

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
October 1, 2024**

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	Chris Batson
	Trustees	Becky Pearson
		Liz Kyle
		Bill Taylor
		Kristie Hall

Absent: Ralph Garrison, Jr.

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

Hearing – 76-80 West Main – Unsafe Building

Building Inspector Wallner: I'm here with this property that's been vacant, abandoned for many years. It's severely decayed and become in an unsafe condition, and I'd like the board to consider requesting that the property owner take some action. I have several photos here that you might not have received *gave photos to the board*

Attorney Donovan: Do we know, is the property owner here?

Mayor Ramos: Yes.

Building Inspector Wallner: I met with Mr. Concolino last year. Regarding this same situation and at that time he indicated that he was possibly looking at restoring the building to some extent and at which time I asked him to give me a deadline and have an engineer give us a definitive plan. That was last August and to date, I haven't heard anything.

Trustee Pearson: What's the use in that building? What is the use supposed to be? Are there apartments? Is it just business only? What is it listed?

Building Inspector Wallner: There's no dwelling spaces. Strictly commercial. At one time there were 2 commercial spaces there.

Manager Revella: Single story, B3 zone, right?

Building Inspector Wallner: Single story, B3. There's no foundation. The roof is collapsing. The significant leak in the back of the building. The structure is decayed, in my opinion, beyond repair.

Trustee Taylor: Rob, say it's unsafe, what have we done to make sure that the residents are protected from this building?

Building Inspector Wallner: Besides issuing multiple violations and hoping that the property owner would take action, I've asked the Village Engineer to review it and he agrees that it's unsafe in the condition it's in. It's accessible. It hasn't even been secured. I've witnessed rodents myself, rats in the building because it's wide open. Really, we've been depending on the property owner to take action.

Trustee Taylor: At this point, the residents aren't protected from getting in and out of this building or could sustain an injury as it sits right now.

Building Inspector Wallner: Definitely. If someone goes in the backside, no question about it.

Trustee Taylor: At this point, waiting for corrective action is not working. I think we would have to take some immediate corrective action to protect the residents of the village.

Attorney Donovan: The order of repair notice of hearing unsafe building states, this has been served on both property owners. The purpose of the hearing is to allow the property owner to show cause why an order should not be made and issued by the Village Board directly to the repair, securing and/or demolition and removal if the building should not commence within a certain period of time. So, you hear from the Building Inspector, if the property owner's here, this is his opportunity to state to the board what his intentions are and after the board has heard from everyone, then it's your opportunity to make a determination as to which direction you wish to proceed.

Trustee Taylor: That I understand. My concern is the immediate corrective action, if it's warranted.

Andrew Concolino: I know they met with him in August. Was getting ready to start building last year and fixing that one wall that's adjacent to the corner building and my contractor at the time didn't think it was safe to work next to them, so we've been going back and forth trying to sell the property now and have it redeveloped. I've gotten the violation, I think the beginning of last month or the middle of last month and I've been taking steps, I got the power turned off. I want to start getting the water turned off and looking to actually knocking down the building and going from there. I'm prepared to do that as soon as possible. I just need the proper steps. I have it listed right now. I'm actively trying to sell the property since I believe the beginning of August. I am not happy with the situation right now. I know that I've let the property get worse. We were getting ready to like, you know, we demoed it, got it gutted and we were going to start jacking it up and putting a foundation underneath it and life got in the way. COVID happened. I know it's not an excuse, but I did buy the property a month or 2 before there was the shutdowns and work was slow. I'm a business owner and sometimes things happen. I know it's not an excuse. But I'm being honest with everyone here. But I am able and willing to do the steps necessary to knock this building down, level the property and then get my feet back together, maybe sell it or plan to build a new structure there.

Trustee Pearson: Do you have anybody looking at it to buy it?

Andrew Concolino: I had a couple of people look already to look. I haven't been there to show it because I'm not the real estate agent, but my real estate agent has showed it to a few people. I showed it to the neighbor that owns the building with the smoke shop in it. He was interested. Other than that, there are just a few people that contacted me, try to make an offer. I went to the man who bought the building on the corner.

Trustee Pearson: What were you planning on doing it when you bought it originally?

Andrew Concolino: I wanted to put an antique shop in there. I'm a curator and art appraiser, auctioneer, manage estate sales. I work in Kingston, down in Manhattan. I travel around the world to catalog stuff. That was my plan. I wanted to put a gallery space in there for my side work and conduct auctions out of the building.

Trustee Pearson: Is it 2 separate spaces in that building?

Andrew Concolino: It can be 2 separate spaces or you can make it 1. It was 2. There was a barber shop in there, last I know and B&D Taxi, I think.

Trustee Pearson: Do you really want to tear it down?

Andrew Concolino: The structure, like Rob said, is really not worth saving at this point. And then digging next to the brick building could compromise that brick building, if you're digging too close. It's just like a lot of things piled up. So, if it was gone, you have all the area free to actually work and not be in anyone's way and you can cut the building in a little more because they're like pretty much like builds.

Trustee Pearson: Do you have parking in the back of that building?

Andrew Concolino: There's no parking. On the survey, says there is a right of way in the back. There's no, technically, I don't own any of the parking lot behind the building.

Trustee Taylor: Now that we've established that it is unsafe, I'll go back to my original question. I hear what you're trying to do. You're trying to sell it. You know what the prognosis of that is? You don't know at this point. My concern will always be for the residents of the village. What have we done to ensure nobody accesses that building?

Andrew Concolino: There's boards on the side. You really have to try to get in there. I don't think you can sneak in there. I could put more boards on there and make it less accessible. We gutted it down to the original structure. There was probably 4 layers of added structure that like if the floor sunk a little bit, they cut a 2 by 4 on an angle to prop the floor up. No one ever actually fixed the building. We got it down to the original structure that was compromised 60-70 years ago before I even was a thought. The building has been shot for probably the last 40 years. I'm just the last owner of it. I gutted it all down to the original studs.

Trustee Taylor: I guess the only thing I'm asking here is what is your intent?

Andrew Concolino: My intentions now would be to knock it down and redevelop the property. The housing market is booming. I still do auctions online. I could still use the space. I own it outright. I could build it, redevelop the property if I have to.

Trustee Taylor: I guess what I'm looking for is some steps that we're going to take. You know, kids will be kids, they see a vacant building and...

Andrew Concolino: No one's been in there. I go down there probably a couple times a week, my brother or someone goes in there. I do have stuff in there that's stored or stuff in there for my business. I don't notice any activity in there if that's what you're trying to say.

Trustee Taylor: Is there anything that you think you could do to restrict any access?

Andrew Concolino: Of course. There's locks on all the doors. I have the one door you can't open. I

could go down there and put more boards up and board the windows up, board the doors up.

Trustee Hall: At that point, the kids should stay out, they're trespassing.

Andrew Concolino: No one goes in there. There's no, cigarettes in there, no beer cans in there. There's no signs of activity from the public going in there other than cigarette butts on the sidewalk.

Trustee Pearson: Is there a basement?

Andrew Concolino: There's no basement, there's no foundation. It's just on, picture a deck and they just put a roof over the deck and they probably did that back in the 20s. In between the 2 buildings because the 2 buildings originally had windows on the sides. At some point, someone put the building up in between the 2 buildings.

Trustee Kyle: I just had a quick question. I know you had mentioned trying to sell it, but then you also said your main goal right now would be to tear it down.

Andrew Concolino: Remedy the violations and that's only if I could figure out how to because there's no point of repairing it if it's going to cost more money to repair the building than it would to build a new building.

Trustee Kyle: I was just trying to clarify, were you kind of giving up hope and then putting it on the market?

Andrew Concolino: Pretty much. I figured the guy on the corner would have bought it from me. He developed a lot of the houses on Oak Street and I figured he was the best bet and he didn't want to buy it or it didn't work out. So, now I'm here.

Trustee Kyle: That's not really what you wanted to do, right? Did you want to try to salvage it?

Andrew Concolino: Try to fix it, yeah. Try to put a business there. I've lived here for 20 years. I've loved to see how town has changed since I moved here to today. It's like a new town, to be honest.

Trustee Hall: Have you looked into any contractors to demo the building yet?

Andrew Concolino: I had one. It's my boss. I also do my business on the side. But I do work part time too. My boss's boyfriend works for La Mela garbage company. They were saying they have a guy and we were to plan on going there this week and see what they thought. I've sent them pictures already. They think it's something they can handle.

Trustee Hall: You don't have official quotes or anything, but you've kind of talked to somebody a little bit, kind of have an idea.

Andrew Concolino: Yeah, I've been talking to people. I got the power turned off. The next step would be to get the lines move from the building, the gas disconnected, the water disconnected and go from there.

Trustee Hall: Have you talked to anybody about any of that? Are you just kind of more in the beginning stages of all this?

Andrew Concolino: More in the beginning stages.

Trustee Hall: You really don't have time frames on anything yet. You just kind of figure out what you have to do with the next steps you have to take. If that's what you have to do, I think the next step's, figure it out and bring it back.

Trustee Pearson: Rob, to remedy the violations without tear down. Is it possible? Putting more boards on, that kind of thing, is that setting some rat traps, that kind of thing? Does that work until he decides whether he's definitely going to tear it down or not or fix?

Building Inspector Wallner: *inaudible from audience*

Andrew Concolino: I feel like if you gave me the deadline I would work with you. We are neighbors. I live right up the hill so I'm ready to go. The building, you've been in there, it's 50% done and we did it all by hand so it's a matter of bringing an excavator in and pulling it down.

Trustee Taylor: Rob, just looking at the violation, clarify for me, it says the building now becoming unsafe and detrimental to both the adjoining neighbors and the general public that may pass the building. Can you elaborate on that statement?

Building Inspector Wallner: The roof structure is severely compromised. You can see out to the sky from inside. Can I evaluate if it's capable of holding wet snow? That's outside of my training.

Mayor Ramos: Everyone could agree with me, but I want to see a systematic plan starting with contractor coming up giving a quote on what needs to be done, how it's going to be done, and obviously in coordination with the Building Inspectors, what you need to obtain permits for demolishing the building. But we want to see a systematic plan. I'll hold you to something right now and then you provide us with a scope of work on what you plan on doing. You said that your druthers would be to sell the place, but the person, whoever is going to buy, is going to be in the same situation that you're in today. You got to either assure this board that you're going to further the business venture or sell it.

