

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
April 19, 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:	Mayor:	John Ramos
Present:	Deputy Mayor	Willie Carley
	Trustees	Lynn Thompson (Zoom)
		Patricia Maher
		Becky Pearson
		Brian Sebring

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

Public Hearing 2022-2023 Village Budget

Trustee Maher made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2022-2023 Village Budget. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Mary Ellen Matise: 54 Gladstone. Let's talk about an item that I still don't think has been put into the budget and that is a line, whether there are zeroes on it, whether there's \$1 on it or \$150,000 on it for ambulance service for 2023. I've heard that the Town board members told the Mayor of this Village that there will not be money in the A line next year for ambulance service in the Town budget because all the paperwork is on the assessor's desk, the district is being set up and I don't know where that leaves us, but I'm not an accountant. I'm not the person setting up the budget. But having been on the board and a resident, I would think that you need to at least have a line in your budget where if you have money that you can move into it later, when you know what the figure is that there's already a line there. I don't see how you create this going forward if it's not in the budget at this point. The discussion at the work sessions, skirted around it, nobody seemed to want to grab on to it and deal with it. I just hope that we're not literally left with our pants down next year. It's not an issue to be taken lightly. Last week, my neighbor was taken to the hospital. A man close to 70 years old has health conditions, diabetes. He had a stroke. In fact, he is a retired police officer from the city of Newburgh. Had a stroke on the job. Almost died. And it's really left the man in not great physical condition since then. Now what happens next year if there's no ambulance? Is he going to die in his living room? He might. We don't know. This is an ongoing situation for many people. I also think that people have not addressed with all the discussion that went on about the ambulance. It's not just our responsibility to our homeowners, but to people who come to play in the Village, summer camp. People who come to shop in the Village, going to Hannaford, Thruway Sporting Goods, any of the stores down there. People who work in the Village. AMPAC, the bag factory, which is dangerous, and American lumber, which is dangerous. I think you're just not planning ahead, and the budget is a plan for the future and for next year, and it should be in there. I also came across and these are just 2 procedural items about the budget. Evidently, the Village of Pelham did all their budget work sessions on Zoom. There's no charge for doing Zoom. It's not a live stream. We could have done all our budget work sessions on Zoom. Last budget session there were only 4 people here and the other people, maybe they couldn't come in physically, but it could have been on Zoom and then the public could have been on Zoom too and heard a lot of the

discussions that went on relating to the development of the budget. That's where the real work is. And the public really doesn't understand that. I don't know why, but they don't. It's probably it's an education process. The other thing I want to know about the budget is how are you going to deal with this issue of the raises that are being asked for by not just one, not just two, but quite a few Village employees. Yes, people deserve a raise, but I think there was some discussion at the last budget session about maybe how to deal with it, maybe using COVID funds and just some different ideas that you all seem to discuss. And I don't know if that's going to come up tonight or if that's going to be a way that you're going to deal with the budget. I've been told that another percentage point has been cut off, so we're well below any cap that would be put on us. But it's a concern. At the last budget work session under the capital projects, we cleared up the idea about the Scout Cabin and because somebody had said to me, I'd hate to see money spent on something else when this building needs work. But of course, the Scout Cabin would be under the recreation fees. But really, this building needs work, and it's sad that we're not living up to Bradley's donation and this is not the first time it's gone on many times.

Trustee Pearson: I'd like to make a motion to leave it open because we haven't had a real discussion on salaries. We haven't had a real discussion on the new budget we just got this evening. I understand that it's probably better than what it was, but I haven't had time to look through it, so I would just make a motion to hold it open to another meeting. I hope the discussion does happen this evening so we can still talk about salaries. We can still talk about all that to hopefully finalize things that have not been finalized. I know the Mayor at the last budget meeting wanted to wait till everybody was here to talk about salaries. I can't say we have everybody, but I think we do have people on the computer, so hopefully we can get something accomplished this evening. I would hold it open for a vote later on after we talk about it.

Attorney Donovan: You're supposed to have your budget adopted prior to May 1st. Your next meeting is in May.

Trustee Pearson: We could set a special meeting.

Attorney Donovan: I just want to make sure that the board's aware that you're supposed to have your budget adopted by May 1st. The other thing that I'll just point out to the board is the hearing is on the tentative budget that's been presented. You can keep it open, too. I'm not telling you to do one thing or another. You can close it and make modifications before you adopt the final budget, so long as you don't increase the budget. You're allowed to do that. You're allowed to keep it open. That's fine. My legal advice to you is, you need to adopt it prior May 1, so you need a special meeting. Just to be clear. The other thing, we're talking about the budget right now, but there are very recent amendments, to the open meetings law and they relate to video conferencing. It's clear that extensions for Zoom meetings are authorized through June 8th. But I will say to you that I reviewed the new law. I've also reviewed guidance from NYCOM and I've reviewed guidance for the New York State Committee on Open Government. The New York State Committee and Open Government has a question and answer provision in which they say the question are public bodies required to comply with the new video conferencing requirements right away, which I would say would not allow what we're doing tonight. The answer to them is no, that you have 60 days. NYCOM, on the other hand, says that the new video conferencing procedures effective April 9th. Just take that for what it's worth. I read the law to indicate that we can proceed in this fashion, but obviously some pretty smart people have a pretty significant disagreement on this. So, you're going to want to have a quorum of people in person before you take action on the budget.

Mayor Ramos: Okay.

Trustee Pearson: Your thought process is that you're looking at two separate things one in April

and one in June?

Attorney Donovan: My concern is the video conferencing rules are going to change. They have changed. It's been legislation adopted. One entity says it was effective April 9th, NYCOM. It's an advisory opinion. The other, New York State Open Government says it's effective June 8th. I read the law to say, June 8th. But I would feel a whole lot better if whatever such time as you voted on the budget, you had a quorum physically present in the Village Hall. And hopefully there's a majority vote at that time. And if there's not, the tentative budget becomes the budget because we've been down the road before.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Like we talked about before the ambulance side, if we should put a line there just in case, I don't know a dollar amount. A placeholder? I think that's a good idea.

Trustee Pearson: I'm going to agree.

Trustee Maher: Has that come up in your discussions and talks?

Mayor Ramos: No. We were already paid for this year. We're talking about the year 2023. We've already under a general A fund expended \$150,000 for ambulance 2022.

Trustee Pearson: Their 2022, which is January. And then we go from January to June in our budget, which is not covered.

Mayor Ramos: We can enter a line item. Manager, is that feasible?

Manager Revella: I don't know what number you're talking about and what we would spend that on and to who. It's kind of difficult when there are no answers. I need to know what the dollar amount, estimate even. And who are we dealing with? The Town doesn't even know who they're dealing with yet. They haven't RFP'd, yet.

Trustee Pearson: So, Mayor, you have information, like you got numbers, can we hear the numbers that you've gotten from the Ambulance Corps that you've talked to and how much it's going to cost if we are not part of the Town? What numbers do you have in your head that you might have to share?

Mayor Ramos: The ambulance service for mobile life would be about for the whole Town would be about \$350,000 to \$450,000.

Trustee Pearson: No, if we didn't go in with the Town, which we are not, you got numbers what it would cost the Village of Walden to participate or have a contract with an Ambulance Corps or mobile life. What are those?

Mayor Ramos: About \$350,000. Just the Village.

Manager Revella: Just want to make sure the board's aware you're on a motion to leave the hearing open. We can discuss the budget during the meeting if you want, but you're just talking about a motion to leave the public hearing open for longer. If you want to get that voted on first, then we can move on.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to keep the public hearing open until April 27, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Orange County Transit

Allison Fausner: Since we last appeared before you, we got building permits for the exterior perimeter fence, as well as the berm. We completed all of the interior renovation for the office space and I spoke to John from Orange County Transit today, who said they appeared before the Architectural Review Board yesterday in connection with their office space sign and they were approved. Currently and over the next month, they will be contacting vendors to begin construction for the fence and the berm. They'll be scheduling inspections for the office space and they'll be installing that office signage.

Trustee Pearson: New fencing and berms. When is that going to start for the people next door?

Allison Fausner: They've been in contact with vendors, I'm not aware of a start construction date. They are contacting them to get all the construction equipment, but they're hopeful to do it in the next couple of weeks, if the weather's permitting.

Mayor Ramos: Thank you again for your update. Orange County Transit again continues to excel in their projects and how's the water hook up underneath 52.

Allison Fausner: I understand that Orange County has been meeting with contractors. They've been trying to get bids. Some of them are open ended. Unfortunately, as it continues with supply chain issues. But we are going to be following up and they promise that will update soon.

Public Hearing Local Law 2 of 2022 Tax Cap Override

Trustee Maher made a motion to open public hearing local law 2 of 2022 tax cap override. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 1 Opposed(Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

Manager Revella: I believe we can table that unless the board wants to add more to the budget over \$57,000. We're under the tax cap by about that amount. So, unless you want to add more than that, we don't need the tax cap override.

Trustee Sebring: Me personally, I'd rather at least say that we could override the tax cap, even though we know at this moment. Just a procedural thing, to cover us.

Attorney Donovan: If you want to cover your bases, you would you would open the public hearing, close the public hearing. You could defer voting until the 27th. But you'd have to have the public hearing because if you're going to exceed the tax cap, you would have to adopt a local law. I would advise you to open the public hearing, take any comment. Then you can continue or close the public hearing, whatever you want to do for the 27th. But then you're in a position to act in case you increase the budget over the tax cap.

