the end of the day, having an advisory committee is something that many people wouldn't offer. For me, it's important for me to have your perspective. But at the end of the day, if the Town district in a Town of Montgomery elected officials are responsible for it, they are the ones that are going to have to make the final decision and/or those that we contract with to provide the services. I don't see a way where it makes sense to be able to give teeth to a committee because you're going to have so many people with so many different opinions. At some point there's an entity that's going to have to have the executive authority to do what you have to do.

Sylvie Rainaldi: I thought a lot about that, actually. About what it means to be involved from the different Villages and what it means to have so many stakeholders with an interest in the Ambulance Corps. For the Ambulance Corps to manage all those stakeholders. The 3 Villages, plus the Town, plus all the elected officials and the residents. I came up with 1 idea. It's not a perfect idea, but I want to make sure that from the Ambulance Corps perspective, that we are engaging with all of the Villages as our own entity, as our own organization. More consistently, I've gotten multiple feedback from these types of meetings that that is something that you guys want to do. And on the opposite side, I think that the Ambulance Corps needs to be more forthcoming with presenting what's going on in the Ambulance Corps. What I came up with is an invitation for vice versa, it's a list of every single one of our executive meetings. Patricia's question last week actually kind of gave me the idea that you are invited to. We are going to hold 30 to 45 minutes of the first part of our executive committee meeting just to talk about the tax district. It's going to be real brainstorming. It's the actual questions. We want people from the municipalities to show up and engage. And then the second thing is for the Ambulance Corps, we will offer, however often you would like, whether it's quarterly, seems like a nice place to start to come and present to you on what's going on with the Ambulance Corps. What are the stats for the last 3 months? What are our challenges? What are our successes? What are issues that we're having? The liaison can speak to it as well. I can't, from an Ambulance Corps perspective, speak to Brian's answer on what does it mean to have authority in a tax district decision making. But I do know that you guys, we want you engaged in our Ambulance Corps decision making.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So, the second part is the capital projects. It becomes a capital project and you said the Town already has needs. What percentage of that bond will go to that? The Village still has to pay?

Town Supervisor Maher: Whenever there's a capital improvement to any place in the Town of Montgomery, Village of Walden taxpayers pay into it through the A fund. The A fund taxes the Town of Montgomery and all 3 Villages. And whenever there's a building improvement made, it's paid for through the A fund. The couple of million dollars, whatever it's going to be, hopefully less, that we use to fix up things that need to be fixed on Town properties, that's already getting paid for through Village of Walden taxpayers, Village of Montgomery taxpayers, Village of Maybrook taxpayers and everybody in the Town. Commercial and otherwise.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I just want to make sure everybody understands, regardless if you get the tax district or not and you're doing the building, it's going to be tax. It's going to be a bond. A cost is

going to come out of that anyway.

Town Supervisor Maher: Correct.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Okay. In reference to the questions that was proposed and you answered, you already answered about the contract hire and you'll discuss it after the district. I have some trepidation about answering questions after a district versus before a district and that's the majority of what feedback I receive from the public. Why do we have to do things after it's approved and then you have no control over it? And then that leads into some of the questions that were asked here. The first one you answered. How can you secure the amount needed for the tax district won't increase in the future? "You said there are no guarantees for that." I don't know how you going to respond to other than no guarantees and I guess we just have to live with that. But I think that goes to Mary Ellen and Trustee Maher's position is that we do have to take a leap of faith knowing that everybody will work together for the betterment of the taxpayer so that make sure we have our ambulance and needs are met. I appreciate that. The other one was, what happens if one of the larger companies leaves Town and we can lose that revenue? I believe your answer, "right now, large warehouses are not staying vacant. They are being snatched up and utilized. The online market is not going away anytime soon. We do not view this as an issue." but I still don't feel like it was answered.

Town Supervisor Maher: The answer is if somehow in the future a large warehouse moves away and does not get filled and is vacant, yes, it would impact the district. There's no forecast out there that shows that's going to happen. Everything that we were seeing is just more and more warehouses being built all over the nation because online sales are just going through the roof.

Manager Revella: Just because it's vacant doesn't mean it's not paying taxes. So, you're still going to get the revenue.

Town Supervisor Maher: Yes. Not sold, I guess. That's why I don't view it as an issue in a very, very long time, if ever.

Deputy Mayor Carley: No, I appreciate it. Thanks for clarifying

Town Supervisor Maher: 1 quick point on that though, I know it was 1 of the questions and it wasn't brought up. I have the list of the PILOTS. There's actually 19, not 21. The thing that I wanted to just show everybody. So, there is Amazon. Amazon has their PILOT. Which makes them in the first 5 years of paying 20 percent. The Town of Montgomery is getting \$15,000 in 2022. But because fire districts and ambulance districts are not putting PILOTS, the Coldenham Fire Department is getting \$92,000. That's going to happen in year 1. 100 percent valuation. Another one, the top taxpayers in the Town by taxable assessment. Medline right now is number 1 because they're not getting a PILOT. Their assessment is at the building half-built. \$35 million. They're the number 1 assessed property in the Town of Montgomery at half assessment. This doesn't include sailfish because they're getting a PILOT. So, you're talking about the next number 15 is 3 million. That 70 million in assessment, which is what Medline is going to be and then double that. That is all going to get paid for into the ambulance district to make it cheaper for everyday residents. When I listen to Trustee Thompson, talk about how the Town, what are we going to do to increase resources, it pains me to think about that. When I know these 2 massive companies that are going to be assessed at 140 million dollars together, aren't going to pay into it or very small. It gets me twitchy. That's why there are so many questions to be answered, but that's why it's so unfair for us to do this and pay for it this way to have your Village of Walden residents pay for it this way, without those large companies. Which are the 2 biggest buildings in Orange County not paying 100 percent into it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Just for clarity, can a Village opt out of the district if it appears not to be working. Like once we start, can we opt out or cancel out? And would that look like?