Andrew Concolino: Understood.

Mayor Ramos: We want a steadfast #1 on what you're going to do. It will be on record and then you forward to the Building Inspector, into the Village Board of what your plans are systematically and we're going to hold you to those days.

Attorney Donovan: If I may be so bold to make a suggestion to the board. Have them come back in 2 weeks, but in the interim, my suggestion, if the board is so inclined, is to have 2 things done. 1, have the gentleman work with the Building Inspector to make sure that the site and the building are safe and secure from the travelling public. Number 2, the violation indicates that the rear yard area is overgrown and in need of cutting and cleanup. That be done within the same 2 week period and then in 2 weeks...Do I have the wrong one? Well, clean up the property, put it that way, if I'm ahead of myself, that he cleans up the property renders it safe to the traveling public, comes back with a plan in 2 weeks, work with the Building Inspector in the interim.

Trustee Hall made a motion to direct the property owner to work with the Building Inspector to make the property safe and secure to the general public and clean up any outside debris and return in 2 weeks with a plan. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Hearing – 60 Main St – Unsafe Building

Building Inspector Wallner: This particular structure, I have not had the opportunity to enter, so I can't speak to the condition of the inside. Mostly the back part of the structure has been an ongoing

issue with property maintenance. The grass and weeds they grow up and this is a monthly violation that's sent out to remind the property owner to clear the lot. In addition to that, the back of the building appears extremely unkept and decayed. There's some sharp metal hanging off the back of it and it's for the neighboring businesses and dwelling. It's an eyesore to say the least. In addition to Main Street, right in the middle of some very well-kept buildings and being it's the center of our village, I'd really like to see some effort made in cleaning this project up. I have multiple pictures, some are older, some are quite recent.

Manager Revella: Any questions for the property owner?

Trustee Taylor: I have the same questions that I had on the previous issue that was being discussed just prior to yours. The violation now indicates that the building is unsafe to the general public. My question to you is going to be the same as my question to the other gentleman, what are we doing to ensure the general safety of the public relevant to this building?

Sandro Tortora: The building has been locked up. There is no access to it so the general public cannot access without breaking in. There's no posted signs which we could provide to put behind the building. It's unused. We have no water, no electrical. It was intended to be a full renovation. In the past 10 years we had some problems with **inaudible** and timing just hit me financially, so at that point we had to just put it to the side. In the last few years I had some family issues. Health issues to take care of, so financial strain that did not allow me to do anything with it. But I always try to do diligence and try to make it at least safe. We don't want anybody to get hurt. I did find a problem last year, with next door building, the roof slopes onto my side and all the water slides onto our roof. The back gutter just got knocked out and started to rip down into that portion that Robert was talking about. That's what we have like a little bit of damage, which is maybe 5 by 5 into the back portion of the flat roof area.

Trustee Taylor: There's no access to this right now?

Sandro Tortora: No, there's no access. I have access. It's boarded up and there's no access. The aesthetic. Yes. There is wooden siding from 1900 and there is a little flashing from the roof while it was cut off from another addition that we demolished back in the days when we started to working on project. So, we have a partial demolition down in the ground floor. It's all gutted out. The structure is really sound. We've got 30-inch stone walls, we've got balloon framing all the way out and everything is solid. It's just waiting for an investor to refurbish it. I had it on the market for a little less than 3 years now. Unfortunately, the real estate agency that I used in April didn't get results, unless I will give it out for free. So, I had to take things in my own hands, so for now it's for sale by owner and I have 3 pending offers on it, so I'm trying to find someone that is willing to invest into the town and just pay for the share. Which they did confirm that that was the plan.

Trustee Pearson: Do you know when your approval for your 4 apartments was? What year was it?

Sandro Tortora: 2012, I think. I'm not sure. Don't quote me on that. I can check for you.

Trustee Pearson: My question to that is we would consider this kind of an abandoned building. Does it revert back after a year to what it was before it was approved?

Attorney Donovan: I need more facts. The general rule is, if you're abandoned for, if you're not conforming use. If you're permitted use... Becky, I don't really know enough to answer that definitively.

Trustee Pearson: Can we find that out please?

Attorney Donovan: We can. I'm not sure what it has to do with the issue at hand.

Trustee Pearson: It has to do with taking it, but whatever he's going to do with it, taking it back to the, I mean, it's been abandoned since 2012. He hasn't done any work there. Then why would that stick that he has 4 apartments in there? There's no parking in that space. There's no parking for that building, number 1. My question is, why would it not revert back to the original zoning, which is village code after a year of being left empty? It reverts back to village code of being what it was.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Is there anything that's going to stop you from accepting 1 of those 3 offers so a future owner can revitalize or do whatever it needs to do to get this building back up?

Sandro Tortora: We're in talks. *inaudible*

Deputy Mayor Batson: Do you know what their plans for the building are? Renovate it, demolish.

Sandro Tortora: Some people like whatever was approved back and some other people want to just to keep it the same way, like the 2 floors with the 2 apartments and the store front.

Trustee Pearson: Is there a basement?

Sandro Tortora: Yes.

Trustee Hall: Is that a shared basement with other buildings?

Sandro Tortora: It's totally confined. It's accessible from inside.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Rob, you believe that this building is unsafe, but is it in your opinion and I understand that you haven't been able to get inside, is it salvageable?

Building Inspector Wallner: It's difficult to answer that without having seen the inside. *inaudible from audience* would like Village Engineer to review.

Trustee Pearson: If it had apartments in there, why wouldn't it have inspections anyway? We don't have to inspect on the vacant building? How does that work?

Manager Revella: It's vacant and boarded up. What's even there to inspect?

Trustee Pearson: It's not boarded up in the front of the building. You can look inside the front. It's got a chair in the front window.

Manager Revella: The rear is.

Trustee Hall: If we ask you to come back in 2 weeks like the other gentleman, would you have a better idea if you're possibly accept one of those 3 offers?

Sandro Tortora: Sure. I'm gonna find out who's moving forward. I just found 1 today.

Attorney Donovan: If I may be so bold, I would, if you want to put it over for 2 weeks, I would condition upon having the Building Inspector and the Village Engineer to walk through a site inspection, interior, exterior and have the gentleman have the rear yard cleaned up.

Trustee Kyle: I was going to ask if you can let the Building Department come in and inspect the inside.

Sandro Tortora: Can make an appointment.

Trustee Pearson: Can we check also on the non-conforming use of that since it's been abandoned?

Attorney Donovan: Sure, but I'm not sure what one has to do with the other at this point.

Trustee Pearson: I'd just like to know the answer for 2 weeks from now.

Trustee Taylor: Dave, you're expecting the same caveats that you imposed on the first one?

Attorney Donovan: Well, you guys. Absolutely, 100%. Your point of view, you want this building safe for the people in the area, the general public and you want to make sure that there's a plan, the fact that he may or may not have a buyer for closing, which may or may not occur. Something needs to happen to the building. The place needs to be cleaned up and there needs to be a plan for remediation. I think that the Village Engineer, the Building Inspector need to get in there.

Trustee Pearson: And have him give us a plan in 2 weeks as well.

Attorney Donovan: That's my suggestion to the board.

Mayor Ramos: You're going to get together with the engineer and the Building Inspector within the week so that we have something 2 weeks from now, correct?

Sandro Tortora: I could do that.

Trustee Taylor made a motion to October 15th, conditioned upon before October 15th is a walk-through site inspection, both interior and exterior, with the Building Inspector and the Village Engineer. A plan for remediation to make the building safe to the general public and that the rear yard cleanup be remediated prior to October 15th. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

Village Manager's Report

- Had a few discussions and meetings with the various office staff regarding office procedures and improving
- Went over some purchase orders and rehab loans with the Village Treasurer, including some satisfactions for pay offs
- Went over the fall decorations and programs the Rec Coordinator, including the prep for Harvest Fest. As well as Public Works, doing the same
- Went over the finals for Walker St and South St, the curbing, sidewalk and paving projects
- Met with a potential developer for 29 Grant St. They're supposed to be talking to the Planning Board about developing the project down there
- Went over senior garbage requests and sewer relief requests with the Deputy Treasurer, along with invoices from the Deputy Treasurer/Clerk
- Did interview some potential candidates for Police Department and went over the Police Chief list and started the canvas for that
- Did some reviews of planning updates with the Village Planner for the comp plan and comments that we got from some of the members. Finalize them as 4 so that could be submitted

- Payroll, covered for time off for staff
- Met with Orange Bank and Trust to go over their corporate cards and lock box
- Had a conference with Spectrum and the Deputy Treasurer/Clerk for the new service implementation
- Went over some accounting and billing with the Deputy Treasurer
- Had a park review with Orange County Office of the Aging down at the Anita Vandemark Center to see what kind of programs they can have down there
- Rec department, they have the senior bus trip ready. Flyers out along with the Jets bus trip. Outdoor soccer is going on now. Teen Center, after school, going on. Indoor pickleball is picking back up to 3 times a week. Programming at the Vandemark Community Center has stepped up. There are some new programs down there and Harvest Fest was wonderful
- The Building Department issued 10 new permits, 46 violations. Been following up with the engineer on 36 Orange Ave. They issued 3 stop work orders, 2 CO's, FOIL request responded to, 5 Planning and Zoning meeting items and had 3 court proceedings for property violations
- Clerk's been updating Facebook, website 207c, FOILs, handicap requests. Had the meetings with the office staff about procedures, minutes, went over dig permits
- Finance Department. They went through the NYSEG invoices by location, phone system upgrades, internet upgrades, bank reqs, billing concerns, Edmunds updates, reviewing vouchers, support calls and met on the office procedures
- Public works been pressing sludge down the sewer plant. They're doing their updates, getting ready. Once the equipment comes in, the contractor will be in there to update the pumps. Water Department did 13 mark outs, replaced 10 meters, 27 endpoints and did 2 closings. They made sure drainage was up to date on the Walker and South Street projects and as well as doing that throughout the village, patching and making sure catch basins are up to speed before winter. Also did some sidewalk repairs and helped prepare for Harvest Fest
- Police Department. We do have another new officer that started. They were going to come tonight to be introduced, but they had a family conflict. They should be here next meeting. We do have a couple of new Part-Time Dispatchers as well that will be here at the next meeting. Police did conduct 25 traffic stops with 21 summonses issued, 24 parking tickets, 5 mva's, 13 arrests and there's 272 blotters.