Mary Ellen Matise: Good idea. Give yourself the ability, because yes, if we get a number for ambulance and you do put a line in there and then that puts us over. I wouldn't want you to say can't do it because we'll go over and we didn't set ourselves up to go over. So, thank you.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to extend the public hearing on local law 2 of 2022 – Tax Cap Override to the 27th. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Manager's Report

Manager Revella: Since the last meeting, I had a couple of vacation days over the Easter holiday. Few meetings at Community Center to review updates at Olley Park. Coming along well. We were able to change electric service to speed up the process with NYSEG. We had a few budget sessions. Obtained a DEC permit to reintroduce trout into Tin Brook and went very well so far. I've been

meeting with finance staff to review tasks to cover for the Treasurer position, including the relevy and budget. I had some meetings with the consultant as well to review those updates. Met with the Department Heads and FEMA on a conference call to update from the Hurricane Ida issues. Conferences with Special Counsel to review grievances from CSEA and the PBA. Had a conference with NYCOM, as well to review the Treasurer position, some financing consulting questions. Worked with Special Counsel and the Clerk on worker's comp, medical records, updates. Rec & Parks have been continuing maintenance. Started the lawn program now. Mowing all the parks. Advised that Montgomery Little League donated nets and clay for Bradley Park. Arbor Day is set for April 28th at 10am Olley Park with tree locations picked out. Basketball program has ended. Tennis is starting soon. Easter Egg Hunt was this past Saturday. Very well attended. The Building Inspector issued 8 building permits, 1 certificate of compliance and 3 CO reports and has been continuing fire and safety inspections. Issued a stop work order at the Townhouse Project, Overlook at Kidd Farm Project. Code Enforcement Officer has been assisting with permits and inspections. Issued 6 permits, 14 certificates of compliance, 1 CO report and 1 fire and safety inspection and the Falcon's Rest Project, the foundation walls are all poured. The Clerk's been updating 207c and workers comp matters, communicating with Village Attorney on FOILs, Minutes, helping the Finance Department out and updating Facebook and website. Finance office has been working hard to cover for the Treasurer vacancy. A lot of items to be done for the budget. Water Department had 3 meter replacements, 22 mark outs and 1 inspection. DPW Super met with myself and the Village Engineer to go over capital projects and potential water well sites, hydrant flushing began this month. Sewer working on the maintenance and the stations and the belt presses are running. Water reports were completed for filing with the DOH as well. Also reviewed an erosion issue at Walden Estates. Had the Engineer and Building Inspector assist to make sure there were no safety hazards to the public. Police have been working on Lexipol and staffing issues. Did work on some special details, with saturation patrols, issued 27 traffic tickets, 7 parking summonses, went to 7 MVAs, conducted 6 arrests and responded to 347 blotters.

Trustee Pearson: Olley Park Community Center. What do we have left?

Manager Revella: We're getting spray foam this week and then the sheetrock, making sure that the flooring is in. Everything else is ready. Everything else is in. Then we'll be doing more outside work and then finish work inside.

Trustee Pearson: You covered DPW Super during time off. Was he off for 2 weeks because he did that 2 weeks ago?

Manager Revella: Any time he's off. If he's off on a Friday, I have to cover, when he takes off on a Tuesday I have to cover him. There's no foreman.

Trustee Pearson: The vehicles being worked on, do we know what broken down?

Manager Revella: We have 2 police cars that are out of service right now. Other things are just back and forth, like it'll go down for service and come back.

Trustee Pearson: Speaking of the police car, did anybody reach out to Healy and find out what's happening?

Mayor Ramos: Yes, I did. I'll get back to you.

Trustee Sebring: Easter egg hunt was a real success with a lot of kids there, more than I've seen in quite a while. Everybody had a good time and they all found the golden eggs and the silver egg.

Trustee Thompson: There's nothing listed under the Building Department about code violations. Are we still not issuing any code violations?

Manager Revella: They have told me they did not issue code violations since the last meeting otherwise they would be noted in the report.

Trustee Thompson: Nobody is disturbed by that. There's been nothing for weeks?

Trustee Sebring: I believe they should be issuing citations for building code violations. They do ride around and I see a lot of things that are wrong that could be written up by the Building Department.

Trustee Pearson: And that's why we hired someone, isn't it?

Trustee Thompson: Do we have any idea when our new justice will be starting?

Manager Revella: He's already sworn in. He has, I think, one more week of classes. He has to have the judicial class first before he can do anything and whenever that's done, so he should be able to have court next month.

Trustee Thompson: Continuing park maintenance is that just like mowing? What does that mean? I'm asking because I know it was mentioned several months ago about repairing or replacing the gazebo at Olley Park. Is that part of continuing maintenance?

Manager Revella: No, that would be a project. Maintenance would just be like raking, mulch or picking up garbage, mowing. Day to day stuff.

Trustee Thompson: I have sent you and Mike Bliss an email about some grant opportunity and I didn't hear back from anyone. I believe that was a grant that Mike applied for maybe 2 years back and we had a good grant. We had a solid grant, but we did not get awarded the grant. Is this the same one and is it something we can reapply for? I was thinking as something to help complete the waterfront park.

Manager Revella: Yes, we can reapply. I don't know if I would use it for that project, since we have the Sam Grant that's supposed to cover that project and we use the Greenway grant to do the initial work on that project. But there could be other waterfront areas to utilize it for.

Trustee Thompson: I thought it was going to be very tight with the finances on that, and I thought that's perhaps why the last time we applied for it for like some additional funding to complete the project. No good?

Manager Revella: I don't remember if that's the grant we used last time or if it's a different one.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Can you clarify which grants you talked about that list referring to?

Trustee Pearson: It's the Hudson River Estuary Communities.

Manager Revella: It's competitive. And they didn't give it to us last time because we weren't on the Hudson. Even though we're on a tributary.

Trustee Thompson: We're part of the estuary, though we're allowed to apply for those. Are we utilizing the service of the grant writer yet with the Town of Montgomery?

Attorney Donovan: My advice was to go ahead and sign the agreement. I have spoken to the Town Attorney and we're working on an IMA. But in the meantime, as I said before, the train's leaving the station, so you need to jump on. I said to the Manager to sign.

Manager Revella: So, I had to get them to give me an updated agreement because it was outdated. As soon as that comes in, I'll sign it and send it back to him.

Trustee Thompson: If this particular grant is something we're interested in, I believe the deadline is June 1st.

Manager Revella: June 1st, 3 p.m.

Trustee Thompson: If that is that something we should look into or you should look into, John?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Pearson: In that same paperwork, there was one manager for June 10th and it talks about reducing localized flood risk. Maybe something we can do for Wooster's Grove, maybe a berm or something that we can put to maybe hold back the stream a little bit and protect some of the buildings that are there. There's a lot on the first one you can go for. \$300,000 to flooding and sea level rises, and then this one is also for localized flood risk. So, I don't know if the Village Board wants to move forward further with working on this grant and getting it to go. That's something we should say maybe we want that to happen.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Are you asking the Manager or asking us?

Trustee Pearson: I'm asking the board. Is the manager just going to go ahead and do it? Does he need to be directed by the board to do it?

Deputy Mayor Carley: Because we haven't seen the grant. I don't know anything about it.

Trustee Maher: We didn't get a copy. I know there are different grants depending on each department. I don't know if you handle it by department. I think it's definitely something to look into.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Trustee Thompson had it, but evidently history Mike Bliss the Recreation and the Manager was involved in it.

Trustee Pearson: I'm with the DEC so I got it as well.

Manager Revella: This was from Monday. Yesterday, we had talked about it. I had received a copy last week, middle of the week that I forwarded over to Mike as well.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So, we have to see it first.

Mayor Ramos: We'll set up some dialog with the grant writer. Just waiting for the IMA.

Trustee Pearson: What was wrong with the one you got?

Manager Revella: I don't know if I have the latest version of the agreement with the Town. Because there was one that came out that wasn't signed by somebody. Then was when it came that

was signed by Maybrook. I don't know which one is the last one.

Trustee Pearson: Did you have conversation with the Supervisor?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Pearson: Who's sending you something?

Manager Revella: I asked the Town's Attorney to send the latest one to make sure it's the right one.

Trustee Pearson: I hope we take advantage of that grant somehow, because I think we have enough waterways here that we can take advantage of it.

Manager Revella: \$300,000 the grant is access for rural ways, \$240,000 for education and \$600,000 stewardship that split up among all of the Hudson River Valley. So, we have to make sure we're competitive. I'm not sure if the grants are \$10,000 apiece. Is it worth it to shoot for a \$10,000 grant or not? That's what the grant writers is going to have to look at for us.

Trustee Thompson: I'm happy to send you what I got on the grant. I just sent the criteria to the Village Manager and Mike to see if they thought it was something we could apply for. I don't have any details about the actual grant.

Trustee Pearson: I was just reading through the expenses, and I am pleasantly surprised that we are using a local business for some uniforms, and I think that's wonderful. I want to thank whoever's doing that, that they are supporting local businesses. So thank you.

Approval of April 5, 2022 Reorg. & Regular Meeting Minutes

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the April 5, 2022 Reorg Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the April 5, Regular Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mary Ellen Matise: When you said reintroducing trout, do they mean like reintroducing the trout to be native to the Tin Brook or just stocking them every year?

Manager Revella: The DEC gave us a permit to put in 300 trout. They are brook trout, rainbow trout and brown trout species. All different varieties, medium size, not fully mature, some are close, to make habitat. And as they check for reproduction, it'll probably take up to 2 years. I would like to do the same reintroduction again in early fall and then maybe again next year to see how it takes before we know for sure.

Mary Ellen Matise: Because then they probably won't allow fishing at the beginning until they're established. We don't know that

Manager Revella: We don't have control on that. That's the state regulation.

Mary Ellen Matise: The other they just stock it and people fish it out and then they stock it again the next year or the restock it during the summer. That's exciting. I just would comment on this grant thing. Maybe sometimes if the pot is too small, you could do it with the Town through the CAC and we might be able to benefit somehow from that. Just a thought. Let's talk about Local

Law update 221-4. Couldn't it have just said landlord registry two little birds right after it? Just a clue. This is the letter I got. Actually, as I'm rereading this letter, I have a question because when I looked up to 221-4 in the Village Code today, it said local law number 7 of 2017, but my letter cites local law 10 of 2014. So, what is it? Was that updated again in 2017? And if so, then why aren't they citing 2017 in the letter they're citing 2014.

Mayor Ramos: What's the date of your letter?

