

Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
June 3, 2025

Mayor Pearson called the regular meeting of the Village of Walden Board of Trustees to order at 6:30pm.

On roll call the following were:	Mayor:	Becky Pearson
Present:	Deputy Mayor	Lynn Thompson
	Trustees	Gerald Mishk
		Ralph Garrison, Jr
		Cheryl Baker
		Bill Taylor

Absent:	Ralph Garisson, Jr
	Liz Kyle

Also Present:	John Revella, Village Manager
	Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk
	Dominic Cordisco, Village Attorney

Village Manager's Report

- Transitioned to a new tax year
- Water bills, garbage bills, tax bills are all out right now and are starting to come in
- Normal catch up going on, working on reconciliations, the state reports of the comptrollers all going on at the same time
- The departments are getting ready for the new fiscal year as well
- We've been doing interviews for filling holes in staffing at Public Works, the Recreation Department and the Police Department. Going well
- Had to do some emergency repairs at the sewer plant from a power outage from a raccoon
- Dealt with a little bit of flooding here and there from the rains. Hopefully, it goes down enough that we can work on catching up from all that dirt and mud
- Had a comp plan committee meeting, went over and reviewed and finalize some updates for that as well as finalizing the report with assistance from Lanc & Tully. Get that over to the committee and then to the board for review and a public hearing
- Got a memo from civil service to let us know that we cannot take transfers from NYPD anymore. It's a little bit of a thorn because we had been doing pretty well with transfers for filling in for Police Department, now we have to find another route
- RBT has been helping with different things in the office, especially finance with the audit and AFR.
- Met with and spoke with different Board Members on a couple items, especially the mayor. Try to communicate at least once a day
- Rec Department, the tennis program going well. Summer camp is coming up. There's only 39 spots left as of this week. Flag football also going well. Indoor pickleball and is going well. They're mowing and keeping up with code enforcement requests as well
- Building Department issued 39 permits, 64 property violations, 5 stop work orders, 4 co report and then 13 court proceedings going on as well as some of the Planning Board matters

- Clerk's been updating Facebook, website, e-mail service and switching over the phone to the new system. Going over FOILs and the bi-monthly calendar was put out as well
- Finance sent tax bills, state report, programming, reconciliations, getting the new year ready
- Public Works, sewer plants going well. Pressing. Still having issues with rags, people flushing things not supposed into the system that cause issues for the pump stations. Water Department, 14 mark outs, 16 meters, 1 endpoint, and inspection. They postcard properties that need meter replacements so that they're aware. Catch basins and flushing and jetting

Trustee Taylor: Where do we sit on AFR?

Manager Revella: It was in for certification 3 times, when it's completed it goes in for certification, the comptroller reviews it. They sent it back and we fix these few things. I think was 3 or 4 the first time. We did. Recertified it. They sent it back with like 7 things. We just sent it back today for recertification. They're just asking questions about things we're submitting, the financial information. We have assistance from RBT and they're saying we want more clarification on whatever it was they pulled out.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I wanted to ask about the report, we get held up and we can't go on to the next one until this one is finished?

Manager Revella: That's correct.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Do we have any idea of when we're going to be able to put the next one in?

Manager Revella: No. They don't open up the portal until this one is finalized.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: We don't know the time frame is?

Manager Revella: No.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: They can take as long as they want?

Manager Revella: Yes, usually they have gotten back to us within 2 or 3 days every time, so it has been pretty good. We have phone numbers to call people that we need to, if we need to.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Is that our top priority in the office right now?

Manager Revella: Yes. I emphasized that again yesterday.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Are you confident we're going to make our deadline?

Manager Revella: I'm not confident. I'm hopeful.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: What other action can we take?

Manager Revella: We're doing as much as we can for 2023 to make sure it's on time. We're doing whatever we can for 2024 info to make sure it's ready as soon as the portal opens. That's all we can really do right now.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: We have all hands on deck? Everybody's working.

Manager Revella: Everybody that's here is.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: And everybody that's not here, they have excused absences?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Community Council set up flower pots the Main Street, somebody or something tipped 1 over by the VFW. I just wanted to say thank you to the Parking Patrol Officer, he noticed it, he put it all back together and he cleaned it up. I do not know who the gentleman is, but if you could convey to him thank you, because those were really expensive pots and to have that happen so soon in the season was a little disheartening.

Manager Revella: I will, thank you.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I didn't see anything in the report, how it's going looking for an assertiveness training program.