Trustee Pearson: Grant St, you had a meeting. What's going on Grant?

Manager Revella: A developer wants to go down there and do a development, I told him they have to go to the Planning Board. They asked what kind of opportunities there are down there. I'm like, well, it's MX zone. There's a list for MX. They were aware of the plans from the prior developer. They had a similar idea. Retail, commercial, first floor and residential, the upper floors. As well as potentially adding another building in the back.

Trustee Pearson: It's been sold to someone.

Manager Revella: Not yet. The developer is looking at it though.

Trustee Pearson: Will plantings be done at Olley Park this fall in the front?

Manager Revella: I don't know.

Trustee Pearson: Are you putting any set of steps in the front of that building or people walk up the side on the black?

Manager Revella: No. Sides only.

Trustee Pearson: Was told by somebody that they have a tree that was taking up part of the sidewalk and they were made to replace the village sidewalk.

Manager Revella: That's what's in the code, correct.

Trustee Pearson: They actually have to replace the sidewalk when our tree rooting up the sidewalk, and they have to fix it.

Manager Revella: Any tree. It's not our tree, God own's them. It's in the code.

Trustee Pearson: We bought a lot of wood. What we use that wood for?

Manager Revella: The stage for Harvest Fest.

Trustee Pearson: We built a new stage?

Manager Revella: We replaced a bunch of the pieces.

Trustee Pearson: I wish we could shop local for DPW and PD. We send them down to the Army Navy store. We have a store right here in Walden that can service us as well, so I don't know why we don't shop local number 1. I've said that for every year that I've worked here. If we're not shopping local. It's not bid pricing. In the report for the Building Inspector, looking for space and are we going to address that at any time? He's looking for a parking space out front of the Building Department. It's been in his notes for the last couple of weeks.

Manager Revella: If the board wants to take that up on agenda to discuss designating a parking space outside of the Building Department for certain times, that's up to you.

Trustee Pearson: That one little space. They have parking in the driveway. They can fit 2 cars in the driveway, if not 3. Then they're looking for somebody who wants to go to the Building Department to stop in front of the Building Department. I'm just bringing it up to see if the board wants to talk about it.

Deputy Mayor Batson: If it's resolvable, sure, let's resolve it.

Trustee Pearson: It's a small little space at the corner. Who usually parks there? Do people park there now?

**Inaudible from audience* Building Inspector Wallner spoke about visits are typically brief. People come in, get invoice and pay. Finds it somewhat inconsiderate when someone parks there all day. Have some older residents that may not be able to walk from the municipal lot and all the spots in front of the library are filled.*

Deputy Mayor Batson: This would just basically be a sign that says "Parking for Building Department Only" times restricted.

Trustee Pearson: No, it would be like a timed parking of 15-20 minutes.

Manager Revella: 15 or 30.

Trustee Pearson: Don't have to do tonight. Go look at the space, see what you think. I just brought it up because it's been in the notes for a couple of weeks.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Let's just get it done. It's extending the parking spot for that.

Attorney Donovan: It should be so easy. It's a local law, though, so you have the public hearing.

Trustee Taylor: On police, we continued to review overtime and staffing issues. Part timers are being overworked. What's your projection for that to go away off of the Managers Report?

Manager Revella: We have 1 more just hired. I need another 1 and hopefully 2 more part timers and that'll be good. We're getting the new lists and then we'll hopefully get it filled up quick.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Part timers we're just at the mercy of the market, right? The majority of part timers have been through the Academy. It's just simply already Academy officers who are looking for additional work.

Manager Revella: Correct.

Trustee Taylor: We've identified an issue of being overworked. I guess what I'm looking for is corrective action in the interim until you get 1 pulled out of a hat here, another hire. What are we doing to address this over work issue?

Manager Revella: We're paying overtime. Unfortunately, I'd like to fill the staff, but we're not able to, yet. Once we have the list from the county, we can fill at least 1 more and then hopefully we can pull a couple part timers and we'll be better off. The other thing that will assist is switching to 12 hour shift, which we're negotiating right now. Once that's finalized in the PBA side, I'll bring it to the board to review, if you're okay with it, we'll finalize it and then that will also alleviate some of those concerns.

Trustee Hall: How's the new phone system going?

Manager Revella: We had our implementation meeting today. We anticipate the new actual phones, the physical phones to be here Friday and then the tech will come help us to start do the install.

Trustee Hall: Is there a backup in case, because now this is Voice Over IP, what if the internet goes out?

Manager Revella: We still have an emergency landline on first floor.

Approval of September 17, 2024 Minutes

Trustee Kyle made a motion to approve September 17, 2024 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Mayor Ramos). Motion carried.

Public Comment

Lynn Thompson: I'm glad that the Building Inspector is doing the evaluations on all the buildings.

It's just very frustrating. These are buildings that have been problem buildings for a long time and I don't understand why, this sounds really brutal, but we continue to give the property owner the benefit of the doubt. We give them extensions, we bend over backwards. I think the Building Inspector is doing the right thing to get out there and inspect and take action, and I wish the board would take action. We just keep giving second and third and fourth chances. These things are an eyesore. Now we're being told they're dangerous. How many weeks and months and years do we keep giving these people? There's currently a group of people that are volunteering to do beautification and clean up in the village. That's all well and good. We're working on getting that organized. John and Mike Bliss are going to be involved in that. But when do the business owners take responsibility for cleaning up their storefronts? Do you really think it's right for volunteers to have to pick up litter, sweep sidewalks, pick up cigarette butts? There's got to be some culpability to the people that own the property. I just have some issues with that because we just keep hearing it over and over and over again and we know we have some serious eyesores downtown. I am grateful that our Building Department is on top of these things. I just really hope the board isn't going to just keep stringing it along forever and ever and ever. And I'd like to know how long these people have owned these properties. It sounds like they've owned the properties for considerable amount of time. And I just run out of sympathy. I don't know about you guys, but I run out of sympathy. I'm sorry. Could you please encourage people to do presentations on the screen? The pictures that you were given is the public allowed to see those? Well, the public can't see those. We spent a lot of money to be able to show presentations on here. So, I wish, John, you would encourage people that have pictures that they want to show. They use our beautiful screens so people at home and in the audience can see what they're talking about. Riverview St, the issue that you're going to be talking about with the water that has been an ongoing issue for at least 7 years that I'm aware of. That's my street. I have taken pictures. I have complained there are 2 other neighbors here this evening that are very unhappy about what's going on there. The village has attempted to address it. We were told the homeowners were going to address it. And it goes on. It is literally an algae bloom on the sidewalk. I don't know if you guys know what that is, but it can be toxic bacteria. It's very, very slippery. It stinks to high heaven. I know of an employee from the library who was walking up there, who fell. I know a resident from Walnut Street was walking up there and fell. I believe a resident on Riverview St had a little mishap. I can't walk on the sidewalk there. I have to take my dogs out in the road. It's disgusting and it's been going on for a very, very long time. In the winter it turns into an ice skating rink. It drains all the way down from the top of the hill on Riverview to the corner of Riverview and Prospect. We've had to call DPW to come and put sand or salt on it. It's just so frustrating. It's been a lot of years and if it falls upon the property owner, the village needs to take action and tell the property owner they have to fix it or investigate it or do something. The village says it's not village water, but the interesting thing is the people complain that this was never a problem until something happened up on Walnut Street. Something was dug up or something drained. After that, the homes on that side of Riverview St have had issues. There's another house that the water comes through. I don't know where it comes from. Her driveway is washed into the sidewalk constantly. It's like that right now. So, something's not right up there. And I really think it's time for it to be addressed seriously because it smells, it's unsightly. It's causing people to have difficulty when they try and navigate the sidewalk up there. I certainly hope you are going to finally take it seriously and figure out a solution to the problem.

Mary Ellen Matise: I just wanted to comment also on the 2 properties involved. I see in the packet here that they were cited recently, August by the Building Inspector. I'm wondering why that Building Inspector isn't here. Just a comment. 60 Main St. I've been telling a story that goes back well over 10 years where and I don't think you have to even go in the building to figure out what's wrong with the building. I see here, there's citing issues about the floor being rotted away and stuff. The story involves myself and somebody else standing near Millspaugh's warehouse and looking through the building and seeing the traffic on Main Street driving by, looking through the building. So, that means what is broken there? There was gaps on the back wall. You could see trucks and

buses and cars going by on Main Street. You could see clear through the building. At some point the property owner put black plastic, so when you stand in the back now you can't see that anymore, but there's obviously plenty of issues wrong with this building and it goes back a very long time. And so really the question is what has taken us so long to deal with these bad eyesores on Main Street? Just a little aside on your building it, it almost gives credibility to the old story that they used to take the siding off the freight cars in Maybrook and use them for siding on the houses here in Walden. When you look on the back of that building, there's every type of patch up piece of lumber that you could ever imagine. At one point, there was some discussion that we had with Habitat for Humanity about doing work here in Walden and that never went anywhere and I wonder why.