Town Supervisor Maher: Interesting. The way that I read that question was what would the Town do? The Town can decide to dissolve the district and that can end. What would the Village be able to do in that respect?

Attorney Donovan: The Latin phrase is "no backsies". Once you're in, you're in. It's a Town of Montgomery district.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The other 1 was, I guess it goes back to billing. You said that you do bill or you don't bill. I know you bill the insurance, but you don't follow up or you do 3 attempts. Will that stay the same? Or will that change anything?

Sylvie Rainaldi: Based on the amount of charity write offs last year that was higher than we anticipated, so we do plan on addressing that operationally. That's not related to the tax district happening or not. We need to make sure that we have a sustainable charity model. The answer is we are meeting with our billing company this month to do a full review and figure out how we can achieve sustainable charity write offs. But it's not related to the tax district, and we don't see any changes when the tax district starts and our billing processes. Other than making sure that our financial policies and procedures are not kind of against what the Town would want.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The reason we're asking these questions is because you keep saying this is not in regards to the tax district, but for our vote and for the our constituents, guess what it is for the tax district.

Town Supervisor Maher: As an elected official, we're the ones making these decisions. So, if now is a chance for them to have a discussion and have the ability to say, *inaudible* it gives them leverage to ask these questions and to get answers.

Manager Revella: We can't dissolve it later.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Were there issues with the billing process or policies that you saw that you'd want change to be different?

Deputy Mayor Carley: When people talk about soft building, hard billing and all these different things and your numbers, charitable, if that was sought after for whatever reason, I'm not saying right or wrong, but that could have alleviated some issues. Because the public is listening and we want to make sure everything is covered. We have to bring it up. I know that you can't say yes or no right now, but the point is that has to be brought up and everyone has to address it down the line. And somebody may say, hey remember you asked this question, let's bring it up again and we have it.

Sylvie Rainaldi: It's a hard conversation to have because ambulance services are out of network. So, they hit you're out of network benefits through every insurance company, which processes those claims very differently. Even within the same insurance company, plans are different, whether it's an HMO or PPO. So, there's no 1 size fits all model as far as patient responsibility, but the Ambulance Corps has been committed to not ruining people's credit because they haven't been able to pay for services. It's a community commitment that we've had. But at the same time, we do need to remain a solvent business. We have to be thoughtful about when and how we give charity discounts. It's something that has not come up previously because of the amount has not been as

much as it was last year.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I went to the Village of Wappinger Falls and I talked to Beacon and I looked at their model that they're having there. They have a pool of money and they say the ambulance company can bill the insurance and then the Ambulance Corps, that's there, whoever it is, they get to take \$150 and that's it. I think that's a good model. I don't know if you looked at it or anything like that, and it's a lot cheaper than what we're proposing. 1 of the things that we brought up last meeting, I didn't get into detail but the point is that those different models where you can lessen the amount that effects the taxpayer as long as we discuss those and are open. And once again, no disrespect to you, Supervisor Maher, when you say that this is the number and that's it, then that sends a message that there's no wiggle room, there's no working room, there's no if we come up with a better model to help out the taxpayer that you're open to it or not. Can you speak to that?

Town Supervisor Maher: Yes, I can. Very happy you're clarifying that. The \$800,000 number is the \$800,000 number that's in the map plan report. It is not to exceed the \$800,000. If we decided before 2023, when we adopt our budget in November that it's going to be less, it can be less. That number can change. It just cannot be higher.

Manager Revella: That depends on the contract with the Ambulance Corps, correct?

Town Supervisor Maher: It depends on a lot of factors. In my opinion, from everything I've looked at. It would make the most sense to charge that number so that we have some wiggle room in future years so you're not coming back to the taxpayers. Am I open to changing that? Yes, absolutely.

Manager Revella: Is the Ambulance Corps open to changing that? Are they depending on this \$800,000?

Sylvie Rainaldi: The answer is that that \$800,000 is over what we would need to provide BLS services. But would we get pretty close when we would go live with ALS, depending on the amount of ALS calls and reimbursement and revenue as well as any kind of donation.

Manager Revella: And that's something that would be contracted with you guys to say, Hey, we did this much revenue, this is what we need to be solvent or is this to make profit?

Town Supervisor Maher: It wouldn't be about profit.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Anything that we would have would need to go into a fund balance for future services. Right now, there is no fund balance.

Trustee Thompson: I felt like I asked the same question and it was answered differently, but maybe I didn't convey my thoughts properly.

Town Supervisor Maher: You did. And my belief is that it should be \$800,000. Willie's specific question was, is there any wiggle room in? The answer is yes. There is. In my opinion, from everything I've seen, it should be \$800,000. Could Willie and someone else change our mind when we sit down? Absolutely.

Trustee Thompson: I understand. So, if everything falls under \$800,000, you want to stay with that number because you're hoping that will help you build a reserve fund.

Town Supervisor Maher: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The other question was, we know that if the Ambulance Corps was to leave Walden, the building would go back to the Village?

Manager Revella: Correct. There's a reversion clause in the property that they are currently occupying. There're some stipulations with the American Legion as well.

Deputy Mayor Carley: In 2020, it says, received \$170,000 grant from Orange County for upgrades.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Yes, for new radios.

Manager Revella: Like the ones that we received for PD. We received the new radio system. Went Countywide. Fire Department, Police Department and Ambulance Corps got them.

