

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
September 6, 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

Judge Ozman Introduced new Court Clerk AnnMarie Maruca
Recreation Coordinator Mike Bliss introduced full time Rec Aide, Lauren Hayes.
Police Chief Herlihy Introduced Charles Bodensieck as SRO. James Lynch, SRO. Gina Kehoe, part time officer. Alexis Barber, part time dispatcher. Kristen Egbertson, part time dispatcher.
Village Treasurer Kelly introduced Madelyn Font as new Deputy Clerk/Treasurer.
Superintendent Perna introduced Eligio Turcios aka, Chupie and Aaron VanVleit and Cesar Bobadilla as new Laborers for DPW.

Presentation – Insurance Provider

Keith Hunter from Hunter insurance made a presentation regarding underground utility coverage.

Trustee Pearson: In relation for the attorney. Did we not just do a hold harmless with the school and we reciprocated exactly back and forth the same way? What's the difference?

Attorney Donovan: Not to speak for Keith because he does pretty well speaking for himself. There was something in it for the Village in the SRO contract.

Trustee Pearson: Okay. I just know that when I spoke to the woman and I'm not just saying that we should have this even move forward, I'm just saying that when I spoke to her, she said she would change that agreement how we wanted it to change. I don't know what that is because I haven't put you in contact with her.

Attorney Donovan: And I didn't know whether the Village Board wanted to go ahead and not go ahead.

Trustee Pearson: So that could change possibly if we wanted that to change, that's up to the board to make that decision.

Keith Hunter: Becky, the situation with the school district, we are willing to do that. And that is a cross indemnity agreement that's proposed. And the reasoning is that it is of epic, profound proportions that we protect our children. And unfortunately, it's come to this situation where we need Officers in the schools. But it is just such a grave, serious situation that involves our children, involves law enforcement, involves guns and building security with children. It involves our worst nightmare. And for that reason, we have no benefit to get over on the school district in our own community, nor do they have any interest in clobbering us with insurance requirements. Frankly, it was one of the most simple agreements I have seen. That agreement is being driven by the Town. And again, it's of such a serious, serious nature that we're willing to do that. We are in a similar negotiations with the ambulance situation and how that will all play out and what insurance they want to bring to bear. There again, if we're going to deal with a private ambulance contractor, they're going to have to provide us boatloads of insurance, because this, again, is such a serious issue involving life and death. And for that reason, they want the contract and they're going to have to provide us all kinds of insurance in the tune to millions, as well as their medical malpractice. So again, those contracts rise to such a serious nature that we're willing to do that. But 99 times out of 100 anyone we're signing a contract with, whether if it's for construction or different services, they're going to name us as additional insured and provide us their insurance. And that's where it ends. We're not handing out our insurance. It's not necessary for us to do that. We can find any number of contractors willing to name us as additional insured.

Trustee Thompson: Residents that are concerned about their water and sewer lines that are interested in having some type of other coverage. I think they were interested in something like this because people were led to believe that this would be something that they could purchase through the village, not necessarily from the village, but through the village. If people asked me if they should get a rider on their homeowners or whatever, if I'm understanding correctly, you represent a multitude of insurance companies. Would there be, I just want to make sure I tell residents correctly that asked me the question, would there be something where the village would work with one insurance company or every resident is on their own to choose insurance company if they want this coverage?

Keith Hunter: What I would say about that, this is not a cookie cutter situation. Our policies, our lives, our associations are so intertwined here. If you're going to move your homeowner's insurance to get this coverage, well, darn it, we just lost the multi-policy discount on our car insurance. So our car insurance went up \$212 because we switched to a company that got us this other coverage. What did we do? Some people, their home may not be in a condition that they want a new insurance company out there taking pictures and looking around at the place. They may not be in a position to move to another carrier. My brother in law wouldn't dare move his insurance away from me because that would be awkward at Thanksgiving. People have personal reasons. Some people just don't want to deal with it. And many people may say, you know what, I don't want to move all my insurance. I don't want to go through that. Let me buy the warranty. And I am like, good for you. I hope you get \$8500 out of them when your water main pops. And there is absolutely a place for that. Again, I just don't think that if they buy it through us, not from us, we still have, I would say, a fair amount of vicarious liability in that situation.

Manager Revella: We're not an insurance business.

Keith Hunter: We're not. What I would also say, Lynn and to the entire board, we have to be very careful of giving the perception that you're giving any kind of insurance advice because none of you have an insurance license that I'm aware of. Again, even with the best intention we could, if we imply that, oh, they'll cover you or no, they don't start talking about the technical aspects of the coverage. You have to be very, very careful about that because, again, it's really only to be discussed by licensed agents. I wouldn't feel comfortable if you offer to me, hey, we want Hunter

Insurance, you're right here, right by the Thruway Market. I think there's got to be one or two people in here. I don't do insurance business with. I wouldn't feel comfortable with this moniker associated with my private company. I just don't think it belongs to me. I know all of you do, put just so much love into what you do here. I just really, really am concerned about commercializing that in any way. And again, that's a personal opinion.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I want to say thank you. I really do appreciate your presentation. Thank you for clarifying the difference between insurance versus warranty. I appreciate that. I think you bring up a good point about the through and from. There's liability associated with it and you do give a perception that you signed off on it so because you're the village, we believe in you village. So therefore we followed your direction and now we're in a hole and you're going to help us get out of it. That can lead down that rabbit hole. I totally understand and especially in your field, you weigh the pros and cons and the cons outweigh the pros, definitely down the line. I appreciate it. Thank you.

Keith Hunter: Well, you all know I talk too much and I could go on and on and on and on about these matters. But I'll spare you the suffering of that. And again, I'm always available if anyone has any follow up questions.

Trustee Pearson: Maybe just a comment for the board, possibly. Would the board be opposed to sending out a letter since you changed the law and a lot of people in the village do not know that law that they are responsible for their pipe from the house to the main. They used to be from the house to the cut off now to the main in the street. A lot of people don't know that. It would be in the village best interest to send possibly a letter to all the homeowners in the village stating that fact and that if they want some type of coverage to contact their insurance company to follow through with that. That would be some type of coverage. I'm not saying who they're going to go to, but if you're all not in favor of doing the warranty, which it sounds like you probably aren't, but I don't know for that fact. We didn't hear that presentation, but just letting the village residents know that they are responsible. I just feel that it's should be our responsibility to let them know that.

Trustee Thompson: John, why am I thinking we did inform people?

Manager Revella: We gave them notice before we put notices on the bills when it happened as well. But we could do a letter if Dave thinks its ok legally.

Trustee Thompson: I remember that people were notified about that change in the law.

Manager Revella: We put it on the calendar as well, but we can always do a letter any time you guys want, have no problem with that. I didn't talk to them about the other issue that the Trustee Pearson mentioned regarding if you have concerns, reach out to an insurance company or warranting company for coverage.

Trustee Pearson: And it's just simple as that and nothing more than that. But they don't maybe know where to go. Maybe they don't know what to do. You had talked about at the village one time being able to loan them money so they'd be able to pay for it and then they pay the village back. But why do we want to do that either if they can go through their insurance company? I think it's a decent idea if you all want to do that and don't want to have to go back through the other presentation. If nobody's in favor of that, that's up to you. I just wanted to throw that out there that I'd be happy that that happened.

Mayor Ramos: We can do a twofold. We can send letters and we can post it on our website just to rehash on what we did a few years ago.

Attorney Donovan: Not to be the difficult attorney on this, but we need to be careful. My role in the process is to limit the village's liability. You need to be careful that you don't establish something known as a special duty, where you've gone above and beyond what you would normally do. So you've put yourself in a position where you've potentially increased your liability. You don't want to give people advice on whether they should have a warranty.

Trustee Pearson: You're not doing that.

Attorney Donovan: I don't know. You're saying about writing letters and helping people out, which is a noble thing to do. I'm just telling you, I'd like to see the language before it gets sent out or anything gets posted because I'm going to say two things, the second day of law school, they taught us that ignorance of the law is no excuse. After living 60 years plus, I've also learned that no good deed goes unpunished. All I'm saying is, very well intentioned but be careful.

Village Manager's Report

Manager Revella: I've been working with the Rec Coordinator to make sure we get the Olley Park Community Center outfitted. Got some additional quotes for chairs and tables. We had a commercial kitchen expert go to the location to try and draw up and confirm what is needed down there and what works best for the least amount of money. I've discussed some potential litigation with the attorney, which he's asked for attorney client later today to discuss with the board. The DPW Super and I discussed the altitude valve at Gladstone Tank, which thankfully went through without a hitch. I didn't get any complaints about water issues in that area, even though the water was off for the whole day while they worked on that. It makes our system safer. Went over different department entries and job duties with the Treasurer. Attended the end of year camp picnic for summer camp, very well. Over 350 people there. Went over the capital projects and funding reimbursements with the Engineer to make sure we get our grant money. Met with the Building Inspector to go over the court appearances and the fees schedule. Did receive the draft ambulance RFP. Discussed that was some of the board and sent that to everybody for review. Met with Chief to go over the canvas responses and schedule interviews for police officers. Went over the DOT road work that's going to be happening. Anyone noticed they put a new sign up coming in 208 to say it's going to start September 19th. DPW had gone through and made sure all our manholes and valve boxes are corrected to make sure it's ready. Went over a few FOILs with the Clerk and Village Attorney. Some issues with a couple of responses. Went over the cost for Tri-Montgomery with the Chief. Went over some special counsel matters. One regarding insurance and for spouse of a deceased retiree. An update for CSEA grievance. Rec & Park has been continuing to get pricing for the outfitting. Had end of year party on August 19th. Music in the Grove, last concert last week. Teen Center's open and going well. They have the outdoor soccer registration going now. The Building Inspector issued 4 permits, 4 certificates of compliance, 2 COs and 3 properties are being taken to court for violations. They also did a walk-through of the Overlook at Kidd Farm Project to discuss the clearing of mulch and trees. Code Enforcer issued 27 building permits, 23 certificates compliance. 1 CO report. Conducted 5 fire safety inspections, violated 16 landlords for registry violations and 9 lawn violations, as well as overseeing the Falcons Rest project. Clerk's been updating Facebook, website, 207c, workers comp, met with me and special counsel on a couple of personnel issues. We also went over FOILs with the Village Attorney, finished the minutes and assisted residents with different things, including water, sewer, billing, which is coming in now. Finance still working on training new staff member. Working on bank recs, pretty much done moving all the accounts over to the new bank. Helped me with some FEMA reimbursement paperwork, worker's comp payments. Went over priorities and we also discussed the health care issues for retirees and employees on retirement. Our special counsel got back to us today on some issues and we'll have to have that on the next agenda as well to discuss with the board. She's drafting a proposal for you. Public Works, went through all the valves and catch basins, all the

different manholes, still pressing sludge, they're working on vehicles, they replaced 1 meter, had done 27 mark outs, one inspection and swapped 2 endpoints since the last meeting. Reviewing streetlights. Some of them have some electrical issues. We are going to try and get a quote, but we're trying to make all the light fixtures that we're going to replace match and we need DOT approval for the ones that are on the bridge to be replaced before we get any other ones because we want to make them match the ones downtown. They did the water and sewer readings, bills went out September 1st. They've been doing lead and copper testing. The water department attended a seminar with the county just updating on different things in the county regarding water. They assisted in the replacement of altitude valve Gladstone tank. Continued flushing and jetting as they need to for DEC compliance. Police Department, Chief helped go through the canvass letters to schedule interviews for new officers. They also did a special detail on South Montgomery Street regarding traffic. They issued 66 traffic tickets in that detail of 62, in that detail, 66 total. 3 parking summonses responded to 6 MVAs. Conducted 9 arrests and responded to 475 blotters since last meeting.