Sue Taylor: The 2 buildings, I feel like it's groundhog's day. Because some of these buildings I dealt with during the 12 years I sat on this dais. I don't understand why this village seems to be the Village of No. We can't fix it. We can't find an answer. We can't. We can't. We can't. And still we hear from the same residents about the same problems for years. Who's minding the store? Is there any pride of ownership? Pride of the place where we live. That building on 60 Main St. We had to fight with that owner. When I was on the board to get him to put a chair in the window. Rather than the dead flies and whatever else that was laying there, I don't think those windows have been cleaned, 14 years, 15 years. You're telling me that there's weeds and things growing behind the building? I'm grateful to people buy these buildings with visions of grandeur. I'd love to see them restored. Busy businesses, apartments, whatever the case may be. But it just seems that that never comes to fruition. And the buildings are left to decay and become even more than eyesores. They are embarrassments. Why would anybody want to come to this village and open a wonderful business when you look across the street and you see what you see? At some point, somebody in this village needs to develop a set of standards and demand that the people that want to live here or open businesses here adhere to them. And I think that's a major problem in this village. We don't seem to have a set of standards. People's lawns are overgrown. People park their cars on their lawns. People sit on their back decks and have to look at their neighbor's backyards with old refrigerators, old washing machines, tires, whatever the case may be, why would anyone want to spend their money and their sweat equity to keep their properties nice when that's what you have to look at when you live in the Village of Walden in some areas? I don't know how long people have to come here and beg for the people who we pay their salaries to do their jobs. I sat on this board for 12 years. I feel like I wasted my life. I wasted 12 years of my life. I have so many questions. How did we get to the situation with our Police Department that we have now? No red flags? Everybody didn't walk out the door at the same time. And we got down to 2 full time Police Officers in this village and people wonder why people can speed if they want to speed, they can steal what they want to steal. My heart aches when I think of the Midge Normans and the Roy Wynkoop's who spent years on this board, born in this village, raised in this village. What are we becoming? I guess I have to stand here and beg. Please. Our codes. Why are our codes not done? That's your foundation of your village and unfortunately, we have to stand here and talk about codes. Because people don't seem to have the common sense to take care of their properties, have consideration for their neighbors. We have to have these discussions. This is the world we live in. But I'm tired of hearing other people and having myself stand here and beg for people in this village to do their jobs. And if you don't want to do your job, bye bye. We pay taxes and it just seems like we get told no. No, we can't do that. Well, then figure out what you can do. That's your job. If you don't have the answer, figure it out. Invent it. Talk about it. I look at these agendas and I think there's nothing to talk about in this village? I know it's necessary to give alcohol waivers to people and talk about people wanting to rent our... I'm thankful for that. Grateful that people still want to come here. But let's talk about the things that matter. Our codes, what's happening? I have to tell you, like I said, I feel like I wasted 12 years of my life sitting on this board fighting for things, and I feel like I'm watching it all disappear around me. I can't go to Hannaford. People are saying what is going on? A woman was walking on the sidewalk tonight. Some guy peeled out right next to the police station to

take off and continue down the street, she said. What's going on in this village? Someone that's here has a business. I don't know what it's going to take, but I'm tired. People are tired and I guess I'm just begging, come up with a set of standards and adhere to them and make sure other people adhere to them. Do your jobs.

Discussion – Noise Ordinance

Trustee Pearson: I just sent everybody some emails on just some noise ordinances from other communities. I thought, don't have to discuss it tonight if you didn't read through it. I sent you 3 of the Montgomery's, pretty much like ours. There was a Warwick one and another one. I did find two more that I really liked. There were some things that I think we can address in each of them. If you go through them and make your notes. I just wanted to start the conversation. If anybody has anything they wanted to discuss tonight. That's great. I'm happy for that. I know that, just to give you an idea and I didn't get to talk to John Cappello, I was watching the Planning Board meeting in the Village of Montgomery recently and they had an issue with decibels versus some other type of measurement for noise. Do you know anything about them?

Attorney Donovan: No, but I know it's measured in different ways with different. I'm familiar with decibels, but there is another measurement out there. I don't know how it corresponds, like Celsius and Fahrenheit.

Trustee Pearson: I had a phone call in to John Capello, so he could talk to me about that and see what the differences were because he seemed to be speaking about it very knowledgeable at that meeting. 1 of them said, if you do decibels every business or something would be violation, where you do it the other way it's not. Then I found another law and I think I'll send it to you, which is pretty simple and pretty basic. Maybe it was Rhinebeck. I'm not sure which one it was. I think I sent you a couple of them. I thought maybe the simple way to do it is the better way, that the manager, Police Department would have that, because in our code it talks about how the decibel meter has to be calibrated every year. Does it get calibrated every year? You have to training for the officers to really use it. Because if we don't, then we go and find somebody or tell them they're doing something wrong, in court it's not going to hold up because do we have that information? Is it being done? So, we have a lot to talk about. It's just the start of that conversation. I wanted to show you those if you want to take some notes on it, I'll send you the other 3. If anybody has any comments. Pretty interesting reading. Some were basic and some were confusing. I was just taking bits and pieces from each one and maybe like some of ours is still really good and trucks and that kind of stuff, that noise. But the band, nobody has anything that talks about live bands or something like that. Maybe we need to add something like that. 1 of them had a permitting, so if you're going to have a band or a concert or a wedding in your backyard, it needs to be permitted through the village. The manager can allow that permit, which makes more sense because then they can be given. This is how loud it can be. Time stops at a certain time. I'm also thinking that ours goes to 11:00 on Sunday night. It doesn't need to do that. Maybe we need to change some of the times. I was just looking at little bits and pieces of what a lot of concerns were. Not the whole law, but we should look at the whole thing, go through it. If you have time to read it and digest it and look at some of the other ones that I had and we'll come back together and talk about it. I just thought it was a good start.

Attorney Donovan: I kind of looked at it, if you will, on a kind of a macro level, not necessarily looking at each law because not surprisingly, in the state we live in this matter has been litigated and some people claiming that the noise ordinances are vague and therefore unenforceable, so the Court of Appeals, which is the highest court in New York came up with a 2 part test on noise ordinances and the first part is the statute must be sufficiently definite to give a person of ordinary intelligence fair notice that his contemplated conduct is forbidden and the second part is the enactment must provide officials clear standards for enforcement so as to avoid resolution on an ad

hoc and subjective basis. So those are the 2 overarching things.

Trustee Pearson: We do have we have that in our law now with the decibels.

Attorney Donovan: You may want to reanalyze that and I think depending upon where you live, sometimes the noise from the highway can exceed that decibel level. If your neighbors are using their vacuum cleaner or the leaf blower.

Trustee Pearson: That was an exemption in our law. We have exceptions. But we don't have anything for bands or concerts or something. I really think we should look at that too of what can be done in a community in a residential setting. Do we permit it? Can it be permitted? I know Dave, we talked about that before too about having a permit or something that is allowable.

Attorney Donovan: Some communities have what's called the gathering permit. If you're going to have some event, you have to fill out a bunch of information. You have to get approved by either the Planning Board, the Village Board, whatever it may be. The Village of Goshen actually does. The Police Chief actually goes through that and issues the permit. But there's different ways to do that. I did run through that in Town of Hamptonburg a number of years ago, and it was determined that that could, depending if you went broad enough, it could affect birthday parties, graduation parties, anniversary parties. So, they decided not to handle it. That's not to say you can't go drill down when you have certain exemptions or certain requirements, whatever you want to have, but there is a thing called the gathering permit or assembly permit that you can adopt the new force.

Trustee Pearson: There was one that was pretty vague that just said reasonable. Again, that word reasonable. Now who's whose definition of reasonable is it? You don't want to use the word. I wouldn't. There's a reasonable noise level and I go okay who sets that standard for what's reasonable. That I probably wouldn't even put in there. I'm just asking to have you guys, put some things together that you want to talk about in the law and see if we can maybe tweak it a little bit to make it a little bit better or a little bit different. I just throw them out to you and I'm going to I'll send you a couple more that I have. Thank you.

Deputy Mayor Batson: The only time that we have really successfully tackled code, was when we showed up early and committed to doing it, if this is something you're passionate about and would like to get done, then I would advocate that we make the time to show up early.

Trustee Pearson: I'm fine with that, but I think we need to get back into the whole code review as well.

Mayor Ramos: 5:00 on the 15th?

Deputy Mayor Batson: Start 5:30 on the 15th.

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to meet on October 15, 2024 at 5:30pm to discuss Chapter 181 – Noise Ordinance. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Olley Park – Parking Lot Bid Review

Trustee Hall made a motion to award the Olley Park Parking Lot Bid to Consorti Bros in the total amount of \$167,110.27, with budget amount of \$68,000 and with the remainder to be paid from fund balance. Seconded by Trustee Kyle. All ayes. Motion carried.

Riverview Street Drainage

Manager Revella: I just want to make sure, because the public was upset and had the impression

that the village wasn't taking any action. I know that the property has been cited probably a dozen times over the last 2 years, but the actual resolution of the source of the water isn't being resolved. I know that the Building Department spoke with the property owner on at least 1 occasion about connecting to the drain that's in the street, right in front of the sidewalk and putting some kind of French drain or curb drain or something along the edge of the sidewalk to catch the water before it goes across the sidewalk. I'm not sure if you have any other status on that, Rob, while you're here for the board.

Building Inspector Wallner: I have had no communication from the property owner.

Trustee Hall: I don't know if I'm allowed to ask this, but I'm going to. Do we know if this is like an elderly couple that isn't able to do the maintenance themselves?

Building Inspector Wallner: I don't believe so.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Is what's happening there a violation of any of our codes or laws?

Building Inspector Wallner: Multiple.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Do we have any recourse beyond simply just consistently fining them to take action on that?

Manager Revella: We bring them here before this board to take action.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Let's do that.

Trustee Pearson: A lot of them have been completed. I'm reading this report at the end completed, completed, completed, completed. The only one that's left open are two of them.

Manager Revella: Some of those completed means that they were cited for snow violation. We may have gone out there and cleaned up the snow. That's completed. Not by them, by us or whatever it was that was done.

Trustee Hall: Were they asked to be here today?

Manager Revella: No, this isn't the hearing. This is just asking for discussion from the board. They weren't noticed for hearing, yet.

Trustee Hall: But they knew that this was happening about their property.

Manager Revella: Yes, all the notices are in there of what's going on.

Trustee Pearson: This stone wall are part of their property and the boxes...

Manager Revella: No, that's neighboring property. A separate issue.

Discussion about the pictures

Trustee Pearson: You wouldn't think that this could be a water main break that's under there.

Manager Revella: It's not. We've tested several times.

Trustee Pearson: Lynn talked about Walnut Street and then people on that street had issues. I just know that everybody on Walnut Street was dug up and during the hurricane, I don't remember what hurricane it was, you had Walnut St dug up there, putting new blacktop on, but everybody on Walnut St had water in their basement. That affected everybody's basements. When that was dug up. But do you actually think that this is coming from Walnut St?

