

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
August 2, 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
		Patricia Maher
		Becky Pearson
		Brian Sebring
		John Elliott

Absent:

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

**OCT**

**Anthony Morando:** I was here a couple of weeks ago where we provided our update on the status of the sewer and water connection. We also discussed requesting the consent of the board for an extension of the time period to complete what is now the sewer portion of that project to connect it to the site, to the municipal facilities. We hadn't gotten anything back yet from the DOT. The highway work permit application has been with them for several weeks now. So we're waiting for the permit. Still hoping that we'll have it by the beginning of September. There was a question that I got about boring and I believe they are actually boring under the road so as not to disturb the road. This is why I don't like to answer things without making sure I know the answer. Then as far as the other improvements on the site unrelated to the sewer and water connection, but still the rear fence posts have been installed. I believe they're proceeding with installing the actual fencing on there now. On the east side of the property, they completed the surveying. The area's been prepared for the berm to be installed and that's imminent. I wasn't able to get there this afternoon, but I believe that's either being started this week or as soon as physically possible once the materials are on the site. Other than that, we're back here because at the last meeting there was a discussion over the extension of time to connect, I believe there were two discussions, one on 12 months versus 8 months, and there wasn't a consensus among the board. So I am back sooner than usual to finish that discussion.

**Mayor Ramos:** Updating the DOT permit. Has your contractor staged any of his equipment in and around the area?

**Anthony Morando:** You mean not on the site, but within the vicinity. I don't know the answer to that. I know that I've been advised that they are ready to go as soon as possible, but it's just awaiting the permit to start the project and finish it sequentially the appropriate way. I can get an answer to you, Mr. Mayor. I know its Spagnoli Construction. They're in the area doing work, so I assume they're staging is pretty close.

**Manager Revella:** They work in the Village often.

**Anthony Morando:** The request that we had filed back last month was for 12 months to bring us through next spring and summer. I think we spoke about last time. We're just not sure when we'll get the permit. Kind of afraid that we get into the winter and it's not complete and the thing is not actually connected. Then you have coming into the spring when it would actually be able to be finished if that was to happen. It's not what I'm being told is the schedule. I'm being told it's going to start as soon as they get the DOT highway work permit and it shouldn't take longer than the end of the year. But I am a skeptical always and we'd like to build in that flexibility in time to make sure it's done and there are no issues. Of course, I will continue to be here every month or my colleague to give you updates, answer questions, or get answers for you throughout that period.

**Manager Revella:** August 18, 2023, is that the request?

**Anthony Morando:** Yes. Another 12 months.

**Trustee Sebring:** I'm going to change my mind on what I said last time for the 12 months. I'm going to go with the 8 months for the fact that now that you're going to bore under the road. It's not that much of a time consuming to do it. All you're doing is just boring under the road and getting out of the state right-a-way. Once you're on to the bus property, you can work through the bad weather because you don't have to worry about state specs. The ground here doesn't freeze until probably December, January. Depends on whether so they have more than enough time to do their site work. I'm changing my vote to 8 months.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I wasn't here for the last meeting. However, I don't see a major difference unless there's something that the Village Manager, the Mayor or our lawyer can tell us and what's the difference between 12 months and 8 months?

**Anthony Morando:** We had asked 12 and there was a discussion back and forth on what would be most appropriate. Just for the record, we didn't oppose 8. We were just being cautious and setting expectations. It's more of my cynicism that there won't be a material problem or something and we'll have an issue. I think it's mainly 8 months, brings you out until March, April. Blacktop and all these other things that are going to come up, at the end of the day, what we're required to do is connect. So there's probably going to be some lingering stuff that isn't really relevant for the extension period, but to get the site connected. But it's more of just to be up front about what we think the expectation is and being careful.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** So, the expectation is to finish as soon as possible. There's no hidden agenda to say no we need 12 months because of funding or materials.

**Anthony Morando:** No, nothing that I've been told. My understanding is they feel comfortable even with the materials. Quite frankly, I am nervous about it.

**Manager Revella:** The contractor is ready to go. He's prepared. If the permit comes, they could start tomorrow.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** At the last board meeting, maybe the board can help me out. What was the objection for 12 months? I'm of the mindset, just in case there is unforeseen things come up. We won't have to come back and have another conversation at eight months or six. I see 12 being just as a caution, but you finish it as soon as possible. Can you help me out, Village Manager, is there a cost that the Village may occur or some issues?

**Manager Revella:** We're not getting ratable, water/sewer rate, because they're not hooked up still. That's why there's a penalty provision, \$2,000 a day for not being hooked up in the timeframe originally. They originally asked for a year. You gave another year beyond the original year. This is another year. This would be the 3rd year, if you're going to do the 12 months.

**Anthony Morando:** And we are paying water, so this is in terms of what the ratable are.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** But they've been demonstrating progression the whole time as we asked concerning everything with the project from my perception.

**Manager Revella:** We had some issues with progress that we brought to their attention, and they came back to the board. You guys have been on them.

**Anthony Morando:** I think that was before me, though, right?

**Manager Revella:** No. As you were here. They told you that you can start working on this stuff like the trailers, get them off. Work on the berm.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I guess I'm looking at integrity. And based off of that, it appears that things do come up. But you're not dragging your feet, from my understanding. Unless there's something that was discussed that I wasn't aware of.

**Trustee Thompson:** You've been at all the other meetings where he's presented to us. There have been delays. We've asked about movement on the site, busses being moved. The property owners that butt up to the site have had numerous complaints. I personally feel that there was some dragging of the feet initially, and I think the board has been very generous, continuing to give extensions. I would like to see it less than a year because that would be motivation to get the project done. And I understand there can be some unforeseen circumstances that you cannot control. It's not a problem to come back. We can review the progress and if you need another extension, you need another extension. I feel like if we give that 12 months. I feel like there needs to be a little incentive to move it along and get this thing done. It's been going on for a long time and I know some of it is no fault of the bus company. I get it. But I just feel like it can be revisited if you can't get it done.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I was kind of referring to the couple of meetings I wasn't here.

**Trustee Pearson:** The discussion last month I was the one who said at the last meeting, six months would be fine for me. I'm for six months. Hold their feet to the fire. It's been since 2018. Yes, you were not involved in 2018, but it's been since 2018. So, you're talking over four years already? Ratable's is one thing. We're always talking about money in the Village of Walden and they're not paying that portion. Some were willing to do 12 months. But then when we talked about that, Trish came back and said 8 months instead of 6 months that takes them to the spring. It gets them into the spring season. They have 8 months to get moving. I feel holding their feet to the fire is a good thing. I think that they really need to not that they haven't done it, but I think they really need to stay diligent in what they're doing and push forward and get it done. It's been a long time already. I think we're being very generous and what we're doing, we don't have to. We can fine them if we wanted to, but we're not doing that. I think that we are being generous in the long run and they can always come back if they need to.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I just want to make sure where we are as a board. I see the difference between 8 and 12. I don't see a problem with 12 and then we can really lay some penalties behind it, definitely after that. I'm lenient because we've been lenient. Now all of a sudden I don't want to play hardball, but I really don't see a big difference between 8 and 12 personally.

**Anthony Morando:** You probably see I'm not up here fighting. We're always going to be here. I think I mentioned last month, any time you want a meeting, any individuals to talk to the contractor, to talk to John. I'll help set that up. There's nothing that's not transparent that we're trying to hide or anything. There are so many uncertainties. What is the weather going to be like in the spring? Is there going to be a problem this fall? There are just all those factors that I can't predict. I will say, and I don't want to disagree necessarily, but the extension agreement was 2020. There wasn't really a time where work could have been started. I don't think it's as long as it may seem. I think a large sewer and water connection project like this. I think I've documented every single step I possibly could. It takes incredible amount of coordination where there are times where things could move faster, where you would have like maybe. But there's behind the scenes stuff that happens with trying to get site visits set up with different contractors, trying to find out about materials. There are so many things that go into it. On top of all that, there are things that we moved ahead faster than people probably even expected. The point is, we've been diligently pursuing it all step of the way, but there's no reason to argue about it. We're happy to continue to come back. I prefer 12. I think that's reasonable. But I'm not sitting here saying I'm going to fight over. Just saying I may be back in 8, pleading with you to just resolve this finally.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I think the key for the board is as I continue to hear "feet to the fire", let's make sure it just moves.

**Trustee Pearson:** I did get an email from the homeowner that lives next door. They were very pleased that their berm is somewhat started. They're happy about that. They hope it goes well and hopefully it turns out as they expect. I don't know what the plans look like, but they're happy that that has started and the fence is down that's been there for 40 years and a mess. They're happy. Thank you.

Deputy Carley made a motion to approve 12 month extension for Orange County Transit term ending August 18, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Thompson.

Roll Call:

Trustee Pearson: No

Trustee Maher: No

Trustee Elliott: No

Trustee Thompson: No

Trustee Sebring: No

Deputy Mayor Carley: Yes

Mayor Ramos: Yes.

Motion failed.

Trustee Elliot made a motion to approve 8 month extension for Orange County Transit term ending April 18, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Maher. 5 ayes. 2 nays (Mayor Ramos & Deputy Mayor Carley). Motion carried.

### **Public Hearing – Local Law 2 of 2022 – OL-I**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to open public hearing for Local Law 2 of 2022 OL-I. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** We recently discussed this at the Zoning Board because American Lumber is coming for a height variance and there in the OL-I zone, which a lot of it is south on 208, AMPAC going up along the railroad tracks and down by the where the all train depot was, where the old Nelco building was.

**Manager Revella:** That's mixed use.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** But also Truffa Seed. They're OL-I. We see what exists currently in these districts. American Lumber came in for a height variance. As we're talking to them about the height variance, they want to put a shed. It'll be enclosed and it's going to extend their building even though it's extending it on to a preexisting concrete pad. We asked what their coverage is in the Village. Because one parcel is in the Town. They think they're at like 31%. Not egregiously bad, not so far over the line that it's an issue. But when they go to put the shed, if it increases their coverage and they do have to come back for a variance. Which is not bad. Maybe an inconvenience, but not a bad thing. What I'm saying is like there's two different factors kind of operating on whether you increase this coverage or not. One factor is that it would probably bring all these other parcels into conformity because I'm sure AMPAC must be more than 30%. But don't forget, they were built there in 1911. We didn't have zoning until 1958. Is it bad for them to be non-conforming? In a lot of ways it is. The upside of increasing the coverage is that it makes it easier for them to do their business or sell their business. The biggest downside I would see is more environmental runoff. Some of these parcels are in pretty wet areas. They feed into minor tributaries to the Tin Brook. Like that little trough behind Harrison St. At one time it all fed to a little pond, which was on the corner of Sherman and Elm Street, and they used to cut ice out of it in the winter. I see the increase in coverage is really environmental issues and impacts that you should look at very seriously. They can contribute to a lot of the runoff problems that we have with the I&I in the sewer system and everything else. The upside of increasing it is that you're going to get more taxes out of a building that's bigger, but you have a place like AMPAC already. They're paying a big boatload of taxes to the Village. American Lumber, they're paying over \$20,000 a year in Village taxes. Does a 10% increase in the size of their facility on their current lot, is that going to really be a big boom to the Village? I don't know. But there are ups and downs to it, and I hope you consider all of it very carefully.