Sylvie Rainaldi: It was only for the radios, which I believe was a County requirement to move to the new radio system.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Okay. Then you received another 10 from the economic injury disaster. I guess basically because of COVID.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Carley: \$58,000 for the payroll protection program

Town Supervisor Maher: \$54,000. They didn't get it last year because they didn't get their revenue loss threshold numbers.

Deputy Mayor Carley: With me personally, I agree with everybody and we all agree that there's a lot of questions that hasn't been answered. The second part is that, I believe there has come a point where you have to take a leap of faith and work with our public officials to make sure everything is taken care of. However, we have a responsibility. I believe from what I hear from everybody on the board and outside. Everyone agrees 100 percent that you need an ambulance service. We're not trying to do away with ambulance service, but we're trying to parse out on how we move from a business perspective with the ambulance services.

Mayor Ramos: I have to agree with Deputy Mayor Carley. We are not here to shut down an ambulance service. We firmly believe that is a service that is necessary for a community. For its health and safety. I know you've heard me say this a couple of times. We've got to do it the right way. We had a slew of questions. Obviously, we weren't privy to some of the committee meetings that they've had since August of last year. Here we are, December, and you're breathing really heavy trying to get this done. We do our due diligence. Yes. We proved it by forwarding you said 100 questions. I didn't see mine on there.

Sylvie Rainaldi: There are questions that we haven't finalized the answers to. I wrote in the email when I wrote back to you that if it wasn't on the list, it wasn't that we weren't looking into it. Also, the list that John Revella sent me did not say, who's asked what. And then there were 3 questions of yours that I sent back to you because I didn't understand.

Mayor Ramos: Yes. I'm not saying that you were not answering the questions. This was a lot of work and I applaud you for getting this done. A couple issues. 1 of my questions were, where's your

business plan? I'm a firm believer and if you kept saying that this is a business. Where is your business plan? I like to see an operational plan. I like to see personnel. You're asking for 7 FTEs, a total of 11. Those numbers. I'm looking at compensation and salaries and benefits. I'm looking at your logistical plan. What are your logistics on a daily basis or even on a yearly basis? Of course, now you're fleet management. You're looking at 4-5 years for each ambulance that goes on. Obviously, that's a huge cost. Vehicle fuel, oil and everything else is pretty much going to be your heavy, besides salary. I didn't see a business plan. Supervisor Maher, you presented the 19 PILOTS. I was wrong and I apologize. I said it was 21.

Town Supervisor Maher: You were kind of right. The school district has PILOTS that aren't specific to Town of Montgomery.

Sylvie Rainaldi: When I was working on the presentation that I gave last week with Brian, I took and made sure all the elements of a business plan were in that presentation. A business plan in a PowerPoint presentation was given to you in our last presentation. If all of the supporting documentation for that presentation business plan, we have because we had to come up with those numbers. If you are looking for a word document that says business plan on it that's 30 pages long, single space written, that doesn't exist. It's several files of work to get into that PowerPoint presentation with all of the elements of a business plan. What I would say is if you have very specific questions about how we calculate the staffing, come to our meeting next Tuesday, or I invited the liaison to join a Zoom meeting, which may happen this Thursday, and we'll be happy to go through. What I'd like to do in these work sessions, which is why I gave this to you guys, is to show the backup details to all of that. I could come here and go through exactly how I calculate salary plus benefits for 48 hours plus a 40 hour, but not for part time. It's better to sit down with the numbers in front of us and go through it. So, when you say there's no business plan, I would beg to differ because I presented you a business plan. It was in a PowerPoint format.

Mayor Ramos: That's not a business plan.

Sylvie Rainaldi: We're going to agree to disagree on that one.

Mayor Ramos: No worries. I'm looking at your income and expense lines. We're talking about \$800,000. Just 2 lines on your 6600, which is payroll expenses. BLS and ALS and employee health insurance. Your projected \$920,000 and \$195,000, is a \$1,115,000. That doesn't look like \$800,000.

Sylvie Rainaldi: The \$800,000 is what the tax district would be, but we're still receiving revenue from the insurance companies. It's not the budget. \$800,000 is not our expense budget. Our expense budget is that plus probably another \$900,000 in insurance reimbursement. Plus, any grants in revenue.

Mayor Ramos: What is the \$900,000 used for?

Town Supervisor Maher: All of the expenses you see there, are all the expenses that they could come up with based on the services they provide and the future services we want to invest in. When it comes to the budget, \$800,000 will be the bedrock of that budget that will be paid for through the tax base. They receive anywhere from 5-700 over the last two years \$100,000 in insurance reimbursement payments. The overall budget, if you put \$800,000 is really 1.4-1.5 million.

Sylvie Rainaldi: The budget that we gave to you guys 2 weeks ago, there were actually one question that actually came from the member of the public that we've updated. It was Brenda's question about building and maintenance versus another maintenance one, and our financial manager has since actually split those out. So, we've updated that for future version and our new

software went live since we gave you that. What I wanted to do in this Thursday meeting in the Zoom is show you how it looks with the new software system and go through those lines individually.

Mayor Ramos: You contract mobile life services for \$65,000 a year. Correct?

Sylvie Rainaldi: There's no contract with mobile life. We pay them per transport. Where the paramedic from mobile life gets on to a Town of Montgomery Ambulance and transports the patient as ALS.

Mayor Ramos: So, that amount varies. Obviously, if you have 20 less transports from ALS to BLS, the money varies.

Sylvie Rainaldi: You can't guarantee. Of course. But we think that mobile life because of their dropped calls and that there's higher chance of revenue that ALS services that wasn't being captured. I think one of the questions which we're working on is the number of calls mobile life dropped. I don't think that answer is in the spreadsheet because we're making sure that that calculation is very solid.

Manager Revella: Who picks those up if mobile life was dropping them?