Manager Revella: We don't know. It's an underground spring for sure. There's springs throughout the village. Just not sure exactly where the source is, but we can catch it.

Trustee Pearson: What are you expecting the homeowner to do with the spring?

Manager Revella: Catch the water along the edge of the sidewalk with drain. Connect that drain pipe to the drain that's on the other side of the sidewalk. That's it.

Deputy Mayor Batson: We have the ability to enforce them to do that?

Manager Revella: That would be a hearing here before this board to be able to enforce that.

Attorney Donovan: But not under the unsafe building. I'm looking at property maintenance. It would be a different provision of code.

Trustee Hall: Can we request that for today?

Manager Revella: They have to be cited that code violation and served for hearing notice to come before this board is a certain date, which the Building Department will take care of.

Mayor Ramos: How long is that time frame?

Attorney Donovan: I'll have to look into it a little further. I understand that this is very frustrating to people, but once it gets to you, there is a process and I think as we know, we need to abide that process because failure to abide the process, we'll bring it to fence. So, we need to make sure that we have all of our ducks in a row and if it took a while to get here, I don't know what any of us can do, but we need to follow the process once it's here.

Deputy Mayor Batson: The next steps are?

Manager Revella: Rob's going to get with Dave to make sure he's setting under the right code and gives the proper notification for process service to be before this board for a hearing.

Public Comment

Kecia Mackay: I have a problem because I left my car in Binghamton with my parking pass in it. My car wasn't working and my son goes to school there. I left my car there. Somewhere along the line, I guess it was dead too long and I guess they inquired and they gave the car a ticket. They asked my son to come over. It wasn't the police, it was the campus police. They summoned the car and they wanted my son to bring his license, so of course he didn't feel he did anything wrong because he didn't put the car there. He brought the license and they matched it and they seen it wasn't his. All being said, they said they was mailing it back to Walden. I waited for it to get here and I went up to the office and I spoke to one of the ladies that worked there and she said that I had to speak to the manager. The manager told me, she just came over and said it's my discretion you're not getting it back.

Manager Revella: You didn't talk to me. I'm the manager. You talked to somebody else, right?

Kecia Mackay: I'm sorry. The lady, she has black hair. She said it's my discretion, you're not getting it back. I said, What do you mean? I had that pass for maybe 18 years. I have rheumatoid arthritis for 30 years. What am I supposed to do besides that? She told me to go to Montgomery knowingly Montgomery couldn't do anything for me. It was a Friday that just passed. I got over there just before they closed. I was told, why did you come here? I said she told me to come to Montgomery, knowingly Montgomery don't have my information. They know nothing about me, so of course they couldn't give it to me. My main concern is I need my pass. And for someone to tell me, it's my discretion and you're not getting it back. I have a problem with that for the simple fact that, this is not here or there, but prior to me having spinal surgery in 2022. I was the Executive Director for Donald Trump, and I don't understand how you can give me. This is my discretion. What does that mean? There's no probation. There's no if it happens again. I'm gonna give it to you on probation. There's nothing she just said. It's my discretion. I don't understand that. I don't know what that means.

Manager Revella: We'll have to ask and find out.

Trustee Pearson: We'll leave it in the manager's hand to get back to you.

Manager Revella: I'll talk to the office staff and see what happened.

Dave Sperry: I have parking issues. I came here last year and I asked about if it was legal to park in front of the fire hydrant on North Montgomery, South Montgomery, Route 52, whatever you want to call it. I was told I believe by the Village Manager, there's no parking there. There's been a car park there for the whole summer, if not even longer. It's very difficult now to pull out from Wait St on to 52 and for the cars coming into the village because that car is parked there, they have to swing wide around to get up Wait St. On that street, besides the one, if you come down to the right-hand side, there are no signs on any corners on the whole section of roadway. But definitely that one car and I wish everybody here tonight would just make a big loop and go down and come to it. And you know how difficult it is to come out onto the highway there. Last year I asked for a sign, and they said that there's no parking there. I don't know if we have to go back to painting yellow lines on the road for no parking in those areas. Maybe it's easier and people can see the stripes. Because nobody pays attention to signs anyway anymore, it seems like. But I would like to ask that a sign be placed there in that area and actually on all corners. I think Walker St there's not a sign needed because the curb cuts out, so you can't park there all the way to the end. But all the rest of them, even the ambulance, when that comes out onto the highway, if there's cars parked on the corner that's going to have to make wider turns and everything else. A sign should be placed on every intersection. It seems that you might have to go to a law now or a meeting to do that.

Trustee Pearson: We used to put yellow striping on the curb so far up that you can stop. Can we look at something like that instead of a sign, to start?

Manager Revella: I was just thinking, I don't understand why we didn't have the white line with the stripe across that for that first 15 feet anyway. I'll check and see why not. There's no reason for it. It's against the law. We don't have a sign there for it to be against the law. Just so you know.

Dave Sperry: The cars been there so can you maybe send the Parking Enforcement Officer if we still have one that side of the river and maybe he can force the laws over there.

Manager Revella: When I come out Wait, I call them like, hey, the car's there come give them a ticket whenever I can.

Dave Sperry: Well, the cars been there all summer long. I did ask about parking on the other side of the street, being all those residents' cars are the ones that are on this side and you had to go to DOT and a feasible study and I don't know if the board asked for that study to be done or not. It's very difficult to come out of all side streets on to 52, especially now with all the traffic we have. Do we have a Code Enforcement Officer?

Manager Revella: Yes. Right behind you. He just started.

Dave Sperry: I see everybody's complaining tonight about Code Enforcement things. We used to have an officer and I didn't know if we had one anymore.

Manager Revella: He's training.

Dave Sperry: I know Walker St was just paved, but why did we make the street narrower than it was? I know there's parking issues all throughout the village. When you had the event out here, was very well attended, I saw there was parking, both sides, all the way down. People have to turn their mirrors in on trucks and things going through the village, otherwise they are hit. But why would you make a street narrower than it was?

Manager Revella: The usable space on Walker St is more now than it was. Before they used to have these valleys and you couldn't really pull up on them. People were parking on the sidewalks. Now there's a curb. You can't park on the sidewalk.

Dave Sperry: Why wasn't the curb put all the way against the sidewalk like Oak Street because you lost at least 2 feet because now you have a little grass medium. Besides Walker St being narrower than it was and you put a green strip up the left-hand side, if you're standing on 52 looking up, I'm not sure why we did that because it didn't shorten the width of the sidewalk or width of the road. Trees in the village. I don't know if we can get grants or what it takes to get more trees planted. This is starting to look like New York City and stuff like that. Walnut St used to be full of trees. Both sides of the street, up and down. There used to be trees on Main St. They used to be trees on Ulster Ave. Oakland Ave. All the big trees were cut down. I don't see any trees being replaced. Does the village plan on doing anything to put trees back in the village? Are we just going to let it go and we're just going to be a suburb of New York City?

Trustee Kyle: Cheryl over here has just formed a Walden Business Council and that's one of the top things on her list of things to do is trying to get trees back into the main corridor of Walden.

Dave Sperry: She's on the Business Council. You're the board. What is the board going to do to help Cheryl and help a person like me asking to get to trees?

Trustee Kyle: I am supporting her. She has been looking into grants and anything that I can do as a board member. I'm supporting her 100%.

**Inaudible from audience* Cheryl Baker spoke about needing a comprehensive tree study done in the village in order to apply for grants. There was a tree study done several years ago, but it was only the south side. Also spoke about the roots and the trees were too big.*

Trustee Pearson: There are also tree barriers in the ground that you can put into the ground that the roots go down below that. That was done in front of my house when I had the tree planted in front of my house. Maple Tree has the tree barrier because that was a trial because years ago I had asked for a tree for probably 15 years and finally got 1. So, we had the tree barrier put in. We can always look at that and put them in other places if they're not expensive to do.

Manager Revella: Tree barriers are good.

Dave Sperry: Are we looking for grants to get trees? I care less about barriers or anything else.

Trustee Pearson: We have a line in the budget with trees, but I don't know how much we spent this year.

Manager Revella: We buy trees and plant trees every year.

Dave Sperry: I'm not sure where you plant because don't see them.

Manager Revella: We just planted 3 right up the street on Walnut.

Trustee Pearson: 3 right in front of the Catholic Church.

Dave Sperry: That's good. The Girl Scout Cabin. I still called the Girl Scout Cabin. I'm not sure what they call it now, Scout Cabin. If you're looking at the building the right hand side, can we trim that grass back to the other people's property and maybe have it green all the way back through? It looks kind of sloppy when you come to the property line from the sidewalk, all the way back behind the cabin, it's not cut or trimmed. If you can trim that back and make it a little cleaner up for the Girl Scout Cabin area. Also, when the Girl Scouts have a function there or whoever holds a function in that building, the roads are very narrow. Is there a way we can put a parking light down at Bradley Park?

Trustee Pearson: There is parking in the driveway. You can get probably 5 cars in there.

Manager Revella: We paved it.

Dave Sperry: No, but if you pave the parking lot by the tennis courts, if we put parking and a street light back there and we could maybe tell the people to park there. Isn't there a sidewalk, there used to be a sidewalk for the Girl Scout Cabin to the tennis courts years ago. There was one.

Manager Revella: I know, I'm trying to get it back.

Dave Sperry: Maybe we can get parking there so wouldn't block the roadway.

Martha Host: Before I begin, I would like to thank these 2 gentlemen for doing a terrific job. I'm glad you have them on board. I live at 53 Riverview Street. I am 78 years old. I've been in my house 48 years. Riverview used to be a nice street to live on. I live at the end, it's a dead-end street. The last few I'm sorry, Lynn. The drainage has been going on for 8 years or 9. It's been getting progressively worse. Right now it's relatively dry because we haven't had much rain. When we did have a lot of rain, I should have grabbed a glass and brought the algae bloom down here for all of you to see. That's got to be unhealthy. I remember there was algae bloom, I believe in the Wallkill a couple of years ago. Well, that's unhealthy. I have some medical issues. The smell I sent, well, Mr. Revella has been up there and smelled it. I sent an e-mail to Mr. Mayor and invited him and all the Trustees to come up and sit on my front porch and enjoy the horrific odor that comes from there. Nobody has come out except for Mr. Revella.