Trustee Sebring: That one manhole that I mentioned to you on Orange Ave is there a lid below that?

Manager Revella: I believe so.

Trustee Sebring: I'm just asking is that in the future you never know, that if there's no manhole lid showing through the blacktop and they go to mill that road. That's going to damage the mill machine. I've been through that with one over by Stewart Field. That's why I'm just suggesting that maybe they put a lid on that.

Manager Revella: They've been bringing all of them up to grade.

Trustee Sebring: But that one there they still have the blacktop on it, but I'm suggesting that they put in a manhole cover.

Manager Revella: No, they're bringing all of them up to grade. All lids will be brought up to grade before they start. I'm not sure if that one's defunct or not. They may be burying it. I'm not sure, but we'll find out. I had Fred look at that one.

Trustee Thompson: For Olley Park, I know things keep moving along. Do we have any tentative date that we're hoping we're going to meet a deadline that we're going to meet to be complete over there?

Manager Revella: The contractor has been done. It's our job to finish the outside and we had to finish the DOT roads to make sure they were ready for when they come. That got put on hold until we finish that. We had to wait for equipment anyway, but it did come in.

Trustee Thompson: Can you give any type of a tentative date?

Manager Revella: Fred starting to work on that this week. It's all mud back there. He needs to get an excavator back there and a lot of hand digging to put in the drainage. It's going to be a while. I don't know exactly how long it's going to take. It depends on the weather. And he has to set all those blocks behind there too. But he's needs to put the drainage in first. It's going to be pretty tedious.

Trustee Thompson: I understand residents are just getting anxious. They're anxious for the project to be complete. And they're asking and as Trish mentioned, the last meeting, I believe people are

already wondering when it will be available for their use.

Manager Revella: We have a lot of requests for use.

Trustee Thompson: The Tri-Montgomery costs. I know that didn't get addressed initially and I know they weren't here to present tonight, but that was something I had a question about. If their organization is going to be contributing financially to any of the villages for the extra manpower that they're going to need to host that event.

Manager Revella: That was something I was going to hope to ask them tonight, and I didn't know until late that they weren't coming.

Trustee Thompson: We're getting close to their date for their event. Is there another tentative meeting scheduled with them?

Mayor Ramos: Next meeting.

Manager Revella: Just so the board's aware, the estimate for coverage is \$1,875.66.

Trustee Thompson: Just a question I see in the report. Lawn maintenance violations. It just made me chuckle because we've had no rain. I want to go and see whose lawn is growing. I just like to go take a gander at that.

Manager Revella: Could be a sprinkler.

Trustee Thompson: The after school program that's just started or it starts shortly. When is that starting?

Manager Revella: Should start this week.

Trustee Thompson: They haven't mentioned in quite some time with DPW where we're at with the meter replacement. How are we doing with that overall? Like what percentage of the village residents are complete?

Manager Revella: Over 50%.

Trustee Thompson: Have we sent anything out recently or put it on the website to remind people they need to take care of that?

Manager Revella: Constantly. And any time there's a closing reading, they're required to get a new meter.

Trustee Thompson: So, people do know.

Manager Revella: They're not getting what they need unless they get it done.

Trustee Thompson: It says here, followed up with vendors for new vehicles. Do we have any kind of information?

Manager Revella: They don't have them, but we did order them. Hopefully they get them sometime. But we did order them officially.

Trustee Thompson: I'm curious about the ambulance with the RFP, but I'm hoping we'll have some discussion about that.

Manager Revella: Did you get a copy?

Trustee Thompson: I did. But I didn't know if we were having some discussion on that this evening.

Manager Revella: I wasn't asked to put it on.

Trustee Thompson: Mayor, do you have anything to share?

Mayor Ramos: I got what you have. Obviously, I was away when it was distributed, so I'm still digesting 31 pages.

Trustee Thompson: We didn't get this distributed while you were away, I don't think.

Mayor Ramos: When I got back the initial one was sent. And we waited until the actual one came up so that it could be distributed.

Trustee Thompson: So, you have no comment at this point on that?

Mayor Ramos: No.

Trustee Thompson: After going to the town meeting, it's my understanding they're going to be discussing I believe it's the October 20th meeting of who they're awarding the RFP to.

Manager Revella: I don't know.

Trustee Thompson: The next date that they mentioned was toward the end of October. So I didn't know when they want comments back from us. I didn't see that anywhere in the email that they were anxious.

Trustee Maher: Comments closed September 19th.

Trustee Thompson: I didn't see that in there.

Manager Revella: For the public or for us?

Trustee Maher: Deadline for questions, September 20th. October 20th they're selecting the contractor.

Trustee Thompson: Do we have any update on the EV charging station? Any time when the money will be released?

Manager Revella: They sent me a form that I have to sign online. I went to their site to sign it and it won't let me sign. I called the person to do the tech review and they're supposed to get back to me today, but they haven't yet, to go through it with me to make sure I can sign it. We got the award to sign online so they can release the contract.

Trustee Thompson: You think we'll be able to begin before it's too cold out to dig in the road?

Manager Revella: That's the goal. They want us to.

Trustee Pearson: Where is that going?

Manager Revella: Orchard lot.

Trustee Thompson: It looks like the stairs were worked on in the back here. Are they complete now?

Manager Revella: They have a couple touch up spots and there's also some welding that has to be done later. But they did do the initial scrape and paint. It's good, it's safe. There's just a couple touch up paint spots that Dean has been touching up. Eventually the guy will come for the weld. He's going to weld some patch pieces, then they'll come back and paint those spots as well.

Trustee Thompson: We're seeing a light at the end of the tunnel on that one. Do we have any more information about the other repairs in the building, the third floor work?

Manager Revella: We got a couple quotes on some security things. The engineer has a plan for the window and our engineers working with the floor guy for the floors. And Dean's trying to get somebody for the facade work as well on this building, the white paint to get done. I have the AC guys getting me some quotes for the unit replacements as well. As these are 1994 units.

Trustee Thompson: Is this the one where we talked about the different zones?

Manager Revella: Yes. We hope.

Trustee Thompson: Are we considering any of the energy efficient alternatives?

Manager Revella: They're all up to date energy efficient models.

Trustee Thompson: Air sourced, heat pumps. Are we looking in that direction or no?

Manager Revella: Our property can only host certain types of units, so whatever we can get, that'll work. We're going to do.

Trustee Thompson: Is there anything new on the waterfront park?

Manager Revella: They're supposed to meet Thursday to sign the contract. Their office had COVID, so they didn't come last week.

Trustee Thompson: It sounds like a lot of things are moving along. When I was going through some old minutes looking for something, I came upon something that I thought perhaps you might find interesting. In June of 2016, there was a note that the Town of Montgomery was awarded \$400,000 for Rail Trail repairs. That was before I was on the board.

Manager Revella: For the wash out.

Trustee Thompson: Then in July of the same year, we were supposed to be coordinating with the Town of Montgomery to do the repairs on the Rail Trail. Was that the entire project that like the Army Corps of Engineers came back to do?

Manager Revella: I don't know who did that, but it was the Wash Out project where they had the

wash out right at the edge of the village where the trail kind of washed out. And they had a couple of replacements in there that weren't really good. And a building that wall all the way to the brook. It was a FEMA project, I believe.

Trustee Thompson: Yes. I just remember had ongoing discussion and finally they resurfaced the Rail Trail.

Manager Revella: That's how much they spent just for that part?

Trustee Thompson: I saw when we signed off on invoices, there was a bucket truck repair that was a little pricey. Was that our new piece of equipment? What happened to it?

Manager Revella: We've got to use a bucket truck. It's going to need some hydraulic stuff once in a while.

Trustee Thompson: There was also something for a mower repair. Was that one of our older mowers?

Manager Revella: We don't have the new ones yet. They're still not in. We ordered them, but the supplier doesn't have them yet.

Trustee Thompson: I'd like to know when we sign the invoices, if some of them can be a little more specific. There were lots and lots of things that were purchased through Amazon, but it didn't say what they were.

Manager Revella: It should be behind it.

Trustee Thompson: I did not see what everything specifically was. Every single one of them is there?

Treasurer Kelly: It should be behind it.

Trustee Thompson: Then I'm going to look at that again. There were so many.

Manager Revella: We print out the page when we order to attach.

Trustee Thompson: I notice that our new Treasurer's name is not on a lot of the paperwork, it's still our previous Treasurer.

Manager Revella: We have Peter Sullivan on some paperwork still.

Trustee Thompson: Why is that?

Manager Revella: We tell them, they just keep sending. It's from the state too.

Trustee Thompson: I know we had asked about a little more detail on some of the reports. I think we can still do a little better on that.

Manager Revella: I have some other stuff for later.

Trustee Thompson: Who is responsible for making sure that the various boards are doing their required educational?

Manager Revella: The Board Chairs.

Trustee Thompson: Do we follow up with them? Is there any oversight with them? Because I'm beginning to think we have people that are not perhaps doing all of their training requirements in a timely manner.

Manager Revella: I know the Clerk keeps a record of it, but it's up to the Chairs to make sure they're actually getting the certificates in.

Trustee Thompson: Are you allowed to send a memo to the Chairs to just remind them?

Manager Revella: Of course.

Trustee Thompson: I would appreciate that. I went to the last Town Board meeting and the Supervisor was not there. But I was wondering if we've heard anything else on the Hill Street Bridge.