Manager Revella: I can talk to you about that in exec.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I had an e-mail from a resident, asking about our welcome packets. I sent it on to Marisa, but I just would like you to be aware of that people in the community don't know that they can get those. We don't really do a newsletter anymore. We have to go on our website. Is there a reason why, real estate agents when they do closings in the village, is there some way we can put that in the packet with them? So our new residents would get.

Manager Revella: Yes.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I think we should explore that because people have been asking. They don't know where anything is, what we have to offer in the village. Someone asked me about religions. Which I was able to answer that. If anything, we're very diverse with our religions. My only other question, I don't see anything in the report about the letter that we asked to be drafted to the Town of Montgomery about the change in the zoning that they're implementing with our wells.

Attorney Cordisco: We're working on it. Haven't completed it, yet. I was trying to make sure that I had the right parcels and proper information.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Fair enough. My question that I'm going to ask every meeting, have we heard anything about the crosswalk in front of the post office? Have we heard anything about the municipal parking sign?

Manager Revella: No.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Are we following up on that? Do you need people on the board to follow up on that?

Trustee Baker: I think I sent a couple of emails. I did not receive responses, yet.

Manager Revella: Cheryl 's been pretty adamant and is advocating for those things. It's been helpful.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Shall we tag team? You and me?

Manager Revella: Yeah, that's great. Yes. We should try to schedule a time to stop in to meet with that person.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Works for me.

Trustee Mishk: 1 question, on the water meter side, they're coming along. Just see we did 16 in this period. This doesn't seem like many for a couple of weeks.

Manager Revella: No. They're still flushing. They'll finish flushing this month, they're down a guy so it's a little bit slower, but they're on them pretty consistently and it's really about scheduling with the homeowners. They had some power outages with the stations. Tree came down. They're pretty busy.

Approval of Minutes – May 20, 2025

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve the May 20, 2025. Seconded by Trustee Baker. 4 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Taylor). Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Park Use Request – Alcohol Waiver - Jurgens

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve park use request – alcohol waiver. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

52 Walker St

Tabled

Overlook Terrace Discussion - Sidewalk

Mayor Pearson: I sent you all the pictures that I received from the homeowner that has a sidewalk to nowhere. It basically goes through driveway, to somebody else's piece of property and then it ends. There is no driveway, nothing connecting it. Would you guys like to do a site visit and see what it looks like? Or are you comfortable talking about it without a site visit?

Manager Revella: You want to set up a Town Hall for up there and meet the residents?

Mayor Pearson: We can do that.

Deputy Mayor Thompson made a motion to hold a Town Hall at Overlook Terrace on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 6:30pm. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review of Fee Schedules

Mayor Pearson: This is really about the scout cabin. Because it did not have anything when I read it in the notes. So, I thought we put that on so we have a fee for the scout cabin. We don't really have any tables and chairs over there at all?

Manager Revella: They set the tables and chairs. There's some there.

Mayor Pearson: Okay, so we don't have to transfer them from another place.

Manager Revella: Depends on what activity happens there. There's some there but if they need more, bring more.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: What's the occupancy of the scout cabin?

Manager Revella: That would be a Building Inspector question, I'm not sure.

Building Inspector Wallner: I will look into it.

Manager Revella: 50-60 people easily.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I was going to guess 50. Small space. But I don't know what the law says.

Mayor Pearson: We got an e-mail back, John you said it was like...

Manager Revella: The Wooster Grove gym. \$50 an hour, same with the gym price.

Mayor Pearson: I don't have a problem with \$50 an hour. That's coming from our director, so I think that we could start out with that. If we feel that needs to change at some point, it can be changed.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'm okay with that. It's a nice facility. It's all brand new. That's a beautiful kitchen. There's outdoor space. If people rent that they're getting a very nice venue. I don't think that fee is unreasonable.

Trustee Taylor: Just want to make sure whatever fee that we establish, you mentioned in case you wanted to be changed, I don't think you want to get into that arena if you run it today for \$50 an hour and then all of a sudden you change it and it's going north.

Mayor Pearson: No, I didn't mean in the year. I meant like next year when we do fee schedules again. See if it had a lot of activity and just review it again next year.

Deputy Mayor Thompson made a motion to accept fee schedule for \$50 an hour for the scout cabin. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Motion carried.