**Jerry Jacobowitz:** All I want to do is just kind of remind you all of some of the history, because the change you're asked to make was recommended in the comprehensive plan that was adopted by a committee that you appointed of representative citizens. They approved it. They recommended it to the Village. And it was adopted as the comprehensive plan on page 76. Expressly says, recommended zoning text amendments. Increase the allowable lot coverage in the OL-I district and the I2 districts. On page 81, it says certain recommendations contained herein will require subsequent action by the Village Board of Trustees in order to enact the recommended amendments. Some recommendations should be implemented immediately, including the recommended revisions to the Village code. That is something that you, all your predecessors, all adopted and all that's being asked of you tonight is to approve what one of the items are in the recommended comprehensive plan. As you look at the Villages boundaries and the inclusive lands, there's very little available for industrial or nonresidential development. And therefore to maximize good planning concepts, additional land that can accommodate non nuisance industry is in the long range benefit of the community. If you had an aggressive annexation plan to bring in more property outside the Village to make it part of the Village that you could zone industrially. That's another alternative, but that doesn't seem to be a policy matter that is on the on the decks right now. Hopefully you will consider the wisdom of the ages and that you'll feel comfortable in doing what's been asked. Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to close public hearing Local Law 2 of 2022 OL-I. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Trustee Pearson:** I before that I would like to have more information and all John gave me was, is that it's in that area over there. I would like to see how many properties we have that are not built on

that would be utilizing this amount. I'd also like to see how many properties that we have that are already built on that may become non-conforming or that would be utilizing this as well. I'm not ready to make a decision because I don't there's enough information in front of us to do that. I think that when you make non-conforming buildings, you're going to be giving them an issue when they try to sell things like that. I'd like more information before I make that decision on this plan. I know Mr. Jacobowitz said that it's recommended. It doesn't mean it has to happen, even though it's recommended. If you're going to do recommended, you're going to do number 63 and number 64 also in our comp plan that said immediate. If that's what we're doing, then we need to move forward in some of our other comp plan issues and we're not doing that either. I'm feeling that I don't have enough information to make this decision because I want to see what the numbers are and be able to utilize whether it's going to be beneficial to the Village or whether it's going to harm businesses that are already have businesses there that may be over that 40% already or 30% already. Also people can go to the Zoning Board. We have a Zoning Board for a reason. The other issue I have with this is that this applicant also has another piece of property that's connected to that. We did talk about that, but nobody even went further with that. That has single family homes on it and what happens to that piece of property because it's connected to this piece of property. I want to know that as well.

### **Public Hearing – Local Law 3 of 2022 – Fences**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to open public hearing for Local Law 3 of 2022 - Fences. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** I can't believe I heard a little conversation here in the audience before about another board that I guess wasn't paying attention, that this has been discussed for the past month and a half and all of a sudden they want to make comments on it and they're not even the board that passes comment or approves fences except for site plan approvals and not for existing properties. So this change would affect existing properties more so than yes, if you want to put a fence at your house Lynn, then this affects you. If Brian wants to put a fence at his house, this affects him. It's not so much for new projects that are coming along that are going to be before the Planning Board. It's for existing properties in the Village and I really still think that for two feet it does not make any sense to have people coming before the Zoning Board, having to pay a fee, having to pay for mailings, then having to pay for a permit and for the Village to be expending the cost that it expends to have the Zoning Board sit. Not everybody's going to want the extra two feet. Some people will only want a four foot fence. Fine. It gives them the option in that one zone. We're only talking about the R3 zone because the other zone, R2, is Olley Park. We're only talking about one zone that's really being treated differently from everybody else. And for no apparent reason. Going back through all the minutes back to 1993, as I told you, there's no explanation at all. Then what if somebody doesn't put a fence? What are we going to regulate the height of hedges and side yards? What if they put up a whole row of ten foot high trees? And trees are going to continue to grow. It's becoming micromanaging and it should be just make sense for the public so that it doesn't cost them a lot of money.

Trustee Elliott made a motion to close the public hearing for Local Law 3 of 2022 - Fences. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Trustee Pearson:** Why the board wouldn't be talking at this time about in the public hearings so the public can hear how the board feels about it instead of waiting till the vote because the next one comes up, you're going to vote on it. I always thought public hearings for everybody to talk, even the board to talk. I'm not understanding why we closed the public hearing and then you go to a vote and then you talk about it and then maybe you vote on it. Maybe you don't. I'm just questioning that. Thank you.

### **Village Manager's Report**

**Manager Revella:** The Community Center gas line was installed. They're hooking up the meter on

Thursday so we can start using the building. The pricing for the outfitting of the building for furniture is happening now. I had the Chief coordinate some alarm companies to come in to work on security options for the Village. We have two quotes so far. I'm going to weigh those options and see what the best recommendation is. Also, had the Village Engineer come to the office to look at upgrading for security measures as well, and discuss the matter with the Police Department to see if they can do safety procedures and protocols with all departments. Went over finance with the all the office staff. Invoices, payroll, different reports. There's more later in the Treasurer report. I attended one of the Music in the Grove concert events. There's been a couple of them, going very well. I discussed property maintenance with the Building Inspector to try and ramp up that now that there's not a lot of lawns going on because there hasn't been rain. Went over bank docs for Orange Bank and Trust. We met with the representatives with the Treasurer as well to go over transition. I met with the Court Clerk to talk about progress and the department. Doing very well. I'm going to have the new Court Clerk and the new office person come to the next meeting to be introduced. The Clerk and I met with the Workers Comp Rep to go over worker's comp matters. We're starting to get some claims shrunk down on their value. So that's helping a little bit. It's going to be a couple of years to get our rate down from all the claims from the Police Department, though. Did conduct interviews for the new Deputy Treasurer/Clerk with the Treasurer and the Clerk present as well. We did make a selection. They start on Monday. Went over the school safety proposal. It's in your packet as well, along with Chief and the Village Attorney and our Village insurance rep. Summer camp has been in full swing. Unfortunately, haven't been able to use the Olley Park building yet because there's not a CO. NYSEG hasn't put the gas meter on yet. We're hopeful to use it shortly. Flag football is going well. Teen Center is open and going well. I ask the police to patrol more frequently in the evening hours after Teen Center to make sure everyone's leaving the park. There have been a couple reports that people have been still there lingering. The Building Department, Code Enforcement Officer issued 21 permits, 10 Certificates of Compliance, 2 CO reports, and the Building Inspectors issued 5 permits, 8 Certificate of Compliance and 3 CO reports, assisted Planning and Zoning matters. They also issued 9 landlord registry violations and 10 lawn violations since last meeting. Clerk's been doing her regular updates, met with me and special counsel on personnel matters, including workers comp, FOILs with the Village Attorney, minutes, meeting with our workers comp rep in the office. Treasurer has gotten help from New York State to fix some of our retirement reporting and some other access issues we were having. Went with me over to the bank to transition from Sterling Webster Bank over to Orange Bank and Trust, closed BAN renewals. We got the new BAN in. Working on bank reqs and we did get the sales tax and ARPA funds in. Public Works helped install the gas line on at Olley Park. They're working on a lot of different projects right now. Water Department put in 2 meters, 11 mark outs, 2 closings and swapped 1 endpoint. Public Works replaced a manhole on Orange Avenue near John Street. They're working on valves and manholes and all the state roads to prepare for the paving project. They hauled material for the Olley Park project. DPW Super met with me and Tilcon, who's going to be doing the paving project to review issues that we have and some concerns we have with keying in the side roads along with crosswalks and intersections and lane shifting on Main Street to get more room for tractor trailers to go around the pole that keeps getting hit. The department still flushing and jetting on the program from the DEC. Police has been working on the staffing issue still. I finally got the updated canvass list this week, but just yesterday. Chief's back, I think Friday. So we'll start going through it. Did talk about some candidates on it with the Sergeants. We're going to work on that. They are working on special details. They did issue 12 traffic tickets, a parking summons, went to 1 MVA, conducted 6 arrests since last meeting and answered 320 blotters. Just to make sure Trustee Pearson asked about some things with the OL-I, I do have the large zoning map in my office. I can bring it in here if you guys want.

**Trustee Sebring:** On 67 Oak Street, there is a sign that they put up no parking in front of that house. It's only about five foot high, so it doesn't meet the requirement. That's number one. And then on Orange Avenue, there's a sewer manhole covered over in blacktop.

**Manager Revella:** Yes, there's a lot.

**Trustee Sebring:** I would say if you're going out Orange Avenue, it's the last telephone pole before you hit Scofield Street.

**Manager Revella:** There should be green paint on it right now. We're walking the route. I'll check it.

**Trustee Sebring:** I know when I was working, if they had to do any grinding and they hit the manhole covers, it does a lot of damage to the machine. So I wanted to at least bring that up to cover everybody. I have a question that we'll do in executive session. When they get the new Olley Park, who's going to be taking care of cleaning the floors?

**Manager Revella:** The staff.

**Trustee Sebring:** In the summertime, if you have a bad day where it's raining and they bring in a lot of mud and stuff. It's quite amount of time for the staff to clean it up. That's why I'm asking who's going to be cleaning it up? One person or whole staff?

**Manager Revella:** Depends. The Parks and Rec staff. We're not sure what it's going to take. If it takes three people, it's three people. If it's one, it's one. We'll see depending on the conditions. If we find it's not adequate in the future, then we may end up hiring out. But for now, right now, we're planning on using staff.

**Trustee Thompson:** I have a note here about meeting with the Chief, talking about alarm companies to review options for security? Security where?

**Manager Revella:** Village offices and the office next door, the Building Department.

**Trustee Thompson:** Anything else around the Village?

**Manager Revella:** It was just those two locations for now because they're on one system. We have alarms at the other buildings right now and we're confirming what we have in place is sufficient.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm asking that because I have been down at Woosters Grove recently when some of the shenanigans has been taking place. It's very dark in certain areas down there. I was wondering, aside from alarms, if maybe we could do a little something with the lighting, too? I appreciate that the police are going to be patrolling a little more often. I don't know how things are going in the other parks, but I know that's where we had a lot of problems last summer, and I don't want to see that kind of damage and destruction take place again. I was also going to ask about the new building at Olley Park. I also have some concerns about maintenance there. I see how some of our other Village properties have been maintained and I have some concerns. We already have a cleaning service. I'm assuming that would be an additional expense if they had to add outside properties other than the building here. They're also supposed to clean the building department?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. Once a week.

**Trustee Thompson:** That might be something to address as well. Do we know what the capacity is going to be of the Community Center?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. I think its 453, something like that. It'll say officially, once we get the CO.



**Trustee Thompson:** In inclement weather, all of the children will be in there?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Thompson:** If we have to reinstate COVID rules, how will that work?

**Manager Revella:** It won't.

**Trustee Thompson:** Where will the children go, then?

**Manager Revella:** Home.

**Trustee Thompson:** There's no mention of property violations. We have lawns. There's no mention of anything else in this entire Village being cited.

**Manager Revella:** Correct.

**Trustee Thompson:** So there's nothing wrong?

**Manager Revella:** That's not correct.

**Trustee Thompson:** So why are we not being told?

**Manager Revella:** Because they're working on other things, so they haven't written a violation for other things. Permits, COs, inspections.

**Trustee Thompson:** I understand. But we now have 3 full time people in that department. And I thought that was the purpose of hiring a full time Code Enforcement Officer. It's just perplexing to me why we're not writing violations on property.

**Manager Revella:** We put the full time person in to transition Dean to retirement. That was the purpose. And when he retires, there will be a one full timer, one part timer and one full time secretary. There won't always be two full time people there. That's not what we planned. Just so you know, going forward.

**Trustee Thompson:** So, we're going to go back to what we were doing before that wasn't working with a full time Building Inspector and a part time Code Officer.

**Manager Revella:** That's correct. That's what the Village Board approved.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The 10 lawn violations, you're saying you wanted more?

**Trustee Thompson:** No, I would like to see something other than just notes about lawn violations.

**Manager Revella:** Like the roof is damaged or something. Other property maintenance violations. Like a porch is falling down or something like that.

**Trustee Thompson:** I would like to just say thank you to the DPW department, because we had a pretty significant sidewalk issue on the corner of Walnut and Rifton and they did a really nice job fixing that. And all of us that walk that way are very, very grateful.

**Manager Revella:** That's the first time they did concrete curbing on their own without forms. They were nervous.

**Trustee Thompson:** They did beautiful job.

**Manager Revella:** That was their sample. They can repeat that at other areas now.

**Trustee Thompson:** The issues that were happening at camp. Are we all resolved with that?

**Manager Revella:** The parents that made the inquiries were satisfied with the responses. There were some that weren't satisfied with the responses regarding refunds, but there's not much we can do about it.