Mary Ellen Matise: April 4, 2022. I just got it because and I just returned to Darlene. The second part of the form where you describe the property has to be notarized. So, of course, if you're local, you can just walk in and Darlene notarizes it for you, but if you're not local, you have to have it done somewhere and then mail it in. Well, I hope that as we discuss this, we look at the way that it's being done. I know that when Becky and I were on the board, we started this because we had big problems with not finding landlords or issues of fire and different things, building code violations and stuff. So we said to start a landlord registry. Then as I'm looking through the internet tonight, it's like every Town and Village and City now has a landlord registry. John says to me, there's a state law and I couldn't find that. I don't know if anybody can tell me what section of the state code that is. I'd like to read the state code on it because evidently the Village Building Department is recommending either instituting a fee for single family now, which we didn't have before. I don't know if they're asking you to raise the fees. How do you go about getting this information? Darlene says they send out one letter. So, one letter came out and it's still only fifty three cents on the meter. It's less than a stamp, only fifty three cents. She says she sends out at least 500 letters per landlord. Then she says, half the people don't reply by the deadline April 30th. Then she sends out another notice and then people still don't reply. Then she sends out a third notice. It's not the fifty three cents. It's every time she has to run off a letter. She puts your property number in here. This gets added in different for each property as it's going through the copy machine. Then she has to insert a different address for each letter that's going out. It just becomes very labor intensive. I was talking to John, and I said there has to be some other way, and he says, the state law says has to be in writing. But I don't know if the state law says how many times it has to be in writing. How many times do you send out a letter before you just put it on their tax bill? I don't know if there's another way to get the information. I don't know if other municipalities are doing it differently. It is a lot of time. Is \$25 even covering her time? Maybe not. But there has to be a better way to deal with it. I hope that in your discussion, besides just saying, let's rubber stamp what they're asking for we look at a better way to do it.

Cheryl Baker: 126 West Main Street. I hope in tonight's discussion the board will have on the possible fee for the landlord registry that they seriously consider whether it's truly warranted. When the registry was first proposed several years ago, the landlords were told they weren't going to be charged. If you look at the list of fees they already pay, such as fire inspection fees, sprinkler standby fee, among several others. Is it really right to charge another fee? Someone had made the quip at the first budget session that this is the price of doing business. Yes, there is a price to being a business owner, but landlords can't economize, keep rents down while paying taxes, fees and building maintenance. Many landlords during this pandemic haven't even received rents as many tenants were unemployed. Now is being suggested to add even more of a burden on tenants that can afford it the least. Many landlords weren't able to get the ERAP, which is the emergency rental assistance program, as it ran out, and many landlords receive any funds. There were also strings attached. If the landlord were to accept those funds no eviction could take place the following year, even if no rent was received. There is a price to be paid as well by heading the well one too many times, especially when there are other ways for the Village to save money, such as sending the notices electronically instead of the mail. Is that also necessary to send the notices every year if there are no changes? Though, some may argue the fee is small, it is a fee nonetheless and is likely to be increased over time. Just because you can charge a fee doesn't mean you should. *Read letter

into minutes*.

2022-2023 Village Budget

Manager Revella: The consultant went through the suggested changes from the board that the board agreed to during budget sessions and we got down under the tax cap. Our tax cap was 3.21%, we are at 2.06%.

Mayor Ramos: I want to first thank Leslie for accommodating the Village of Walden in her expedient and well done on getting the budget to us and the corrections that needed to be done. John, I'm saying that everything within the budget and the items that were addressed have been addressed. Am I am I correct?

Manager Revella: That's correct.

Mayor Ramos: And we're at 2.06% under the tax cap. Correct?

Manager Revella: Correct.

Mayor Ramos: Just to let everybody know, we started at 7.5% to give an estimate and to get down to 2.06 is a phenomenal job to be congratulated by all the Department Heads and trimming some of the things that we needed to trim and continue to make the Village of Walden work in an economical manner.

Trustee Pearson: I would like to talk about the ambulance line as well. I do believe that we should do something with that and I know John doesn't think we need to.

Manager Revella: That's not true. I said I don't know what to do with it. I have no information on it.

Trustee Pearson: There is no information because we don't have information of how much it's going to cost the Village of Walden for this service. That's what I asked the Mayor about, how much it's going to cost and if it's going to cost us \$300,000, then we need to worry about half of that because it's going to be like, it's going to have to be all of that from. Half, depends on when you have a contract starting. I think that we really need to look at that. Something should be put in there. I don't know where, but I do believe that we should do that. I don't believe the money will be in the A fund. I think the A fund moneys will be appropriated to other things. After the January if they're definitely moving ahead with the ambulance. I did talk about salaries the other night with using part of the ARPA money to do stipends instead of giving large salaries. We didn't have a full board. The Mayor wanted to talk about that tonight when there was more of a full board. I think we're just missing one now. I said that some of the ARPA money that we got because it's COVID related. People worked hard. Instead of just giving Supervisors raises, we could possibly distribute that through some of the other workers as well. We talked about using ARPA money. I'm not sure the manager would like to do that because I think he has some of that money slated for other things. But I think to be fair to everyone, I think it would be called a stipend and we could possibly do that. That's a thought for the board. I don't know how you stand on that. I'm not comfortable with large, large raises. I believe people are definitely worthy of them because I believe, especially Fred, he covers 3 departments. I think if the board 5 years ago had started what they should have done when they were talking about parity all along, you were talking about parity for 5 years now and how you're going to step people up and I think that should have happened and it hasn't happened. I think that if we started there, the employees would be where they need to be now. I'm sad that it's where it's at. I think the board had also given a large raise last year, which set policy for this year as well. I think the part of that is the issue. I don't think all of it is, but I do believe people are worthy. There

was some discrepancies I found last night, but I'd have to go back through it again because I was using that paper that was emailed and it was very difficult to read that. Now that I have the new one, I'd like to go back through that and there are some things I just want to go over later. If we held the public hearing open, so I'm hoping we can go through that again, there's some lines that I want to go over again that I didn't have time to do it tonight when I got it. I know Fred had made a statement, do we pay for a Ford truck for the Rec Department? Is there a big Ford F-150 truck that we pay for?

Manager Revella: There's a small dump truck that the Rec Department has.

Trustee Pearson: But not a regular Ford truck pickup.

Manager Revella: Yeah, we have...

Trustee Pearson: Do we pay for that for a Supervisor?

Manager Revella: It's a department vehicle.

Trustee Pearson: It's a department of Ford F-150.

Manager Revella: I don't know which one it is. It's a Ford pick-up truck. It's lettered with the department emblem.

Trustee Pearson: Fred made mention of something about it, somebody had a Ford pickup truck.

Manager Revella: The department definitely has one.

Mayor Ramos: Just for the record, the Parks and Rec does not have a Supervisory truck. He uses his own.

Trustee Pearson: There are lines that I still want to go through. Are we talking about the capital projects now as well? I know Lynn had sent something about a groomer and a zero mower. They bought a zero mower last year at the end of 2021 for \$8,000. Lynn had sent some things. I wonder why when we get a budget that we don't get to see or be shown pictures of what people are asking for in their department, I'd like to see some things. There's a groomer that can be like a chain link fence that runs across the ground, or it could be a tractor with something on it. For the amount of money that they're asking for, there's cheaper ways to do things. I think that if that happens, there might be room for that in the budget. If not, I'm not for the groomer or the zero turn because I think we really could be using other moneys in other ways. This building needs work. There's the train station needs work. There are many things that need work besides just a groomer. If we want to have a groomer, maybe we can actually charge to use the fields. I understand everybody wants the youth, but we don't have a Walden league anymore. We don't have it. It's gone. It's dissolved many communities and I did some research on that. If you'd like me to talk about that. There are many communities that charge to use their fields. There's lots of money. Even the Town of Montgomery charges to use their ball fields. The same director is our director. When they say they don't want to collect money and they don't want to charge people, but they can do it for the Town, but we can't do it for the Village. I don't understand that it doesn't make any sense to me.

Manager Revella: They said they charge the Montgomery Little League to use the Towns field?

Trustee Pearson: No. I'm not saying that. I'm saying that traveling fields, Cal Ripken. Those types of people are using fields. Maybrook fields, Montgomery fields, for x amount of dollars and I'll give you an example. Town of Montgomery, resident sports league, its \$250, tournaments, it's \$150 a

day. I don't understand why the same director in the Town of Montgomery doesn't feel like the Village of Walden isn't as important as the Town of Montgomery Fields. I just don't understand it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: He didn't say it wasn't as important or anything.

Trustee Pearson: Okay, but we don't charge.

Manager Revella: We can charge people to use the fields, just not the Montgomery Little League, because they bought the dirt and nets. We can charge other people.

Trustee Pearson: Where's that money? Where is it shown?

Manager Revella: It's in revenue.

Trustee Pearson: How much is it for them to use the fields?

Manager Revella: It depends on what they're going to use, how often?

Trustee Pearson: Where's that list on the form?

Manager Revella: Bradley Park use form.

Trustee Pearson: Bradley Park Pavilion, bathrooms. There's nothing about ball fields on there, and the Scout Cabins says to be determined. There is nothing that's talking about baseball fields or how much we charge people to use it.

Manager Revella: Bradley Park.

Trustee Pearson: There's nothing here. Bradley Park Pavilion. What is that? Is that the concession stand? I don't know what that is. With the bathrooms, it's \$100. \$25 an hour thereafter, so I'm not sure what that is. I looked at Town of Newburgh as well. Maybrook also charges to use their fields for a little league and baseball.

Manager Revella: They don't charge little league.

Trustee Pearson: Take the little league out. Let's use baseball. Baseball fields or their fields. I would be comfortable if we want to charge ball teams to use our ball field, then I'd be happy to buy those mowers. But I think that we should find money to pay for those services. Why do we have to be different and just give things away? I don't understand. Capital. Can you go over capital? What we had decided on the other night?

Manager Revella: The board agreed to fund Walker Street, which was number 3 and 4 on the list. You guys debated the vehicles, but I don't know if there was a clear answer on how you wanted it. I know you said the mobile lift. But I wasn't clear on anything after that.