SRO – Contract Review

Trustee Mishk: I think that this is a little outrageous. *inaudible* the law enforcement to protect the students at the school as well as the other civilians at the school. The Police Department should be making some of the calls for those and not the school itself. I think this contract is completely limiting the scope of Police Officer. If this was a security guard, I'd agree with this 100%, but these are trained Police Officers, certified Police Officers who are gonna run towards the danger they're not away from it. They should not be held to some of the standards in this contract.

Mayor Pearson: The first time we had it was that the Police Department had full discretion on that and then the next year it changed. I kind of said why is it changing? It's still our Police Department we're paying to be there. You're paying them to be there. It did get changed to that but I'm agreeance with you. I think that we should go back to the first contract.

Trustee Mishk: I'm also not sure exactly what they're referring to on data inspection and challenges to data. What type of data are they referring to?

Mayor Pearson: I don't know.

Trustee Mishk: This is an addendum of the agreement #2.

Mayor Pearson: I was looking at this too and there are a lot of things that they do extra, like investigation and this and that and who's paying for that? Their officers are going to have to work, not just when they're in the school. Who pays for that time for them to be doing investigations and if something does happen in the school?

Trustee Mishk: Any investigations should be handled by the Police Department, but it might not necessarily be the SRO. If there's a crime committed, SRO should still do his job and then somebody else in the Police Department, whether it be our investigator going there and do the investigations.

Manager Revella: They would hand it off to another officer. You're right, that's what it should be.

Trustee Mishk: Just for the consistency alone because there may be a different SRO each day. And especially as a part time, what are you going to do, investigate once a week? It's a serious crime, I think that's the department should be doing that. I think some of those things should be listed in there and most of my opinion is based on experience with that.

Mayor Pearson: Page 4 #10, *read into minutes* where does that money come into play. How does that work? *read #14 into minutes*

Manager Revella: On 10, that Trustee Mishk is talking about, if there's an issue and they need additional Police Officers, they just want to make sure the SRO is the bridge to make sure they get those additional officers to do whatever that investigation is. Which would be normal even if we didn't have an SRO. If there's a call for service at the school that's how we can get help. That's my interpretation.

Attorney Cordisco: I think it might be helpful to think about this as the fact that what the school district would be compensating the village for would be the presence of that particular officer there during those times that you're there. As John had mentioned if there was no agreement, and there was a call, obviously the officers will respond to that call. If there was an investigation, they would conduct that investigation whether it's in the school or having to do with the local pizza place. It would not necessarily be compensation associated with that, but I think in this case the purpose of the agreement and I agree with Jerry, with your comments regarding the scope of the interaction between the authority of the school district over the officer, my preference would be and the agreement will be rewritten to make sure that the police remain independent and have their own jurisdiction at all times. I think it's perhaps a mismatch to think of the fact that you're compensating for the village for the presence of the officer there. If there was a call, it wasn't an officer there, but there was a call, because there was an incident that needed to be investigated or criminal charges needing to be brought. There would be no compensation for that.

Mayor Pearson: Yes, but somewhere in here it said that they don't necessarily have to use the department that's here. It could be they have been choosing who they want to use.

Attorney Cordisco: I didn't focus on that, but what I was concerned with was the amount of discretion that when you get into the school district, over investigations that should be independent conducted by the Police Department and ultimately calling the Police Chief and chain of command. Which would happen regardless. *inaudible* change the balance of that. I also didn't like the fact that payment would be made once the village was sending the invoice. Unless the charge is going to

change on a monthly basis, it's just straight fee that is being paid. I think the school district should, like I know I need to pay my father's rent every month. I don't need the landlord telling me need to pay the rent.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: It just seems like a cumbersome waste of time. The village, our finance office is busy enough.

Attorney Cordisco: I provided some comments to John and if the board has additional comments that you'd like to provide back to the school district, that would probably be the next step. Doesn't sound like the agreement in its current form is acceptable to the board.

Trustee Mishk: Is this this contract prepared by the school?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Mishk: Do we have last years?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Trustee Mishk: I'd like to, if it's alright, to look at both to compare.

Manager Revella: Of course.

Mayor Pearson: Page 4, #16, about transporting people. It says nearest emergency facility. Why would we be doing emergency? Why wouldn't we call the ambulance for that? Why would we be taking people in emergency situations?

Manager Revella: For example, your SRO is watching the playground and the kid gets stung by a bee, there's no EpiPen for some reason. It's an emergency and the ambulance is 15 minutes out. We're not waiting.