**Trustee Thompson:** I just have a request if it's reasonable with all of this horrific hot weather, is it appropriate for us to utilize the Code Red to let our Village residents know that we do have a cooling center here?

**Manager Revella:** If they look for cooling center on the county website as well. We're listed.

**Trustee Thompson:** I think people don't know what that is. I think they don't understand that that's a service that the Village can provide to them. I was very surprised to know that a lot of our residents had no idea that if they have no air conditioning, no electricity or whatever, they can come here. Maybe we can just put out a reminder to people that that's a service we provide for them. Have we gotten any more information about the insurance for the water and sewer lines? Dave was going to look into that.

**Attorney Donovan:** Was that what the board wanted? We talked generally. I raised the issue of whether or not you wanted to give the impression that you were favoring one entity over another and whether you wanted to give any consideration of an RFP for that issue. If I was supposed to do something, I don't recall. I recall a discussion of it. I didn't know if I was supposed to bring anything back.

**Trustee Thompson:** I thought you were. But perhaps I misunderstood.

**Trustee Pearson:** You were going to check that out to see if it was really some type of violation that we couldn't move forward. I did some more research on that. I called Mayor DeStefano this afternoon. This is through the National League of Cities. It's not a separate entity. It is something that is an advocacy group for Villages, Towns and Cities. NYCOM is a part of that. Represents over 19,000 Cities, Towns and Villages along 49 municipal leagues created in 1924. But it also talks about New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officers in Albany. New York is part of this group. Many others are is North Carolina League of Municipalities. Many other states are part of this. And this is the one who recommends to do this program for your residents. They are a nonpartisan organization that embraces diversity throughout perspective experiences. \*reads document\* They are part of a group that, I believe Mayor DeStefano said that. I think once you sign up with them, you also become a member of them. So they will help you do other things within your Village and community to help your residents. So it's just something that I really think we really should look at, do the research. I just know that many insurance companies will not cover your rider from your home to the main. That's where this company will cover \$8500 worth of work being done multiple times in a year if needed. So it's not something that they're discriminating against. They work with the Village and get the people that will be responsible for doing the work. They want to know who the Village recommends. There's no cost to the Village whatsoever. The only thing they look to do is to send out a few letters a year. Mayor DeStefano said the only issues

that he had, he actually talked to his DPW Supervisor, said there's been no issues, there have been no complaints. He goes, That's a good thing. He has signed up in his home because his sewer lines are old. So if we can help our Village residents in this manner, I think it's a great idea. There's the only thing we have to do is have the attorney check over the agreement. They send out the paperwork, they get the people to sign up. It is through them. If there is an issue, call the company. The company comes out and they work with the Village of getting the contractors to do the work. I think we can have a person come and talk about it if we'd like. I think it's a great presentation we should hear, but that's just my opinion. It's not really a private entity. I think that it's a bigger program than what we really think it is. Thank you.

**Trustee Thompson:** I just have a question about all that paperwork we were given last meeting. I think there is a typo on it, but I'll read what it says. It says no cost to the Village to participate and the Village would receive \$0.50 per product per month royalty. And then it said the cost would ask \$0.50 to the above pricing.

**Trustee Pearson:** Correct.

**Manager Revella:** Yes, to the homeowner.

**Trustee Pearson:** Correct. We can charge the maximum amount and get \$0.50 on every claim if you want. Or we can pass it on to our homeowners. It's \$0.50. We're not a big city. It's not like we're going to get a lot of money back. But I think we should go to the lower amount and give them the best amount that we can do because that \$0.50 is not going to add up too much for us. Hopefully hundreds of people will sign up. That would be awesome because I would be signing up because my sewer in front of my house is very old. My insurance company doesn't cover. It covers from my house to the cut off. It does not cover from the cut off to the main. And that's many, many, many insurance companies in the Village of Walden. I think it's really an asset that if we can move forward, at least have a presentation and hear it. I'm all for that.

**Trustee Thompson:** The thing I remember, Dave, that you said was something about the NLC Service Line program will utilize the Village logo to brand the materials used to educate Village customers about our repair service plans.

**Attorney Donovan:** The concern that I raise and I have no objection to people who want to buy insurance from anybody. It's about the use of the logo. The company is United Service Partners private label. They're a private insurance provider for profit, just like any insurance company is. My concern would be and I don't have an answer whether it's illegal or not illegal is that you are saying to this company, you're permitted to use the Village of Walden logo to send your literature to the homeowners to make it, in my view, is going to make it look like you're endorsing this company and you may want to do that. But if there's a competing company you want to just endorse, my concern is always when you are preferring one private entity over another.

**Trustee Pearson:** Well, put our RFP out. I don't care. But let's have a presentation from this guy. If he can come. The board, I hope you make at least a presentation with him. I think it's worth it for our homeowners. I think it's necessary. We have a lot of old, old sewer pipes and water pipes here. And if they don't have to pay for it, that's an awesome thing.

**Trustee Elliott:** The school safety proposal, are we going to be the ones doing the school safety?

**Manager Revella:** That's what the draft is, that we would cover the Village of Walden's school.

**Trustee Pearson:** Are we going to talk about that besides now or not?

**Mayor Ramos:** We will get to talk to it about it.

**Manager Revella:** I think at this time in the stage that we're in it would more appropriate to talk in exec about the topics in there since its still being negotiated. But the draft proposal right now is proposed at the Village of Walden Police Department would cover Walden Elementary School for school safety. That's correct and the school district would cover the cost.

**Trustee Sebring:** How come you didn't add in the Catholic school?

**Manager Revella:** That's not part of the Valley Central School District.

**Trustee Thompson:** They're negotiating a contract.

**Trustee Pearson:** Who's negotiating? We're the board. We're the ones that has to negotiate. Not the Police Chief or the Manager. The board negotiates the contract.

**Mayor Ramos:** We'll get there.

**Trustee Maher:** I know you mentioned the Olley Park still in need of COs, but I've had a few residents reach out to me that are asking about booking dates for November, December, holiday parties, things like that. We're still not currently taking bookings?

**Manager Revella:** We can't until we have the CO. I don't want to say yes. We still have to outfit the building with tables, chairs and the kitchen.

**Trustee Maher:** Do you think it's a possibility?

**Manager Revella:** November is possible.

**Trustee Pearson:** Olley Park building. I was in there the other day, a few weeks ago. It's absolutely beautiful inside. I really have an issue with 3-400 kids in there with dirty hands, muddy feet. I don't know why we can't still utilize Wooster's Grove. I get that you want to put your kids in there. But I think that for me, the money that we spent on that building and to have 3-400 kids in that building at a time, and I can't see that it's going to be serviceable for long. It will get trashed. It will get dirty. It will not be the way it should be for if you want weddings and parties and things like that. I fear for that to happen. I think that that's what's going to happen. I don't want to mark my words, but I think that that can happen. So I think that, it hasn't been an issue using Wooster's Grove when it rains.

**Manager Revella:** It's not big enough to hold the camp.

**Trustee Pearson:** You have two buildings there.

**Manager Revella:** It's still not big enough.

**Trustee Pearson:** I just have an issue with it.

**Manager Revella:** I want to remind the board that the grant was awarded because we said we would use it for summer camp.

**Trustee Pearson:** I still have an issue for it anyway.

**Manager Revella:** I'm not saying that you're not wrong, it might get dirty.

**Trustee Pearson:** I think it's wrong. You did say they're going to be putting a kitchen in. Are we just going to put a little stove in? Are you going to be going massive big?

**Manager Revella:** Going to be outfitted with commercial kitchen.

**Trustee Pearson:** Did we figure out where the garbage cans are going to go?

**Manager Revella:** No. Right now, the dumpsters in the middle of the parking lot.

**Trustee Pearson:** The back door to the kitchen is behind the building and you don't have a road that can get anybody a truck back there or caterers or anything. So I'm leery of that plan. Not trying to be negative, but there's a lot of things that just I don't think are get thought out in the process. I have had some complaints about Olley Park summer program.

**Manager Revella:** Someone complained to you?

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes. About swimming there. The lifeguards are gone at 4:00 and I just posted the other day that they're there till 6, but somebody said they're not there till 6. That was one issue. Finance Department. Are we still discussing a lot of issues in the Finance Department?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Are we caught up?

**Manager Revella:** No.

**Trustee Pearson:** We've gotten more issues from budget.

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Meeting with the Building Inspector, discussed property maintenance. What did you discuss if we don't have any issues with property maintenance?

**Manager Revella:** I do have issues with property maintenance. That's why I discuss it with them.

**Trustee Pearson:** Did we hear from the Town on the Code Red bill yet? Did we get that straightened out?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. They gave us a refund.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can I ask about time clocks and how people are timed and only place that has a time clock is the Police Department?

**Manager Revella:** That's correct.

**Trustee Pearson:** Why don't we have time clocks throughout the Village of Walden?

**Manager Revella:** It's a negotiated item for most unions.

**Trustee Pearson:** They can just come and go as they please without a time clock.

**Manager Revella:** They don't need the time clock to come on time.

**Trustee Pearson:** Who keeps track of them coming on time?

**Manager Revella:** Department Heads.

**Trustee Pearson:** I know that a lot of people went to a charity event on Monday, so I'm looking for a chain of command. I think a lot of the Department Heads were there. Where is our chain of command when everybody is out of this Village? I would like the board to recommend getting a chain of command from the Village Manager of who is next in line. You have the Manager. Is it then going to be the Chief or is it going to be the Clerk? Why would DPW be next if the Chief is here? I'd like to have some type of form of knowing who is going to be in charge when people are not here.

**Manager Revella:** When I'm on the way, I do give a chain of command. I email the whole board when I'm away who the chain of command is.

**Trustee Pearson:** So what is it?

**Manager Revella:** Depends on who's going to be here. If I'm leaving tomorrow, the Chief's not going to be here either. So it wouldn't be the Chief, it would be somebody else.

**Trustee Pearson:** So who's next?

**Manager Revella:** If I'm not here, if I'm going to be out of the area and I can't be reached no matter what, for the office, you contact the Treasurer or the Clerk.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can we put that in writing, please?

**Manager Revella:** But it's not the same every time.

**Trustee Pearson:** But you can put that in writing.

**Manager Revella:** I do, to the board when I leave.

**Trustee Pearson:** I don't think a lot of Department Heads should be off at the same time. I feel that this is a Village that needs to be run and things need to get done. I have major issues with time and people here and not here, and I don't know how it works because I don't see payroll. I don't know how that works, but I have an issue with everybody taking off and going to play golf because they can. And who watches that time? And do you take a day off when you do that? Do you take a vacation day?

**Manager Revella:** Me, personally?

**Trustee Pearson:** Anybody in the Village that takes a day off to go play golf.

**Manager Revella:** They would take a personal day, sick day, vacation. Depends what they have.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, they can take just a day. Who approves?

**Manager Revella:** Depends on who they are.

**Trustee Pearson:** If the department heads go, who proves that?

**Manager Revella:** I would.

**Trustee Pearson:** So, you're going to write down that you approve that they have this time off, but they don't have a time clock.

**Manager Revella:** It's on payroll when they sign the payroll sheet.

**Trustee Pearson:** I just see really no structure.

**Manager Revella:** But you're not going to see that level because that's not part of the purview of the board. But that's my job.

**Trustee Pearson:** But the board should know what the structure is and who's in charge when somebody is not here.

**Manager Revella:** You do. Every time that I'm not here, I would tell you. Otherwise. It's me. I don't understand the question.