Trustee Pearson: Sorry, I didn't get your e-mail.

Martha Host: I sent it to the mayor and I thought he would send it.

Mayor Ramos: I didn't get yours either.

Martha Host: Well, he claims he never got it. He just sits here and bobs his head. Bobblehead. You've got to do something. The neighbors across the street. I live kitty corner across the street from the house in question. They don't do anything. They do take a squeegee and squeegee the water off of the sidewalk, into the street. The winter time, when it's icy, they chop it all up. The husband and wife, I'm guessing, the wife doesn't do anything. She stays in the house. But the 3 kids come out, and they're all chopping, and they're throwing the ice into the street. So, you pretty much have the whole street from there. There's never been a house there. There's never been a pond there. Bucky Bartlett owned 62 Riverview Street. I do not remember the original people that owned the house at 48. He was a teacher at NFA and she was a teller at KeyBank. And between him and Bucky, Bucky bought 1 plot, the other gentleman bought the other, so no houses could be purchased or no other houses could be put in. It's a spring. The gentleman at the end of the street. They had a natural spring effect that leaked into their basement. And they took the time to clean out the basement and fix the natural spring. So, there's no problem there. Now as I understand it, the residents at 48 were supposed to be at this meeting. If you can't get them to come to a meeting, I don't know what you do unless you go and get a cop to bring them down here, handcuff them and bring them down. I don't know if that's a good idea or not. And I have a solution for your police problem too. All I'm asking is please, my favorite neighbor is moving. I can't move. I've looked into moving because when Allison told me she was going to move, I looked into moving. It's not feasible for me to move financially. It's cheaper for me to stay in my house. I don't want to stay in my house anymore. Even my dog avoids the area because of the smell. I did slip. Luckily, I had Polka (sp?) with me and she caught me. God bless her. But something has got to be done. This has been going on for years. And I don't know why the village hasn't done something before, but we have a terrific Building Inspector now who is really working his butt off to try to get something done. I can't tell you how much I appreciate that. But something has to be done. Unless you know somebody wants to buy my house. I'll give it to give it to you for \$350,000 and I'll be on my merry way and you'll never hear from me again. Like I said, I've been in the house for 48 years and the last few have been awful. Because of the water, because of the ice, because of the smell. My nephew came from Indiana for a visit and he likes to sleep with the windows open and even he commented the next day about the smell that was coming through the window. So, if anybody wants to come up. You're welcome to come up, 53 Riverview Street. I only have a rocking chair there now. I took all the chairs away. I figured it was useless. Nobody was coming. That's all I have to say about Riverview Street. It would be nice if it was a nice place to live again. Your police problem, dissolve the Police Department and all 3 villages and have a town wide system. All you need is a town wide system and the State Police and you're set. I wouldn't deal with the Walden Police if my life depended on it. I've had to deal with them for years. Riding on the ambulance and personally, I don't trust any of them. And if I need police, I call the State Police because they're very professional and they treat you with respect and they listen to you and they deal with your problem and they help you with it.

Lynn Thompson: I thought I was Martha's favorite neighbor. I'm crushed. Before I forget, Mr. Sperry, I did send an e-mail about grants for trees. I sent it to you and I think I sent it to Becky and to Bill. I pulled it up that it was sent to you because I just clicked on it. I did it very quickly. I can send it to everybody. I just took the addresses that I knew. Anyway, there is a lot of stuff out there for trees. I would just like to say that Harvest Fest was wonderful. I am just so thrilled that it was finally brought back to the square. I've gone forever and I think this was the best one. Really it was that good. Someone did tell me, though they came into the village, we need to paint all of our signs, Welcome to Walden. They came in on the entrance, they came down Coldenham Rd. Coming problematic, at least in my neighborhood. I think when you review the code, you should consider that people have a survey or an updated survey. I have two neighbors, one built his fence on his

property line, which is fine. The person behind him and to the side of me. They had a lot of trees to clear and they wanted to put up a fence and they moved their fence, probably within a foot of the property line, because they didn't want to move the trees so. I want to know now who's responsible for the property on the side of the fence on my yard because they're not going to come out of their fence and look at that foot that's there with grass and weeds and whatever, that's going to be my problem. They moved the fence in a considerable amount of distance from the property line, so they're shrinking their property, they've made now a stretch that, they're not going to come out from under their fence. That's going to be my headache. The property on the rear, there's now an alley back there. A very wide alley. Well, who do you think's going to take care of that? I'm just saying this is happening because we don't require people to have surveys before they put up fences and they just move it on their property line.

Trustee Pearson: But you also don't have to put it on your property line if you have a fence,

Lynn Thompson: No, but I feel like I wish you guys would review that or drive around the village and look at some of the fencing, and then we go back to enforcement of maintenance of the fences. I was told that I will probably have to power wash that side of the fence because it's facing my yard. I have to look at it. The owner is not coming out of his fence. He's put himself inside his fence. So that's my other question. Who's responsible then for the unsightliness when these fences have paint peeling, broken slats? I have to look at that. I didn't put the fence up, but now I'm stuck with the eyesore from the fence that's not maintained and I want to know what do I do with this property that's really not mine, but it's going to now become my responsibility, so I would just like to ask that maybe we look at the language of the fence when you do your code review and see what the Building Inspector thinks about perhaps people have surveys. Because it's my understanding, when I bought my house, the bank required me to have a survey. I'm being told that's not the case anymore when you get a mortgage and you buy a property, you don't necessarily have to have a survey. Is that true, Mr. Revella?

Manager Revella: The title insurance companies have just changed rules in New York State, so it may become more popular now than it has been in the past. It wasn't required.

Lynn Thompson: I don't know how any of you feel about it. I just know a lot of fencing has gone up on my street and it's a little frustrating. It's a little bit of a problem. The other thing I just would like to close with is I don't know what other people are seeing in the village, but I think and you can correct me if I'm wrong. It seems like we are having more issues with people that don't belong in certain neighborhoods, not that they don't belong. But you know, when there's a new face in your neighborhood, it's someone who doesn't fit. I believe that I am seeing some things that have to do with drugs. I did bring something to the Police Department's attention. I know we're short. I definitely do not see the police presence that I've seen in years past in my neighborhood. Hopefully if they know there's an issue, they'll be a little more visible. I don't know what other people are seeing in their neighborhoods. I know across town someone had mentioned to me just in passing that they also feel the same way. Just so the board is aware and maybe the people on the board pay a little more attention or if people approach you, if you talk to John or the Police Department, but I feel like there's some things happening that aren't so very good for the village.

Allison Raposa: I'd like to thank everyone for being so patient because God bless you. I was chewing on my knuckles trying to sit through this to get here. I would also like to thank Mr. Wallner, Roosa, Martha Host. John, I last emailed you in April of this year, to which there was no response. I'm also here on behalf of a corrections officer that I work with that was indebted with a ginormous fine last winter despite the villages dirty hands in the issue with 48. There's a known issue. Water rolls downhill, and what does it do in the winter? It freezes right? So, when she had 4 inches of ice on her sidewalk, to which she was advised by the village to chip by hand and

remediate herself, yet 48 has gone by with no consequences. And everyone is aware. I can FOIL. I can pull up my emails. Luckily, I'm remote and I have eyes on the situation full time. The children, two of which who are in foster care and involved with CPS. Which is a state agency. Visit stopped during COVID. The children are outside. I have photographs. I'll share more. They're chipping ice after school and throwing it into the middle of Riverview St. Our street now in the winter from curb to curb, is an ice rink. Amazon, UPS, delivery drivers, myself, Martha. The mailman has complained. UPS was told to stop complaining. I can name my mailman. Inept leadership of this village has led to this problem. Remediation consists of the truck coming up and dumping my taxpayer salt in the road. They spread it around, it melts. And then guess what it does, it freezes again and it rolls downhill. So, the one home on the corner, they were, I'm not sure, again, I'm not an engineer, I'm not a scientist, I don't know where the water came from, whether it was Walnut, it's a spring. We had that one hurricane or a major storm like 2 Thanksgivings ago. We all lost power. I remember going out to Pine Bush for coffee. That homeowner lost 1 or 2 pine trees. Which I would imagine would impact the root system and whatever they had going on, so it seemed to have gotten worse after that storm. I'm not a scientist, I'm not an engineer. I'm a psychologist. I'm asking for something to be done.

There's a lack of accountability and culpability and this winter is going to hit. I've asked multiple times throughout this year. When I was on vacation in Kansas City in June, what are we doing? We're in the middle of working season yet nothing's been done. If the homeowner is not held responsible, who is? If my daughter is hit on that road, where she falls down. Everyone's aware, dirty hands. Homeowner was supposed to be here tonight. They're not. I've contacted CPS. I've contacted the Department of Health. As we've spoken, there was an algae bloom. There's a horrendous odor and we can't walk on that side of the road. Everything is discoverable, there is no transparency and there's nothing but dirty hands. I'm tired of it and before I move I'm going to close this loop. Standards of which need to be consistent and supported across all bases. I can speak to you, when I put stuff out, I'm a single mom. Broken rib. I put some stuff outside. It was an eyesore. I was in violation. He cited me. What did I do? Got rid of it. I'm held to the same standard, yet we've been talking for how many months and nothing's been done on top of, I don't know, you said 7 years, I've been there for 9. I wasn't really paying attention, but I can tell you the last 2 winters, curb to curb, it is a public hazard. In addition to what was discussed this summer, yet, there's been 0 action. I'm solution focused. I'm driven in my career and I'm not going to stop until this is over. There's other things that I'd like to discuss and I'm not going to hold everyone up tonight, and honestly, I'm exhausted. I've been up all day, I work 2 jobs. I believe there's prostitution down at the new Millspaugh Park. There is no lighting. But in closing, I would like this loop closed and Riverview addressed.