Mayor Pearson: If they don't like the SRO officer they can get to pick another 1. Why would they be able to do that? If they don't like them and they want somebody new, then we have to supply somebody new. We hire these people as an employee. Can we just get rid of them at anytime if the school doesn't like them? We can hire somebody new? How does that work?

Trustee Mishk: You would think the only way they could do that is if the SRO acted where they felt he was outside his scope of employment.

Mayor Pearson: I agree with that. Doesn't say that though.

Trustee Mishk: The same thing in paragraph 16, if you read the whole paragraph, they give you a way out opposite of what they said in the first sentence.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: But if they didn't like the officer assigned to them, why couldn't we just provide another officer with our Police Department?

Manager Revella: We can.

Mayor Pearson: We send a sergeant.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I know but you just said they could go to a different agency.

Trustee Mishk: There's a section in here that says that if the village can't man the job, then they can contact the Town of Montgomery and ask them for an SRO.

Mayor Pearson: Why are you going through September. School doesn't start till the 4th and it ends on the 26th, so why are we paying from the first? I don't understand. SRO's doesn't have to be there for the conferences, do they? For the teachers?

Manager Revella: Yes. They request them there for that period. This is what the request is. They're requesting for SRO officer to be there for those time periods.

Trustee Taylor: Did the previous one indicate that as well?

Manager Revella: I don't remember if it said that in the contract, but they did ask for us to go there. Certain events as well.

Trustee Baker: Page 4, paragraph 15, *read into minutes* how's the district gonna determine whether criminal charges are going to be brought or not? and nothing should be disposed of because it is evidence. It should not be by district policy and if it's an illegal substance or weapon, probably going to be charges of some kind. That shouldn't be for the district to decide or how to dispose.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I think that was Jerry's point that the police should be to lead, if there's anything untoward going on with any type of criminal implication and I agree with that.

Mayor Pearson: I agree as well.

Trustee Taylor: Going back to #10, they're kind of indicating here that if additional police are required, they want the SRO to be the mediator. If there's been a situation and the police are responding to that, do we really need somebody to be the moderator between the parties here? It becomes a police matter at that point. Does it not?

Manager Revella: Absolutely.

Trustee Taylor: I think that should be worded a little bit differently, that bottom line the police is only going to respond if the SRO tells them hey, we need some help here. They're in charge at that point.

Attorney Cordisco: Right. I think that paragraph should be deleted.

Trustee Taylor: I agree with that. I don't see a need for a moderator. If there's an issue that requires the police to be there, they're running the show.

Attorney Cordisco: That's right and whoever is senior on the scene will be coordinating with the school district.

Mayor Pearson: I need to ask a question on page 15, at the bottom. Commercial general liability insurance, says 1,000,000 per occurrence and then 2,000,000 and then on the next page, letter b, is it different insurance? Because there they have 2,000,000 for both.

Manager Revella: They're saying that it's not a commercial liability policy, it's a separate enforcement policy that's up to 2,000,000 at least. We have commercial liability I think 10,000,000.

Trustee Mishk: I really think that we should table this until we have a chance to compare previous contracts and also come back with our proposal.

Trustee Baker: I would really like to hear from the new chief.

Trustee Taylor: Going back to paragraph 16 where it talks about transporting, what's the liability and who determines that it was an emergency condition that required police to transport?

Manager Revella: This SRO determines that. Same as any other call for service. It's a call for service that required emergency transport.

Mayor Pearson: Also there's no amounts in her. Who decides what the amount would be?

Manager Revella: We have to talk about it. That's what we're working on setting up with chief and the treasurer.

Mayor Pearson: That's next meeting as well.

Code Review - Discussion

Mayor Pearson: Going to look at ethics and talk about how you felt about the public being partly involved. I think I like it the way it is right now. I think the public can come out and just be, the department does something that they don't like and all of a sudden it's unethical. I don't know.

Manager Revella: I think that the public has a venue for that outside of the Ethics Board. They can file complaints at the DA's office or attorney general's office, other agencies. The Ethics Board is for internal policing and questions. For us to ask is this okay or not really...

Mayor Pearson: I was in one of those Ethics Board thing. It should not have happened but it did and it was from someone from the public. It didn't go anywhere, but it was probably because they didn't like me. From experience, just telling you like it is.