**Trustee Pearson:** Then you're not here, then it's usually the Chief.

**Manager Revella:** Depends on if he's here.

**Trustee Pearson:** If he's not here at the same time you're not here, then who?

**Manager Revella:** DPW Super.

**Trustee Thompson:** Why?

**Manager Revella:** Because he has emergency management skills.

**Trustee Pearson:** Why wouldn't it be the Clerk?

**Manager Revella:** I would tell you that in an email for Village Hall please address either the Treasurer or the Clerk for things in Village Hall. Finance, payroll, things like that. Anything outside of the building addressed them to the DPW Super.

**Trustee Pearson:** When you're all not here, then what happens?

**Manager Revella:** We can't all 3 not be here. The Chief, DPW Super, myself aren't all never not going to be at the same time. We're all somewhere at 5:00 or 6:00 at night. What's the difference? We're always available by phone.

**Trustee Pearson:** I would like to have some structure. I don't see it, I don't hear about it. All of a sudden, everybody's out of the Village and I go, well, who's running this Village?

**Manager Revella:** The only people that were out of the Village were myself and the Rec Coordinator. On the golf outing. DPW Super was here. The Chief was working. I don't know who else was missing.

**Trustee Pearson:** I just have those issues. Code Enforcer, I thought you did hire a full time Code Enforcement for a reason that you were wanted a full time Code Enforcement. We had some part times and it wasn't going and then you wanted a full time to do the codes here.

**Manager Revella:** To transition Dean to retirement was the selling point. That's what the board approved. I'm happy to have two full time positions permanently, if that's what the board wants to do. But going forward, I'd rather have the full time or two part timers. But we can talk about that.

**Trustee Pearson:** I know Parks and Rec is watering plants and trees. I hope they're watering the trees. Some of the new ones are dead already, so hopefully we can get those replaced. Hopefully there's a warranty on them. Garbage. No garbage was picked up in my neighborhood today.

**Manager Revella:** We told them.

**Trustee Pearson:** DPW worked on water meter readings. I thought they were drive by. What do they mean?

**Manager Revella:** If you have a closing, sometimes the people don't have the updated meter. So they have to actually physically change the meter out to do the final reading.

**Trustee Pearson:** What happened to the resurfacing of some of the streets? Are we on target?

**Manager Revella:** No. They don't want to even bid it right now because of the price that has gone up. They want to wait until the price comes back down to bid it so likely in the spring.

**Trustee Pearson:** What happens to that money that just sits there?

**Manager Revella:** It's in the capital account. It's purposed for that. We can't use it for other things.

**Trustee Pearson:** Staffing issues and police, we still have those issues?

**Manager Revella:** Yes, we still have four full time positions not being filled right now.

**Trustee Pearson:** Is there a lot of overtime?

**Manager Revella:** Too much. But there's not much we can do about it.

**Trustee Pearson:** You received your ARPA funds. Will the board be deciding what to use that for?

**Manager Revella:** Yes. Tonight. The board did discuss it and decide what they're going to use it for during the budget session. The board decided they were going to use a portion for outfitting Olley Park Community Center and the remainder for this building is what I recall. And that's what we have kind of divided up.

**Trustee Pearson:** Quarter sales tax. Is it more or less than what we used to get?

**Manager Revella:** More than average. But not more than last year.

**Trustee Pearson:** Backstairs. We are we with those?

**Manager Revella:** The guy came to look at it for the blasting and he's trying to schedule it now.



Dean reached out to him again today to try and get a timeline because the guy that's doing the sandblasting is a different contractor than the guy doing the painting. They're coordinating that now.

**Trustee Thompson:** How are our water levels?

**Manager Revella:** The well levels are good.

**Trustee Pearson:** Millspaugh Park. Where are we at with that?

**Manager Revella:** The contractors scheduling with the engineer to do site visit now that we have the bid and then we'll get the contract going.

**Trustee Pearson:** Anything on the shared services grant? Had we been able to take advantage of that or not?

**Manager Revella:** Yes, we've been using it. Right now we're working on the downtown revitalization grant. I'll have something for the board for next meeting. I told them the zones and the only zones we had to define downtown, which I thought the B3 and the MX would be most beneficial, since those are big buildings that have issues. That's the zone they're going to use.

**Trustee Pearson:** Did anybody ever check on that easement from the Planning Board for the water tower?

**Manager Revella:** The engineer was going to try and find what he had on the plot, but I don't know if he had anything. Dean says there is an easement there, but I don't know if we have it in the easement drawer. They couldn't find it. That doesn't mean it doesn't exist, though.

**Trustee Pearson:** Lights in the square. One day I came in, all the lights were off. Last night there's a couple out, five or six on the main street are out. I don't understand why they can't get fixed unless there's an issue with them. There's a couple on the bridge.

**Manager Revella:** The bridge, they do the bulbs every so often. The ones in the square, we're going to try to replace that whole unit. We got a price for a new unit. I was going to talk to the board about it when I get the price back. But to replace at least the square for now with the black lights instead of the green, the more historic looking black street lights, we need to upgrade them anyway, the electric inside those is pretty decrepit.

**Trustee Pearson:** One of the things about the camp is there an agenda for what the kids do in the daytime. Is there something that somebody can give me that shows me a schedule of events that the kids do?

**Manager Revella:** There's options that the kids can do. Swimming is regulated on certain times based on groups. Then besides the swimming time frame, the other things are dictated by the counselors and the kids in that group. There's options to do either crafts or a game or nature walk or other things, but not dictated.

**Trustee Pearson:** I just wrote some things down the other day. I don't know if they take advantage of the full park. Volleyball, soccer, Frisbee golf. Do they play the Frisbee golf with the kids? Swimming time, crafts board games, card games, checkers, tournaments. The big connect 4 game, if we can get that kickball, badminton, bocce ball. I just think there's so many things that can be done down there and I don't know if they're being done. I would like to know what's being done down there. Can somebody give me a list of what programs? If there's some type of schedule for

something. I will try to get down there one day to on a Thursday maybe. I have not been able to do that.

**Manager Revella:** Just make sure you call first. You can't just show up at the camp.

**Trustee Pearson:** Who am I calling?

**Manager Revella:** Either myself or Mike.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** One of the things I was going to ask about was the sewer line. Did we do the smoke test?

**Manager Revella:** We haven't gotten the award from the county yet to proceed. We were granted the grant, but we haven't got the contract to be able to actually do the work yet. The county says that the funds are held up by the feds for now. Once the feds release them, then we'll get them. We're not in contract yet. That's CDBG.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** If we can the sewer line insurance coverage. I think that's a good presentation and then we can go further beyond that with, if we have to RFP. The Code Enforcement side about the lawns and everything, I think it'd be a good idea if we can have the Code Enforcement Officer come and we can do a presentation of what he does so that everyone will be fully aware. Because I hear quite often that right or wrong, this should be done or this should be done, when they do have a full time job and they spread out. Not saying that give leeway to like you should have this done or not. I did have a sit down with the Code Enforcement Officer just to see the daily, and I think there's a lot more that goes on than meets the eye.

**Manager Revella:** I just want to make sure if they come to do that kind of presentation, that the board doesn't make it anything about personnel.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Not a witch hunt. Just kind of overview of the job daily.

**Trustee Thompson:** We have talked several meetings ago about our ethics code that we're supposed to sign. I've not signed anything. I don't know if anyone else has. Did we ever decide, long form, short form?

**Trustee Pearson:** Reading the long and signing the short.

**Trustee Thompson:** With all the focus on safety and security, do all the employees have photo IDs?

**Manager Revella:** I don't know. They're all supposed to get an ID from the PD, along with the Board of Trustees.

**Trustee Thompson:** I think we need to make sure that we all do that. I do not have a photo ID. I don't know who else does.

**Manager Revella:** Any time you can stop down at the PD and inquire. Most people down there can do it for you. They do it in house.

**Trustee Thompson:** Have we made any progress with trying to set up our Tri-Board meeting and our review on occasion?

**Manager Revella:** She can tell you.

**Clerk Kraus:** I have emailed.

**Mayor Ramos:** Yes, she has.

**Trustee Thompson:** We're waiting to hear back from people.

**Manager Revella:** From the Planning Board. We've heard back from the Zoning Board.

**Trustee Thompson:** We'll stay on that. And anything for Comp Plan?

**Manager Revella:** It's not time yet. It would be next year, in April.

**Trustee Thompson:** But I thought we were going to do it periodically.

**Manager Revella:** We should. I don't know what the board wants to do. If they want to select some board members to do that with me, that's fine. I'm not sure how you want to do that, otherwise you do it in a public meeting.

**Mayor Ramos:** We'll make arrangements to try to get a public meeting.

**Trustee Thompson:** Have we decided if we can utilize the blue stone anywhere or that's still left for further discussion?

**Manager Revella:** We can use it. I'm not sure if we want to do it Olley or the riverfront park. The board has not decided where. It's at Public Works. It's waiting. I hope we can use a waterfront park. If not, we got to find somewhere.

**Trustee Sebring:** Can you get the railroad to fill in the holes at the railroad crossing?

**Manager Revella:** They actually asked us to fill them. I said, no. Not going to spend money on your crossing. I'll ask them again.

#### **Approval of July 19, 2022, Minutes**

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve the July 19, 2022 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Maher. 5 ayes. 2 abstentions (Trustee Elliott and Deputy Mayor Carley). Motion Carried.

#### **Public Comment**

**John Thompson:** Part of the problem that I see here is it's a consistent problem is the education of the Village. Informing people of a cooling station, informing the people of codes and rules and regulations. What's available and what isn't available. Now that I'm retired, I'm out on patrol a lot now, and so I get to see things that I probably never saw before and right for today. I'm here for garbage cans. They're out all over the place. They're supposed to be secured. They're supposed to be out of sight, out of mind to a certain extent. I know the Village Manager has authority to make allowances for some people under certain circumstances, but there are so many new people moving into the Village, I don't think they know what the rule is or not. I live at 34 Riverview Street. I talk to my neighbor. He had no clue. He's done a great job. He's put his garbage cans back. I am not looking for any citations to be issued. I'm looking to educate the people in the Village on where to put your garbage cans. Now, how that is to be done is up to you and the Mayor and the Trustees to figure out how do you tell people now the garbage issue is a bigger issue than what I was going to start here and say, I take my dog out on the Rail Trail. That's a park system, correct? In the Village.

**Manager Revella:** Town Park.

**John Thompson:** What about the Village section?

**Manager Revella:** We only have the switchback. The zigzag.

**John Thompson:** Right where that Village sign is? Where it has all the businesses, with that wonderful planter box?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**John Thompson:** Okay. That's a different topic. However, when I was walking there the other day, there was a bag of dog feces in there. Natural fertilizer. In a baggie. I took it out, threw it on the ground. There are no garbage cans down there to put any kind of refuse.

**Manager Revella:** There used to be.

**John Thompson:** It's gone. There's nothing down there. Believe it or not, today I walked from Walden to Wallkill. There's only one garbage can on the whole place, John. That's by Osiris Rd. That is the only garbage can for, what 3 miles, one garbage can. I'm surprised it's as good as it is, but there are baggies of feces all over the place. I think we need to help that out a little bit, please. Ticks. Old Department store here on the corner. Garbage cans out there. Middle of Main Street. It shouldn't be there. I also watched construction debris be put in to them and they were out today for garbage when I drove by. Shouldn't be. He should have his own ten yard dumpster for a bulk pick up and get those garbage cans out of sight, out of mind. That is the perfect example of what goes on. He just doesn't feel like taking them and going back around through the driveway. Some people drag him down their driveway or across the sidewalk, put them on the curb. It gets picked up. They just barely get across the sidewalk and leave them at the edge of their driveway. They're out all over the place. Looks terrible. Like I said, I think the people need to know what the code is so they get put away. One way to educate the people is by posting. I'm sure you guys have plenty of other ways to do it that you can come up with. But for instance, the Rail Trail has a beautiful kiosk. That would be a beautiful place to put some of these postings. Let people know where to put their garbage cans. And if the Code Enforcement Officer happens to be going from point A to point B, doing whatever job he's doing, it doesn't hurt to just go up and give a friendly reminder. Please put your garbage cans in the appropriate spot. The only other thing, John, is for you and the Village Attorney. How's the lawsuit going?