Sylvie Rainaldi: Town of Wallkill is our primary ALS. Town of Blooming Grove would be our second.

Mayor Ramos: When mobile life drops a call, obviously their answering or they do something that they're not responsive, who follows that up, that they don't charge you for that? If mobile life receives transmission from 911 center, we cannot respond.

Manager Revella: Not billing for things they don't respond to, right?

Sylvie Rainaldi: No. The invoices are a patient ID.

Town Supervisor Maher: They have an automated billing company that checks that out.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Those invoices come to the Town of Montgomery Ambulance to be paid to mobile life. What's happening is they're riding on a Town of Montgomery ambulance. Mobile paramedic is getting on and riding on the ambulance to the hospital. For Medicare patients only, the situation is that the Town of Montgomery is going to bill Medicare for the whole kit and caboodle and then mobile life is going to bill the Town of Montgomery for a stipend for every patient that they go on the transport.

Town Supervisor Maher: To answer your point though, we'd be able to say, no, we're not going to pay you that, we were there. That didn't happen.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I just want to clarify the calls in the building is separate. The billing part is based off the transport. Not the call.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Correct. With 1 exception, which is you can bill four on scene motor vehicle accidents regardless of transport. Which is not a substantial amount. It's the only time you can bill for a non transport. Motor vehicle accidents.

Mayor Ramos: How many accidents do we have?

Sylvie Rainaldi: I think it was like 40 where they didn't transport.

Mayor Ramos: I just recently read that the Orange County Legislature was reviewing something, or they passed something just recently in their last meeting when it came to EMS services within Orange County. Do you have any input on that?

Town Supervisor Maher: No, but I will look into that before your next meeting.

Mayor Ramos: Can you go to your PowerPoint presentation on page number 8? Can you go down to your bottom sentence, "Town of Montgomery residents are not sent to collections for inability or failure to pay." I know you don't have this. You're more than welcome to have my copy. But this is an income execution from a resident in the Village of Walden. That's just 1 I've sought assistance from other resources to see if there are any more others.

Sylvie Rainaldi: I'm going to have to look into this.

Mayor Ramos: And just to let you know, I don't know how you can affirm or deny whether or not the person received any type of payment from an insurance company. I read your presentation, which is good, but this is still an income execution order from a resident for services rendered by the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Service, almost \$3000. That's a big issue. When you say that they write off and they don't bill anything.

Sylvie Rainaldi: If they cash their insurance check and don't forward that to the Ambulance Corps, it's a different situation than having insurance pay the Ambulance Corps.

Mayor Ramos: You mentioned saying that it's out-of-network.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Out-of-network, which is different? Sometimes when insurances are out-of-network, they'll send the payment to the patient on the good faith that that patient will send that payment on to the insurance company. If that patient keeps the money. That's not their money. That money is for the service and that could have been sent to collections.

Mayor Ramos: How did that happen?

Sylvie Rainaldi: I have never seen this before and you're giving it to me for the first time, so I will have to follow up with you on it.

Mayor Ramos: I've asked several of the resources to see if there's any redundant issues like that.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Please let us know because that is not the intent with this exception.

Town Supervisor Maher: The only thing is the Town Board is going to have our public hearing next week. We're going to open it up. We're not going to close anything. We want to wait to see what you all do and what Maybrook does. I would only ask is if you could continue to ask questions, get them answered. We'll be back here for next meeting. At that meeting, we're just looking for a vote. Either way.

Sylvie Rainaldi: We do have the 2 opportunities to connect with us on the call that we're going to confirm for Thursday and the next Tuesday for the executive board session of the Ambulance Corps, if anybody would like to attend.

Town Supervisor Maher: Let me know if you have any questions on the resolution.

Deputy Mayor Carley: If Walden doesn't opt in, what happens to the district?

Town Supervisor Maher: Pretty straightforward. Based on my belief, I don't think we should do this without all 3 Villages signed on. I don't think it's the right thing to do for the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps, not it's not right for them. I don't think you should put the Town in that situation or you in that situation where they're trying to contract and figure out ways to provide the services they want to pay. If you guys opt out, I'm going to be back here and we're going to redo this every year until we do it. That's how strongly I feel about this. To answer your question, I would recommend to the Town Board not to put the district in at all until all 3 Villages are signed up. I believe that's the only way to really is the right way.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Thank you.

Resolution 8-21-22 – Budget Transfers

Trustee Elliott made a motion to approve Resolution 8-21-22 – Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion – Police Policies

Manager Revella: The Police Department has done their accreditation updates for policies through Lexipol. I provided those updates to all the board members to review. It's about a thousand pages, hundreds of policies that were updated. The board is reviewing those. We have some other clarifying documents coming that will help for review. I believe next meeting I'll have the Chief here to go through an overview of the updates and the processes to make sure those policies are implemented so we can get accreditation.

Deputy Mayor Carley: With the policies, we want to make sure that the public is involved with the review for those who want to look at what was before and what's now, make sure they're divided up so we can see what's new, what's old. From my understanding, I haven't read everything, there's some mandates that has to happen regardless if the Village agrees with her or not, has to occur. So, the transparency with that, we need people involved in it. When we went through the first round of the 203, we had very, very, very few. It was such a hot topic. And one, I believe our police force is doing a wonderful job. When I hear other people saying there's issues, I'm like, well, bring them up so we can know about them. I'm trying to make a plea to the public. We have this coming up. We're going to review it again. We're going to go back through it. The Chief is going to be here to demonstrate or to explain or verify, whatever you want, so that we can make sure that the public is fully engaged and knows what's going on. That's why I'm just bringing it up again. It's a long document, it's going to take more than just one session. This is going to be quite a lengthy process.

Manager Revella: We'll have links on the website for the documents as well. We'll make sure they're all on there tomorrow.