Trustee Baker: I understand that, but I also have a different take on it. They may inherent distrust. I don't see a reason why they shouldn't be allowed to fill out the form and hand it to the clerk. A person does have a right to make a complaint. I don't foresee a huge avalanche. Are you going to get some spiteful people? Yeah, but that you get that, unfortunately. Do I foresee a huge avalanche, no. *inaudible* the Ethics Board to vote if it has any merit or not. If they don't find that it has merit, it doesn't mean that has to be pursued. *inaudible* you might remember when I first ran, someone put an ethics complaint against me, that was someone from the public. I think it's a legitimate process that someone in the public should be allowed to do. They may for whatever reason not trust village officials because they think there's nepotism or a slight towards them. They should be able to go there and get it stamped. It's their own foolish part if they don't get it stamped.

Trustee Mishk: I'm kind of thinking along the same way. If the Police Department had a complaint about one of their officers, they would investigate it and if it was unfounded, they *inaudible* well not every civilian that may see something that's an ethics violation and I'm not talking about the violation of law. About ethics violation. They see that and they may not feel comfortable coming to somebody that's part of the management of the village because of maybe they see a friendship. I think the job of the Ethics Board is to hear you out and investigate whether it's found or unfound. I'm not talking about putting somebody into jail, we're just talking about finding out there's a violation here and then passing it on to, which would be the Village Manager next, right?

Mayor Pearson: No, comes to the board.

Manager Revella: It depends on who it is. Depends on the employee, too.

Trustee Mishk: Again, it might not ever get to that point, if the Ethics Board does their job.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I don't know, because I do believe everybody should have a voice and if they're really unhappy about something and you do question legitimacy of the behavior. That should be addressed. But I could see it snowballing and the Ethics Board may be misused. That would be my concern about it. You don't want people with trivial little issue that they perceive as something unjust or unfair or questionable behavior. I think there has to be a standard of when it goes to the Ethics Board. I don't know how you would differentiate that if every village resident felt that something shady was going on or they were questioning somebody's behavioral or moral character. How do you differentiate what actually belongs in front of the Ethics Board? Are you going to convene the Ethics Board for everything? That's my concern. I don't want to see the Ethics Board misused. I want to see it utilized properly. We already field a lot of issues from village residents. I can't go to Hannaford's without somebody approaching me wanting to question something or complain about something and you talk to them. Sometimes you tell them to call the manager. Sometimes you tell them to call the Department Head. Sometimes you just say to them let me look into that for you. You think that we're not enough for the sounding board for the village residents? Sometimes we are able to say to them, it really doesn't seem to rise to the level of where it should be going for an ethics review. I don't want to see the process getting misused. That's my concern.

Trustee Mishk: I'm not referring to everything that we get the complaints. If we get the complaints first hand and we have a chance to look into them, that's great. We can usually alleviate the problem and address it as deserved, but I'm talking about the issues that people are afraid to come to the board or to the management of the village. At least they have a place to go. And if the Ethics Board thinks that there is validation in their complaint, they can forward it to the board and the management.

Trustee Baker: Has the village ever had it where it was the public was able to make ethics complaints?

Manager Revella: The Village Board changed that.

Trustee Baker: When it was prior, did the board get slammed with an avalanche of public complaints?

Manager Revella: I don't know. I think that it wasn't utilized at all. That's why, what's the point? They have other venues to use and that's why the change happened last time.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: When did it get changed?

Manager Revella: 2006, I'm checking different parts *referring to the code* 2013 was the last change that I see.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Do you recall was there a specific incident? I'm just curious as to what the rationale was for wanting to change it.

Mayor Pearson: Can go back and read the minutes.

Manager Revella: Local law 9 in 2013.

Trustee Taylor: I don't want to be a stick in the mud here, but I think there's a distinct difference between an ethical issue and a complaint and a concern. I'm of the opinion and as I sit here on this dais, if we have not established the level of trust, as representatives of this village, then we have failed in that responsibility. There are ways that you can do that. You do that by getting out about communicating with the residents and regardless of the issue or the concern at that particular moment in time, it's the most important thing in the world to that individual and it is incumbent upon us to look at it and if we don't have an answer, it's incumbent upon us to let them know that we will check into it and move it along. I think there's a distinct difference between committing an ethical violation, if you will and having a complaint department and if there's an uncomfortable level out there, that's a failure on our part. I consider it a failure on my part if somebody can't approach me because they have hesitation. I said in the beginning when I ran for office that I've got roughly 7000 employers in this village. I work for them. I don't work for the manager. I don't work for anybody on this board. And that's the way I've conducted business in the last 14 months.