Trustee Pearson: Those were the 3 things that pretty much the 4 people that were there had talked about and kind of generally decided on.

Manager Revella: It was kind of split on the 2 vehicles, the police vehicle.

Trustee Pearson: I think that most people said that they'd rather see you get the vehicle than do the field groomer and the zero turn is what I heard the other night. You didn't

Mayor Ramos: You didn't hear that correct.

Trustee Pearson: Right now, that's where I'm at. I'd like to see how other people feel about salaries and what they're thinking.

Trustee Maher: I also agree that there should be a line for ambulance services, and I know that we have to dig through our research and get those numbers. But if those can be shared with the board as soon as possible, I think that would be very helpful to sort of come up with a Plan B if we don't opt in to the tax district. Then if you could just provide detail on if that ALS coverage, what the stipulations are, is it 12 hours, 24 hours? What does that look like and what are those prices look like? I did go through the budget. I just received it today at 4 o'clock, so I didn't have that much time. A lot of cuts were made, but I still need more time to dig into a few things. I do see the and I had a conversation with the Rec Department Manager about the field groomer and the zero turn mower just to get more clarification. After analyzing the cost analysis of what it would cost to transport an employee back and forth multiple times, I don't really think the juice is worth the squeeze with that one. I think it would actually end up costing us more in the long run, with paying the employee salary and getting into overtime and things like that.

Manager Revella: You referring to the zero turn mower, correct?

Trustee Maher: The zero turn mower. Yes. The field groomers completely different tool used for something else. We don't currently have a field groomer. I think that is a necessity for our fields. As far as the salaries, I do think that I have had lengthy conversations with each Department, this is what it comes to. This is parity. I think that we were able to make it work at almost a 2% budget. Going forward, I feel like you have somewhat of a better plan than we had previously and this won't happen again. Yes, there is an upfront cost that is a big number. But now we're going to be good. Going forward, I think we have to really make sure that we're maintaining our HR systems a little bit more clearer, especially with what we just went through with our Treasurer. I think that there was a lot of opportunity and some unfortunate situations that occurred. I won't get into details right now, but I think that there is a lot we could have done a way better job there. As far as the budget, the rest of it goes, I definitely will have more notes. For right now, that's all I have.

Trustee Sebring: On the capital projects I agree with 3 and 4 to do Walker Street. I believe we should get the Village Manager a car because his is falling apart. The Police Department needs another vehicle. However, that one vehicle that is still over at the dealer, that is probably almost a year. Did Dave, did you check in to see if you can apply the Lemon Law to a state bid since they've had it for so long?

Attorney Donovan: I have not, Brian. I can if you want me to.

Trustee Sebring: I would like to know that because they're holding a vehicle that we paid for and we're not using. And if they can't fix it or they don't want to fix it, or whatever the case may be, is that we applied a lemon law to get a vehicle to replace that one that is over there for that length of time. We went through this with one of the DPW trucks that they had bought at Amthor. They bought the truck and then it took probably 6-7 months for the body to get put on. Meanwhile, we bought a truck that we're not using. I don't like to be in that kind of situation again because we've already gone through it once. Mobile lifts, I agree with getting. The field groomer and zero turn. The field groomer, I asked Mike today to send me a picture of what the field groomer looked like. It looked like a three wheeled tricycle with a motor on it and it's dragging wire mesh to level the field out. My belief is that with the picture of that field groomer that would like to have the \$14,000, I don't believe that's really what we should be giving him because for so many years they've been

using a chain-link fence with concrete blocks on it. Besides, during the course of the years they have rented a, I'll call it, a road-a-tiller from an outside outfit once or twice a year. Which digs the clay up and they go over it with the chain-link fence to level it out. So, for \$14,000, my idea is not to go for that groomer. I would go for the zero turn mower for the simple reason that like I've been told that you have one zero turn mower at each field, Bradley Field is that it does preclude having to bring the mower in on the trailer, which takes time. They do have another mower that's roughly 12 years old that they do use for when they are mowing residential houses that haven't cut their grass. They use that old mower to go over that first to make sure that there's no stone, big branches. Then with the new mower that you buy or whichever one would be stored up to Bradley Field, you can use that that mower to drag around that chain-link fence to level out that field. That's my opinion that he doesn't need a field groomer for that kind of price. The Wait Street piping re-lining, that's another capital project that has to be done because of the issues that are in the sewer line on that street. The rest of them for the DEC consent orders. I approve of all of those, so my motion is to that we get to zero turn mower for the parks, so they have three mowers plus one old spare and not to field groomer.

Trustee Thompson: I do agree with most of the capital projects that we've talked about previously that are on the list. I do have questions also about the field groomer. I understand the need for some equipment to do what needs to be done on the fields. But after I saw the pictures, read about it, saw the pricing. John, do we have any other piece of equipment that we already own that the different types of devices that you need to groom those fields, do we have anything that we can attach or hook up some of these pieces to, do we really need to buy the motorized piece of that?

Manager Revella: I'm not sure we can have an attachment on the back of one of the tractors or on the back of one of the mowers already. Trustee Sebring was mentioning to have an attachment on the back hoe, they used to have a riding mower with a chain link on the back. I don't know if we can have some kind of attachment from the back of one of the current mowers that would work the same way. We have to check. It's possible.

Trustee Thompson: I just feel like that's a bit of a luxury item, and there seems to be a lot of controversy right now swirling around about the fields, use of the fields, space for the fields. I'm not sure about that groomer. I wonder if that's one that maybe can be put on hold. I also have questions about our fee schedules. I've been doing a lot of looking. I've talked to some other municipalities. I also think that we are on the low end of some of the fees that we charge and I almost wonder if we should consider having a standardized fee instead of all these different, instead of this many hours, that many hours, one hour. I just think that's something perhaps we could have some further discussion about. My other thing the salaries, which are always a topic of conversation. I was on the board when we did the professional salary survey a few years back. Our employees were all on the chart. Some were on the high end, somewhere in the middle, somewhere on the low end. I think the goal for the last 5 years has been to continue to raise everybody up, so our employees are more toward the higher end of the chart. I believe we have been doing that most years. People have gotten either a COLA raise or a raise above COLA. Last year, the raises got out of whack. I just don't know how we move forward with parity the way that the salaries are being presented to us right now. Those are huge increases and I know the money is in the budget, but I'm having a really hard time with some of those numbers and I'm very open to negotiating on those numbers. I think all of our department heads deserve every penny we can give them. However, we have to justify to the taxpayers how we are spending their money. There is still pushback about the salaries from the previous budget I just feel like we need to find a balance to let our Department Heads feel that they're appreciated, that their work is valued. I would like to see them continually keep going up, but I don't see how that's fiscally responsible to give the type of raises that are being proposed. I would really like us to try and negotiate those numbers. I keep saying the same thing every year that I'd like to see some money put into the municipal building. I realize we're doing floors and some

painting, but I like to think we could perhaps do a little more. But it's all about the money.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Just like everyone else, I received a budget today. First of all, just with the capital side, I think the priorities we have is fine. Personally, I wouldn't want us as a Village to keep dragging around a chain-link fence with cinder blocks. As an example of a progressive Village. With the comments about the field groomer, I think we should just go for it and continue to move forward like we have because we want to make sure I believe in having the state of the art. Also the Rec Department has done a wonderful job, in my opinion, and based off what I've seen and what I've heard. I think they're doing a good job and I believe there are areas that we're using from my understanding with the reports that we have a lot of outside agencies, a lot of outside agencies using our fields. So we want the best and also any help move a little faster. I don't agree that you should pull it around with a lawn mower. Reason for that is kick up a lot of dust, and it just look like we're trying to do something when we can do something. I want to say to the board And the Village Manager especially, thank you for keeping everything under the tax cap and making sure that we do everything fiscally and be responsible. I don't see where the budget is in jeopardy or anything with that if we go in and utilize, or if we go ahead and purchase the things that we have set as a priority. I do agree that the Village Manager needs a better car, but I think he'll be all right from this time period. It's not going to blow up or anything like that, right?

Manager Revella: Just the mechanic was worried about transmission and things.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Give you \$3,000 and fix the transmission versus the 45 that's all I'm saying, but I do understand that you do need one. If we had room for that, I'm good with that. I really want to push this point how I believe that if we want businesses and families in residential areas to grow, you've got to make sure things are there for the children and for the community. When we push our Rec Department, it's a place where people do see a growth in something they want to do for children and for a recreational time, especially as a commuter going to and from the cities or wherever. When you come home, you want to have that luxury of doing something. I'm an advocate of helping out our community and building up our community assets. With that being said, I also went through the budget. I did look at the salaries that are proposed and I understand that why some people will say that, hey, I don't think people should get such a large or an increase in salary. Like I said, concerning the salary that was raised before. We have a lot of people doing a wonderful job. When I was previously on the board back in 2009, 10ish. We had the same conversation about increasing salaries and there is never going to be a good time to increase the salary and to get it on parity. I believe we should start now and just continue to move forward. I asked the Village Manager, you did put together that salary scale.

Trustee Maher: Performance Merit Increases.

Manager Revella: Salary Schedule.