Resolution 9-21-22 – Designating Polling Place and Time

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 9-21-22 – Designating Polling Place and Time of the Village Elections on March 15, 2022 8am-9pm at Village Hall 1 Municipal Square, Walden NY 12586. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

Discussion – Building Code – Dates and Times Work Can Be Performed

Manager Revella: It was brought up by the Building Department. There's a little bit of contradiction in the code regarding when people are permitted to work. Just want to try to get some

clarity on when that can happen, especially weekends and holidays. They have a suggestion about the holidays and Sundays, no work unless you're working on your own home inside without effecting your neighbors. I'm not sure how the board feels about making that change, but if they are, Dave can draft something.

Trustee Thompson: What is it currently, it's nothing before 8am and nothing after 10pm? 9 pm?

Manager Revella: 5pm.

Attorney Donovan: What it says is, "construction activities are permitted Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, except holidays, during daytime hours." The next provision says they're "permitted only as follows Saturday, Sunday and holidays during the hours of 10 and 5." So, one of the problems is subdivision B-1 says except for holidays. Subdivision B-2 says that includes holidays. That needs to be resolved in one fashion or another. Then you need to kind of take a look at what does daytime hours mean. There are also exceptions for emergencies and other things that wouldn't be subject to this.

Manager Revella: The real change they wanted us to consider was the Sundays and holidays. They don't want the ability for contractors to work during Sundays and holidays because that means they have to inspect during Sundays and holidays and causes a disturbance for neighbors.

Trustee Thompson: They don't want any Village residents to do outside work. If you're working inside your home, even if it's work that has to have a permit, they're still okay with that?

Manager Revella: That's what they said.

Attorney Donovan: I think it just relates noise. I think you can do work if you're not making noise. This is prohibited noise activities

Trustee Thompson: I don't know if I'm 100 percent in favor of that because a lot of people do construction themselves on their homes. A lot of people need to do their work on a Saturday and a Sunday. They work all week. So that's the only time they have, let's say, to put up a fence or to work on a deck or whatever they're doing on the outside of their house. Just my thought.

Trustee Elliott: I agree with Lynn. A lot of people can't do it during the week, so what else are they going to do?

Trustee Maher: I think it would depend on the extent of the work. It says blasting here. So, I'm in agreement.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I think we got to go back to the whole policy and look at the whole thing in a picture and make sure we got the times and everything right. Before we say, in my opinion, yes or no, let's make sure we have everything right. I think this brings back what we've talked about before. We have to review the policies. I know they kind of dropped off. I don't know where it dropped, but I think we need to go back through all the policies to review it, to make sure and catch some things like this. Code review and policies. As a board and schedule it out so we can address it. But right now, I hear what they're saying, but I don't think we're here to vote on it. I wouldn't vote on it right now because it's too many things we need to make sure is correct before we just say yes or no.

Attorney Donovan: All you be doing is authorizing me to prepare a local law, but you need to do that. You don't need to do anything. There's like a big picture about how do you handle noise on

holidays, weekends. Then there's what I'll call the smaller picture, which is the discrepancy between except holidays and including holidays. I don't think the world's going to end, if you put it off.

Mayor Ramos: I agree. This is just for discussion on how are we feeling. I agree with the Deputy Mayor that we should review the current building code and just check on how we could either improve it or deny it. One or the other.

Public Comment

Brenda Adams: I gave John a formal letter of request today for Walden Veterans Memorial Park asking John and his managers budget to possibly increase that line by \$500. I believe what the current \$500 for is for the maintenance of the water system, for starting it up in the spring, fixing water heads and then draining it in the fall. We would like to see the budget increased by \$500 to cover the cost of a flag for the June, we know you start to year for the first of June, so a flag for this year, there are 2 flags, American and P.O.W. for June and the spring flowers for next May. Then maybe we could keep that going if we could sustain it in future budgets. Then we could always plan that we know that the flags are paid for and the flowers in the spring are paid for. Right now, our kitty is getting a little lower. We are very frugal with our money. We are looking at doing a fundraiser to add some money to the package of some kind. If you could support that, if John sees fit to put in the budget, if you folks could support it, that'd be great. The only other item that I was wondering, I think Rich said, that mobile life doesn't like to come to Walden. Do we know why?

Richard McNamee: It's not Walden. They don't like to go anywhere.

Brenda Adams: The other question I have is why wouldn't we pick a type of district before we actually do a tax district? Be it a Town Department or be it a 501c3, as it is now supported through Town taxes? I would think that we would have to know what's the future look like for that? Either way, I just think it should be known. Then it sounds like the detail that I was hoping to see you get if you go to that meeting. I hope you'll get that good detail.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Supervisor Maher said, correct me if I'm wrong, after you become a district, they'll make the decision about the hire versus contract.

Town Supervisor Maher: *inaudible*.

Brenda Adams: I thought that's what you want to know to budget one way or the other. I would think it's 2 different budgets.

Town Supervisor Maher: Both of them will be different well over \$800,000 than we had on the map planner report.

Mayor Ramos: If everybody would with their cross talking, please, I know our Clerk is having, just make sure either you're more boisterous or come to the mic.

Sylvie Rainaldi: The budget that was done was for the 501c3 to be doing the operations and the staffing for the Ambulance Corps going forward for the tax district. I think it's in good faith to move forward as if that were to happen now. If analysis were to come back that money could be saved along the way it's an open discussion to have. Nobody here is against it. I think the value of supporting our ambulance services, this tax district wouldn't start until 2023. To put off an analysis of that for that sake, that would delay ambulance service tax district for another year. I'm not so sure the cost benefit of what your question is outweighs the need for funded ambulance services. I hear what you're saying and I think that it it could be decided before, but not at the cost of putting out the

tax district for a year. I think that the budget that we handled that we gave is for the 501c3 organization to provide service which is capable of doing. We're open to the possibility of saving money in any kind of way possible. If that means moving to the Town, we've said it in the last meeting, we're open to doing it. I'm not sure I agree with needing that decision to be done before the tax district is decided, especially if the cost is to delay a year.