Manager Revella: I don't know if I haven't heard of the town on it. I know the attorney wanted to discuss the matter in attorney client.

Trustee Thompson: The Mayor had asked me if I had some paperwork and I did not, but I took delivery of contacting the town today. If you guys could pass this down to Mr. Donovan. I didn't have enough time to print those all out tonight. But it's the petitions, and it is the three letters that we had sent. And the date that we sent those was November 7th of 2019. And the Clerk did have them and she Tara Stickles was kind enough to send them to me.

Attorney Donovan: What I can tell you, there's other things that I want to discuss in attorney client later is that since last we spoke, I did have a conversation with the town attorney, Mr. Frank, who advised me and I don't know if you know this already, that the town was prepared to proceed with bonding the project either later this month or sometime in October. That's what I was told.

Trustee Thompson: One of the concerns was who was responsible to repair it?

Attorney Donovan: I don't think there's any legal argument that can be made that it's not their responsibility.

Trustee Thompson: There was dialog about if they repair the bridge, who's maintaining the bridge?

Attorney Donovan: There's a great case, what I think is interesting, it's a recent case, like 2019, the Village of Someplace built a bridge, village money, village road, village bridge. But they never evinced intent to have ownership or control of the bridge. So the bridge deteriorated. The village said to the town, you got to fix the bridge. The town says, get out of here. We didn't build a bridge. We did pay for the bridge. It's not our responsibility. Court says, well, that's not what the law says. The law says the town is responsible and you have to fix it. Now, they didn't say when they have to fix it, but they said they have to fix it. I don't think there's a dispute in that.

Trustee Thompson: I thought that additional information might be something you could use. I also wanted to know if there's any new information about that community refrigerator. What's happening with that?

Manager Revella: I haven't had any updates on that piece yet.

Trustee Thompson: Is it still operating?

Manager Revella: I've never been to the refrigerator.

Trustee Thompson: No, neither have I. But I know there were concerns from residents as well.

Mayor Ramos: He is complying with the covering of the refrigerator. He is still in the process right now.

Trustee Thompson: I think there was concern about the entire operation, like the supervision, temperature control, hours of operation. There were a lot of questions. So I didn't know who was addressing those.

Manager Revella: Dean is addressing those with the owner. He's requested health permits and different things as well. I have just an update as well for a couple of things I forgot to mention before. I reached out to DOT regarding the stairs. I think, Brian, you had asked about them, on West Main. They are DOT stairs. The DOT is working with a contractor to resolve a dispute regarding the project and how it was done. That's all they can say at this time.

Trustee Maher: I was looking forward to hearing about how the conference went with John Ramos and you regarding the ambulance RFP.

Manager Revella: That we got the RFP, the conference with them that's it and I want to make sure we got it out. I sent an email to all of you about what I talked about. There was a note in there about the Village of Walden. That was it.

Trustee Maher: I guess my concern is if all questions need to be in by September 20th and our next board meeting is September 20th, if we're not talking about it this evening. When does that happen?

Manager Revella: That's up to you guys if you want to bring it up. I wasn't requested to put it on the agenda.

Mayor Ramos: We can talk about it.

Trustee Pearson: Finance Department regarding entries and job duties. Can you explain what that means?

Manager Revella: Like I was saying in my report the entries in the Edmunds system and how they're done and job duties for the different people in the department.

Trustee Pearson: You had a conference with the engineer who? Capital projects and funding reimbursements. Do we get a report on that?

Manager Revella: The grants. I'm just making sure that the grants are going to be reimbursable. I was going over those to make sure the paperwork and especially for CHIPs. That's the next one we're getting back. Want to make sure we're in line for the same grant for the Waterfront Park. And I wanted to make sure our EFC was lined up for the sewer work that's being done. That has to be in place. And also for CDBG, which I have the agenda.

Trustee Pearson: My concern was the ambulance. I'm glad we're going to talk about that tonight. It's hard to talk about with any information that Walden doesn't have. It's kind of hard to put things together. We've been waiting for information from Walden and we have not gotten it. It's pretty frustrating to talk about it because all we're reading is the RFP. So unless the Mayor has some good ideas of what we're going to do, I'd like to hear those. Parks Department again. I'd like to bring that up again because I brought it up at the last meeting and we were going to possibly discuss that again about reports, seasonal reports, and about how the Parks Department does their programs, like a synopsis of how many children, what programs they ran. There is a secretary in the Rec Department now, so maybe we can get a report on programs seasonally like right now you're going into soccer. So when that's over and whatever else is in the season to get a report on how many children, what the funding was, how much it was from the Finance Department, whether it was covering the amount that was spent on the program itself. I don't care that it comes from the Rec Department, but to the Manager and he can talk about it at the meeting, I'm fine with that. I'd made a motion to possibly have that happen. I'd like to make another motion, this meeting, since people are here, that we can maybe put that through.

Manager Revella: I just want to let the board know that I do present that exact report at the budget session every year. I don't know if you want it seasonally or not. That's the only difference. We do have that information participation, cost and revenue at the budget session. I don't know if you want it more frequent.

Trustee Pearson: I would like that because then I'm prepared for the budget. Maybe we can add new programs, maybe we don't, is the funding, do we need to raise rates? I think to be prepared for that at the time, I think it's how I feel about it. I'd like to make that motion, if anybody wants to second it to have those reports done.

Trustee Pearson made a motion to request seasonal reports from the Parks and Rec Department.
Seconded by Trustee Thompson.

Trustee Maher: I just feel if we request of one department shouldn't, then we request the same of all departments?

Trustee Pearson: Great.

Trustee Thompson: I'm okay with that.

Trustee Maher: I just feel like singling out one department to do extra work and provide additional information on top of what they have been doing already should be the same for all across the board.

Mayor Ramos: I oppose only because this is micromanaging each department and they provide the information to the Village Manager. Village Manager provides us on a bi-weekly basis during his reports and we obtain that information during budget season.

Trustee Pearson: Mayor, can you tell me what was what the parks program did during their time there, what the children did? Can you tell me what activities they did every day and what special events they had? And can you tell me that? Do you know what happened, well your son worked there, so I guess you can tell me that, but I don't know that I've been asking for that for months now and I haven't gotten an answer. So, that's my thought process. I'm just asking to see what we do and that's our responsibility.

Manager Revella: It's not. Your responsibility is not the day-to-day operations. That's the

difference.

Trustee Pearson: I'm not saying day-to day.

Manager Revella: What are they doing every day at camp? That's what you're asking for. That's not appropriate. You want cost revenue. That's perfectly fine. I'll give that to you. Everyone should give that to you and I have no problem doing that. I can. I don't have it available today, but I can.

Trustee Pearson: I'm also asking how many baseball games were played. We bought a mower.

Manager Revella: We did not.

Trustee Pearson: You put in the budget.

Manager Revella: We haven't gotten it yet.

Trustee Pearson: Okay, but you're buying a lawn mower.

Manager Revella: It has nothing to do with mowing the fields at Bradley. That's a mower for the department to use everywhere. A groomer was for Bradley and we never bought it.

Trustee Pearson: Were you not moving a shed down there to put a lawn mower down there?

Manager Revella: Yes, when it's available.

Trustee Pearson: Is the lawn mower down there?

Manager Revella: Not right now because we have a shed. Have to use a trailer.

Trustee Pearson: That's how I feel. It is our responsibility whether you want to believe it or not. I get we pay a manager to run the day-to-day, but our finances and our money and what happens in this village is up to this board.

Trustee Thompson: I've been asking for a little bit more of a detailed report, not from just Parks and Rec, but village wide. I know Trustee Sebring has also asked for more detailed report. Perhaps if we had a more detailed biweekly report, it wouldn't feel like one department is getting, targeted if that's what someone said. I agree we shouldn't micromanage anyone and I agree we do have a Village Manager. However, I also agree with Trustee Pearson that the tax dollars are funding all of these things. I think not just the Board of Trustees, but residents in the community deserve to know what exactly goes on throughout the village. I think that's why I would like to see a more detailed report. I don't need to tell people how to do their work, but I would like to see what their work is.

Manager Revella: Job description?

Trustee Thompson: Sure. I'd like to see a job description for everyone, but I would like to see more information in our reports about what's happening in our particular departments.

Manager Revella: That's what I'm saying. What do you want to see them say about the department?

Trustee Thompson: For example, that one of the things in here is continuing maintenance. What does that mean? Did it mean you fixed the gazebo? Did it mean you painted the dugouts? Did it

mean you repaired a playground?

Manager Revella: That's what I mean. Do you want that kind of detail? It's a little arduous. I don't think you need that kind of detail.

Trustee Thompson: When we used to have liaisons, we knew things like that. We knew more details and we got rid of them, depending on you to provide us with that information.

Manager Revella: But that kind of detail?

Trustee Thompson: John, I feel the reports could be a little more informative. I would leave it up to you to decide what to put in there to satisfy a little more detail. I would like to know, did the kids make lanyards every day at camp? Do they play Duck Duck Goose? I mean, what kind of activities did they do? Games, organized sports. We don't know anything they do. I asked about the water meters tonight. I have no idea where we are with the installation of the meters. I do now. Thank you. Those are the kind of things that I would like to have a little more information about. That's me personally.

Manager Revella: That's what I'm saying. If you want a report on where we are with meters, let me know. I'll have it for you at the meeting. If that's what you're looking for. If you're looking for what repairs have been done in the last two weeks on whatever building, I don't know. I can bring that to you. I just don't know what you want to see that in the report in more detail.

Trustee Maher: I think and I don't want to speak for anyone, but as a Trustee and I think what the other Trustees were saying is that sometimes we're approached by people, village residents and they want to know questions about maybe a rec program or what are the new programs that are coming to the new rec center? What are we going have for seniors, things like that. We get questions like that a lot. I think being able to answer those things a little bit more clearly for me, like my approach is I just call the Parks and Rec Director and I ask myself so.

Manager Revella: Or have them call.

Trustee Maher: I'll pass along the information to them. From having that open dialog with them, I've gotten so much information that way.

Trustee Pearson: I thought we weren't supposed to be involved with their work. That's what we're told. We have to go to the Village Manager. That's what we're told. Don't go through the people.

Manager Revella: When a person from the public would approach you, you'd refer them to me or the Department Head.

Trustee Maher: I just mean for my specific questions, like in regards to how can I help or what do we need? What is the proper way?

Trustee Thompson: It also gets to a place where the village residents, I can't speak for everyone else but me, what do you mean, you don't know? You're on the Village Board.