Deputy Mayor Carley: We did put that in place moving forward so every time somebody come in, give me this, give me that. They're within this limit. There's a point where it becomes a cap. So there will be no gross, major increases. Right now, I believe we should bring everybody on schedule to parity across the board. We went through it and I do appreciate the Village Manager for what he did concerning reaching out to the consultant. We received a review that of our budget and I have to put it out there that it was brought up, that it was a gross mismanagement. It was a lot of things that was just wrong. I appreciate a third party, somebody who was totally objective and it appears that there was some minor changes to salary, the Social Security tax, MTA, so forth, and the consultant said it was only about \$2000 that needed adjustment. It wasn't a big gross misuse or management of the budget. And she also put down some other things that it was, in my opinion, still minor concerning the budget also. But I just want to put it out there that, the Village of Walden has

done a great job in managing their budget from historically in the previous the Treasurer who just left. There was minor mistakes in there, and I understand and I appreciate what Trustee Pearson did. She went through, she was doing her due diligence as she found some disparity. As Trustees for the Village of Walden, we are required to make sure we find as much as possible, but at the same time, we have a degree of trust. We do place into our Department Heads. But when we do find something, we can question it. We went through with a consultant and they found that, there was some numbers missing. But she's based off the writing approximately \$2000 that was of some salary areas. But that's what we supposed to do in a work session. The work sessions are there so that you find problems, you find inconsistencies, you make sure they're right. And then before we adopt a budget, we all agree that we did our best and everything is in line with the budget. I'm going to say that based off what I see with the budget and I went through with the Village Manager, all the bottom line numbers are correct and all the numbers that we have concerning the salary, which was brought up concerning the Trustees, the mechanic and the Rec Department and some other areas they're corrected in that everything appears to be in order. I'm not a financial person, so from what I see and looking at everything and then having a discussion that we did pretty well on this. With that being said concerning the budget, I'm glad that we are opening it up, keeping it open. Regards to the ambulance, I think we do need to get a number and kind of get an idea of what we have. But with that being said, also to make sure the public is fully aware because of MTALA that's where if somebody does a call to the ambulance and saying that I need help they will send somebody out. It's not that no one would ever come. We need to put that to rest. Stop making it sound like everybody's in jeopardy and nothing's going to happen with our Village. Something will happen. I believe that the Ambulance Corps, from my interaction with them, is dedicated to the Village of Walden. That doesn't negate somebody's life. Yes, we will work out the budget and everything else to go along with that.

Trustee Sebring: With the high percentages of what departments would like. The pay raise that they're asking for when you pay their benefits on top of the amount of percentage that they're looking for, those benefits are going to jump dramatically. That's going to be for perpetuity as long as they're employed by our Village. Right now, we have a large payment to the CSEA for the benefits, but that's going to raise dramatically. I realize that everybody that has asked for a raise, they do deserve a raise because they have worked through to the COVID and they have taken on the responsibilities of when other people were out. But as far as the high percentage, I think that we could negotiate that down a little bit. That's where I am with the with the pay raises. We have done very well in this Village trying to keep our taxes low and under the tax cap all the time and there are a lot of other things that the squeaky wheel always gets to grease. This Village Hall does need repairs, as well as Wooster's Grove building that has been neglected for many years. I think it should be the time now that we do put in some renovations even though we are getting new floors and painting in the Village Office, that's only one thing, but there's still a lot more to be done to save this old building here that was given to us from Colonel Bradley and we should keep it up. Because if we don't, it just gets worse and worse every year that you don't do anything. More maintenance on the Village owned buildings would make it not cost as much a few more years down the road.

Mayor Ramos: I, too, believe that we need to look at plan b for ambulance services. As Deputy Mayor Carley mentioned, the Village of Walden needs to assure themselves that if they dialed 911 that they will receive emergency medical services regardless of where we are stalemated on the Ambulance Corps issue. We never said yes and we never said no. We're just efforting and doing our homework on and receiving the best ambulance service possible. As for the capital projects, I believe we're online with the Walker Street.

Manager Revella: Walker Street Part one and Part two paving, curbs and sidewalks.

Mayor Ramos: That was up to \$405,000 That's a badly needed street to take care of. We could only pick one at a time. I got to be honest with you. If we had billions of dollars, we'd take care of everything. But we don't. Everybody's got to rest assure that last year's budget was 0.93, this year's 2.06. That is not bad during pandemic, during unemployment, during lockdowns, shutdowns from schools. I think we're doing very well, especially when the inflation rate is at 8.5. As for Parks and Recs, I part time'd as a landscaper. I used a tractor where there was a fence and cinder blocks. That is not safe. It's an incumbent to us as Village Employers that we give our workers safe equipment and in order to accomplish specific tasks. We need baseball coming back to the Village of Walden. We're getting baseball back to the Village of Walden. There are 325 participants right now in Montgomery Little League. They need extra fields and we have prime property and prime fields for that. But we need to take care of them. Because Cal Ripken went under and we lacked in having baseball in our fields at Bradley. But we have to fix them up. In order to do that we need the proper equipment. I don't know if anybody's done this, but you try to put a zero turn on a trailer and you've got to strap it down. Check the lights. Check the breakaway device. Check trains. Check everything. Then you got to put gas somewhere in that vehicle. Now you become a hazardous materials carrier. Even though we're a municipality, we're still not exempt from certain things. Having a zero turn and a groomer for that specific area dedicated to that area alone will save us hours in preparation. It takes a day and a half to mow the entire Bradley Park. That does not include rendering the fields into a playing surface for the kids. I think the zero turn and the groomer at the site itself benefits not only the Parks and Rec employees that are just going to go there and do their job, but they're going to do it in less time. John, I'm sorry your vehicle can wait till next year, in my opinion. We do need a police vehicle. I have been in touch with Healy Ford. They're not my favorite people right now. I use words as kidnap. I use words as they're holding our vehicle and bond. But then I spoke to one of the mechanics there, and they did, as for our attorney, checking on the Lemon Law, we did retrofit car with certain pieces of equipment and kind of negates our warranty system. I think they're expecting right now a computer chip to troubleshoot whatever is wrong with it. If that doesn't work, we don't know where we're going to go with that. The GM for Healey, Ford has entrusted his faith in his people, and he will get back to us at a later, time to see where the prognosis is on that vehicle. As for salaries, last year we worked diligently on bringing employees to parity. I wish I could help everybody. We have CSEA who are boots in the trenches, digging holes, taking care of sewer breaks, water main breaks. I wish we can take care of them, but the set right now that we are going to take care of, we're taking care of in 2022. I believe the salaries will bring everybody to parity and we will have a well-balanced workforce. Happy. I don't know. I can't speak for everybody, but you know, at least we'll be in parity with the others. For the record, the Montgomery Little League did provide us with almost \$3,000 dollars worth of dirt and they did furnish webbing for the new batting cages. Once we get spun up in those fields, they used them as practice fields right now. Once we get them into working order, we're going to have baseball back in Village of Walden. We're going to have families coming in. Out of 325, you 6, 9 in the daytime or weekend. Just do the math. 2 parents, siblings, you're going to have hundreds of people. They're going to eat at Franco's, Daxxon's, Empanada Nirvana's, Zona Rosa, Sweeney's. They're going to eat and they're going to shop at Hannaford.

Manager Revella: I just want to clarify, I did not get a clear answer on the police car. How many people said yes to add it? Can you poll, please?

Trustee Pearson: Can you tell me how many we have working at the moment?

Manager Revella: 2 currently that are in service right now downstairs and 2 other ones that are being worked on.

Trustee Pearson: What's wrong with them?

Manager Revella: Just general upkeep and then there's the one at Healy.

Chief Herlihy: The other day, one of the Officers was turning around on a vehicle to go after a speeding vehicle to stop them, the car died on them in mid turn, along with the tires that were replaced on one of the vehicles. Right now we have 2, 3, 5 and 6 that our vehicles for service, and we run 2 officers per day, 8 hours a tour that they're out there for. So there's no downtime for any of those vehicles. When one of those vehicles go down. Then we go to 3 and then we're moving even more mileage and hours on those vehicles. So there's no downtime for these vehicles to rest.

Trustee Pearson: I'm fine with it.

Trustee Maher: Yes.

Trustee Sebring: Yes.

Trustee Thompson: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Yes.

Mayor Ramos: Yes.

Manager Revella: Thank you. Just so you know, I'm 3-3 on the field groomer. Trustee Sebring, you were yes on the zero turn, I have 4 on the zero turn. The mobile lift was already in and the 3 and 4 Walker Street was already in. Correct?

Trustee Sebring: Yes.

Manager Revella: Thank you. Just so you know, the zero turn won't be in the bond. It'll be a line item. We'll have to adjust line item A.7110.200 to include the zero turn mower.

Trustee Thompson: John, how old is your car?

Manager Revella: 11 years.

Trustee Thompson: The comments were just made about safety for our employees. John Revella has put getting a new car on hold every year since I've been on the board. He's telling us that our mechanic is starting to have some serious concerns about the safety of that car. So, I really think we should consider letting our Village Manager finally get a new vehicle if everybody is agreeing that we need to consider safety for everyone who works here. As John has told us before, he's not the only one who uses that vehicle. Department Heads can use it, actually, Trustee's, Deputy Mayor and Mayor can use it. Is that correct, John?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Thompson: I really wish you guys would reconsider. I think it's time. It's overdue for the Village Manager to finally get a vehicle.

Trustee Pearson: I'm going to agree with that, I said that in the beginning, I think you should have it. That's why I would take out the zero turn this year and the other. If you wanted to do a groomer, do a \$500 groomer that can go on a lawn mower for the time being, something that you could still use. Lynn had a very good point and I had said before, I think you should have your car. I think that should be necessary. We can sell the other one, make a little bit of money somewhere. It's a tough

decision. Nobody's against the Parks Department. Everybody wants children to play. Everybody wants that to happen. Just priorities have to happen. You just don't have all that money that you want to have unless you want to have an over the cap budget. The other thing I was going to say was every time you have big, big salaries, it takes away from services. When you have large salaries, you can't have all the services that you want. There's a give and take with every budget that there is. I agree with the car. Landscapers drive around this Village and drive their things up onto trailers and go to other parks. They go to 9 houses in a day and do yard work. It's not impossible. It's just taking the time to do it. I understand it might take a little more time. But if we had hired and I thought you told me, John, that one of Mike's assistants does the parks, am I correct? He's not like a 16 year old? Isn't he an adult? Why is that difficult to put something on a trailer and back it off? It's done every day. If he can't do it, then maybe he needs training or you hire somebody that can do the job.

Manager Revella: I don't think anybody said he couldn't do. It was just timing that I think was the issue.

Trustee Maher: From my understanding, if you don't mind. It's not so much that he can't do it, with all the demand of all the lawn citations, there was like 30 last week alone. They're doing those in addition to having to maintain all the fields so it has to be 2 separate people.