**Manager Revella:** Which one?

**John Thompson:** I'm glad you asked. The Town of Montgomery with our Village bridge. It's about time that the Village stops playing nicely and sues the Town of Montgomery for fixing that bridge. It's over with. You guys need to step up to the plate and send it over to the Town of Montgomery. After Mr. Feller, whose remarks were unbelievable. I'm sure my dear friend Mayor over Montgomery, Steve Brescia. I'm sure if he pulled Mr. Feller strings and if that bridge was in Montgomery, it'd get fixed. The last I know, the Village of Walden is the biggest Village in the Town of Montgomery. And that bridge needs to get fixed. And like Mr. Maher said, that bridge should have been fixed a long time ago. I'm sure I'm going to let something out maybe. The Village of Montgomery wants to have a walking bridge from the Village of Montgomery to Benedict Park that crosses the Wallkill River. I'm sure he'll come up with that million dollars for the Town of Montgomery to build that for the Village of Montgomery. The Town of Montgomery, they want to be the big man on campus. It's time to step up and fix what they're supposed to fix.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** I'm looking at the resolution about public hearings and Mr. Donovan, you wrote this maybe I guess you're using the word seeks to encourage public participation through public comment, meaning public input, because then the next resolution is about public comment, which is different than state mandated public hearings.

**Attorney Donovan:** Do you take pleasure pointing out, perhaps you should, and that's a mistake.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Okay.

**Attorney Donovan:** Thank you.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** On the next page, I don't know if this is a typo, all speakers must observe the commonly or the common rules of courtesy.

**Attorney Donovan:** My goodness. You know and I keep thinking I'm perfect.

**Mary Ellen Matise:** I do want to make a comment about this last bullet point in the event that the same issue has been raised a number of times. We've all been to many public hearings. And, yes, sometimes they do become redundant. But I think it's the public's right at a mandated public hearing, because it is mandated by the state to be allowed to speak. If ten people say the same thing or a similar thing, fine. What that does is giving you a count. It's telling you not just one person feels this way, but ten people feel this way. It's analogous to a petition and we know the value and the power of petitioning. I think to say move on to a different issue. Maybe they don't want to move on to a different issue. They want their point to be heard, even if it is the same point. Some of us are sitting here for free and some of us are being paid to sit here. But either way, if you are encouraging public participation, then let as many people address the same issue as they want. On the read the resolution about regular public comment. I don't know how this determination would be made. This is in the resolution part, not the last point, but the one up. If the mayor determines that the recording is interfering with the meeting. There may be ways that that's perfectly obvious, but it could become subjective. I think that maybe that should be thought out a little bit better or how that would be put into effect. If the mayor's request is not complied with. The mayor may have the individual removed from the meeting room, which means somebody comes up from downstairs. That's not very nice. Thank you.

**Cheryl Baker:** Landlord registry. I really hope before the board votes on this that you really consider the impact not just on the business owners, but also the tenants. It's one thing to charge a fee if you have real costs associated. The wound is self-inflicted. There is no reason why the landlord registry can't be put online where you don't have a mailing, where you don't incur a cost. It also doesn't make sense the redundancy of mailing out the same forms every year if there's no change. It's just very simply be if there's a change, if there's a sale of our property, we know that the closings get listed, then you do the form. Why are we regurgitating the same form year after year after year, wasting the postage on it, if nothing has changed? You can substantially save the savings with the mailing with just doing it online. No postage, no administrative time. You just do the email blast. I know that several board members spoke with the Building Department. That's one side. I would hope at least a couple board members reached out to the landlords to see what they're feeling because it's a two sided issue. You should be getting a complete picture by speaking to them as well. Several of the ones I had spoken to when I was talking to them about the landlord registry, they brought up that they have been promised that they would not be charged. It would be nice if the Village kept their word and their response was several of them contribute financially in times and services to the community at different events. Their response was that's just one less thing for me to do with the Village because of the Village can't keep my thoughts and interests in mind and

that of the tenants. Why should I do that for the Village? That aspect, I think is being ignored and not considered. I hope when you come up for the vote for the landlord registry, you really think about is it necessary to charge someone a fee just because you can, doesn't mean that you should. And if you look at the list of fees that many of the businesses and landlords pay, they are quite significant. So please keep that in mind when you come up for your vote. Thank you.

**Jerry Jacobowitz:** I want to bring to your attention for the record that the Walden Planning Board unanimously reported and recommended the adoption of Local Law number 2. Also Orange County Planning Department to whom it had to go under. 239 also sent in a positive response to you concerning the law. Thank you.

#### **Local Law 2 of 2022 – OL-I**

**Manager Revella:** It's really up to the board how they want to proceed, if they want to discuss motion or if they need further information.

**Trustee Sebring:** I'm in favor of the OL-I. As it's been written for the different properties that could possibly expand.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'm okay with increasing from 30 to 40%. I did hear what the public said about the environmental issues that should be taken into account when a project comes before the Planning Board. There are a multitude of ways to develop and make it environmentally sound at the same time. That's the only thing that I would like to add to the discussion that we should increase. But I think we need to make sure that our Planning Board utilizes all the tools at their disposal to consider the environmental safety of a project.

**Trustee Elliott:** I'm also in favor of changing the 10%.

**Trustee Maher:** I'm still in favor of increasing from 30 to 40%. I also did my own research and I spoke with a few people who put together the comp plan because I wasn't a part of that and just sort of got their insight. I do feel comfortable with moving Walden forward 30 to 40.

**Trustee Pearson:** Ya'll know how I feel. I already said it already, but I do have a question. Does the Village of Walden then become the lead agency on this?

**Attorney Donovan:** So this is an unlisted action under SEQR. There is no coordinated review.

**Trustee Pearson:** No assessment.

**Attorney Donovan:** Village Planner did the EAF on this. You would need to adopt a negative declaration under SEQR before adopting the law.

**Trustee Pearson:** The full environmental assessment form, part two is the impact on land. The proposed action may involve in construction on and or physical alteration of the land surfaces of the proposed site and it says no. I think it would be yes, because if they're going to build or no, it's not going to.

**Attorney Donovan:** I didn't prepare it, the planner did. But for those for local law, the answer is typically no, because when a site specific project comes in front of the Planning Board, then issues such as drainage and other issues that have been discussed previously would have to be analyzed under the SEQR regulations before a project could be approved.

**Trustee Pearson:** On another page it says land use is on surrounding this project site. None of these

are checked off. There's no residential, there's no rural, there's no aquatic, there's no agriculture. I don't know if this is filled out completely. So I have just questions on this form. There's nothing filled out. There's no check marks. There's nothing. They have to put something down. Wouldn't they have to?

**Attorney Donovan:** Not necessarily on a local law.

**Trustee Pearson:** I guess why bother with this and have it in my packet then if we don't have to worry about it?

**Attorney Donovan:** That wasn't quite my response.

**Trustee Pearson:** It kind of sounded like your response because if you don't have to worry if they don't have to do it, then there then it doesn't matter.

**Manager Revella:** Still have to do the form.

**Trustee Pearson:** I think there's so many OL-I different pieces of property. Some have wetlands, some don't. Some have environmental issues. This is for all of OL-I. This is not just for one person's piece of property. That's what you're changing. So, when I read this, that's not filled out either. We don't have to worry about that either. That was my question. My concern was, how many will be non-conforming? How many will be conforming? Environmental issues. Mary Ellen brought up a very good point. We don't know any of those answers. We know nothing and you're going to vote it in. So I would like to at least get that information, but I'm the only one saying no, so I guess I'll just move forward. Thank you.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I'm for the 40%, but I would like to say this. There are separation, if we can, of powers. With the Planning Board, the Zoning Board and the actual Village Board. And everyone has a responsibility. To me, if whatever board it goes to is specifically talking about the drainage because it was brought up, the project has to be reviewed in and that's their responsibility to review all of that regarding a project. If something slips through the cracks, then yes, somebody can make a complaint and then it can be readdressed. Just to go to say that the comp plan, when it was brought up there and when I was on the board, we discussed different things there, too. What I'm getting at is that forward thinking, is everything going to go to 40%? Ehh. It still has to go through a review process. It's not a carte blanche for everybody and everything. It's as saying that there's a 40% for everybody, but there's still rules and everything people have to follow, meaning that it just because you go to 40%, you can do anything you want. So that's what I'm referring to.

**Mayor Ramos:** I agree with the Deputy Mayor. The Planning Board are tasked to uphold the rules and regulations of building here in Village. I have complete faith in what they're going to assess on these properties and these building permits and these projects that are coming along.

Trustee Maher made a motion to adopt a Negative Declaration. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. 6 ayes. 1 no (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Local Law 2 of 2022 - OL-I. Seconded by Trustee Maher. 6 ayes. 1 no (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

### **Local Law 3 of 2022 - Fences**

**Manager Revella:** I didn't receive anything from the Planning Board, but I'm told the Planning Board unanimously opposed this local law. I'm not sure why we didn't receive anything yet, but that's the only information I have from anybody. The county's decided it's a local action, so it's up to

you guys what you want to do with that information.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** They didn't give any type of reason why?

**Manager Revella:** They had a long discussion about it. I don't have the minutes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Do you know if they're going to be writing a letter?

**Manager Revella:** One of the members told me they asked the attorney to write a letter to this board. I haven't received it yet though.

**Attorney Donovan:** How long since the referral? Because they have 30 days.

**Manager Revella:** It's been 30 days. I don't know when they met, though to have a discussion. Do you know when the Planning Board meeting was that they discussed it? Was it last meeting?

**Clerk Kraus:** July 18th.

**Attorney Donovan:** 30 days from your referral. You could act, you're not required to if you want to wait to see the reason to do that. If you want to move forward, you're entitled to do that at this stage.

**Manager Revella:** It's beyond 30 days now. Just know that some of the discussion from one of the members told me was that they felt it would make the entire Village look like a fort with all these six foot fences everywhere. If everybody went with the code and did what it allows. That was their opposition.

**Mayor Ramos:** So are we asking to vote on this or we going to wait?

**Manager Revella:** That's up to you guys.

**Attorney Donovan:** It's up to you. You can if you want. You don't have to.

**Trustee Sebring:** I'd like to wait and see what their letter says concerning this.

**Trustee Thompson:** I'd like to wait to see what the Planning Board Attorney and the Planning Board had to say about this as well.

**Trustee Elliott:** Would also like to wait.

**Trustee Maher:** Same.

**Trustee Pearson:** Same. But it also should be in the minutes.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I agree with everyone.

**Mayor Ramos:** That'll be unanimous. We'll wait till next meeting.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** When do their minutes come out?

**Manager Revella:** I think this week.

**Trustee Thompson:** Is it appropriate for you to reach out to Mr. Dickover?



**Attorney Donovan:** I'm a very slow texter, but I'm texting as we speak.

**Mayor Ramos:** Can we ensure that the letter from Mr. Dickover and a copy of the minutes can be joined so that we have documentation.

**Landlord Registry**

**Manager Revella:** You asked the attorney to draft the changes from last time. So they're in your packet, ready to be reviewed. If there are no changes, you can set a public hearing. But if there are any changes, you ask them to make those amendments for next meeting.

**Attorney Donovan:** Just so the board's aware, I received today an email that was sent to John and Kelly from Dean that says something different than his last communication from July 13th. Looks like he wants to start them at a different date.

**Manager Revella:** Dean sent a letter today. He sent it to myself, Kelly and Darlene to review it had different dates for the form filing and mailing list. Not sure if you recall why.

**Treasurer Kelly:** I think for the relevy. \*inaudible\*

**Manager Revella:** His first letter to us actually was July 1st, and it had to be in by December 31st. And the second one is August something.

**Attorney Donovan:** The first one was a little it said by July 1st respond in 30 days, but by December 31st. This one says by August 1st and have it back in 30 days makes no difference to me. It's just different.