Becky Pearson: I'm perplexed, because I'm not understanding. You are proposing a tax district, possibly. We don't know if that's for sure yet.

Sylvie Rainaldi: It's proposed.

Becky Pearson: So within that tax district, there is a contract.

Sylvie Rainaldi: There would be a contract, if the Town which for argument's sake, moves forward with ambulance services through Town of Montgomery ambulance, there would be a contract.

Becky Pearson: In order to form this district, the Villages will then have a contract with the Town.

Sylvie Rainaldi: No. It's one contract.

Becky Pearson: It's a tax district.

Sylvie Rainaldi: It's both.

Attorney Donovan: If there's a contract it's with the district.

Manager Revella: If there would be a contract, it would be with the district and it would be inclusive of all 3 Villages.

Becky Pearson: All Villages decide they're going to move forward. The tax district set up. Within that tax district the Village really doesn't have a say of what's going to be happening within that district.

Town Supervisor Maher: They do. Through the Town of Montgomery elected officials that they elect.

Becky Pearson: Not saying that you're not going to be here. But again, no board binds the other board. So, what happens is Supervisors are up every 2 years. Not saying you're not going to win. I'm not saying that at all. What I'm saying is one reason why the Villages didn't want to consolidate Police Departments at one time was because who was running the Town Board. That could change at any time. The Villages have any say. It was all going to be the Town Board.

Sylvie Rainaldi: The operations the Ambulance Corps fall under the leadership of the Ambulance Corps Trustees, and that is not subject to any kind of political change. How the operations are run for the Ambulance Corps is that organization. How the money is dispersed and how much money is dispersed in a large scale decisions on that budget would be approved by the municipality. So that Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps is still its own 501c3 organization with its own leadership, supervision, management, Trustees, et cetera.

Becky Pearson: Any time this tax district can be dissolved through the Town.

Sylvie Rainaldi: Yes.

Becky Pearson: A new Supervisor comes in and says I don't want this tax district because it's costing too much money. We're just going to disband it. There's no contract or anything through the Villages that was protecting you to be able to get your service. So, what happens?

Manager Revella: We go back to what we are now.

Becky Pearson: Maybe. If the Ambulance Corps is okay with that.

Sylvie Rainaldi: That's a big what if. It's a really good question. We would go backwards. Is there any kind of time amount just how we went into it on how much notice the Town would have to give?

Attorney Donovan: There is a statutory provision, which I'm not in a position to parse out, but it's in Section 57 of the NYS Town law, Dissolution of Special Improvement District. There's a statutory scheme for it. The district, which would be the Town. Would have to have a public hearing. Basically they have to fine for good cause shown that it makes sense to dissolve the district and then there's certain things that have to happen, especially if there is bonded indebtedness. That's going to have to be addressed in some fashion. There are some provisions that I came across that indicate that the Town may still have to operate that district for a period of time. But I guess it's up to the Town, because it's a Town district and there is a process for dissolution.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I addressed it because I asked a question about advisory, do we have any teeth? That was the point. Once the committee come together, I guess we can draft a document and give recommendations. But the Town has overall say so yes or no, which way they go.

Becky Pearson: Can the tax district be set up set up with a voice from each Village?

Deputy Mayor Carley: We can work through the advisory committee. We want to have a vote to make the Town to move because we're not a part of their board, but we can have an advisory.

Attorney Donovan: Unknown to me, whether you could have an intermunicipal agreement, called an IMA, to provide for that. I think probably unlikely, but I just don't know the answer. Typically, when you form a district, you have District Commissioners. Typically in a Town district, the District Commissioners are the Town Board and they're the be all and the end of the day. Whether this could be subject to some other agreement. I don't know the answer to that.

Manager Revella: You could have a separate commission for the district, correct?

Attorney Donovan: The district could appoint Commissioners.

Becky Pearson: But could the Commissioners be made to be in each Village?

Manager Revella: Sure.

Becky Pearson: There is a concern of things happening. I know the past Supervisor allowed to set up the program for the library that would bring the library up to where it's in par with the Town of Montgomery. The next Supervisor comes in and takes that away. That's my concern. What you get down, you may not have later on because you're going to get a new Supervisor. I get you want to trust in your local officials. But there's a lot to look at. I'm not against the process at all.

Sylvie Rainaldi: I have a thought on that because I don't think you're wrong. I think that from an

Ambulance Corps perspective, the tax district is the most way to protect it because right now a line item is the most flexible in what can be taken away and changed.

Becky Pearson: I think there's still work. There was a lot of good questions up here. Is that something that you're ready for? I get that Brian will be back here if it doesn't go through. I'm for it all, but there's questions still. On the second part of this, you just talked about construction activities. Good idea to look at the whole thing. Say, I want to fix my back door and couldn't do it on a Sunday. I think you need to look at large construction. Like someone putting siding on someone's house and the radio is blaring versus at home construction. No worse than barking dogs.