Attorney Cordisco: That's absolutely correct and what you're striking at is kind of at the heart of it in the options that the Village Board has, at this point. As it's currently written, this board has to refer complaints that you received to the Ethics Board if you deem them worthy of sending over, meritorious and it's something that the Ethics Board should look into. That's how the code is currently. If you want to change it, you would have to change it by local law to amend the ethics code to allow people to make their complaints directly to the Ethics Board, which the Ethics Board will have to take, there will be no buffer. It's done both ways. It's really a preference of what the overall board wants to do. Whether or not you want to receive and know of complaints and then refer them as you deem fit to the Ethics Board or whether or not people have the opportunity to go directly to the Ethics Board. It's a question of how you want to proceed. I don't disagree with you.

Mayor Pearson: I have met with the Ethics Board the other night. Gave them information on what ethics means. I gave them a copy of our ethics law. I did ask them to think about that comment that we were just discussing about public versus non public. I haven't heard back from anyone. Asked them to get back to me just because they will be dealing with people. I think maybe if you don't care about what they have to say that's fine. If you want me to reach back out to them and see how they feel about it. That's up to you guys. Maybe that shouldn't be something that we do. I'm just putting it out there.

Trustee Mishk: You're probably right and you probably should see if they're willing to and if they want to change because if they're not willing to go through, they may decide to resign if they get too much work put on them. Or they don't want to address those issues.

Mayor Pearson: I left them with papers to read, understand it, go over it with each other, talk about it. There was one person missing. Did he pick up his papers?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Mayor Pearson: Going to try to reach out to them all, if you want me to do that.

Trustee Baker: I'm fine with that to get their opinion.

Mayor Pearson: Let me do that. I'll just carry that over to not the next meeting, but the meeting after.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Regardless of what they tell you, the decision still falls to us.

Mayor Pearson: Correct. I'm going to have them e-mail me with how they feel. I'll send it to you all of what they said, so you'll have everything. I share everything with you guys.

Attorney Cordisco: As I mentioned, if the board wants to change this, then you would have to introduce the local law and would be subject to a public hearing. So, you'll hear from the public about it as well. And then you make your decision. I think that to move forward, would be discussion at the July meeting. If there's direction from the board at that time, we could then prepare amendment for you start considering at your August meeting.

Reviewed Code Chapters 66 with no comments

Chapter 67-1

Mayor Pearson: A lot of people listed that are no longer with us. You want them in there?

Manager Revella: No.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: If I missed it please tell me. Where does it say who appoints the people to the various boards?

Manager Revella: That's by village law in the State law.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I know but we have a Village Manager, not every municipality has a Village Manager, so you have been appointing these people.

Manager Revella: Yes, that's in the village law, NYS village law.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I couldn't find it anywhere in here so I was questioning why doesn't it say that?

Manager Revella: I'm not saying it shouldn't say it in here too. I hear you.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I think it should be clarified in here.

Mayor Pearson: You want to add to that who appoints.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I would just like it to be crystal clear, John says it's in a NYS law, but we should have it in our local law who's responsible for making all of these appointments to the various boards.

Mayor Pearson: Want to add that, just as a sentence? That the manager is responsible.

All: Yes.

Manager Revella: The 67-1 we can take out the whole thing and then add that to 67-2.

Mayor Pearson: And 67-2 should be changed to comp plan instead of master plan.

Chapter 67-3

Mayor Pearson: We had changed the clerks to documents office at one time. Do we want to do that? I don't know why we did that. Do we have a documents office?

Manager Revella: No. We have a clerk, we don't need a documents office.

Chapter 67-4

Mayor Pearson: Zoning and Planning Board Commission. We don't really have that and said to change that last time.

Attorney Cordisco: These have not been changed. That's probably dating back to a time when the zoning code was coming into effect. It can be updated and changed. I would delete 67-1 and reserve for future use and 67-4.

Chapter 67-5

Mayor Pearson: We all know what that's about. It's having members that are sitting in the audience in case somebody doesn't show up so that they could fill in the meeting, in case there's not a forum. Says nothing in here about the nys law that says that they should have training and if they don't they can be let go. I looked that up because I know there's some concerns. There is a law that says that about the training. They want them to have those 4 hours of training a year. Zoning and Planning Board.