Mary Ellen Matise: We have a lot of quality of life issues going on here and I mentioned this couple of meetings ago and maybe we should start talking about some of them. This whole thing about drainage too. If you're going to look at code review and look at code review about drainage, there's issues about drainage in village right of way, if there's no sidewalk there. There's still village right of way. And it impacts other property owners. And I've had this issue. Thank God, last winter was mild, but the year before, ice like that. In my driveway in village right of way, in my driveway. From a neighbor. And what's the recourse? It hasn't been corrected yet, so hopefully this winter will be mild too. This morning pathways meeting, they were talking about OSI, did a trails West of Hudson Plan. Look at it. I think we're in it. I brought up the issue of maintenance, which doesn't impact us as much as it impacts the town. But OSI is interested in following up on that issue for the whole region because the trails wind up being the responsibility of the municipality they're in and when we had the washout behind Wileman, how many years did it take before the town was able to get money to fix that? And I don't know if we were involved financially, because the town's responsible. But they kept looking the other way because they didn't want to put money in their budget, but maybe they didn't have the money either. It would be good to open a dialogue with OSI and with pathways which is Vision Hudson Valley and OCTC, John, to keep an eye on that and see

what we could do. Before I get to the main thing I want to talk about, I do just want to talk about IWS. It must mean something else besides Interstate Waste because the waste isn't making it into their trucks. The cans aren't making it back onto the curbs. I'm so frustrated with this issue. That I can't even talk about it anymore. It's just disgusting. I sent John some pictures today. Tuesday, you might as well just take those Walden signs and just put a shroud over them so nobody comes here and knows where the hell they are because the village just looks disgusting on Tuesday after they get done collecting trash and dumping half of it in the street. Harvest Fest, my goal for Harvest Fest was something that I did realize, 115 people. I talked to 115 people about Walden Elementary School. 115 people eagerly signed a petition to keep the school here in the village. We still don't know what's going on with the school. We haven't heard anything. I don't know if this committee still meets. You might know, mayor. You might know whether it meets or not. Good, because the library has signatures and I think Miss Pearson has signatures, and we'll gather those all up. And we would like to be heard at that meeting up soon. So, if you'd let us know, please. We'll be there with bells.

Cheryl Baker: I'm actually here on behalf of the Walden Business Council. I wanted to thank Trustee Pearson, Trustee Liz Kyle and Deputy Mayor Batson for attending multiple meetings. I greatly appreciate that. You've heard many of the concerns from the businesses, one of which is parking. I know that was touched on a little bit at the last meeting. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to be here. I would like it to come back up on the agenda because there is a lot of feedback as these Trustees that did attend are well aware of and I would like those issues to be brought up in the public forum for debate with the board to decide on certain avenues to help address some of the issues. The other question actually, Rob 110-116 West Main St.*inaudible* Have they been cited with code? *inaudible* That property has long been a significant eyesore and an attractive nuisance to vandals in the area, and not surprisingly, Mr. Revella knows who the prior owner is who was also the prior owner of 76-80 West Main. His properties are all like that. He is well known for the properties to be like that. My concern is why are these buildings allowed to even get to the point where they need to be condemned and essentially demolished? I brought this thought up prior, Trustee Pearson was on the board at the time, as was Mayor Ramos to do with this property. Parking is a very significant issue in this village. That property is right adjacent to our municipal lot. I would really like if the board would consider, I know it's not popular topic, but there are federal grants for and there is precedence for it, of possible eminent domain, where the village could take over a property, especially one that is not maintained, has been long vacant. Is attractant to nuisance, has multiple code violations. Anyone can walk on that property and see what the problems are. I would like it if the board would consider discussing that issue and possibly helping reduce some of the parking issues that we have. At the same time removing buildings. That have long, long been attractant to vandals that spend their days hanging out on the roof, graffitiing breaking windows and doing other things on the property because they think they're out of sight. I hope that's something that the board would consider bringing up and putting on an agenda to discuss as a possible alternative use for that property. It would be of great benefit to the community versus what it is now. For many years that we had a squatter in there. Before that, it was the dilapidated building. It has done nothing in 20 plus years. There's an avenue this village could take that would be of great benefit to this village and help address with the significant issue with parking, especially with the parking lot that's there. That is so heavily utilized by apartment buildings there. A lot of the parked cars parked in that Oak Street parking lot belong to Oak Street apartments. You don't have parking for businesses and you don't have parking for customers. That's a serious issue. But at the same time, the people who live in those Oak Street apartments have no place to park. I don't want to take parking away from people that live there, they need a place to park. But then what does the village do with the lack of parking, especially if you're going to start, we already had East Avenue go to 1 side of the street parking and I'm sure that's going to come up with other streets. There has to be a place for these overflow cars to go to. I would implore the village to seriously consider that. I did contact the grant writers in Montgomery, there are multiple

federal grants. Specifically, to go towards that. I'm waiting to hear from exactly what the village would qualify for, possibilities of applying if that was something that the village wanted to go forward with.

Sue Taylor: Harvest fest. How great and how wonderful it was back in the square. Everybody was so thrilled that it was there. It felt again like community. It was so comfortable and everyone I spoke to had a great time. Glad to see it back there. East Ave. NYSEG did some work. Whose responsibility is it to fix the roadway that was dug up?

Manager Revella: NYSEG.

Sue Taylor: Do we have any idea when they're gonna? They're probably letting the ground settle, I'm assuming.

Manager Revella: We have permits and bonds from them. If they don't remedy, we're allowed to and charge it.

Sue Taylor: Before winter you think it's going to be, what do you think?

Manager Revella: I sure hope so. Fred usually inspects them after a certain amount of time to make sure it's settled and paved. We'll check it.

Sue Taylor: I can see it's going to be fabulous.

Manager Revella: Is there more than one?

Sue Taylor: I think there's 2 areas on East Avenue. 2 strips where they did the, I think they were doing a gas line. I'm just concerned in the winter. I'm just concerned, in the winter they'll make great potholes. Walking by the Building Department, what's up with the handicap ramp? I wouldn't want to put in a wheelchair on there or...

Manager Revella: We talked about that.

Sue Taylor: It's going to be fixed?

Manager Revella: We're getting someone to look at it and see what they can do to fix it.

Sue Taylor: I don't know how people that need wheelchairs or walkers have been getting into the Building Department. I wouldn't walk on it and I'm not there yet. It's kind of disturbing the number of times I've heard people come to this dais and talk about emails that went unanswered. We never got them. Is there something wrong with the email system?

Manager Revella: I will check G-Suite because I know Trustee Taylor said he didn't get one either from Lynn.

Sue Taylor: I just hear it constantly that I didn't get your e-mail, phone calls have gone unanswered. I think that's kind of rude. If somebody leaves a message, at least acknowledge it. Get back to them. I think it's kind of disturbing that people don't get answers to emails or phone calls. Just a little history for Cheryl. When New York State did the revamp on Main Street. They're the ones that chose the trees that went on Main Street. Don't ask me. I guess they didn't have an arborist. But they really tore up the sidewalks. The roots of the trees. I believe they were locust trees which search for water, anyway, the roots wrapped themselves around the water pipe. It was just an

absolute mess and that's why those trees had to be removed because they were the absolute wrong trees to be put there. The other thing that gets me is the amount of times I hear that we're using fund balance to make up for shortfalls. Not sure if the board realizes how we accumulate fund balance, how that is. But that money belongs to the taxpayers, and if we've got that kind of money lying around, maybe it's time to return some to the taxpayers. You can use it to reduce taxes, but it seems like every other little project we want, fund balance, let's spend it. That belongs to the taxpayers. I understand these things need to get done. I know that Mr. Revella can be inventive with our budget and bring things in under cost that we may have overestimated. That goes into our fund balance. I know we're only allowed to keep a certain percentage as our fund balance. But I find it interesting that when we have a shortfall, the first thing out of our mouths is fund balance. Let's spend fund balance. Don't forget who that money belongs to. Let's be wise about when we spend it. Because it can be used to return to the taxpayer to give them a break on their taxes.

Payment of Audited Bills

Per new policy, board signed and approved.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Pearson: The screen up here. I know that I've been to a Planning Board, Zoning Board, and there's nothing being shown up on that screen and the plans that people bring. Is there a way to train somebody, maybe the secretary, in order to get those plans to come and when the Building Department tells them they're coming before the boards, that they bring their plans or something that could go on the computer because I think the reason why we got it was so that people would be able to see.

Manager Revella: They can bring a USB in. You can't require it though.

Trustee Pearson: I don't know. The Building Department can let them know they have to bring that to that meeting. What do you mean you can't require it?

Manager Revella: Can't force them to bring it. It's not required by law. They can bring a paper copy.

Trustee Pearson: All right. But then if they have it, the one lady said, oh, I could put it up there, but I don't know how to do it. I don't know. I sat here and just listened to the conversation. That's all I'm telling you. Maybe we can be a little bit more proactive in using that TV that we've spent money on. That's all I'm saying.

Manager Revella: Sorry. The Building Department will make sure they tell applicants to bring USBs so we can have digital presentations. Thank you.

Trustee Pearson: Cool. Thank you. Harvest Fest was great. I only got to be there for like 2 minutes to watch my grandson car race, but when I went there, was packed and it was just beautiful to see people gathering. Was just really great in the square again. The door and the handicap, we're going to look at that afterwards? Okay. Can a loan program that we do for residential people be given to businesses?

Manager Revella: Business owners? Like they own the building or use the building? Yes. Even a tenant in the building can apply.

Trustee Pearson: Some of these businesses that are struggling to repair a building instead of tearing it down could come get the low interest loan from the Village of Walden.

Manager Revella: As long as they have a residential component to the building.

Trustee Pearson: Not if it's a just business, has to be apartments.

Manager Revella: Correct.

Trustee Pearson: Just so that people know that, I don't think a lot of people understand that. I know the Building Department also put on their request for landlord registry inspections and also I think it's supposed to be short term rental that it should SFR. Single Family Residence. You wanted to combine them? I don't know. Is that something we need to talk about as a board or not?

Manager Revella: I thought that we addressed that in the code once before. We're just trying to clarify.

Trustee Pearson: Should we put that on the agenda to talk about? I don't know what that meant, but maybe you can get us some information on what you're thinking, what you want. I know you want to come together, but tell me what you want to do. I saw it in your notes. On the money that we just spent for the black topping. What's the time frame?