**Trustee Pearson:** I spoke to him this morning and he said that the fire and safety goes out at a certain time. And since we're saving the postage and everything on that that he wanted to go out at the same time. Whenever that date was, it's going to be going out every other year. So it's going to be a two year process for.

**Attorney Donovan:** The only thing I wanted to be clear and we talked about this before is not every rental property gets a fire inspection. I don't know that and I sent Dean an email, I don't know that he's clear on that because his memo doesn't seem to be clear about it. If he can stick them in the same envelope, that's great. But not all rentals get a fire inspection.

**Manager Revella:** Is that a major change?

**Attorney Donovan:** No, because I can change it tomorrow. That would give you enough time to schedule public hearing if you're interested in doing that. His says to be sent out actually by August 15th. That's the new one. He says both applications, landlord registry slash fire safety are to be sent out by August 15th with both applications return to the building for within 30 days for fire safety inspections to be scheduled and update landlord registry information provided.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes. But the fee schedule, did he put that in there as well?

**Attorney Donovan:** Every two years there would be a landlord registry fee of \$25. Single family would be \$25. My suggestion would be, if you get that far, is that such time as you adopted the local law or whatever format it would be, you would also adopt a resolution for the fee schedule setting forth those fees. I could change those dates and email it to Marisa in the morning.

**Trustee Thompson:** Section 4 amendment to section 221-5. I think it says a registration fee for the required annual filing of the landlord registry form. Is that not annual anymore, correct?

**Trustee Maher:** Biannual.

**Attorney Donovan:** Well, there's going to be annual filing. It's not going to every property.

**Manager Revella:** You're doing it in zones. So one zone will be one year. Other zones every other year. There'll be a fee.

**Attorney Donovan:** How about I just take out the word annual?

**Trustee Thompson:** I just want to make sure the landlords understand that this is not an annual word and it's every two years.

**Attorney Donovan:** Up and 221-4 your point is well taken. Required a complete return to form with the required fee every two years. It does say that up above.

**Trustee Thompson:** But the audience continues to say every year. And it's not every year.

**Manager Revella:** No, it's not.

**Attorney Donovan:** I guess the point is, if you're ready, this will be then you'll have public comment because this is you're not voting on your schedule for a public hearing.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to schedule public hearing for Local Law 4 of 2022 - Landlord Registry for August 16, 2022 at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can we get Dave to check with Dean on that other part that you just talked about with not every home as that happening? Can you go over that with him, please?

**Attorney Donovan:** Yes. Would that impact the verbiage in the local law, do you think?

**Trustee Pearson:** Because in here, in his original, he talked about single family, 2 family, a fee of 25\$ on all single family rental units. So he did put that in here. Owner occupied buildings will only receive an invoice for the apartment that is rented per year. It would be the owner's obligation within 30 days of the apartment not being owner occupied any further to inform the Building Department that the apartment is not being rented. So he had talked about that, wanted it for single family and it's not in this new law that you wrote.

**Attorney Donovan:** For the landlord registry or fire inspection?

**Trustee Pearson:** Landlord registry.

**Attorney Donovan:** It's always been in there. Single family rentals, that's part of my point. Single family rentals or owner occupied two families with a one unit rental must register on the landlord registry. By 381 of the executive law of NYS, they're exempt from fire inspections.

**Trustee Pearson:** Right. So those are the ones that he's going to have to send out separately. I believe that that should be put in the law somewhere or he doesn't need that from us. He can just do it if he doesn't need it from us. Do we have to state that we're going to be doing single family or

owner occupied?

**Attorney Donovan:** No, because you have separate code for that.

**Trustee Pearson:** That's not fire safety because you can't do fire safety. You just said on those.

**Attorney Donovan:** For sending out notices for fire safety inspections, yes. But this is the landlord registry. I think it's a matter of administrative convenience. And it kind of makes sense administratively. We got areas, zones one, two and three. We're going to do area one, one year. Two and three the next.

**Trustee Pearson:** So in those zones, he's going to be sent out for single family and that separately.

**Attorney Donovan:** He's going to have to.

**Trustee Pearson:** Don't have to put that in there. We don't the word that somehow.

### **General Board Meeting Procedures**

#### **Resolution 7-22-23**

**Attorney Donovan:** These are guidelines. They're not hard and fast guidelines to be employed with some common sense.

**Trustee Thompson:** On the very last bullet in that the public was concerned about the same issue being raised several times. If I'm reading this correctly, it can be brought up and talked about several times by different people. But it says the mayor may ask the speaker to move on. So if it really does get very redundant I'm okay with that. The mayor has the authority. I think that's fair because it doesn't say the audience can't bring it up 100 times.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** It's only a suggestion where it says each speaker shall be permitted to speak only once unless recognized by the Chair. I think just adding that extra little verbiage will kind of help smooth that over.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt resolution 7-22-23 with suggested changes. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **8-22-23 Resolution**

**Trustee Pearson:** I would like to not have on there on the second page. Thing up speakers may not yield any remaining time. I think that it's important that we not put that in there and if somebody wants to yield their time that they can. I think that some issues, some people speak better than others. Some people, if they're coming for a public hearing and that's what they're doing. Maybe you come to the public hearing and you're only giving people 3 minutes because you have that opportunity to do that. Some people may want to yield their time because someone has more to say on that matter than that person. I would feel yielding time should be taken out. I think it's important that you're listening to what these people have to say. I'm not a good speaker, but maybe some people will be better at what they do.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve Resolution 8-22-23 as is. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. 5 ayes. 2 no. (Trustee Pearson & Deputy Mayor Carley). Motion carried.

### **Temporary Sign Request**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve temporary sign request. Seconded by Trustee Sebring.

All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution – 5-22-23 – Bond for Capital Projects**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve resolution 5-22-23 Bond for Capital Projects. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Trustee Sebring:** Now that we've approved that, I'd like to make a motion that we put the lining of Wait St water main out to bid to get that going as soon as possible because there's problems on that street.

**Manager Revella:** Sinkholes.

**Trustee Sebring:** The longer you wait, the worse it gets.

**Mayor Ramos:** Him that we need a motion. Just direct.

**Manager Revella:** Direct.

**Mayor Ramos:** I'm good with directing the Village Manager and the DPW for the examining and relining of Wait Street.

**All:** Yes.

**Resolution 6-22-23 – ARPA Funds**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve resolution 6-22-23 ARPA Funds. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

**Mary Ellen Matise:** Solid waste. Chapter 247-9, letter E, all garbage and trash placed at or within three feet of the curb or public street line for collection no earlier than 5 p.m. on the day before collection. All containers shall be removed from the curb. This goes back to this whole thing that I sent you pictures of the fact that they can't close the lids. There are maggots in the cans, flies coming out of the cans, and then all week long, cans are sitting either on the street in front of people's houses. Isn't it time, rhetorical question, that this was enforced? It's been on the books since before 2012. It was amended in 2012, was put on the books probably in 2007. We enforced it for a long time, and the Village looked great. And now you drive around and pardon me, but it really looks like solid waste. I've been getting up constantly talking about it. I wish something would be done about it. The whole thing with the garbage company too. I had a long thing with Lynn today. When they do the rear arm and they do this on the small, narrow streets, which is Clinton Street. There has to be somebody moving the can. So, there's a driver and there's a second guy. He has to touch the can. He has to move it away from the curb. Move it to the back of the truck. Put it on the arm. And then take it off and he should be putting it back on the curb, not in the street. They're always in the street. You can't get down a 40 foot wide street with cars parked on one side and garbage cans all over the place. And when he puts it back, he should close the lid. Especially this time of year. I'm sorry, but I really don't like flies. Flies are disease carriers. Can't something be done about this? And then can something be done about these cans being left all over the streets, all over the place, and people close to the curb on their side yards, front yards, everywhere. It makes it a Village that it's hard to be proud of when it looks like that. And we're such a great Village and I hate to see it that way.

**Sue Taylor:** Hill Street Bridge, specifically the article that appeared in the Wallkill Valley Times. Just for the record, I'm not in favor of having people of the Village of Maybrook and Montgomery

chip in for this. Its bad enough we're paying for it because we are the Town, period. They are not the Town. Last I knew, the Town of Montgomery consisted of 3 Villages and Town residents outside of Village limits. Perhaps the Town Councilman who uttered that quote should be shown a map of the Town. His comments were insulting, but not surprising. Those are the kinds of words uttered by small minded men, not leaders. If council members are not interested in representing all peoples of the Town regardless of where they live, perhaps they need to rethink taking a seat at the Town table. Kudos to Councilwoman Brown for respecting our Village as part of the Town. This is not the first time our Village has been subject to this kind of comment or attitude from a Town Council member. For years, our Village Librarian would attend Town meetings begging for more funding from the Town in order to get closer to parity due to Town residents with 12586 zip codes. Utilizing the library, her structured and verified expense requests would be met with snide remarks from members of the council. Our Village has been requesting action on wellhead protection from the Town for years. Do we have it yet? No. Is it because those wells service the Village of Walden? The Rail Trail was damaged by a storm years ago, and not until recently was any action taken by the Town to repair that trail. Nor did the Town uphold their agreement to maintain the trail at its inception. Is it because some Village residents use that trail? This Village board has been criticized because it dared to request information regarding ambulance service. Why? Because it happens to be Walden asking the questions. At this point, I would avoid any agreement made with the Town of Montgomery, in which the Town runs the enterprise. Given the obvious animus towards our Village by at least one Town board member, would Walden get fair service and representation from the Town? I have my doubts. The Hill Street Bridge belongs to the Town of Montgomery. Not just be funders in the Village of Walden. The Town is responsible to maintain that bridge and repair it. This board should not be blackmailed into accepting maintenance responsibilities in exchange for the Town repairing a bridge they own. I would ask this board to request the maintenance records for the Hill Street Bridge that should have been kept by the Town. Town Supervisor Maher indicated that the Hill Street Bridge repairs have been neglected for 13 years. My guess is that those two bridges have been neglected by the owner for more years than that. Let's find out how much actual maintenance was done for at least the last 20 years. Let's find out why the Town never submitted paperwork for available funding to repair the bridge after it was damaged in the storm. More neglect. I, for one, am tired of this Village being treated like the ugly stepsister by the Town of Montgomery. Council members know where our Village is when it's time for them to get signatures for their election petitions, and when it is time to get our residents to vote for them. When else do they consider our needs? You are responsible for the welfare of our Village residents. It is your duty to protect our interests. How long are you willing to wait for the Town board to do its duty to Walden? How long are you going to bear the insults and obvious disdain and cold regard by members of the Town Council towards our Village? Ladies and gentlemen, do your duty.

**Cheryl Baker:** I've been working on getting estimates for replacing some of our holiday banners to go around the Village because they've been quite tattered. I was also looking on estimates and I'd like the board to consider extending the flags that we have for our veterans on the bridge to go down our main street and around the center square, because our veterans should have as much visibility as possible. They've earned it. They deserve it. And with extending the amount of flags we have, I would also like to see if the board would consider increasing the size. It would make it easier for DPW if they had the same size brackets to match what the holiday ones. Right now, the holiday banners are 30 by 70, I believe, and the veteran ones are almost half of that. I would like to see maybe at the next meeting that board consider about increasing the size of the veterans flags and allowing them to go down Main Street and around the center square. I believe prior I had spoken to the Village Manager about getting permission from NYSEG to add the brackets on to the additional poles and I think you received that, correct?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Cheryl Baker:** Our DPW Supervisor was looking, there's been a shortage and also the expense of everything is up on securing the brackets. But what brackets he gets depends on whether you guys decide to increase the volume of the flags and also the size of them. So I hope that you guys consider that. I would like to see it's been a couple of years because of COVID. The Village has not looked at some members of our community who have been very active and very meaningful with the things that they have done. Perhaps the Village can look at getting the volunteer of the year back. We have a couple individuals like Jody Nicoli with all the work that she has done with the COVID memorial work, her drug awareness, her Hope Not Handcuffs Angel. That she has done that work has affected people well past our community and to many communities, and it's incredibly meaningful and that should be acknowledged. She's just one individual. Another one to also acknowledge for all his great work is Nelson from Empanada Nirvana. He has never said no. Any time myself or someone else has approached him with help with donations to fundraise or promoting an event or now what he's doing with the food pantry, which is wonderfully successful. I would encourage if no board member has been down to that refrigerator or the dry goods now that they have set up, you can read the notes from some of the Village residents of how much that means. Food insecurity is a real issue for a lot of people, especially with children. I know that because I do weekly food deliveries for over 70 people in this Village. It means a profound deal for them to be able to go to a place with no questions, no stigma, where somebody is giving back into the community to help our residents. And they're just a couple of individuals within our wonderful community of volunteers and very caring individuals. I would like for the board to be to bring back that volunteer of the year to acknowledge those individuals.