Manager Revella: We have a manager form a government. It's different.

Trustee Thompson: I say that all the time, but I just talk about communication. I think we can do better.

Mayor Ramos: Does anybody look at the website? I get a lot of my information from there.

Trustee Maher: I guess as a Trustee, we kind of want to know about it before we read about it on the website. Not coming from a micromanaging perspective, but just more of like almost like a bragging sheet would be great. Like, this is what we're working on. This is what we hope to accomplish over the next quarter or doesn't even have a quarterly.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I think we still need to find out what because it does cross the line back and forth between day-to-day and fyi. I think we need to have a discussion maybe not right now, but what to be reported it and how so that we don't have to go down this rabbit hole again.

Trustee Maher: I was not in favor of that motion.

Trustee Thompson: What the mayor just said changed the motion.

Manager Revella: What was the original motion?

Trustee Thompson: Specific to the Recreation Department

Manager Revella: Correct.

Trustee Pearson: I rescind my motion.

Trustee Thompson: That's not what the Mayor just said. I think he said about all departments.

Mayor Ramos: Is that what everybody wanted?

Trustee Thompson: No, her motion was just for the Rec Department because I think that they have the most differences per season and what they're doing. But I'm happy for more detailed reports for all departments. I'm happy with that. So I rescind my motion.

Mayor Ramos: No you carry your motion because it was specific to the Parks and Rec.

Attorney Donovan: Don't do that. Just adopt another motion. If you want to include that, it's easier.

Mayor Ramos: We're going to rescind your original motion. A new motion.

Trustee Pearson: No. I'd like discussion if you want to put it on the agenda. I'm happy for that. Willie would like more discussion.

Mayor Ramos: How does everybody feel more discussion on this?

Trustee Maher: Discussion next meeting sounds good.

Mayor Ramos: Next meeting, John.

Trustee Pearson: Building Department, they did a walk through to Overlook a Kidd Farm project, clearing and mulch? Why wasn't that done before they cleared all the trees?

Manager Revella: That was requested more than once. Discussed progress or lack thereof on the project. Discussed areas of disturbance. Noted the wetland areas needed to be delineated again as their encroachments spread the piles of mulch the areas and not had regrowth of vegetation. A letter

was submitted to project engineer to address those concerns.

Trustee Pearson: It still should have been done before they cut the trees down.

Manager Revella: That's because they cut the trees down.

Trustee Pearson: Reviewed streetlight outages. Are there issues? Do we need to worry about that?

Manager Revella: That's what I was saying in my report. There are issues with electric. But we need to get DOT to confirm what poles we can replace with on the bridge so they match the ones downtown. They haven't gotten back to us yet on that.

Trustee Pearson: Did we hire more than one SRO? I thought we hired one SRO.

Manager Revella: We'll have 5 that'll be trained as SROs. We hired 2 new part timers that will also be in the rotation of SRO.

Trustee Pearson: When it was approached it was 1 new SRO.

Manager Revella: We are providing 1 SRO to the school. It's not 1 person. It's 1 SRO of those 5 that fill every day. It'll be 1 person a day.

Trustee Pearson: You met with DPW Supervisor about new vehicles and budget amounts. Is there a difference?

Manager Revella: They're higher.

Trustee Pearson: What is the amounts that we have to worry about?

Manager Revella: One was like \$7000 more. I don't remember the other one. \$10,000 or \$12,000 more. The wholesale prices just higher.

Trustee Pearson: We are still purchasing them?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Carley: You sent a letter about the NYSEG increase?

Manager Revella: Yes. It's horrible.

Deputy Mayor Carley: What are we going to do to inform the public about that?

Manager Revella: I would suggest that we post it, which I'd like to post on the website and Facebook, if that's okay with the board. I don't know what else we can do to get the word out. Over a 20% increase in gas and electric costs.

Trustee Pearson: It doesn't sound like we can do anything. Write letters?

Manager Revella: Absolutely. The Public Service Commission wants to hear from us. The more they hear from us, the more they're likely to decline.

Trustee Pearson: So should we write a letter from the board to do that?

Manager Revella: I would. Our state representatives as well, county reps, whatever we can get.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Is someone going to reach out to NYCOM concerning that?

Manager Revella: I'll see them in a week, so I'll talk to them.

Approval of August 16, 2022, Minutes

Trustee Elliott made a motion to approve the August 16, 2022 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Carley) Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Local Law 3 of 2022 - Fences

Attorney Donovan: I just want to remind you, you're under no time pressure to act in any fashion at all. If you don't want to go forward, you don't really have to do anything. It dies a slow death. If you choose to vote it down, you can do that. If you choose to vote it up, you would need to issue Negative Declaration. But you're not required to do anything tonight unless you really want to.

Trustee Sebring: I believe that we should have more study done on the height of the fences to include chain link fence, solid, broad, semi-transparent, plastic cloth and brick built, concrete build or whatever that they just say you build a three foot high wall of concrete block, then put a four foot fence on top. To me, the block that they build is still considered a fence of some sort. I believe that should be put in. The Planning Board should look at and add that in to their list of different types of fencing.

Trustee Thompson: Honestly, after sitting through Zoning Board, Planning Board, having the discussion here at Village Board, the last Zoning Board meeting, there was a request for a fence variance. I have been going around the village paying a lot of attention to fences. I think a lot of our fences have become terrible eyesores. The six foot wooden stockade fences in many parts of the village are very poorly maintained. They are just a horrific eyesore. I know someone saw Dean today and took pictures of fencing, tarps tied to fences, garbage behind fences. I think with the recommendation of the Zoning Board Chairwoman and listening to Mr. Dickover from the Planning Board, I think we should leave four foot fences. Considering the limited number of variances that come before the boards for fences. Anyone who wants to change from a four foot fence to a higher fence should apply for their variance, and that should be the end of it. I also do like the recommendation from the Planning Board that defines the type of fences. I know what Trustee Sebring was talking about. That's in my neighborhood. If that gentleman wanted to put up a wrought iron fence, I don't think there would have been as much opposition because it would not have been closing off an entire area. It would have given him the height that he's looking for, but it would have given the sense that there was still space between the yards. I honestly would advise everyone on the board to take a walk or a tour around the village and look at the fences.

Trustee Elliott: I'm not really in favor of this. I think each house or each property has a different set of circumstances. In some cases, it might make sense to have four foot fence, some might be a six foot fence. I think it's different for every property.

Trustee Maher: I agree with Trustee Thompson. I think that if anyone needs to file for a change for approval, they should go against the Zoning Board and the Planning Board and get their appropriate approvals.

Trustee Pearson: I'm fine the way it is right now. I think Lynn was talking about having them all four feet, what the Planning Board recommended. I think the letter actually went from the Zoning Board asking the Planning Board their thoughts. How did the Planning Board get involved in this in the first place?

Manager Revella: We had to send them the law change for review.

Trustee Pearson: I'm fine the way it is. I live in a neighborhood that people live very close to me, really close. And sometimes, as we say, I don't have a six foot fence now, but I'd be happy if I could but went in without having to go. I think each zone, the way it's set up is probably fine for the way it's set right this minute. I feel I'm fine with the way it is. There is no saying if you're going to go change the fence, lots of times when you go before the Zoning Board, they can recommend what it's going to look like anyway. They have that authority to dictate what type of fence they would like to see there. Doesn't mean you have to put it in, but they can recommend that where they can say this, this and this fence could be put there. The Zoning Board does have that power to do that. I'm fine the way it is right now.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm fine the way it is.

Mayor Ramos: I'm fine the way it is written.

Manager Revella: Your action is no action.

Local Law 4 of 2022 – Landlord Registry

Trustee Pearson: I'm fine with how it's written. My only concern is whether we need if we decide to move forward, we need to change the fee schedule.

Trustee Maher: I would want to see the changes with the fee schedule.

Manager Revella: The law wouldn't change. You'd vote on the fee schedule after adoption if you were going to adopt.

Trustee Elliott: Same.

Trustee Thompson: I'm fine with the revisions.

Trustee Sebring: Fine with the revisions.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Fine with the revisions.

Manager Revella: I believe you did SEQR last time. Someone would make a motion for action if you'd like to take action.

Attorney Donovan: Adopting Local Law number 3 now.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Local Law 3 of 2022 Landlord Registry. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 11-22-23 - CDBG

Trustee Elliott made a motion adopt resolution 11-22-23 CDBG. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Veterans Day Ceremony Request

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve Veterans Day Ceremony Request. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried. committee.

9/11 Ceremony

Manager Revella: The only thing that I had, looking for notes on was my recollection was the board had discussed hosting a ceremony every fifth year of the anniversary. I couldn't find it in the minutes. But I didn't look at the minutes ad nauseam. I don't remember what month and year it was to look for that specific. But Clerk had tried to go through 2019 to 2018, was going backwards and hadn't found it yet.

Trustee Thompson: The last time we had a ceremony prior to the 20th anniversary, from what I could find was 2017. We didn't have any from 2017 until 2021, which I know we couldn't find anything in writing. I remember the discussion as well, but because we had that gap is making me think that's when we decided we were going to the every five year anniversaries. I don't want to say more significant because they're all very significant. But the larger anniversaries. Honestly, I was very surprised to see that something's being done or would like to be done. I guess it's being done. There was an invitation in the packet, but there was no board discussion about it. I was a little taken aback by that. I didn't get an email or a phone call asking to discuss it. I was very surprised to see that the Mayor was, I guess, putting on his own ceremony. I don't know. I'm very confused.

Manager Revella: I just want to make sure it's still the pleasure of the board that the village hosts either every year or every five years. I'm not sure. I want to make sure since we couldn't find it, we'll check the 2017 minutes. But the board's always able to change their minds. You're not bound to the prior board's decision. If that's still the pleasure of the board for a village hosted event. Please motion that.

Trustee Pearson: What is this event?

Mayor Ramos: This is the 2022 Patriot's Day. Just like Memorial Day. Just like Veteran's Day.

Trustee Elliott: Is this sponsored by the village?

Mayor Ramos: No. This was funded by private donations and out of a number of residents that I speak to and have spoken to others requesting that we do observe the 9/11 Day of Remembrance.

Trustee Pearson: Will there be police and closing of the square? Can you go over what your plan is?

Mayor Ramos: There won't be as big as the 20th anniversary, obviously. What we are going to do is we're going to have the same tech that was there last year. Just that the only thing that we're going to do is divert traffic from this corner here Andrew's court to Orchard Street. Last year's ceremony lasted 38 minutes. The schedule of events is going to last 25 this year. After talking to a few key members that were responders down at the 9/11 World Trade Center, they thought that the Village of Walden should represent the state and the country in providing a ceremony.