Trustee Pearson: Why can't we hire out for citations, have a lawn mowing company come and do citations and bill the people? We don't have to do them ourselves.

Trustee Sebring: They tried that many years ago and cost was astronomical. It was in the \$50-60,000 range.

Trustee Pearson: How many do we do in a week? Lawns haven't even been started to be mowed yet.

Manager Revella: They're being mowed now.

Trustee Maher: There were 30 last week. From what I was told.

Trustee Pearson: 30 lawns that we had to go mow. Seriously? And we don't even have a Code Enforcement enforcing that. So, how can they be going and doing that if there have been no codes? How are they knowing there is a violation?

Manager Revella: You mean property maintenance violations onto buildings. These are probably violations to the yard.

Trustee Pearson: So, the Code Enforcement Officer is doing code enforcement. That is codes, lawn, driveways, all that garbage. That's all code enforcement. And we haven't seen those in our packet. Then how can they be mowing 30 yards if there are no violations?

Manager Revella: I don't have a report from that department on that.

Trustee Pearson: Why not?

Mayor Ramos: We'll be getting that.

Trustee Pearson: 30 violations and we don't know why.

Manager Revella: I don't have a copy of that.

Trustee Pearson: We're just sending our guys to mow lawns that we don't even know are violated?

Manager Revella: They would get a copy from the Building Department. I don't have a copy. I don't know why.

Trustee Pearson: How do we send our guys out to mow lawns? On a violation? How does that happen? Can you clarify and give me how the scenario happens?

Manager Revella: Someone from the Building Department would go to an area and note or because there was a complaint, would note, lawn that's over the amount allowed in the code, they would cite the property. After they cited the property or numerous properties. They would send the list to the Recreational and Parks Department. They would go out, go to the property. Once they verify it's not been done already. They go and proceed to mow the lawn, report back to Building Department so that could be billed to the property.

Trustee Pearson: So, if we haven't gotten a report that there has been violations and we went out and mowed 30 lawns. How is that possible?

Manager Revella: I don't know. I have to clarify it.

Trustee Pearson: I'd like to hear that answer. Thank you.

Trustee Maher: I could be misspeaking, too. I just want to throw that out there.

Mayor Ramos: Where are we getting the 30 number?

Trustee Maher: Just when I was inquiring to the department about why we couldn't use the same person. That's where it came in to needing to have multiple people in order to do that. And in order to do that, you need to have more than one mower.

Trustee Pearson: Let me make another statement, isn't the DPW allowed to mow lawns as well? That's under their civil service.

Manager Revella: No. We don't put DPW members on lawn mowing equipment. They don't touch the lawn mowers.

Trustee Pearson: I know they don't. But is it in there in civil service, under underneath of Fred? They would be able to do that under his lines.

Manager Revella: Possible through the Parks Department, not through the Highway Department.

Trustee Pearson: Highway Department used to do it all the time.

Manager Revella: I understand what they used to do. We separate those pieces of equipment so there's no issues with pointing fingers at who might have done something to equipment if there was an issue. Maintenance, those kinds of things are all separate.

Trustee Pearson: But if you had Bradley Park as an issue, couldn't you have the DPW do the DPW grounds and Bradley Park and leave the rest of the parks to the Parks Department?

Manager Revella: Potentially. If they have time to do it. It's time consuming. The guys at DPW right now, all of them are MEOs, Motor Equipment Operators, so they're usually doing higher level work, repairing catch basins, road maintenance, sidewalks, those kinds of things that they can do which parks can't. I don't know if I want to pull them off of that job to do those other jobs that another department can take care of.

Mayor Ramos: Now you're taking away union work from another department to another. Is that my understanding?

Trustee Pearson: I think that it's union on the other side as well, they're both union.

Manager Revella: Part time parks is not union. There are 2 full time union guys.

Trustee Pearson: 2 full time guys are union. All the rest are all part time, non-union. Just trying to come up with some solutions.

Trustee Sebring: You made a comment about the \$500 for the groomer. That groomer that they rented twice a year goes on the bobcat, the skid steer. It doesn't go on anything else, but that skid steer. That's why they only rent that twice a year. Then the groomer itself would level out the field.

Trustee Pearson: Yes, but there are groomers out there that are simpler and less expensive that if we need to pay for the car for the manager and get something cheaper this year to be able to utilize both. I'm not saying that we don't get one. I'm just saying not a \$27,000 one or whatever it was. \$14,500. \$27,000 that could go toward the manager's car.

Manager Revella: Can I have a poll on the manager's car. Trustee Thompson said yes.

Trustee Pearson: I'm a yes, if we take away the other 2.

Trustee Sebring: Because there was a statement made that the transmission on your on your car is going bad. I can't see throwing money into your vehicle. That's 11 years old and a year or 2 later, you surplus that and you've already spent \$4,000 or whatever the case may be for a transmission, you get rid of it now. Then you have something reliable to drive around in, rather than your own personal car.

Trustee Maher: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The mechanic doesn't feel that it's going to last another year?

Manager Revella: That's what he said.

Deputy Mayor Carley: If we get the vehicle based off, we just got the police and yours, would that keep us underneath the tax cap?

Manager Revella: It won't change our tax cap. It's within the realm. So, we should be okay.

Deputy Mayor Carley: And if we get the zero turn mower and the field groomer with everything we're talking about, would that keep us under or will we go over?

Manager Revella: The field groomer has not been approved yet. It's a 3-3. Zero turn was approved. Those 2 items would be in the regular budget and still be under the tax cap if you approve them both, but they're not approved yet.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So, we can still do that and keep it underneath the tax cap. The groomer, the mower and the 2 vehicles were agreed upon. Without causing any problems with our budget.

Manager Revella: That's correct.

Deputy Mayor Carley: With that being said, I say yes, with everything being funded.

Trustee Pearson: We didn't talk about the ambulance line putting money in that. Where does that come from?

Mayor Ramos: We're not there yet.

Trustee Pearson: Well, we are if we're talking about what Willie was questioning, whether you're still under the tax cap.

Deputy Mayor Carley: No. What I said with the tax cap, these 4 items will that make it and the answer was yes. I didn't bring up about the ambulance because that's beyond our budget anyway. We have to figure that out after we discuss this.

Trustee Pearson: The capital doesn't affect the tax cap anyway, does it?

Manager Revella: No. The mower is going to be in the regular budget. Still under the tax cap because we have room. The groomer, depending on if it gets approved, we'll discuss where to put that. You put it in the same line as zero turn, you're still under. We have \$57,000 in room in the regular budget, not including the capital, because that's a bond. If you did both that's \$27,000. You still have about \$30,000 under the tax cap if you approve both.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So, we still stay underneath everything.

Manager Revella: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Then I say yes.

Mayor Ramos: Did we ask Trustee Thompson?

Trustee Thompson: Yes, I think John should get a car.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Do we add all that other stuff back into the conversation or we said yes to your car.

Mayor Ramos: Everybody didn't say yes to his car.

Manager Revella: There's 1 no. It's a majority in favor of the zero turn. There's not a majority for the field groomer. That's where we are.

Trustee Sebring: Aside from the cost of that 3 wheeled, that's going to pull the groomer. What is the cost of the accessory that's off the back of the three wheel?

Manager Revella: That \$14,000 number is all inclusive with the accessories. I don't know which part is which part. I don't know what it cost is separated.

Trustee Sebring: I'm only asking. I believe, that you could put that accessory behind one of your older mowers that's up there. You don't have to put it behind the new one because then you're voiding warranty. You could, knowing what I know about mechanics, you could put that groomer behind that. That's why I'm asking you the cost of that accessory.

Mayor Ramos: Let's put the groomer on hold and find out the price of the accessory. We'll bring that up 27th again.

Local Law 2 of 2022 – Tax Cap Override

Manager Revella: If the board is so inclined they could pass the resolution to potentially override. You don't have to, even though if you pass it, it's not required that you do. You don't have to take action today, either.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to table until the April 27, 2022 special meeting. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried

Village Hall Bid Award

Tabled

Local Law Update 221-4

Manager Revella: This is the request for the change in language for landlord registry to make it an annual fee.

Attorney Donovan: This was discussed at the last meeting. There had been a request from the Building Department to modify the code. Right now, landlord would pay his initial fee and then the discussion when the part with the law was last revised was that there would be, if there was no change, there just be a statement of no change filed without a fee. The Building Department had asked for a fee. Just so I had some frame of reference to make sure to follow up from the meeting, I did call Dean. Dean was out. I ended up speaking to Darlene on the issue and the feeling was that there an administrative overhead cost and processing those. There's a lot of them. There ought to be some sort of fee that's charged. I prepared the local law, we took out the no fee part. Prepared the local law to provide there would be set forth in the schedule of fees. The reason I recommend that is you don't want to have to do a local law every time you change a fee. You'd rather just have a resolution changing the fees. This allows you to do that if you're inclined to move forward with the local law. Have to remember how the process works. The recommendation came from the Department Head. It was discussed at the last meeting. You authorized me to prepare an introductory local law for your review. That's what you have now. The next step would be to have a public hearing, if you want to. Just because you asked me to do it doesn't mean you have to do anything. You don't have to act. You can take more time to think about it, whatever it is that you may want to do. But that's what this local law is. Basically in response to the Building Department's request that there be a fee for the annual, even if it's a no change form and that fee be established in the case of schedule fees. If you want to take action to schedule a public hearing, but you certainly don't have to.

Trustee Maher made a motion to schedule public hearing for May 3, 2022 at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sweeney's Outdoor Café Permit Request

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve Sweeney's Outdoor Café Request. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Village Fees

Manager Revella: Everyone got a copy of the updated fees. The only change on the Building Department's fees is the requests for the \$25 annual fee for landlord registry. If the local laws passed, they want that fee to be set at \$25 a year annually.

Mayor Ramos: We have to have this for the budget, correct?

Manager Revella: This is just a motion to approve the fee schedule, it's up to the board.

Mayor Ramos: We're going to further discuss the \$25 charge on May 3, right?