**Trustee Pearson:** The banners you're talking about used to be that the families would purchase them. Is that what you're still talking about now?

**Cheryl Baker:** Yes. I was looking to set up a fundraising account to help raise funds for people to be able to purchase the banners.

**Trustee Pearson:** How much are the larger banners, do you know?

**Cheryl Baker:** I got several estimates out. They haven't come back because it depends on what size banners. The smaller ones, if I'm not mistaken, were around \$250 or something.

**Trustee Pearson:** 40 by 70 is what you were talking about size wise?

**Cheryl Baker:** The large banners are 30 by 70 I believe, and the ones on the bridge are like 23 by 60 or something like that.

**Trustee Pearson:** Almost like a 3 by 6 size banners. 72 inches is 6 feet. 70 inches as close to 6.

**Cheryl Baker:** It's got to be a little smaller than that. I have 3 different companies I contacted out to give me and asked me on the two different, I might be wrong on the sizes I didn't write it down in front of me so I apologize for that. But I have three different companies that come back with the two different sizes what the cost is for that and for the replacement of like the holiday banners. We don't have much variety. We don't have like a Welcome to Walden Fall sign. We don't have a Welcome to Walden Spring to acknowledge the different seasons. It would be nice maybe to have an image of the Wallkill River on our banners. You can have a holiday banner on one side and the veteran flag on the other. That would help with the beautification and revitalization of our Main Street, which is important for our businesses and for our residents. In doing those lights, is it possible, do they have the option where you would be able to get like an LED light that changes color, like if you wanted to do at Christmas time, a red light or a green light or a blue light or for whatever holiday?

**Manager Revella:** On the new ones you can change the bulbs out for colors.

**Cheryl Baker:** That would be nice, too.

### **Payment of Audited Bills**

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

### **Correspondence**

**Trustee Sebring:** Yes. I received one from Mrs. Crist and one from Mrs. Matisse.

**Trustee Thompson:** I received two emails regarding concerns about summer camp. I received an email from Mrs. Winum talking about how things were going down at the bus garage. I received email and photos from a Village resident about the trash cans. I received pictures from a dissatisfied resident about the entrance to the Rail Trail. I would like to ask everyone if they can try and attend the Town of Montgomery meeting this week at 7 pm. I believe on the agenda is the water overlay district. They're trying to pass a local law. Whenever we brought up wellhead protection, the CEA, anything to do with the water. There seems to be hesitation. So we need some voices from the Village of Walden to speak up on behalf of the Village of Walden. The topic the last time about the Hill Street Bridge was very, very disconcerting. Walden Residents should go to Town meetings, bring up the Hill Street Bridge, send emails, and make your voice heard about how you feel about that. And hopefully at their next meeting, they will have a decision about what model they want to accept with the ambulance service so we can go ahead and figure out what we're going to do in Walden.

**Trustee Elliott:** I received one from Ms Matisse about flies and garbage cans.

**Trustee Maher:** Same as Brian. I received the email from Miss Christ and Mary Ellen. I also received an email from Lynn and Anthony Morando.

**Trustee Pearson:** Anthony, as well as. Ms. Matisse, as well. Also a resident about issues with some personnel and FOIL requests. Lynn about the deadline for some grants. NYCOM. And then I also got email from the person with the water that I spoke to about the water and sewer lines that hopefully will be able to get back to him.

**Manager Revella:** From the company?

**Trustee Pearson:** No, from he's representative.

**Manager Revella:** Can you forward that to me, please. Thank you.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** The email from Trustee Pearson and Thompson, Mrs. Christ and also Ms. Matisse.

**Mayor Ramos:** Received the emails from Ms. Matisse, from Trustee Pearson. Also received information from the Empire State Development programs that the Village Manager was cc'd also. I received an invitation to the The Historical Society, but I'll do that under miscellaneous correspondence.

**Trustee Thompson:** Is it necessary for us to report correspondence among ourselves on the board about board business?

**Attorney Donovan:** It's not necessary to have this on the agenda at all.

**Trustee Thompson:** I never say like that I get emails from people on the board. If it's necessary, I will.

**Attorney Donovan:** I don't know the origin of this. It's been here since I've been here.

**Mayor Ramos:** Maybe neither.

**Manager Revella:** You don't have to have it if you don't want to. It's up to you guys.

**Trustee Thompson:** I just want to know if it's all correspondence or just correspondence from the community.

**Mayor Ramos:** Scratch.

**Attorney Donovan:** Just a suggestion. But it's totally up to you guys. Under miscellaneous comments, you could bring up items, like if you got a question from a resident that says, how come my garbage can is in the middle of the road? That's the topic tonight. That would be something to bring up under miscellaneous comments. If you got a flier from NYCOM that says come to our conference. That's something I think you would need to bring up. Just a suggestion. You can leave it there. But it seems to me under your comments, you could bring up issues that were raised from correspondence you received from people.

**Mayor Ramos:** Thank you.

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

**Trustee Thompson:** They finally did do some maintenance on the Rail Trail. It was repaved. It was closed for a very short time. But it looks wonderful and I hope people can enjoy it more now. It looks really nice. I am going to try and speak to the Town to see about replacing some of the benches. Some of them are not in very good shape. I have spoken to them about adding more trash. I'll bring that up again.

**Trustee Maher:** Just to comment on the comments about the trash cans. I think that definitely the education, just putting it out there, whether we do it via a letter or Facebook post, but I think just educate and then if it's still a problem, then move to fines. And then I was also going to bring up about the dire need for food and the food pantry. And they were also looking for donations. I know that I think the deadline was this evening, but I'm sure it is a continuous concern. Every time I drive past the line is just. If there's anyone who can donate, please donate. And then also if we can just do another post about the beach being open. Just making residents aware of that.

**Trustee Pearson:** There are two things in our packet that we did not discuss. Are we not discussing that tonight? The Marketing Acquisitions, marketing for the proposals, and also the New York State Empire State Development. Is that just for information?

**Manager Revella:** Just information. Somebody had mentioned last time about getting some AV stuff in here. I got a rough estimate to see what it will look like for the board.

**Trustee Pearson:** This what they quoted, would that be meaning we would own the TVs or is that just renting them for the year? I have questions on that. Should we talk about it or do we care if we talk about it?



**Manager Revella:** You can send me questions and I'll address it.

**Trustee Pearson:** The Empire State Grant, it doesn't sound like we can take really much advantage of that because we're so small.

**Manager Revella:** We're trying to get the downtown revitalization grant. We're trying to work towards that. That would be a large section of the Village to do work. So it would be almost like a Main St grant, but it'd be a smaller section than that. Where we work on focus on that area like that block to do any revitalization would be a big building or streetscape combination of those. That's what we're working on now.

**Trustee Pearson:** The other thing is, if we could get also another garbage can at Olley Park on the trail, again, dog bags everywhere that they leave down there. It's a beautiful trail and it just kind of gets littered. Even just by the gate that goes there and that's where people just leave their bags there like they don't want to take it home with them. They just leave it there. Hill Street Bridge. The law is section 285 on the highway law, chapter 25 that talks that the Town is responsible. I think moving forward is a good thing. We should talk about that. There's been some information people coming to me about some of the larger real estate signs in the Village of Walden that they're I know that John doesn't think that there's a code, but there is a code. Because somebody said they spoke to you and said real estate can be whatever they want to be. But there is a real estate code in the Village of Walden. The sign can only be a certain size, and I think some of them are larger than that. There have been multiple complaints to me. I know somebody complained to you as well. I just wanted to bring that up that in the sign code maybe we should talk about that if we want to. They kind of are an eyesore that are so big. Real estate sign or construction sign shall be set back at least five feet from the property line. Such signs shall have a maximum area of eight square feet, which is like a two by four sign except for subdivision signs that will have a larger temporary directional signs as different as well. So there is a law that the state that.

**Manager Revella:** Which section are looking at?

**Trustee Pearson:** I'm in real estate signs 305-39.

**Attorney Donovan:** You need to be a little careful with that. I think we've noticed this a little bit before. Your sign regulations need to be content neutral. So you can't say real estate signs need to be are limited to one side.

**Trustee Pearson:** It does say that in your code.

**Attorney Donovan:** That will be your code. My code will comply with the United States Constitution.

**Trustee Pearson:** It says set back five feet from the property line and the maximum is eight square feet.

**Attorney Donovan:** I think we talked about this a while ago. There was a lawsuit that's going back probably close to 20 years ago.

**Trustee Pearson:** So they can just put up any size sign they want to for as long as they want?

**Attorney Donovan:** Did I say that?

**Trustee Pearson:** No. But that's what you're implying.

**Attorney Donovan:** Don't put words in my mouth.

**Manager Revella:** Trustee Pearson wants to know if we can limit the size and scope of those signs.

**Attorney Donovan:** Your regulation need to be content neutral. You can't say real estate signs are one size. I understand the Village code says that I'm questioning, right, because there was litigation out of that model signed regulations were proposed. The County Planning Department circulated them, most municipalities adopted them. I note that the Village of Walden did not. That you've not been called on. It doesn't mean that it will pass constitution.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can use send that to me please?

**Attorney Donovan:** You can go online.

**Trustee Pearson:** What is it under?

**Attorney Donovan:** Search the Town of Hamptonburgh. You can look at their signed regulation. Their signed ordinance that's based upon the model regulations developed by the county some 15 or 20 years ago.

**Trustee Pearson:** We have to go by the county.

**Attorney Donovan:** No. You have to go by the United States Constitution.

**Trustee Pearson:** Then what you're telling me there's no regulation.

**Attorney Donovan:** That's not what I'm telling you. You must have gone to law school at some point because you're so effective at twisting words. \*laughing\*

**Trustee Pearson:** Then all the signs could be like two by two is really what we should say.

**Trustee Elliott:** No, he's just saying that it can't be specific to real estate.

**Trustee Pearson:** All right. But that's what our code says. So that's what I was bringing up because I had complaints from people. Ambulance. I'd like to know from the Mayor what we're doing with the ambulance. We have all kinds of information you've gathered and we don't have that information. I would like to have some of that information. You have not shared that yet.

**Mayor Ramos:** Did you receive this yet? \*referred to packet\* It's in your mailbox.

**Trustee Pearson:** I didn't go to my mailbox.

**Trustee Elliott:** You know, I never received the emails for the FOILs.

**Mayor Ramos:** I sent yours. It was quite huge.

**Trustee Pearson:** What is that?

**Trustee Elliott:** Okay but I didn't get them.

**Mayor Ramos:** This is the report from the consultants. It's in your mailbox.

**Trustee Pearson:** That was the same exact thing that everybody's been talking about for a year now. That didn't tell me anything. There was no cost. There was nothing. No we're going to decide in another month. We're going to decide what we're going to do. I wanted to know what the Village of Walden is going to do. If we don't sign with them or go with them, do we have a plan? What are we doing? You've gathered all this information, this everything, and we don't have that. So when are we going to get that? When are we going to make a decision of whether what direction we're going in?