Trustee Pearson: When was the board going to know that this was happening?

Mayor Ramos: In the packet.

Trustee Pearson: Because it's a board decision to say whether we're closing the streets and that

kind of stuff is not just a Mayor's decision. You have people that come to the square that does the car show. You have people that get approval for park things. That's just an approval process. I didn't know how that works.

Mayor Ramos: Are you not inclined to doing this?

Trustee Pearson: My question is, it's already set up and when were we going to find out about it and who was involved in it?

Mayor Ramos: You're going to find out about it today.

Trustee Pearson: Does the Chief know about it?

Mayor Ramos: Yes.

Trustee Pearson: Oh, so he's got everybody controlled and everybody ready to go.

Mayor Ramos: He's got on duty people.

Trustee Elliott: So, it is village sponsored then.

Mayor Ramos: It's not village sponsored.

Trustee Thompson: Excuse me. I have a very big issue here. It's my understanding that we are a board, that no one on this board can make a decision on their own. This has to be things, events, things that take place are decided on and voted upon by the board. I don't understand how this has been all set up. Arrangements made, details given when no one on this board knew anything about this. I feel like the cart has gone before the horse. I'm sorry. Nobody has superpowers on this board. We are all equal entities with an equal voice. I don't understand this entire process.

Mayor Ramos: What you're saying you're against having this.

Trustee Thompson: I'm saying I'm against having that there was no discussion and there was no plan by the board. There was no vote. I agree. Are there permits that we need to have? I don't understand. And especially if there is somewhere something happened that people are understanding. We took a vote to do this every five years and we haven't done it. We didn't do it from 2017 until 2021, which tells me something happened because we didn't do it. We did it for the big 20 year anniversary. And it was a wonderful ceremony, hands down, no dispute. But I just don't understand. We're a couple of days before 9/11 and we're being told that there's an event planned and none of us really know anything about it.

Mayor Ramos: Did we not know that September 11th is coming up?

Trustee Thompson: That is not the point.

Mayor Ramos: What is the point?

Trustee Thompson: The point is that the Mayor does not have the authority to just plan an event like this in the village for the village residents without any input from the Village Board.

Mayor Ramos: I am a citizen and a taxpayer of the village. I can hold it right at a street corner if I want to.

Trustee Sebring: But you put the village seal on here.

Mayor Ramos: I'm an agent of the village.

Trustee Sebring: You put the village seal on here without the board approval.

Trustee Thompson: I'd like to hear from our attorney.

Attorney Donovan: As I understand it, I'm just seeing the flyer for the first time this meeting is scheduled to be held at Municipal Square. That's village owned property. It's got the Village of Walden seal on it. And there's going to be police involvement directing traffic.

Mayor Ramos: No. They're going to be on duty Police Officers.

Attorney Donovan: They're going to be there directing traffic for this event.

Manager Revella: No. We have not scheduled any officers to be on duty for this event.

Attorney Donovan: Then I misunderstood what you said, but if there's going to be an event that happens on village property, then it needs Village Board approval. I'm not offering an opinion that has anything to do with the fact that it's a 9/11 ceremony. But if it's the use of village property, whether it's an ordinary citizen or a member of the Village Board, that would require a Village Board approval because it's use of village property.

Mayor Ramos: Even if it's funded by private citizens?

Attorney Donovan: Correct.

Trustee Sebring: I just like to say that we should have been at least told about this. This right here gives everybody the same information all at the same time that one was going to be planned, even though it is going to be shorter in time. With the on duty police which wasn't going to be requiring any off duty officers on. In the future, I would like to at least let you know, Mayor, that we should be told in a mainly time if you're going to have these kind of ceremonies that we should be told about it so we can vote on it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So we agree that the board should have been informed. Now, are we going to go ahead and do the event or not? And if we are, can we just make sure that all the bells and whistles are in place? Because Mayor evidently just talked to some people and if we're going to say yes, say yes. It's September 6 and it happens in five days. And we all agree that it is an honorable event. Let's not forget that and we can move forward and recognize what has been said by our attorney and everyone else.

Mayor Ramos: Noted.

Manager Revella: Make the request to the board to approve use of the Fireman's Triangle.

Trustee Thompson: If this was scheduled by the village, we never talked about this at any time when we did our budget. Is there appropriate funds in the budget to hold an event?

Manager Revella: For the village to hold the event? No. We didn't budget for this event in the village budget.

Trustee Thompson: I don't want anyone to think that I am down on 9/11 because I'm not. I've lost dear friends on that horrible day. If the village does not have a ceremony, I would just like everyone to know that the county every year holds an amazing ceremony at the arboretum at Orange County Park that everyone in the county is welcome to attend. They read the list of every soul that was lost in Orange County and it's very well done. So, if municipalities, smaller ones like ours, do not have an annual event, I would encourage everyone to try and go there because it really is a very, very well-run, meaningful ceremony.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I would like to just say, Mayor, if you don't mind and Trustee Thompson brings up a good point about the funding to make sure that it's not, I'm not sure where it's coming from or if it's coming from anywhere. Can you explain the details behind that?

Mayor Ramos: It's an anonymous donor and the only thing that was scheduled to pay for was the technology that's going to be there. Same technology that was there last year.

Trustee Pearson: Can you explain that, please, and how much that cost is?

Mayor Ramos: It was an anonymous donor and requested to remain anonymous.

Trustee Pearson: I'm not saying that.

Manager Revella: What's the cost going forward, if we wanted to do the AV for the village?

Mayor Ramos: That'll be up to the supplier. It could it could change. I'm not going to give a definitive amount right now because it was based upon the goodwill of the anonymous donor. It could change. I wouldn't have that fact right now. All I know is the number that was for the day for the donor is set.

Deputy Mayor Carley: It was set just for the audio for the tech side?

Mayor Ramos: Correct.

Manager Revella: Special price for that donor, is what you're saying?

Mayor Ramos: Correct.

Trustee Elliott: We don't know what the price is currently? I know it could change.

Mayor Ramos: No, I do not. I could find that out tomorrow. But the anonymous donor has already taken care of that.

Deputy Mayor Carley: If agreed upon to do this, we're going to make sure that the cost of the law enforcement side and whatever else that needs to be in place. I would lean on the Village Manager to see what else needs to be in place other than law enforcement.

Manager Revella: If the board is going to approve the event to be located there. We're not paying for it. Not this year.

Trustee Pearson: Does DPW have to set stuff up or nothing? You're just doing straight out on the ground kind of thing.

Mayor Ramos: Correct.

Trustee Thompson: Will there needs to be permits issued?

Manager Revella: Not physically. You just need the board approval to use the area.

Trustee Sebring: No law enforcement requirement for traffic or anything like that?

Manager Revella: No. Just authorized use of the barricades. They here at the building. There to be placed in the street. We'd authorize that use. If it's the purview of the board to do that.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So there are no additional costs that would come up from the event? Other than what was donated for the tech side.

Mayor Ramos: Correct. And they'll be volunteers to take care of that.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm good.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve the request for use of Fireman's Triangle for 9/11 Ceremony on September 11th at 7:30pm. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. 6 ayes. 1 nay (Trustee Thompson). Motion carried.

Manager Revella: Did the board want to discuss whether they do want to do an annual or an every five year event? if you don't mind.

Mayor Ramos: Since I looked the minutes from 2017, there was no discussion. We discussed National Night Out, but there was no discussion on 9/11 ceremonies.

Deputy Mayor Carley: But I think Trustee Thompson brought up a good point that the county holds a pretty good one. I haven't been to it personally, but if it's nice like that, can the village be represented as a participant or a supporter of that and just use that? Or do we just want to do something of our own?

Mayor Ramos: We do have 2, I'm going to say prominent members of the response teams, Reverend Van Houten and Father Tom Carlucci from MPB, who is obviously a firefighter down in Manhattan. This is our backyard. And I think that it would be part of our stitching in this village that we do this. Not only in their honor, but for the village of Walden.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I don't personally have a problem of celebrating and honoring. It's just that I think what she was she brought up was a good point. If we don't do it, that there's an alternative not to negate their what they did, but there's other avenues also. I do understand doing it in our backyard, too. I just put that out to the board and see what the board says. I'm good either way, because time and resources. Yes. But if there's already something there, I can see leveraging that too.

Mayor Ramos: We can discuss the future of the 9/11 ceremony later on.

Trustee Thompson: So we're not discussing one year, two year, five year. We're not having that discussion?

Trustee Maher: I'm in favor of doing it annually. I think it's a beautiful idea. I think that there are a lot of residents here who maybe wouldn't make the travel to where the county one is and to have

something locally is nice. I would just ask that maybe it be at a different time than anything else that is hosted at the county or town level. Just to make sure if someone is planning on attending one of those, they can also attend ours.

Trustee Elliott: I think doing it every year might, I don't want to interfere with the one they're doing. I don't know when, what time does the county do theirs?

Mayor Ramos: I'm not too sure.

Trustee Sebring: You said Father Tom is going to the county one.

Manager Revella: Father Tom is going to the NYC one this year.

Mayor Ramos: This is why this is why we do it at 7 so Father Tom can reach us in time, because there's is at 9:00.

Trustee Elliott: I'm in favor of doing it every 5 years. But what are those 5s?

Manager Revella: Like the 5th anniversary. Last year was the 20th. It would be the 25th, 30th, 35th, 40th.

Trustee Thompson: I thought we'd already had a discussion on doing it every 5 years, whether it's written down or not. I remember those discussions. I say we do every 5.

Trustee Sebring: I'll say every 5.

Trustee Pearson: I'm fine with 5. It's not to disregard any respect for anyone who lost their life or anything. There are many other events that have happened that never get recognized. There are many things that never have ceremonies for them. I think if we're going to be paying for it in the future, I'm not sure that's another discussion. Maybe we'll get donations throughout, but that's another discussion to have. Maybe in budget time as well if it is going to happen. I think the county does a beautiful job. I went to one of them and it's beautiful. I understand the local people want to be involved. It's hard because you don't want to hurt people's feelings, that sacrifice and did what they need to do for us as well.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm comfortable with every 5 years.

Mayor Ramos: Since it's overwhelming in 5 years, I'm comfortable with 1 year, but the 5 years has it.

Manager Revella: 5 to 2.