Manager Revella: You can say the fee is \$25 a year if the law is passed, so then you don't have to do the whole fee schedule over again. The annual fee is \$25, it really doesn't change. If you pass a local law it will just be annual instead of when you redo it every year. That wouldn't change. I think you're okay. On the Public Works, there's a couple that were added and updated. If you saw those for water meters, emergency rates. On the Rec Department was a \$10 raise on the programs and then the \$25 on camp, which he discussed during the budget session.

Trustee Pearson: Can I go back to the Department of Works, please? Can you tell me what a fire standby fee?

Manager Revella: Those are for the sprinklers. The sprinkler fee. The private business sprinklers. If they have a 2 inch sprinkler or a 4 inch sprinkler. They pay that annually.

Trustee Pearson: Who pays that? The business?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Pearson: I'd like to talk about the Rec Department. I'm not picking on the Rec Department, it's just what's here. Beach fees, we don't need any of that because we're not doing beach fees.

Manager Revella: I wouldn't cross it out. You're setting the fee. If you were to open the beach in a year and didn't have a fee schedule, you'd be in trouble.

Trustee Pearson: You can add it back in. Adult gym. We don't have that. What is the adult gym?

Manager Revella: If they have Zumba or some kind of session.

Trustee Pearson: Okay. Mom and Tot is no longer as well. Summer half day program and Summer Camp full day program. Again, I did some more research. That's what I do. I'm going to use Town of Newburgh. They set up their and maybe we should think about that. They set up their summer program by sessions. They do every session is a week in the summer, so there's 6 sessions and each session that the children go to the residents are \$145 a week. The nonresident is \$185 a week. They set them up weekly instead of all lumped in one big conglomerate lump. I guess maybe if I was going on vacation, I took my kids out of camp for 2 weeks. I'm not paying for those 2 weeks. What do we do here for people who just pay one sum and if they don't show up, they don't show up and get reimbursed or anything? I don't know. I think maybe we should look at something like that and maybe do something weekly because why as a parent do I want to pay to not go to camp? You know what I'm saying? Because it's less expensive than anywhere else in the world. But if we change the fees schedule, I think we're not getting what we should be getting. I think that we really need to look at what we charge people and I know we bring it up every year. Am I the only one that thinks that? I'm the only one that thinks we don't pay enough. You can give people a break if they have two or three children. If they can't afford it. You can fill out a form that they can't afford it,

then we can supplement that for them. I think that that's we do it anyway, but I'm just thinking we're not getting enough for what we offer. I just think that we can do better. We offer a lot to our residents. We're not that low income Village that we used to be. We lost the 3 census units here in the Village. We don't have that same stereotype that we used to have. There are more people buying more expensive homes, there's more revenue. There's more of everything. I don't know why we're cutting ourselves short is what I'm saying.

Manager Revella: I don't disagree. We're trying to step it up. We raise \$25 on each one. A little at a time so it's more palatable.

Trustee Pearson: How do you feel about sessions? Each week is a different session.

Manager Revella: Just hard to do staffing.

Trustee Pearson: You know ahead of time how many people are coming. They have to sign up ahead of time. The other thing the Town of Newburgh does is they sign up online for everything.

Manager Revella: We do the same.

Trustee Pearson: Okay. I think that we really need to look at more money.

Mayor Ramos: Population of the Town of Newburgh is 60,000 people.

Trustee Pearson: Okay. Good, they're making lots of revenue.

Manager Revella: How many people attend their camp, do you know?

Trustee Pearson: I don't know. I can find out.

Trustee Maher: In the last time pre-COVID, we had more attendees than the Town of Newburgh did.

Trustee Pearson: I'm not against anything that we do. Please, don't get me wrong, it is not about that. Let's say parity. Everybody wants to use parity. Let's do parity for programs. Everybody else is more expensive than us. Why aren't we at parity to other communities? I don't understand that. Everybody wants to use the word parity for salaries. Let's talk about programs as well.

Trustee Sebring: We talk parities for salaries because we want to make sure the employees are taken care of and we talk keeping costs down for our residents so that we can make sure the residents are taking care of. The Village of Walden from my understanding of what I've seen since I've been here is doing very well. This is a way to give back to the community and say thank you for all that you do. From our discussion during the budget with the Department of Recs and he's doing a marvelous job and all their employees and so they're putting all these resources to people that make it affordable for everyone. We're not losing in the fact that because we have a lower cost in any other Village. The point that I think we should make is that we want to make sure everything that we do in the Village helps everybody. I think it'd be more difficult to start parsing out people than you'll slip into favoritism. Then you slip into pointing around saying no you don't have to pay, but I have to pay, and then that will cause them more of a headache, in my opinion. I believe that the schedule that we have is good and it just opens the door so that everyone can make sure is enjoying themselves and I believe that's another reason we have high numbers. I rather have high numbers in our youth participating in our programs and instead of having high numbers in how much we charge people and you have low number in the youth participating.

Trustee Maher: I'm also comfortable with the rates. I don't think we need to change anything for recreation. I think that as a learning curve with our new Community Center and how we utilize programs there, that's something to look into as far as if we were to offer a cooking class or yoga class, that's going to be remarkably different than \$5 because there's going to be a lot more overhead. But with what we have right now, I'm comfortable with this.

Trustee Sebring: As far as what Becky was talking about paying weekly. My problem is like the Mayor had said, that you don't know, when you hire your helpers or the assistant, you hire them for the summer. If you get a week that there's not a lot of kids now, what do you do with those kids that you hired for the summer? Is there anything else you could use them for to keep them employed? Then on the other side to coin, I believe you hire them, you hire them for the full summer. It's an up and down thing. They've never tried it to where you pay weekly. That's an unknown thing.

Trustee Thompson: I get what everybody's saying. I agree that it's nice to keep it affordable for our children and the children from surrounding areas that want to come here to go to summer camps. However, the more children you have, the more staff you need. We heard Mike say that the prices, the rates that he's paying, the counselors and the lifeguards, they just keep going up. So, the cost of the materials for the arts and crafts and all the activities that the children do, those costs keep going up. While I do agree we should try and keep the price reasonable, I think we have to keep raising that price because somewhere we have to be able to pay the staff and everything else that goes along with summer camp. What Becky is proposing, I do know some other communities that do that. I don't know if it would work for us, but I think it's very interesting and it might be something worth pursuing and having a discussion with Mike to see what he knows about it because I'm sure he knows what a lot of the other camps in the area are doing. I get making it affordable, but I also we have costs associated with the camp and I think we have to take that into consideration as well.

Deputy Mayor Carley: We did have this conversation with Department of Recs during the budget session that this is affordable and we're still bringing in a profit. I do understand that things go up, but we're not at that point where we're in dire straits. I believe in profit 100% But at the same time, community matters, in my opinion. That has a greater weight. I don't think we're spending too much with the Rec Department to put anything in jeopardy. I say we stick with the price that was recommended.

Mayor Ramos: I know Mr. Presutti in charge of Parks and Rec for the Town of Newburgh and Mr. Presutti asked Mr. Bliss for professional advice. The Village of Walden Parks and Recs and their summer program has exuded around this whole area. They ask him for programing. They ask him what prices to charge. I feel that the Village of Walden gives our residents a bang for their buck. We're here for the children and the resources for the families, for the Village of Walden. When you have pre-pandemic, when you have over 400 kids coming to summer camp, we're doing something right. To continue that and keep raising rates a little bit at a time kind of shows the Village residents that all we care about is raising rates. I firmly believe that where our rates are just right for families. Families of two, three. Even when my kids were young. It was a right amount, especially when both parents have to work. I don't know where we ended up.

Manager Revella: Motion to approve the fee schedule is the request.

Mayor Ramos: But pending the \$25.

Manager Revella: Correct.

Trustee Pearson: Is this for the Rec center as well? Or is that something different? The Rec Center, I did some research on as well. At the top of that form, it would be nice to say what supervisor is on duty so we know who is going to be in charge of that Rec Center that day. I think that's missing. At the bottom, you're talking about per hour. It's \$75 a Village resident, \$100 a Non-Village resident. And that's per hour. For 4 hours, you're talking \$300. Most other places are higher than that. I'm not so sure why we are lower again. I'm looking at Maybrook at \$400 and they're \$250 for a security deposit. Then we are looking at the Village of Montgomery, who has a \$600 nonresident and a \$400 resident or business nonprofit. There's a cleanup deposit of \$250. There's a \$100 deposit upon booking events, balance and cleanup, so they get \$100 first and they're out of the \$250. There's things that we are missing. The floors are swept and mopped. This one also talks about no glitter, that would be nice to put in there. This other one also has proof of residency for the renter. They say, no cooking. There's a stove, so they really just want reheating. They're not really talking about cooking. Are we going to allow cooking in there? Unless there's a cooking class or something? Are we going to allow cooking or reheating for when people have big parties

Manager Revella: If they're using the kitchen?

Trustee Pearson: This is in somebody else's rules. It's not in ours. I didn't know if we wanted to think about some of these things I'm talking about. I'm not saying they're necessary. Just did some research for the board. It says some people bring your own cleaning supplies. Do we supply cleaning supplies or do they have to bring their own? Clean up is done by 10:00. You're out by 11:00. Will there be TV and movie hookups there? Maybe an outdoor movie be shown inside? Are there going to be things that we should be talking about, that we are going to put in there that if they are renting the building, not to touch and not to use it? Also cancelations, this one says 48 hours of the scheduled event addressed with the Village Clerk, as a result forfeit the \$100 facility deposit for the senior center or \$50 for a rec center. We don't have some of those things in there. I didn't know if we wanted to make that a little more for what we have for a brand new building. I think we might. But that's just my opinion. Hopefully we can look at that.

Manager Revella: Anybody else have suggestions on those forms, because we can break that out, make some suggestions and updates and vote on the rest of the fee schedule today.

Trustee Maher: I think that's a good idea. I think that this is always going to be a work in progress, but as far as the fee schedule goes, I'm okay with that.