Manager Revella: Once we tell them you approve the bid, they'll contract and get started right away. Before winter.

Trustee Pearson: I was going to say because black top plants are going to close, so it's going to be done before they close this year?

Manager Revella: That's the request.

Trustee Pearson: We don't put that time frame in the bid package?

Manager Revella: From the time they start, there's a time frame to finish, but the time frame to start depends on when we sign contracts.

Trustee Pearson: Dave, I would really like the information on that abandoned building if you can get that to me.

Attorney Donovan: I'll be able to tell you what the code says. I don't know the facts behind that property.

Trustee Taylor: Codes. We have an abundance in the village obviously and a lot of those codes are for the village as a whole. However, there are several that impact residents almost on a daily basis. I think another piece of this has to be, is there something we can do to make a presentation, whether it be here, whether it's live streamed so they would have an opportunity to either come here and attend the presentation so they can better understand maybe a specific code and I'm not picking on any individual codes, but building permits, people aren't sitting home with a code book. They make mistakes, some do it on purpose. Midnight warriors. I get that some people make a mistake because they just didn't know. I think if we're going to review codes, there's an opportunity to also educate the residents so they don't make that mistake and they don't feel that they're getting cited because it's punitive. So, there are opportunities there exist. So, I know we've got the one code we're going to look at on noise, but there's some other ones, property maintenance, building permits. We should take the opportunity to make some type of presentation by Department Head or whoever. Give the resident an opportunity to have a better understanding of what they need for a specific task, what the implications are if they proceed without obtaining it. And yeah, they're on our web page. But I

think we need to take it a step further because we work for the residents and if we can seize an opportunity to bring them up to speed, help them out a little bit, I think that's definitely the way to go and it can be folded into code reviews. So, review the code with a couple of goals in mind, clarify certain ones, verbiage, but also seize the opportunity to help the residents out to better understand a code that may affect them on a daily basis, i.e. property management. Pretty simple for us, because we read them. So I'd like to see that and I think I spoke to you about that, John.

Manager Revella: Yes, the common codes presentation.

Trustee Taylor: Harvest Fest. I'm just going to jump on board here it was great. I seized the opportunity to talk to, I don't want to put a number on it, but in excess of 75 to 100 people about the village, about us collectively, what they expect from us, what they're not getting from us and I'll share that at another time. But great job. A lot of volunteers put that together. The list goes on and on. The people that you need to thank. The volunteers, absolutely. Walden Community Council, big part in making that presentation and I want to thank them personally. It's the first one that I attended. Shame on me, having lived in the village this long, but I won't miss the next one for sure. Great job and it was a pleasure to see the community outreach in the community enjoying themselves on a great day.

Trustee Kyle: I'm very satisfied with how Harvest Fest turned out, especially Trustee Booth for anyone who was there. I'm very thankful to Chris. Chris, thank you for spending the entire day with me there because I really don't feel like I could have done it without you. That was amazing. It was our attempt at trying to get a chance to reach out to residents that don't normally show up to board meetings. I think this kind of hits on what you said with people not understanding codes. It was kind of that idea in mind, like people that might not know every code or might not have the answers and my intention was to reach people where we know that they're at and I know that Harvest Fest is a big thing in Walden. I've gone to it every year for the past 10 plus years. I think it was great, we printed out surveys and we also had the survey online, that we had a QR code for that people could scan and we got several surveys filled out. We got the chance to hear some issues, comments, concerns from residents that we probably wouldn't have heard from otherwise. So, I think it was really important and I think that we should do more events like that. Me and Chris, while we were there, talked about ideas to make it more fun in the future and other things we can do to have resident involvement.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Dunk a Trustee.

Trustee Kyle: Or dunk the Village Manager. But just to create that open communication because we hear a lot of complaints in the board meetings and I knew that there must be more people out there that had surprisingly though as much complaints that we hear in the board meetings. I will say that there was a lot of positive feedback that we got and I was very happy to hear it and not only from residents, but out of towners where I wanted Walden to become this place where people came to Walden to hang out and shop, eat and we did have that. We had that at Harvest Fest and we had out of towners that talked about how cute this village was and they loved it. And that was that was a proud moment. I really liked hearing that. So, for all the negative that we hear, there is positive out there too. We just don't hear about it in the board meetings. I just want to throw that out there. I think that if we continue trying to meet the community where they're at, then we will nurture that involvement and we will get more people involved and that's only going to lead to us being a stronger, better village.

Trustee Hall: First, I want to say thank you for singing Happy Birthday. I appreciate it. Harvest Fest was great. I didn't hang out at the booth too much with Liz and Chris. I popped in. I was walking around and down at the other end with the Fire Department mostly. But it was a great turn

out. Probably the best I've seen in years and a lot of people did say that they preferred it up here. They didn't even go down to the park when they had it so I'm glad they brought it back. Riverview. This is the first I'm really hearing about it. I don't live down there, so obviously I'm not aware of it, but I would really like to hear the updates and hopefully have that resolved so they don't have that issue this winter. I know if it was me living there or my parents, I would be just as upset, so hopefully we can get updates on that. Either way, I'll just bother you for them. Also, can we get an update when they start the paving or when we get an idea when going to start the paving, so we have more of an idea when that's going to happen. As Sue mentioned earlier, several people have mentioned that they don't like the way things are going or they don't think the board is doing enough. I just want to remind everybody that there's 3 Trustees and 1 Mayor spot coming up this next election. So, if you really don't like it, there's a few spots open. You're more than welcome to come up, grab a petition and see if you can do it.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Harvest Fest wonderful. Liz, for our booth did literally all of the work, brought candy, did tattoos. I just kind of stood there and answered questions the best I could, but it was an absolute wonderful experience. We had punted on getting a parking spot for the Building Department. So can I make a motion on that?

Manager Revella: For him to draft the intro local law.

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to authorize Village Attorney to draft an introductory local law for parking space in front of Building Department. Seconded by Mayor Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Batson: We had talked about that the Oak Street municipal lot doesn't have the and it came up again tonight, as far as parking, that it doesn't have the same timed signs as the other municipal lots.

Manager Revella: Correct. You asked me to bring the dimensions and issues from all lots at the next meeting, the 15th. There are no time limitations on Oak Street lot.

Deputy Mayor Batson: So, that's going to be on the next agenda.

Trustee Pearson: Can you put how many spaces are in each one?

Manager Revella: Yes, space count was in my notes.

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to authorize Village Attorney to draft an introductory local law for parking space in front of Building Department. Seconded by Mayor Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Deputy Mayor Batson: We're going to discuss that at the next meeting as well. I have a question about, we heard the term eyesore quite a bit and that's fine. I just want to understand from a legal perspective though. There's nothing about it being an eyesore as long as it is not against some sort of safety thing, right?

Manager Revella: There's a property maintenance code.

Attorney Donovan: At some point in time, Chris and I can't give you a bright line for this, but an eye store becomes blight. Blight is not permissible. An eyesore, that may be because someone painted a color someone doesn't like. But blight generally have a blight report, something to rely upon. But at some point in time, an eyesore becomes blight. Blight is a problem.

Deputy Mayor Batson: And there is a code for this. I just want to make sure that we're not going down a very subjective path on this. My standards may be radically different than yours.

Manager Revella: He can go around and anyone that has chipping paint, he can cite. Absolutely.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Is it a specific code or is it just a culmination?

Manager Revella: No, he has the code. He can give you numbers.

Deputy Mayor Batson: Like Kristie said, I went through, I have every agenda right here. First, I had heard about the Riverview Street stuff. I thank people for bringing these things in. It's great for us to hear and hopefully we at least have a plan where we can have a public meeting or a hearing and get the homeowner in here and see if we can't move forward on. Please, if you're out there and you've got issues, come in and let's get stuff done.

Mayor Ramos: Harvest Fest was phenomenal. I want to give a shout out to Reverend Van Houten. He had his popcorn machine and pretty much every kid in the fest had a popcorn bag and adults. I'd like to thank the vendors. They did a phenomenal job. Setting up, cleaning up, breaking down and hopefully they made a very good impact on their sales. Thank the Ambulance, Fire Department, Police Department, Parks and Recs, and the DPW for an awesome job and the clean up and for representing the village. To all the kids, they got to run up and down on the fire truck. Community Council for phenomenal job and executing this plan, the Harvest Fest Committee for gathering all our sponsors and they did a great job.

Read Community Events into Minutes

Executive Session – Attny Client related Hill St Bridge

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to enter into executive session to enter attorney client session related to Hill St Bridge. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

Trustee Kyle made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
October 1, 2024
Motions & Resolutions**

76-80 West Main – Unsafe Building

Trustee Hall made a motion to direct the property owner to work with the Building Inspector to make the property safe and secure to the general public and clean up any outside debris and return in 2 weeks with a plan. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

60 Main St – Unsafe Building

Trustee Taylor made a motion to October 15th, conditioned upon before October 15th is a walk through site inspection, both interior and exterior, with the Building Inspector and the Village Engineer. A plan for remediation to make the building safe to the general public and that the rear yard cleanup be remediated prior to October 15th. Seconded by Trustee Hall. All ayes. Motion carried.

Approval of September 17, 2024 Minutes

Trustee Kyle made a motion to approve the September 17, 2024 Minutes. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. 5 ayes. 1 abstention (Mayor Ramos). Motion carried.

Chapter 181 – Noise Ordinance

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to meet on October 15, 2024 at 5:30pm to discuss Chapter 181 – Noise Ordinance. Seconded by Trustee Pearson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Olley Park – Parking Lot Bid Review

Trustee Hall made a motion to award the Olley Park Parking Lot Bid to Consorti Bros in the total amount of \$167,110.27, with budget amount of \$68,000 and with the remainder to be paid from fund balance. Seconded by Trustee Kyle. All ayes. Motion carried.

Payment of Audited Bills

Per new policy, board signed and approved.

Building Department Parking Spot

Deputy Mayor Batson made a motion to authorize Village Attorney to draft an introductory local law for parking space in front of Building Department. Seconded by Mayor Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

Trustee Kyle made a motion to reconvene the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Batson. All ayes. Motion carried.