Trustee Elliott made a motion to approve the 9/11 ceremony every 5th year from the anniversary. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. 5 ayes. 2 nays (Trustee Maher & Mayor Ramos). Motion carried.

Ambulance RFP

Manager Revella: I just want to make sure because I don't have my phone to look at my email to make sure, but in the email where I sent the attachment, it should have had my email with the discussion.

Trustee Maher: I didn't get anything.

Manager Revella: It was that I had noted an issue on one of the pages and discussed it with the Supervisor where they pointed out a section about Walden specifically, I had asked if there was any information regarding the numbers and if that was including or not including Walden and the number of calls did include Walden numbers. The RFP is going to include the call volume, including the Village of Walden.

Trustee Thompson: It was in the one from the 30th.

Mayor Ramos: I'm also reading an email that has just popped up from the Supervisor requesting a meeting with a couple of the board members on the 19th, Monday. Did you get that?

Manager Revella: I don't have it with me.

Trustee Pearson: What does that mean?

Mayor Ramos: I'll send it to everybody else. But he's asking for a couple of board members on the 19th.

Manager Revella: To the ambulance committee.

Mayor Ramos: Yes.

Trustee Thompson: I won't be available that day.

Manager Revella: Somebody else in your place?

Trustee Thompson: I can be on the phone. That's the day before they need an answer from us.

Manager Revella: I don't know if anyone else had any other comments or questions about the RFP itself.

Trustee Elliott: I didn't get it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: We're definitely not including RFP because we didn't opt in before. So we have to make a decision on if we want to be a part of it or not. And then if we say no, we still got to figure out something for ourselves. And if we say yes, and the cost with that. Do we have any information on that?

Manager Revella: I don't have anything official.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Anyone else?

Mayor Ramos: I don't either.

Manager Revella: Unofficially. I was told, like \$140,000. Be paid over 10 years.

Trustee Elliott: Don't we as town taxpayers already pay that?

Manager Revella: This is supposed to be paid only out of the ambulance district tax fund. So, no. We're not going to have a line on our tax bill in January that says Town Ambulance Tax District. That would be on everybody else's bill except ours.

Trustee Elliott: They want us to opt in without knowing how much it costs.

Manager Revella: They won't know how much it costs until the RFP comes back, correct?

Deputy Mayor Carley: Right. I'm sure they got an idea, but I think the problem is we don't have an idea what we want to do. What I'm getting at, we don't know how it is because we don't have anything in place.

Trustee Elliott: They still got to cover us.

Deputy Mayor Carley: We get that and he until the law says let's be kind, let's be fair, let's help people when they need to be helped, good Samaritans and all that. But then it's not a warm and fuzzy for our residents. We want to make sure we have a solid plan in place and then we're moving forward. I don't want to lean on somebody's kindness to provide the village service. We have to figure out what we want to do. Sit on a pot or get off. Want to start doing our own thing to make sure we have an active medical coverage for the village. That's what I'm referring to. We have to figure that out.

Trustee Elliott: It's hard for us to figure that out without knowing what it is.

Deputy Mayor Carley: No, it's not hard for us to figure it out because we know how many people we have in the village. We do our own RFP and we get our own and figure out how much that costs. When this first jumped off way back almost a year ago-ish. The question came up, how much is going to cost? And the committee that was there was supposed to get that information. We were waiting on the consultant to provide us with some information, that did not happen, with a dollar amount so that we can make a decision in a timely manner, that has come and gone. And we're still in a position now where we don't know. As an individual, in respect to what we said earlier, that one person doesn't make a decision for the whole board. But at the same time, we need to make a decision what were we going to do? And the only option that Willie Carley sees is that we work with the town in order to make sure the village is properly covered. Now, if we're not going to work with the town and make sure the village is properly covered, then we need to have a plan of action right now to say this is what the village is going to have for ALS and BLS. Otherwise, let's stop playing games and work with the town and let's move forward.

Trustee Elliott: Would work with the town, but they won't work with us.

Trustee Maher: That's not true.

Deputy Mayor Carley: No, the town is already. They said they've got an unofficial dollar amount.

Trustee Elliott: Let's go through the lists if it's not true.

Deputy Mayor Carley: It's \$140. If we look at \$140, I thought I heard somebody say something about a payment plan, but I don't know if that was sarcasm or not. I don't know how that works, but based on what I remember and I could be 100% wrong, so forgive me, the numbers that we were looking at before was well over \$140,000 to get ALS and BLS for the village by itself. I want to say 300 and something. We're still in a win win position if we work with the town to do the RFP and hopefully come under their umbrella and move forward. Versus the dollar amount that we had once before for just BLS alone. I would like to say that we're here and let's make a decision. Work with the town. Do what we have to do, and let's move forward to make sure everyone's covered, personally.

Mayor Ramos: John, from my obviously perusing the RFP, there was still time for us to enter into the tax district. So the 140 would be the tax funding that would be entered for year 2023. Am I correct?

Manager Revella: That's what we would need for budgeting purposes. We're not included in the tax district. That's already been established. It's too late to be in that district for taxing purposes for 2023. Correct?

Attorney Donovan: That's correct.

Trustee Pearson: There are only 2 options. Unless John knows of another option. What's the 3rd one?

Manager Revella: Do nothing.

Trustee Pearson: And then what?

Manager Revella: If we do nothing, the ambulance companies would still service people for calls from 911.

Deputy Mayor Carley: And that's what Trustee Elliott was saying. We do nothing. I just lean on I don't like to do nothing. We take a side and yes, the side could be do nothing and then we get free service.

Manager Revella: It's not free. The people are paying for it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The people do pay for it. We're not involved in it as a village. I think we need to have an official voice as a village. That's the way I see it.

Manager Revella: If you have the district and I make a call to an ambulance, now the town's paying? I don't have a bill anymore for an ambulance?

Deputy Mayor Carley: No, the individual who calls still has to pay their service.

Manager Revella: Right. So what's the town paying for them?

Deputy Mayor Carley: The town is covering our costs.

Manager Revella: What cost?

Deputy Mayor Carley: For the village. For the ambulance service to cover.

Manager Revella: If I call an ambulance and I'm paying the bill, what's the town paying?

Deputy Mayor Carley: No, I know what you're saying. If some money come under the village warning that the town is going to pay whatever the town pays, we pay only what we're going to pay from our insurance and what comes out of our pocket. That's it. I get it. And I totally understand if we do nothing, it's on the individual to cover their costs. As working as a team member, I say, this is Willie, I understand what you're saying. Let's do nothing.

Manager Revella: If you do something, you're still paying out of pocket and still having your

insurance cover it.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Yes. But we enter into agreement with the town to say we were not here for 2023, but for 2024. And everybody is working together as a team player. And yes, we do have to come up with \$140,000 ish.

Manager Revella: My question is why? Why do you need to pay that if everyone's paying for the service directly? Why do we need to pay with tax dollars on top of that?

Trustee Elliott: Correct.

Manager Revella: Supplementing a private industry. I just don't know why. That's always been my question from the beginning. An industry that's making money. If their business isn't making money, our job is to do a bailout? I don't agree with that.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I'm not using a bailout.

Trustee Thompson: That's what it is.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I don't see it as a bailout for that. If it was for a company that was failing, but we're doing an RFP, so the company may not be failing.

Manager Revella: I don't know. That's true. It could be different company.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Exactly. So, we can't say it's a bailout because we don't know what which company it is.

Manager Revella: But why are we doing it to begin with? Because the company was failing that was doing the service.

Trustee Maher: But also the quality of service was severely lacking. Going back to the original presentation of this is not new. This has been happening for a while. It's happening all across America.

Manager Revella: Drop calls is what you mean.

Trustee Maher: Right.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I guess my argument for contributing or putting skin in the game is working as a team. That's my argument for it. If we sit back and say nothing is like allowing somebody else to have skin in the game and we're just going to sit back and enjoy the benefits of it all. I get it from an economic perspective, but I don't get it from team player perspective. That's me and I agree from a financial perspective, yeah. Saved a dollar and let's move on and then opt in at 24. It will put a bad taste in my mouth.

Manager Revella: I just don't know what we're opting in to.

Trustee Thompson: That's been my concern from day one.

Trustee Elliott: The other thing, too, is you're opting in in 23 and nothing's happening till 24.

Trustee Thompson: They won't have ALS initially.

Trustee Pearson: Unless they hire a company that has ALS. Or different RFPs in there.

Manager Revella: Or a town employee.

Trustee Thompson: Which we don't know what RFP they're going to pick.

Manager Revella: I thought the recommendation was to have a town employee be the paramedic, but I'm not sure that happened in the RFP. I couldn't tell.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So did we get a copy of the RFP?

Trustee Maher: I got one, but not from an official capacity. I got it off the town website.

Mayor Ramos: I don't see any on the RFP. I don't see any dollars and cents.

Trustee Maher: That's what the RFP is asking for.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So what's the meeting for on the 19th?

Manager Revella: I don't know. I didn't get the email yet. I'll check in my office.

Trustee Maher: If you've been following along the whole process. There was a statement of dates for how this was going to happen from the beginning. The deadline for questions regarding the RFP is September 20th. Because there has been no questions submitted from the Village of Walden, and we're the only ones that haven't opted in. The Supervisor sent out an email saying, Hey, wanted to give you guys this opportunity to get your questions and haven't received questions from many people. Just want to make sure you have all your questions answered because we are known for having quite many questions.

Manager Revella: Did he send the email to you, too?

Trustee Maher: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Carley: So the committee that was there before, what happened to that?

Trustee Thompson: We're still here. We've been waiting this whole time for answers to the questions. For what the consultants would present. Everything was later than we were told it was going to be. And here we are still. And we don't know the dollar amount.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That's going to be our question on the 19th?

Trustee Thompson: Correct me if I'm wrong, but the Village of Walden submitted 120 plus questions and didn't get them all answered. I don't know why they're saying we haven't asked questions.

Trustee Maher: That's what the committee was for. To get answers to those questions, reply back to the board, give us information so that we can be prepared with the right questions to ask. And I have not received anything.

Trustee Elliott: I think the questions were still the original ones. Who's going to be the ambulance? Is going to be the town? Is going to be the Ambulance Corps? Is it going to be sourced out?

Deputy Mayor Carley: I thought the original questions was concerning the tax district that's established. Those questions are in the past. Now the questions has to go to the RFP. The committee that was there watching over it for the Village of Walden should have some questions or address the RFP and let's move forward.

Trustee Thompson: I thought the Mayor had all the summary. I thought you were keeping a notebook.

Mayor Ramos: I was.