Manager Revella: That's a removal for cause for not having the training.

Mayor Pearson: I think we should put something in there that the Planning and Zoning board need training and if not done, they can be replaced. That's what the nys law says about alternates and Zoning and Planning Boards.

Manager Revella: The members are required to submit the certification to the chair or the clerk or both. The chair will bring it to the clerk, if they get it themselves.

Trustee Mishk: 67-7 d, on the next page kind of reference all those issues with training and it applies to removal, eligibility and vacancy.

Mayor Pearson: On the same page, it says alternates can vote. Can you explain that?

Attorney Cordisco: It's governed by state law.

Chapter 67-8

Attorney Cordisco: This is when you have a conflict between the state code and your local code, it's saying that your local code would apply.

Chapter 74

Mayor Pearson: See chapter 291. Chapter 291, which has speed limits, maximum 25 on streets, school is 15 and park is 10. Weight limits, we have 5 ton on village streets. There's an exception on Edmunds Ln about the limits.

Manager Revella: Edmunds Ln is a truck route to Coldenham Rd. Factories that are on that street.

Trustee Taylor: We should still look at the sign because the sign that restricts going up is still there. Going up to Sweeney's. They can't go up there if it exceeds the weight limit. I brought this up a long time ago and it's still there. By the letter of the law, they need to go straight out and not go up that way. We either need to take the sign down or we need to make an amendment that allows them to go up that road.

Manager Revella: Just the sign is misplaced. The law is correct.

Trustee Taylor: The sign has been there forever. So, when we addressed the law, we didn't address the sign.

Manager Revella: We have to take care of the sign.

Mayor Pearson: In that also talks about loading zones. Do we still need some of the loading zones that are here?

Manager Revella: What section are you in?

Mayor Pearson: I'm in 291 under Traffic Bureau. It says general references underneath that, it lists vehicle and traffic. List all of those speed limits, weight limits, exceptions, loading zones, one ways, yields. Do we not have to look at those? Under chapter 74, you go to general references. Let's save that for next meeting.

Chapter 74-2

Mayor Pearson: Do we have a Vehicle and Traffic Violation Bureau? Is it the Police Department? Looks like it's under the judge's jurisdiction.

Trustee Baker: I read it as it's the courts.

Attorney Cordisco: That would be a question for Village Justice.

Manager Revella: I don't think that's even relevant anymore, 1973 and 1982, don't see any updates. This is a good one to go in and maybe delete it in its entirety.

Mayor Pearson: We'll check that out.

Discussion about Chapter 86 and agreed to leave it as is

Mayor Pearson: Will come back to ethics in July and 74/291 next meeting.

CDBG – Set Public Hearing

Manager Revella: We'll figure out an area of sidewalk. There's a couple areas in need. It's really limited what you can use CDBG for. ADA compliance is one of the things you can use it for now. So, my recommendation is to try to find an area to use that for. Goal for the board for tonight is to set the public hearing for next meeting in order to apply for those funds.

Trustee Baker made a motion to set public hearing for CDBG for Jun 17, 2025 at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Motion carried.

Office Hours - Discussion

Tabled

Dress Code - Discussion

Mayor Pearson: We did get something from John for the dress code.

Trustee Baker: The first sentence, employees must use good judgement and taste in their work clothes. I know my personal taste is probably different than Bill's or Lynn's or yours. I wouldn't put it as someone's personal taste. I think if you're going to set up a dress code it should be at the village's standards and not a personal employee's opinion.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I agree Cheryl. I read that too and thought why would the person be able to because that's kind of why we're in this discussion anyway.

Trustee Baker: It's counterintuitive to having a dress code policy. If you're just going to leave it up to the employee to decide whether it's appropriate or not.

Mayor Pearson: There was a list, it talked about no flip flops, shorts, t-shirts.

Trustee Mishk: If you refer to, it says except for employees to use their own judgment and the next sentence goes on and says they're required to dress in business or business casual. That kind of covers it. It also outlines that t-shirts, shorts, flip flops and maybe we should include bare feet are not allowed.

Trustee Baker: With shorts, some women's pant suits are dress shorts. Are those being banned as well?

Mayor Pearson: That's the board's decision.

Trustee Mishk: I think that's up to the person who determines whether that person is going to go home and says it's appropriate or not. I think it also depends on the length of the shorts.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: How detailed do we have to get?