Trustee Pearson: Does this include the application for the facilities of the park?

Manager Revella: That's separate.

Trustee Maher made a motion to adopt the fee schedules as presented. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Waterfront Park Bid Award

Tabled

St Baldrick's 5K Request

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve St Baldrick's 5k Request. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Historical Society

Manager Revella: They are trying to improve their building. They had to take out a building

permit to do the work, and they had requested a waiver of the building permit fee. I think it's \$250.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to waive the building permit fee for the Walden Historical Society building for renovation work. Seconded by Trustee Maher. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

Public Comment

Mary Ellen Matise: I'm looking at the this DPW schedule and the meters belong to the Village, right?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Mary Ellen Matise: But you're going to charge residents to replace meters or repair meters going forward?

Manager Revella: We always have.

Mary Ellen Matise: There's no charges under old.

Manager Revella: There are.

Mary Ellen Matise: A few, but not to the extent that there are going forward. That's if the meter goes bad. But when you do the whole switch out.

Manager Revella: The first meter is free for a property. Any replacement meters is on the property owner. Or if you need a second one, it's on the property owner.

Mary Ellen Matise: It wasn't done that way last time.

Manager Revella: Yes. Well, at least for 12 years.

Mary Ellen Matise: Then it gets passed down to tenants and then tenants who are paying for like a one bedroom apartment, \$1,800 a month, which is a lot of money. Starting to get out of hand for a little Village. I'm going to look further into this thing about the procedure for doing this registry. You really didn't discuss much. All you did was accept the change that the attorney made on a proposed law change without any discussion. You didn't say anything about it. You read it and set the public hearing. Maybe there needs to be some procedural change that saves the department money instead of adding another cost to residents and taxpayers. I have a question. Mostly because it's on my mind lately, because every other news show and TV show lately has been talking about crypto currency. I don't know if your municipality is precluded from taking crypto currency, and I don't know if anybody has ever asked the Village or any municipality in New York State, locally or in the state whether they could pay a fee with crypto currency. You'd have to be in a position to be able accept it, which means you have to buy into crypto currency. But a lot of governments are, Puerto Rico big time going into crypto currency.

Mayor Ramos: We're in debt, too.

Mary Ellen Matise: They're seeing that as a way to get out of debt. If in fact we are precluded from doing that as a municipal, as a public agency, taking public money, then I think maybe when we do these forms, when we send out our water bills, when we send out our tax bills, they should have maybe a little byline on them that says US dollars only. Could be a scam too. Make sure nobody ever tries to scam us with anything other than US dollars. Never know. I just want to thank you for

allowing public comment at the meetings. I've been to many meetings, not just in the Village of Walden, but my whole life. Public comment, I think is meant to be constructive. It's not meant to be anything other than that. So, I'll leave it at that.

Gerald Mishk: 68 Wait Street. Landlord registry fees. One thing you should be considering, I saw a lot of this as the judge handling most of those code violations. We have a large basis of absentee landlords in the Village. Because of that, we have a very difficult time getting them into court. They have to be personally served. Ever since COVID started, you can't even send them a certified letter because the Post Office doesn't wait for a signature. They just write "COVID" on it, so we don't even know if they even served. So, a lot of times most of the landlords that don't live in the Village, it might take two or three times to be served. Each time a cost of a process server trying to locate them and serve them an order to get them in a court to answer the violations. In many of those violations are for the fire and safety inspections which are required by state law. Consider that when you consider the fees. You may even want to consider a sliding fee for frequent violators. Maybe slow down their violations. The fees increase each year that they have violations in the previous year.

Payment of Audited Bills

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve payment of audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 5 ayes. 1 abstention(Trustee Thompson). Motion carried.

Correspondence

Trustee Thompson: I don't believe I had any correspondence other than the St. Baldrick's Letter that was in the packet.

Trustee Pearson: I received an email about grants from Mary Ellen.

Trustee Maher: Just the correspondence from former Treasurer.

Mayor Ramos: I, too, received correspondence from former Treasurer. I received the correspondence from Mrs. Matise. Several emails on programs.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Thompson: I would just like to share with the board that on May 7th, there is a river sweep in the Town of Montgomery between 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. and the location will be over on Canning Road underneath the 84 bypass along Route 416. Anyone who would like to come and help clean up debris and whatever else is floating in the river, you're more than welcome.

Trustee Pearson: Arbor Day is April 28th, around 10 o'clock at Olley Park. We're doing a tree for Sam Wright this year. Hope you can join us. I know it's on a Thursday, but we have the children from the elementary school, so we have to work around their schedule. I just like to take a moment to just talk about that the Treasurer was not fired. My thoughts on it are that when you talk about someone as someone just did without knowing all the facts. I spent two and a half days on the budget and had some concerns. My concerns were that it wasn't correct. Some issues were with it. I was respectful to the Department Heads and let them go before I said anything. In my defense, I couldn't go any further without mentioning it because I felt it was a very big issue. Things have changed. We had to do other things. I do not listen to anyone. I form my own opinions. Just so that the public knows, it's not against any person ever. My job as a Trustee is to do what I feel is right for the Village taxpayers, and that's what I was talking about that night. I couldn't let it go any further if I thought there were issues. I didn't know those issues until I was studying that budget for two and a half days. I went to work. I came to that meeting, respectful to the Department Heads and then I asked them questions Can I get a little hot? Yes, I can. When I have an issue that nobody is

kind of understanding what I was saying, so that was the only thing, so I apologize if I felt like I was being overburdening to people. If things were right, then people don't need to resign. They can stand up for their position and say what should be happening. Just knowing that I was doing what I felt I was right.

Trustee Maher: I just wanted to comment on what Mary Ellen had said earlier. I definitely am going to do some more research on the digital landlord registry because I think that's the direction we should move in as a Village. It just definitely makes sense, 500 landlords times \$25, \$12,500. That's a lot of money for this Village. I think there's definitely a way for us to again, working with looking at all the legalities and what the state law is. I think there's a way to make it work where when it comes to electronic information, people are more receptive to it, especially like Jerry had mentioned with long distance landlords. They might not get a letter, but they might be able to respond to an email, or they might be able to log in to our Village system and pay electronically. I'm going to do some more research on that Mary Ellen and get back to you.

Trustee Sebring: I feel as though with the landlord registry, we should know who our landlords are, where they live, because many times you have issues, whether there accidents on the property or issues with fire codes. The Building Department would like to know how to get a hold of them and that is a must. I know we had one incident here on Scofield Street and Maple Street. They tried to track the landlord down. They had a sheriff try to find them and they could never find them. Meanwhile, you're paying the sheriff to go look for him. It is worthwhile having a landlord registry for the simple fact of at least knowing who he is and where he lives for issues. There are a lot of issues with these absentee landlords. They don't care. Once they buy it and they're absent, they could care less. Just make sure that the rent money is coming in every month. They're always on top of that, but everything else, they could care less. There are a lot of buildings that are in disrepair that should be repaired for the tenants. I know the landlords don't like to spend money, but oh well. We're here to protect the residents and that's what our building codes are for and the Code Enforcement Officer. With the landlord registry, it's a good thing that they started it a long time ago.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm glad we're going to leave the line for it or at least discuss it more about the ambulance side. I think we really should look into that grant side and make sure we get the information concerning the Hudson River Estuary Grant. In regards to the local law for the landlord registry. I think Mr. Mishk brings up a great point in which I didn't think about which I'm glad we're talking about. It was a sliding scale for the ones we can't contact. Possibly will help slow down that pay scale regarding what we have. I think that we should review that just to make sure everyone's fully aware of what the Village Manager put together from last year or year before.

Mayor Ramos: Monday, April 25th, 150 year Walden Savings Bank anniversary. The bank will chime the old clock at the corner of Main Street and Bank Street at 9:45 a.m. Everyone is welcome. 10 a.m. the bell will chime to commemorate Walden Savings Bank's 150 year anniversary. April 26th, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at Walden Savings Bank on Scotts Corner's Drive, Montgomery, New York, hosted by the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, Walden Savings Bank, in the partnership with the Orange County Chamber of Commerce, invites all of us to the Walden Savings Bank, 150th anniversary celebration and ribbon cutting ceremony. If anybody can come along, we greatly appreciate it. We had a phenomenal time. Over 400 kids and parents all enjoyed the Easter egg hunt. A little drizzle at the beginning, but we got it through. The Parks and Rec did a phenomenal job. Today we attended the senior luncheon. The seniors are ecstatic on developments of this community center. Looks like in August, when we get our kitchen up and running, they will be hosting their luncheons. They're also really happy that this is going to happen in the Village of Walden.

Read community events into the minutes

Executive Session – Personal History of Particular Employees

Trustee Maher made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of particular employees. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
April 19, 2022
Motions & Resolutions**

Public Hearing 2022-2023 Village Budgets

Trustee Maher made a motion to open the public hearing for the 2022-2023 Village Budget. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to keep the public hearing open until April 27, 2022. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of April 5, 2022 Reorg & Regular Meeting Minutes

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the April 5, 2022 Reorg Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to approve the April 5, Regular Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Hearing Local Law 2 of 2022 Tax Cap Override

Trustee Maher made a motion to open the public hearing Local Law 2 of 2022 Tax cap Override. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 5 ayes. 1 opposed(Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to table until the April 27, 2022 special meeting. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried

Local Law Update 221-4

Trustee Maher made a motion to schedule public hearing for May 3, 2022 at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Sweeney's Outdoor Café Permit Request

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve Sweeney's Outdoor Café Request. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Village Fees

Trustee Maher made a motion to adopt the fee schedules as presented. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

St Baldrick's 5K Request

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve St Baldrick's 5k Request. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Historical Society

Trustee Sebring made a motion to waive the building permit fee for the Walden Historical Society building for renovation work. Seconded by Trustee Maher. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

Payment of Audited Bills

Trustee Pearson made a motion to approve payment of audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 5 ayes. 1 abstention(Trustee Thompson). Motion carried.

Executive Session – Personal History of Particular Employees

Trustee Maher made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of particular employees. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

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