Trustee Thompson: I don't know all the things that were in the notebook. I thought they were going to be shared with the board.

Trustee Elliott: I just don't know how the any number is accurate without knowing the answer to your questions.

Trustee Sebring: That's what I figured when we they had the presentation with the consultants that the consultants would be giving out numbers that were X, Y and Z for Walden, Montgomery and Maybrook and there was nothing there that showed any numbers to give us or anybody else the idea of what it's going to cost you, other than what the town had told Montgomery and Maybrook in the beginning. For us to join in there now it's like us paying fire tax here in the Village of Walden. The Fire Department does not bill you if you have a fire at your house. But the town wants to add a tax on for you, then when you call the ambulance then you have to pay for that ambulance additionally. That's the problem. If we're being double taxed, I don't like that.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Why would we opt in in 2024? We should just stay the same, do nothing, and just live life?

Manager Revella: The town may reject all RFPs and do nothing. We don't know yet.

Deputy Mayor Carley: I know. I'm talking about the Village of Walden.

Trustee Maher: Right. So, it comes down to now we have to make a decision. Maybe the Village of Walden should have been all this time putting together their own RFP for other services to see how much that would actually officially cost, rather than numbers in a notebook that no one knows.

Trustee Pearson: I think that I've asked that at multiple meetings.

Trustee Maher: We have a committee that supposedly was doing that. I'm saying we agreed as a village to have a committee and that this whole time it was my understanding that this committee was going to be doing the work to find out what those what the cost would be if we did opt out so that we had some options to look at. Our own RFP.

Mayor Ramos: Our charge was not to secure an RFP. Our charge was to seek information to solidify a tax district for Village of Walden's ambulance service. We went to how many ambulance businesses? 9-10. And we've all met with a brick wall. Some of them had good ideas, some of them did not. But they would not commit to assisting us in the Village of Walden. At this point in time, when this RFP is popping up, it's so vague that I can't fathom to maybe an attorney can read this since he's used to reading certain things like this. But it still offers us no dollar signs, no dollar amounts. This RFP is probably going to go out to maybe 6 ambulance services in this area, I'm hoping. We got to find out if the Town of Montgomery is going to adopt whatever company that's

going to be the best company for this this RFP. But we have met with, I will tell you something, it was a brick wall. Every place we went to. We have something to do before the 19th.

Trustee Maher: I hear things like the public's being feared that they're going to be double taxed. And that to me is just so unfortunate that there are people out there that are thinking that and fearing that when that's just poor education on our part, from not giving them the correct information. Because at the very first presentation, it was made very clear that that was the max amount that would be taxed to Walden taxpayers. That was the ultimate highest amount. I don't know where we went from that to so much fear out there from people hearing stories and hearing this from this person. That's where the fear factor comes in and people start coming out with their own people ideas. This just got way out of hand.

Mayor Ramos: People fear that when they call an ambulance, they'll get an ambulance and since we're already paying a tax for the ambulance, that they will receive a bill. ALS over a \$1025. BLS \$900 give or take. They're still going to get a bill that they have to pay with, whether Medicaid, Medicare or their private insurance. But they still have to fund their trip to the hospital. But yet we're paying \$800,000. That's for the first year. We're still we're getting double banked.

Deputy Mayor Carley: The issue was, just to rehearse everything, in the very beginning, the ambulance company that service the Town of Montgomery was designated for us, meaning the all 3 villages. Now the tax district will solidify. Meaning that the priority is here not to go to another like Middletown or some other area. Mutual Aide. Now we fall into the mutual aid category because the designated tax district is the Town of Montgomery minus the Village of Walden. So now we have to do one or two things instead of pointing back and forth. If we say no action because we don't want to pay the \$140,000 issue that's estimated and take no action, and we're going to get service anywhere. All right, fine. Then you steal a mutual aid and you have to deal with it. Now you have to do the diligence, what it takes to find out what will it cost if we want dedicated ambulance service. All the people that the committee talked to before needs to come up with a number so we can do our own RFP. Like Trustee Maher said, if we're going to do this, we have to do it instead of saying they haven't given us anything. We have to come up with our own number. Look at our number and say yes or no to whatever we're going to do. Or we can just be a mutual aid community. There's a problem of being a mutual aid community because you're at the whim of everybody else. That's the reason for a tax district. And it is what it is.

Trustee Pearson: I was approached if we wanted to have a number given by the Montgomery Ambulance Corps privately, if we didn't want to be a service with, I'd be happy to go to them and ask them, unless the Mayor would like to do that. Whether they're going to give it to me or not, I don't know. But it's worth a discussion to see if we want to be on our own, how much it would cost. It gives us something to go by and start with. We've been asking for and you've hit bottom with nobody wanting to supply the Village of Walden because you've said you've hit rock bottom many times. So, I'm just saying I'd be happy to do that if you'd like me to do that.

Mayor Ramos: There will be protocols with that. If we're going to be an ambulance district of our own. We would need assurances that response times in our village would be more optimal than the Town of Montgomery.

Manager Revella: I thought that the district had given us numbers and that Cheryl Baker had mentioned them to us at a prior meeting. It was like half a million or something. It was in the minutes.

Trustee Maher: I remember Cheryl giving us numbers.

Trustee Elliott: If we were to opt in, our response times automatically go down instantly. Because they're moving the ambulance to wherever they're moving, we don't know.

Trustee Maher: I don't think it's accurate information for us to be telling people that when we don't know.

Trustee Elliott: They said they're moving it in their presentation.

Trustee Maher: They may. They may not.

Trustee Elliott: They also said that if the village didn't opt in, they weren't doing it. Until we have it in writing, there's no sense in believing anything they say right now.

Trustee Sebring: There was a comment made at the town board meeting that they were going to build an Ambulance Corps building directly across from the Town Hall. That's probably where they would put that building.

Trustee Maher: But that takes time. That's not something that's going to be done overnight. I have a problem when there's Trustees who are going around saying things that aren't true.

Trustee Elliott: This is coming from them. I didn't make that up.

Trustee Maher: Who is?

Trustee Elliott: The board. Brian Maher.

Trustee Maher: Said that our response time is definitely going to go down. He said that?

Trustee Elliott: Yes, because you're moving it out of the village. It can't go up.

Trustee Maher: I just think we have to be very careful as Trustees and not just even on this issue, on all of our issues when we say something that is not accurate.

Trustee Elliott: This came from the town and the paramedic who was with the ambulance guy that was sitting there actually agreed with it.

Trustee Maher: Then maybe we dig in to that, get someone here to give us an accurate answer. Is our response time going to go down by opting into the tax district? That's a very good question.

Trustee Elliott: I asked it that. And then I asked about the substation. Would we keep the substation in Walden? And the answer was, I don't know. But now I'm hearing they're going to put a substation in the Village of Montgomery.

Trustee Maher: Well, that could be something that we could, as a board, collectively say, we want to opt in. Here's our one, two and three non-negotiables and one of them can be that for the purpose of equal response time. I think, again, this is something that needs to be discussed.

Trustee Elliott: Trustees questions that were asked and not answer. They were asked multiple times.

Deputy Mayor Carley: Just an fyi, if you have an ambulance station in the Village of Walden response time is going to be short. If the ambulance is stationed in the Town of Montgomery, right

across from the Town Hall, the response time is going to be longer because it has to get here to Walden. It's one of those things where when you say you want to do your own, then you can have your own, but it's going to cost. When we say that we work collectively and they move it, then guess what? Yeah, it's going to be longer because it's just miles and speed and everything else that comes along with it.

Trustee Elliott: Depending on the time of day that you might need it, it could be a drastic change.

Deputy Mayor Carley: That was the issue before when it was brought up, when we initially talked about this, opting in about the station ambulance here. Then we didn't opt in. Now it's moved to the town. They could still do it. It's up to them now. We don't have a say.

Trustee Elliott: What's to stop us from creating our own Village of Walden Ambulance?

Deputy Mayor Carley: Money.

Trustee Elliott: We're either going to pay it in tax money over there or they're going to pay it with our own tax money here. Either way our taxes are going up.

Trustee Maher: I think that's where a lot of the frustration comes from, because I would think that at this point, we would have a little bit more of an understanding from a taxpayer perspective of which one is going to cost our village residents more and which one is the better option for quality of care. I think at the end of the day, that is the ultimate goal for our residents. I know I've spoken to many residents who would not mind paying more if it meant better quality of care.

Deputy Mayor Carley: There's no there's no definitive answer on quality of care. But you can say if they station the ambulance here in the Village of Walden, the on average and this is where Keith Hunter was talking about risk management says we will have the possibility of having an ambulance there sooner. Possibility, no guarantees. When we talk about having our own ambulance district for the Village of Walden, \$140,000 versus \$500,000. I'm slow and I don't think I'm that slow.

Trustee Maher: I don't think those are accurate numbers, Willie.

Deputy Mayor Carley: No, they're accurate enough to give us an estimate because it was based off an estimate of the \$140 and it was based off the estimate of what we had before. I can remember where we got the \$300 or \$400,000. So I'm using those as general numbers to say the differences in costs. That's all I'm using for. Once we get the numbers to be accurate, we can make it. But for conversation, it was around \$300 or \$400,000 versus this \$140 we talking. So let's keep it at \$140 or \$150 just to raise it up and \$300, that's half. I'm just saying.

Trustee Elliott: I don't think the calls, I don't know how accurate that is because it doesn't specify what the call was. In other words, you could get called to a car accident and an ambulance wasn't really needed for that. But they're counting that as a call. I would like to see a breakdown of that.

Trustee Maher: They do a breakdown of the detailed calls and which ones needed transport.

Manager Revella: But it wasn't an RFP. They do a breakdown, I've seen the report.

Deputy Mayor Carley: There's a difference between the calls and transport.

Trustee Elliott: And who has the most transported calls?

Manager Revella: I don't remember that.

Deputy Mayor Carley: There was an argument about where the line was with the Town of Montgomery, with the Village of Walden addresses and things of that nature. We can go back and rehash that all day long, but we still got to make a decision about what we're going to do moving forward.

Trustee Pearson: Responses times, ambulances could be out on another call anyway, and they're not going to be coming at the same time being in the station.

Trustee Sebring: That's why they have drop calls. Because they're out.