Mary Ellen Matise: Talking about dissolution, as a 501c3 they have to have their own dissolution procedure anyway. You're talking about dissolution of a district, but if the Ambulance Corps dissolves, that comes under 501c3 law by state. There's lots of protections in every way from something like that happening. Of course, if the whole thing just collapses immediately because they have no funding, then guess what? We're up you know what creek. Put the shoe on the other foot and everybody who's worried about a substation in Walden. We're the problem for the rest of the Town because you try to go through 208 and 52 with the ambulance bus at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Good luck. We're holding up calls to the other part of the Town, not the other way around. We would probably get plenty of service and maybe if it was more centralized, we would get better service if we did something about controlling our intersection. Which is a nightmare. And we've never done it. The PD could deal with that and they don't. It's not going to be a light. It's going to be somebody out there directing traffic at certain peak times of the day. We brought it up on the board over and over again, and the past Chief just refused to even hear it. I offered to be on the box with the flag.

Mayor Ramos: It's not that easy.

Mary Ellen Matise: Doing the job might not be easy, but having somebody there at peak times, especially afternoons with school busses. It would improve our reputation in the County. Let me tell you that. I have a concern. I'm glad everybody's bringing up more questions than one person could have thought of. It's great. It's about time. But aside from that, we're talking about a situation now where how many people have ever been involved with engaging with the Ambulance Corps, going to the Town Board meeting and saying, Well, you are giving the money out of the A fund at during the year and saying, these are our concerns. I never hear anybody or see anybody or have heard over the years people going. Also on the same note, you're dealing with an agency that is a 501c3. They're not a government agency. They are a private organization. And at this point, they're graciously saying to you, come to our meetings, we want you to come, we want you to participate. But they don't have to. They're not mandated by the same state laws that govern local government. I'm just going to play devil's advocate on this. You want to tell them how to spend their money. Well, how about when we have budget work sessions, you let the rest of us get up and tell you how to spend our money. We come to the budget work sessions year after year after year, and we can't open our mouths. I'm tired of that. Then come to the public hearing and just say what you have to say at the public hearing and then you vote on whatever it is you've already set up that has no public input. I just want to put that out there. You want to tell a 501c3 how to spend their money. Then right now in the A fund, which is a minuscule amount and even \$800,000, which is not a big amount by any stretch of the imagination in today's world, then put your money where your mouth is. I also just was reading this thing about changing the building code. Quiet hours or 11pm. I don't see any problem with somebody hammering in their house after work when they come home. I don't see any problem with somebody doing work on Sunday. How about they're out there with lawn mowers and leaf blowers on Sunday. This is overkill and getting in people's faces for no reason at all.

John Hank: I'm a resident of the Village of Montgomery. I've been involved in emergency services in the Town of Montgomery for over 27 years. I'm a past Chief of the Montgomery Fire Department. I've been involved in EMS for 27 years. I've been a police officer for 21. I'm currently the Police Chief in the Town of Montgomery. I started in the Maybrook Fire Department in 1994. I've also worked in commercial EMS for mobile life and I've also volunteered for the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps over the years. From listening to all of those who wanted to come up and give a little bit of perspective on how emergency services actually work. Because from listening to some of the questions and some of you speak, I feel that you don't have any fundamental understanding of how emergency services work and especially how EMS works. This is not a new issue. It's the first time I'm hearing Town Board and Village Boards really talk about it. This is an issue we have talked about for the 27 and a half years that I have been involved in emergency services. I became involved in EMS and became first, a certified first responder because I couldn't become an EMT until I was 18 and then an EMT. I became those things because ambulances routinely took over a half hour to show up to medical calls. 27 years, this has not gotten better. Some questions that were asked, will we still have 24 hour coverage in the Village of Walden? You don't have that now. That's not a thing. There's not an ambulance staff here 24 hours a day. There hasn't been in 27 years that I've been doing is. Who's coming, if they don't get out? If mobile life is not available, who's coming? Maybe Wallkill. Maybe Newburgh. Maybe New Windsor. Maybe new one. When you're having a heart attack, there might be no one coming with ALS availability. It happens all the time. Why isn't mobile life coming? Because they are a for profit service. They can only put out what they can fund. So when they run out of ambulances, they simply run out of ambulances. Then we start relying on other Towns who have done what we're talking about doing to come and bail us out. This system has been broken for as long as I have been involved in. The conversations that we are having now among Village and Town Boards. It's frustrating to me because we've been having these conversations in the firehouses and we've been having these conversations on ambulances for over 25 years. I can only speak to the last 27 seven years because that's as long as I've been involved in it. Guys that have been doing this longer will probably tell you that it's been going on for much longer than that. The decline in volunteerism as much as we struggle with it in the fire department, is a thousand times worse in emergency medical services. The days of volunteer EMS are pretty much gone. It requires far too much time. Far too much time to get yourself licensed and to keep yourself licensed and up to date, and then also to put forth the time that it takes to take a patient from any part of the Town of Montgomery a hospital in Newburgh or Middletown, or possibly up to Poughkeepsie or Port Jervis, depending on where that patient wants to go. From an emergency services standpoint, I have, up until a month and a half ago, I was still on patrol as a Sergeant. Town of Montgomery actually pays Police Officers more to be EMTs. The reason we do that is because we can never depend on ambulances to show up. We don't know how long it's going to take. I have sat on scene over the course of the last year up to an hour waiting for an ambulance. Because if one's not coming, they just keep going to somebody else. And if your call is not that serious, you don't know how long it's going to take for them to get there. I personally have done CPR on patients for over a half hour waiting for an ambulance to show up. The system is unbelievably broken. Everybody that works in the emergency services field is fully aware. It is absolutely sad. It has taken this long for government as a whole, including the Town, the Villages to look into this, to do anything about it or to even care in the time I've been doing this. Living in Maybrook, living in Montgomery. I've never heard any entity outside of the Town Board give any sort of air time to ambulance service to caring who's actually showing up unless it's a member of their family that got very poor service or waited a long time for an ambulance to show up. Getting this done and getting an ambulance district into place so that we can guarantee people that they are actually going to have somebody show up almost all of the time, is something that is long overdue. It's decades overdue. One of the things that I when I was asked about this and the Town Supervisor came to me and ask me about it, knowing my background and how much I've been involved and I'm still involved in the Fire Department. I'm not on the ambulance anymore. He asked me what my trepidation was and what I think will kill this project, and my answer was as