**Mayor Ramos:** You're better off than we were from the whole time frame since we started this in January. We expected the consultants to be a little bit more detailed than what they what they presented to us.

**Trustee Pearson:** It's funny, because when I listen to that conversation at that meeting, I went to that meeting. And what I basically heard was, is that because there was an issue with possibly having to go out for RFPs for that, and I'm not so sure that I mean, I think that's the way they want to go. But they also had made mention of how good the Town of Montgomery was. They said it two or three times and that if the Town went on their own, they'd have to buy their own equipment, and they'd have to buy everything. It sounded like the consultants were happy with what the Town of Montgomery Ambulance Corps was doing, and people were happy with that. But it didn't sound like the Town was happy that way. So I think there's a discrepancy of what I heard at that meeting, and that report really didn't say anything anyway. But what I was listening to was different than what that report I think says. I want to know from our perspective where we're going? What are we doing? What is your plan?

**Mayor Ramos:** We don't have a plan, to be honest with you. We were given options. Obviously, the Town is going to proceed with either decide on what models that they're going to operate on. They're going to send an RFP. Their next meeting is when they say September, and obviously they're going to present it or we're going to receive it. And we have to, as a board, have to either approve it or go on our own. And judging by what we've been exploring, we've been hitting a brick wall ever since this started. It's frustrating. But besides me buying an ambulance and going out of business on my own, we're still at the same point that we are seven, eight months ago.

**Trustee Pearson:** So your thoughts on since I'm talking about it what about a contract? What was that number? Did you tell me there was a number, a separate number for the Town in Montgomery we contacted separately with the Town of Montgomery? You never gave that number.

**Mayor Ramos:** I never gave that number.

**Trustee Pearson:** You don't have that number or whether they'd even do it. You don't have any of that.

**Mayor Ramos:** Correct.

**Cheryl Baker:** When I talked to Sylvie it would be \$120,000 for BLS.

**Trustee Pearson:** \$120,000 a year for their service for BLS, not ALS.

**Mayor Ramos:** But that's subject to change.

**Trustee Pearson:** Yes, it is. But I just wondered if we're where we're headed, because are we still

waiting for them to come up with a decision is that we're still waiting.

**Mayor Ramos:** We're waiting for the Town to receive their RFPs. The RFPs will obviously be transmitted to us. If we choose to contract with that model, then obviously we're going to have to opt in on tax on the district.

**Trustee Pearson:** We could opt in or we could just have a contract with the Town.

**Mayor Ramos:** Correct.

**Trustee Elliott:** I got a question for Dave. We've we FOILd a ton of stuff from the Town regarding the ambulance, but never received it. How do we proceed?

**Mayor Ramos:** We've received it. It was dribs and drabs.

**Trustee Elliott:** Well, I didn't receive it.

**Mayor Ramos:** I did send it to you. You got to look in your spam. Just the first segments were about 600 pages.

**Trustee Elliott:** I got the first batch, but I never got the rest.

**Mayor Ramos:** I sent the second batch to the same. There's like five different folders with a lot of information. Believe it or not, to this day, I still haven't gotten all of what I requested from the time frame. But it's time consuming to go down every line to figure out what I asked for and didn't receive.

**Trustee Elliott:** For the ones we did not receive. What do we do if they're not giving us the FOILs?

**Attorney Donovan:** If it's not received, it's deemed to be denied. There is an appeal. And if the appeal is denied, either by an affirmative denial or by no response, then it's litigation. If you have reason to believe and you wouldn't resort to that. Reason to believe that the information that you're requesting is being withheld. It's one thing for it to be denied and there has to be a basis for a denial. It's a kind of a difficult thing to prove that you didn't give me what I asked for when they never responded. Likely, the direction of court at that time will be you must provide what you have and you end up in this kind of cycle.

**Trustee Elliott:** If it was denied, wouldn't they send something saying that?

**Attorney Donovan:** They would have to say it's denied because there's an ongoing criminal investigation. We've denied because unwarranted invasion of personal property. There are certain grounds for denial that are set forth in the public officer's law that need to be cited when you deny a FOIL request.

**Mayor Ramos:** It's drowning in paperwork, and you find what you're looking for. That's just bottom line. And I'm still dog paddling through it. That's a lot of information. I undertook an undertaking that was really to answer all the questions and then to come up with this consultant's report. We've been beating our head literally. So what direction we're going to go until we figure out what the RFP is going to be, what model they're going to choose. We're still waiting.

**Trustee Elliott:** Again, I didn't get all of them. And I'd like them.

**Mayor Ramos:** You're not going to find it on your cell phone.

**Trustee Pearson:** The garbage. I know Mary Ellen brought up the garbage again. What's happening on the streets? Isn't there something in the clause of the contract that they can be fined for? Not doing certain things?

**Manager Revella:** They're supposed to put the garbage cans back where they got them from. So people put them in the street and they put them back on the street. They're compliant. Or they can be fined if we send them a letter. I think its \$250 per incident where they're non-compliant.

**Trustee Pearson:** Do they need pictures?

**Manager Revella:** Yes.

**Trustee Pearson:** Very good. The other thing is going back to the water sewer. I'd like to really get a consensus from the board if we can kind of maybe move forward or at least have somebody come. This was in the newspaper. The steep price of safer water in Newburgh, about how many issues they have with their water in Newburgh and people cannot afford the bills that are associated with fixing those pipes. I'm passionate about this because I really feel that we really need to look at it. Whether you go for it or not. I think we at least need to entertain this person coming to see us. I just sent you that email as well, John, before. This is what I gave you all last time. I would like maybe if the board can move forward now to say that we would like to have the manager contact him and bring him to the meeting and at least hear what he has to say. I did talk to Fred, also. He said as long as there's no issue with that happening in the Village and we don't have any issues with it, he's was okay with it. He likes his own territory. I'm just thinking of how much it costs the homeowners to fix what are some of our issues are in our Village with our pipes being so old.

**Manager Revella:** Does the board want the presentation next meeting or the meeting after?

**Trustee Maher:** I won't be here next meeting. But I can always watch it. I watch all the meetings I miss. I'll work on it.

**Mayor Ramos:** I do need to just ask if there are a couple others that so we just don't isolate ourselves to picking this one person.

**Manager Revella:** We can have our insurance consultant come discuss the other options with us as well.

**Trustee Maher:** Sounds good.

**Attorney Donovan:** I have gotten firm direction that I need to give an answer to that which I will have the best answer that I can give you. You have the ability and it's a good idea to do your due diligence to see a presentation from whoever you want to see, solicit whatever information. The only thing I would caution you, this is very serious, you want to keep Keith Hunter five minute time frame. I do have my insurance with him, so I do know how that works.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** I think that the garbage is an issue, and we need to make sure that's tight. I think also that the Hill Street is a major one, too. This has been going on so long. Is there anything that we really can do? Everyone's saying yes, but we're 20 years into this or however long it's been. My point is, if there's a yes to it, why haven't we pulled the trigger on the yes yet?

**Manager Revella:** Yes, there are things we can do. I don't know if you want to discuss those

options in public.

**Attorney Donovan:** There's letters that have been written. If you're interested in pursuing something else, then I'll come back to you with options and likelihood of success. Can analyze all that. I think it's always been higher on your radar. It's kind of come off and on online over the period of multiple years.

**Trustee Pearson:** Can we go into attorney client for that tonight?

**Attorney Donovan:** I think it would be better if we did it another time. I think it's great that you guys think I have this total recall. I know the whole gist of it all but am I ready to present you with options and details with specificity?

**Trustee Pearson:** There's only one option.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** Can you please provide us with that at your earliest convenience?

**Manager Revella:** The likelihood of success? He's got to look that up. He's going to look at dockets to see what has happened in prior cases.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** That'd be great. Thank you, sir. I appreciate that. I think Ms. Baker brought up a good point about the flags. I think that's nice. If we can do that also, and especially the volunteer of the year, I totally forgot about that. I think that's something that's positive, that should be there and is sad that this thing with the ambulance is being dragged on. When I look at this report, I was really sad by it. That so much money and time and effort went into this. And then you get this. If you agree with or not. I think in short, we need to discuss among the Village which route we're going to go with our options and see what their options are, which they only have 2 and then the contracting out and see where we're going to go from there and not wait for anyone else to move on it.

**Trustee Pearson:** And my point, we have no option here. We don't know anything.

**Deputy Mayor Carley:** That's what I'm saying. We have to come up with our options instead of just waiting. We're beyond that point of waiting. Let's talk about options.

**Mayor Ramos:** If anybody hasn't noticed on lower and upper bridges, there are 2 sets of new signs. A 311 phone dial for Orange County mental health. In light of what happened down there, the incident on the lower bridge where we had a death there for a person jumping off. I want to thank Ms Angela Johannes for providing us 311 signs. Orange County Mental Health. I know Mental Health month was in May, but the signs took a little bit longer to come in. There are 2 signs on lower bridge and 2 signs on upper bridge. I want to thank Mr. Fred Perna and his crew for getting them up and making them visible to people who need them. This past Saturday, we had a veteran's eligibility event attended by 16 veterans and a couple of family members for ID cards, various issues on eligibility for compensation. So and it was really well turned out and we should have another one before Veteran's Day. I attended a Historical Society along with Trustee Sebring, where the Historical Society dedicated the flag, which was put up by the Historical Society flagpole for Mr. Vandermark, Ms. Anita Vandermark late husband and a veteran.

\*Read Community Events into minutes\*

#### **Executive Session – Personal History of a Particular Employee**

Deputy Mayor Carley and Trustee Thompson made motion to enter into executive session to

discuss personal history or particular employee. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
August 2, 2022  
Motions & Resolutions**

**OCT**

Deputy Carley made a motion to approve 12 month extension for Orange County Transit term ending August 18, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Thompson.

Roll Call:

Trustee Pearson: No

Trustee Maher: No

Trustee Elliott: No

Trustee Thompson: No

Trustee Sebring: No

Deputy Mayor Carley: Yes

Mayor Ramos: Yes.

Motion failed.

Trustee Elliot made a motion to approve 8 month extension for Orange County Transit term ending April 18, 2023. Seconded by Trustee Maher. 5 ayes. 2 nays (Mayor Ramos & Deputy Mayor Carley). Motion carried.

**Public Hearing – Local Law 2 of 2022 – OL-I**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to open public hearing for Local Law 2 of 2022 OL-I. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Carley made a motion to close public hearing Local Law 2 of 2022 OL-I. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Maher made a motion to adopt a Negative Declaration. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. 6 ayes. 1 no(Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Local Law 2 of 2022 - OL-I. Seconded by Trustee Maher. 6 ayes. 1 no (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

**Public Hearing – Local Law 3 of 2022 – Fences**

Trustee Pearson made a motion to open public hearing for Local Law 3 of 2022 - Fences. Seconded by Trustee Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott made a motion to close the public hearing for Local Law 3 of 2022 - Fences. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Approval of July 19, 2022, Minutes**

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve the July 19, 2022 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Maher. 5 ayes. 2 abstentions (Trustee Elliott and Deputy Mayor Carley). Motion Carried.

**General Board Meeting Procedures**

Resolution 7-22-23 Public Hearing Ground Rules



Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt resolution 7-22-23 with suggested changes. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve Resolution 8-22-23 as is. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. 5 ayes. 2 no. (Trustee Pearson & Deputy Mayor Carley). Motion carried.

**Temporary Sign Request**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve temporary sign request. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution – 5-22-23 – Bond for Capital Projects**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve resolution 5-22-23 Bond for Capital Projects. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Resolution 6-22-23 – ARPA Funds**

Trustee Thompson made a motion to approve resolution 6-22-23 ARPA Funds. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Payment of Audited Bills**

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

**Executive Session – Personal History of a Particular Employee**

Deputy Mayor Carley and Trustee Thompson made motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of particular employee. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Reconvene**

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