Trustee Pearson: Exactly. So, that can happen no matter where they're at, whether they're in the Town of Montgomery, the Village of Walden. I just remember the Fire Department when they moved from this building and they built the new Fire Department on the other side, the west side was kind of left out of all of that. Everybody on the west side was so worried about the response time of the Fire Department getting to the west side because they have one little fire truck. I don't know response times. But I think it's worked out okay. I think we have to look at the bigger picture. I think we don't have what we needed from the reports. We just kind of have to decide what direction we're going to go and are we going to move forward or are we going to wait in and ask questions for the meeting and then decide after that? I'd be happy to get a number. I understand, Mayor that you're worried about things in that, but they can just give a general kind of consensus number. It does have to be a final number. And then the board can only say, this is what we want in it, not in it. I think that's at least a step in maybe a direction that we should be taking because I don't think we're going to solve anything tonight.

Mayor Ramos: Everybody inclined.

Deputy Mayor Carley: It won't hurt, you can go pull it and then we can confirm and then we move on.

Trustee Pearson: I'd be happy to do that. At least we'll move forward a little bit because there's not going to be any decisions this evening. And do we want to come up with questions or will the committee come up with questions?

Attorney Donovan: Is this just contents of the RFP?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Attorney Donovan: My understanding the town is soliciting comments before the RFP goes out. Is there any other questions you want asked in the RFP, any other information you want disclosed in the RFP.

Mayor Ramos: Any other board members have any questions, you can send them to Trustee Thompson.

Trustee Thompson: I thought you were in charge of our committee.

Mayor Ramos: I am. But you want know something? I've got about a million emails. I didn't even see the RFP until just now.

Trustee Maher: I don't mind putting questions together. I'll send them out to everyone.

Trustee Pearson: I'll send them to both.

Public Comment

Jerry Jacobowitz: I'm here on behalf of property on Edmund's Lane that we've asked for a change of zone for 121 foot strip of land between an OL-I zone and an R3 zone. All that we want you to do tonight is authorize it to go to the Planning Board, for them to do their thing and provide you with a report so that you're getting information from somebody other than me. These are your professionals. The attorney, the engineer, the Building Inspector and the members of the Planning Board are all there to review the proposal and get a report back to you. This is nonbinding. You can do whatever you're going to do with the report when it comes to you. I've heard you talking all night and the big item is life and death with an ambulance corps and the question of money and our project is going to, if approved, will have 7 new single family homes backed up to the homes on Coldenham Road and then a new non-nuisance industry building on the OL-I property. 3 to 4 months ago I contacted the village and raised this question. I was told that it was not something that your board would initiate on your own. That there had to be a request. I'm here to ask you to take the next step, which is to comply with your own law, chapter 305 of the Zoning Law article 11 Amendment 305-66 Procedure for Amendment. *read law into minutes* So, if you don't send it to the Planning Board, the way I read this, you don't have power to take any action on the request that we've made. That's not fair. The submission, you require a \$500 payment that was delivered to the village on August 11th. The Planning Board can't go further without a referral from you. The reason that I have to ask for this is that the strip of land 121 feet with strip of land was OL-I. Then was changed to R3. All we're asking is that the strip of land be rezoned back to where it was as OL-I. Without it, the parcel is irregular and is a very difficult piece to develop for an industrial use. There has to be significant storm water facilities. There has to be adequate parking, access ways, landscaping, all of those things. With the way that the land ends up when you take away 121 foot strip for a depth of 500 feet, which is at 1.3 acres. The parcel is not adaptable to an industrial kind of building. The frontage is reduced and you have a provision in the zoning that says 50 feet has to be the distance between a building and an R3 zone. So you take away 121 feet, then you take away another 50 feet. That's 171 foot of frontage on Edmund's lane of property that would otherwise be usable for the OL-I. This will have no adverse effect on the residential component. The Planning Board previously had approved 7 lots for the residential property by adding another 121 feet. You can't get another lot there. It's physically impossible to get more lots there by adding 121 feet to the residential. The last part of it is that the change was based on a mistake. When whoever did the review of the zoning map, the property was divided between R3 and OL-I on the zoning map. Historically the property was two parcels. But they've been conveyed over all these years as one piece of land. But because it was two tax map parcels, they said we can't have a district line go through the middle of a property and have two different zoning. We have to follow the lot line. Well, the lot line wasn't the plot line because it was all one piece not divided by the way the tax map showed. And the historically, the deeds all treat it as one parcel of land and how it ended up getting two tax map numbers 50-60 years ago, there's nobody around to ask. As a result, under the change in the zoning where you didn't want a parcel split between two different zoning districts, all you did is move the line 121 feet to another place that divided the property into two district zones. We're asking that that be reviewed by the Planning Board and for them to report back to you with a recommendation.

Manager Revella: I just want to make sure the board is aware of the petition we received. You should have gotten copies of the letters in your boxes the first time in August 1st. Then again there was an updated letter. It was in your box as well. I have the actual physical petitions on the table inside my office with all the exhibits available for review.

Attorney Donovan: Just a couple of things. One request for a zone change is a request for a legislative act. That's discretionary. You're not required to do anything. However, if you're going to proceed to a public hearing, you must refer to the Planning Board. If you elect not to do anything, you don't need to make a referral. You can make a referral and make a determination at a public hearing. But you cannot hold a public hearing without the referral. If I can, there are just a couple of cases which hold that a Board of Trustees is not required to consider or vote on a zone change petition. There was the second department where we are cases as recently as 2020. So, you're not required to do anything. But if you wish to hold a public hearing, you must refer to the Planning Board.

Manager Revella: Or if you just want to know what the Planning Board has to say about it.

Attorney Donovan: You can do that as well. But again, you still don't have to take any action unless you want to. Because it's a legislative act. You decide what's in the best interests of the village.

Manager Revella: Can come back from the Planning Board, well, we don't like it. You could table it at that time if you wanted to.

Attorney Donovan: The Planning Board came back and said, we think it's the greatest thing in the world. It's still discretionary act.

Jerry Jacobowitz: I don't want to have an argument about the law here. I disagree, though, with part of what Mr. Donovan has said, part of what he said, I do agree with. Cases he's referring to didn't have a section like your law. I looked at all those cases. They do not say what your law says. Why your law says this, not within my knowledge, but it's the words are very clear, says "shall". And that's why I'm here before you, to beg you basically to just let the process happen and you'll get your chance to review it and make your decision with facts, with honest, intelligent analysis from your Planning Board, the Engineer, the Planning Board Attorney, your Building Department.

Manager Revella: So the request is, if the board wants to, is to send the petition and its exhibits to the Planning Board for review and recommendation doesn't bind you into taking any action whatsoever. Not required to. But if you want to know what they have to say about it to review it, it may make sense to see what's going to happen on that parcel.

Trustee Thompson made a motion to refer petition from Kissaroo, LLC to Planning Board. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 6 ayes. 1 nay(Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

Mary Ellen Matise: I just want to make a quick comment about funding for the ambulance district. Basically, if we funded through the village, then you're dealing with the tax cap because it's going to be part of your budget. So that becomes an issue depending on what the cost, what the price tag is. When you're talking about a price that you heard, I remember somebody saying that you had gotten a quote from mobile life for \$350,000. So maybe that's what you're thinking about, Willie. Now mobile life has really changed the type of service they're providing in general. It seems to be off the table. Then the \$140,000, whether that still holds water or not. Nobody really knows until you wind up getting a quote from whoever you ask for a quote from. The advantage of the district is the district doesn't have to come under cap per se, not the same as the village budget. So if the taxpayers to the village are paying through the district, it's not affecting the village budget, aside from the fact that it's not coming in our tax base, in our tax rate, and you're spreading it over a broader tax base, which is always better. I do want to make some comments, though, about the 9/11 ceremony, and I'm really appalled that you're going to move it to once every 5 years. Since the war of 1812 is the first time we've ever been attacked on our own soil. That's over 200 years. Why

wouldn't we commemorate it? We do Memorial Day every year. And those soldiers, the monument down here, 1890, those soldiers have been dead since 1865. That started Memorial Day. We do Veterans Day. Why aren't we doing it every year and a scaled down version? Maybe contact the churches, have it at the churches instead of in the village square the way we have the Thanksgiving ceremony. I really think we should keep it alive.

Payment of Audited Bills

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

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Pearson: 9/11, the insurance for that. Is the village being responsible with the insurance or they'll be paying somebody who was in charge of the 9/11 will be?

Manager Revella: It's not our event, so it wouldn't be the village's insurance.

Trustee Pearson: So they have to have insurance. That's covered, Mayor?

Mayor Ramos: Yes.

Trustee Thompson: I forgot to mention it earlier, but in the minutes from the last meeting, there was discussion about John and Marisa putting together a welcome packet.

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Thompson: It said something about if I would like to help you. If you're not finished with it, I forgot all about that.

Manager Revella: We did a lot of updates. We need help with the business listings. I don't want to miss anything.

Trustee Thompson: I'm willing to help you do that before it's finalized.

Manager Revella: Thank you.

Mayor Ramos: I have no other comment. I did attend a wonderful event there for the overdose drug awareness last Wednesday. It was very touching. Happy to see a lot of people that are participating and in remembering people with this tragedy.

Executive Session – safety plan, attorney client

Trustee Pearson made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss safety plan and attorney client. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried

Reconvene

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
September 6, 2022
Motions & Resolutions**

Approval of August 16, 2022, Minutes

Trustee Elliott made a motion to approve the August 16, 2022 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Deputy Mayor Carley) Motion carried.

Local Law 4 of 2022 – Landlord Registry

Trustee Thompson made a motion to adopt Local Law 3 of 2022 Landlord Registry. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. All ayes. Motion carried.

Resolution 11-22-23 - CDBG

Trustee Elliott made a motion adopt resolution 11-22-23 CDBG. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Veterans Day Ceremony Request

Trustee Maher made a motion to approve Veterans Day Ceremony Request. Seconded by Trustee Elliott. 6 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried. committee.

9/11 Ceremony

Trustee Sebring made a motion to approve the request for use of Fireman's Triangle for 9/11 Ceremony on September 11th at 7:30pm. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. 6 ayes. 1 nay (Trustee Thompson). Motion carried.

Trustee Elliott made a motion to approve the 9/11 ceremony every 5th year from the anniversary. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Carley. 5 ayes. 2 nays (Trustee Maher & Mayor Ramos). Motion carried.

Edmunds Lane Petition

Trustee Thompson made a motion to refer petition from Kissaroo, LLC to Planning Board. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. 6 ayes. 1 nay (Trustee Pearson). Motion carried.

Payment of Audited Bills

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

Executive Session – safety plan, attorney client

Trustee Pearson made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss safety plan and attorney client. Seconded by Trustee Maher. All ayes. Motion carried

Reconvene

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