quick as I could say it, politics. Politics will kill this. Because of how districts work. I guaranteed him that there would be problems with Villages not being able to have a say because that's how Town districts are set up. In NY, the way that these things are set up, everything is done through home rule, just like the Village Boards and Town Board have no say in Fire Department operations because they're done by districts. That's why we have 3 ladder trucks, 4 heavy rescue trucks and somewhere around 12 engines in the Town of Montgomery. Because everybody can just do whatever they want. Nobody has to work together. We have 4 Police Departments. 4 governing bodies. All these different things get involved. They don't want to give up anything. They don't want to give up any services. They don't want to not be able to have a say in what's happening. And at some point, for the betterment of the public, we have to give some of that up. Unless we're going to go with the way that we have for as long as this Town has existed, and instead of doing something altogether, we'll have the Walden Ambulance, Maybrook Ambulance, Village of Montgomery and the Town of Montgomery Ambulance. Just like we have Police Department. It doesn't make any sense. We need to do something to fix this. And I can't believe that 25 years later, we're still having the same discussions in the firehouses. And they're just getting to the elected bodies now. This is far overdue. It's shocking to me that it has never been brought up before, never been pushed before by people who've suffered at this horribly broken system that we've had for all this time. I've witnessed it. I've been present for it. I've sat there and put multiple oxygen tanks on people because we keep running out waiting for ambulances to show up. It doesn't work. The ambulance call volumes have only gone increasingly up and up and up, especially over the last 2 years with the COVID nightmare. The Town and the Villages need to get together and do something to fix this. If we fall back on this system that we've had all along, it's going to continue to not work. And hopefully, when it really doesn't work and somebody's life is on the line, it's not somebody that voted against. Thank you. I appreciate your time.

Gerald Mishk: Something came up before about the construction law proposed. I stopped in to the Building Department today to inquire about the law because the last 2 Sundays, there's been a roofing contractor working directly across from MPB Church. Which was kind of disturbing. So it was my understanding that when I was told that they were proposing this change, that it wasn't going to apply to residents doing their own work. Just commercial contractors. After listening to everybody speak, I think there was a misunderstanding. I just wanted to, from my perspective, clear that up.

Payment of Audited Bills

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve Payment of Audited Bills. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Trustee Maher: I mentioned it earlier, I had received several emails from concerned residents from the Village of Walden and the Town of Montgomery, just in regards to the ambulance tax districts and voicing that they were in favor of it and why.

Trustee Elliott: I received that too.

Trustee Thompson: I also received 2 emails and also received something from an Emmitt Armstrong trying to promote ballistic armor for the Police Department.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Nothing outside of what everyone else received.

Mayor Ramos: I, too, received the 2 emails from residents within the Village. And again, we have to preface, I'd be remiss if I didn't, we are not here to dismiss the ambulance service. I'm going to continually say this. We just want to do it the right way. It's hard to put another line number on

taxes to the Village residents and the Town residents without doing our homework.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Thompson: Since Mr. Mishk is here, I would like to thank him for his years of service as our Village Justice and I wish you well in whatever your next chapter is. I also have one question. When Brenda Adams brought up asking for additional funding for Veterans Park, does that fall under our Parks Department's budget?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Thompson: So, that would be something you would increase when you're working on the budget?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Thompson: I just wanted to clarify that because I always assumed that that particular park fell under our scope of all of our parks.

Manager Revella: It's a specific line item, Veterans Park under the Parks Department.

Trustee Thompson: I know that even though there are certain caretakers of that park, it still comes under our Parks and Rec Department as one of our Village parks.

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Maher: I just wanted to say if anyone, any residents that are watching at home, I know there's been a lot covered in the past 2 weeks. Reach out to us because that's what we're here for. If you have any questions or if you can't hear appropriately. We're here to answer any questions on the issues. The only other question I had in regards to the Veterans Park, Brenda, is could you consider a gift?

Manager Revella: They do accept gifts through the Community Council.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Just in reference with Chief Hank, this gives more kudos to Town Supervisor Maher, that it's been on the books a long time that the system is broke and to bring it up now is kudos to that administration. As the Mayor has stated and I just reiterate, the goal is not to dismantle ambulance services. Let's do it in an efficient way so that we can make sure the taxpayers understand 100 percent what's going on. So, that they'll fully understand it wasn't just somebody just saying yes.

Mayor Ramos: Judge Mishk, thank you again for your tenure with us. You've served us well and we'll miss you. I have to again reiterate that we obviously done our homework and I'm proud of our board, even the ones that are missing, for doing their homework, facilitating the questions, our Village Manager for forwarding us all the information that we need and we'll get this worked out. We're not shut out with what we want to do and I'm going to keep on saying that we just have to the next Village Board meeting will be virtual on January 18th. We're getting to a tempest right now and we're going to be preventive.

Becky Pearson: Questions that people have, will somebody be watching that?

Mayor Ramos: Yes. We will have those capabilities.

Executive Session – Personal History of a Particular Employee

Trustee Maher made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
January 4, 2022
Motions & Resolutions**

Resolution 8-21-22 – Budget Transfers

Trustee Elliott made a motion to adopt Resolution 8-21-22 – Budget Transfers. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 9-21-22 – Designating Polling Place and Time

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Resolution 9-21-22 – Designating Polling Place and Time of the Village Elections on March 15, 2022 8am-9pm at Village Hall 1 Municipal Square, Walden NY 12586. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

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