Mayor Pearson: I don't think we have to get that detailed, just specifics on what it says, like flip flops, shorts, t-shirts. T-shirts are great unless it's printed t-shirts and they're not just advertising shirts. If you have a printed t-shirt that's flowers all over it. I think t-shirts is the wrong word to use.

Trustee Mishk: I think that we should just go by business casual and address it that way. A stretched out, faded t-shirt is not business casual.

Trustee Taylor: This is a business. People that work for the village and are in front of the public, this is a business and it should look like it's a business. It should run like it's a business and it should sound like it's a business. I have been in management for 40 years and had been exposed to dress codes my entire career. Generally, management didn't solicit opinions of what was acceptable. They told us what was acceptable. If you're dealing with the public, casual business attire is the way to go. It should be up to the department head, if something is deemed not casual business, unless it's extreme, obviously. We don't want somebody thinking they're running the catwalk every time they come to work. Business casual is the norm. This is a business. It needs to look like it, sound like it and present like it. Being barefoot, safety issue. Right off the bat. Workers comp issue written all over. Stub my toe, broke it. I was barefoot. Too bad. So, business casual should include some decent footwear. Nobody's mandating safety shoes unless your job dictates it. But flip flops, running around barefoot, that's just unacceptable. That's not what businesses do. This is not the service desk at Home Depot and Lowe's. This is a business. We are the face of the public and we should present ourselves accordingly. Whether it's on this dais or in an office. That's my opinion.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I agree with Bill, but I thought we were going to relax the rules a little on Fridays. They could have a casual Friday.

Trustee Taylor: I think that's pretty much standard in the industry from coast to coast now. Casual Fridays. But again, let's not go crazy here and don't be offended if the person you work for says hey, that's really on the edge here. I would prefer you don't come to work like that. I don't see a problem with that. That's what management is supposed to do. They're supposed to guide, support and

provide necessary information for employees.

Manager Revella: If you're talking about business casual, normally that's not jeans. So, casual Friday would be jeans. That would be a difference. Just an example.

Trustee Mishk: I agree.

Mayor Pearson: You want to have the attorney write something up for us or John can you do the policy?

Attorney Cordisco: Draft the policy prepared by Ashley Torre. I think that that could be modified and then adopted by the board. It's not by local law.

Manager Revella: I have it ready with notes.

Cell Phone Policy

tabled

Public Comment

Mary Ellen Matise: How about you revisit an issue that we've ignored for a long time *inaudible* about the placement making workshops that we had years ago. Casually crossing the street over here and have to stand on the sidewalk and waiting because someone comes flying through the square. I wish I had a gun to clock how fast she was going. Never slowed down. Came around the curve to go up Scofield Street. If anybody had been out there they would have been clipped. Maybe the idea is, they have those rubber humps that you can put temporarily and maybe we should try it to slow people down. They can always be removed. They're rubber and they're not the greatest thing in the world. Maybe a temporary basis with the idea that we go ahead and finally put some humps in the square.

Manager Revella: The white ones that are like this wide? The length of the road.

Mary Ellen Matise: They have to be wide. Maybe something that should just try temporarily, just to get people to slow down. Obviously, the array of cameras and all the monitors downstairs in the dispatch office don't work, in terms of slowing down because that's not what they're there for. But they could see somebody speeding through. If somebody is sitting there and watching the screens. And it could even get us to a license plate, don't you have the plate readers? That person should have had a ticket.

Manager Revella: They can't ticket based on that process. We don't have that ability village. You have to be a city to do that. The state doesn't allow us.

Mary Ellen Matise: That was one of the worst I've seen in a long time. She could have been easily going 25-30 mph.

Manager Revella: That's why we make sure that the school zone signs are there too.

Mary Ellen Matise: Whatever she was doing, she wasn't fazed at all by where she was. People may be being there. She was just gunning it straight ahead.

Jerry Hanen: Deputy Mayor didn't want to name me as the resident that contacted her. Mainly it's about communication and the lack of in a lot of cases. I was looking for information for the Memorial Day Parade. There was nothing on the village website at all about it. I clicked on the

Facebook page for the village and the first thing that comes up is negative comments from 2022 until you actually click on the village and then it did come up and there was some information there. But if you just search for the Village of Walden on Facebook the comments are very negative about the village. But I did finally find information there and on the Community Council's Facebook page. Then I looked a little more at the website, I was looking for the comprehensive plan, which when I searched for it says that it's on the Village Manager's link and you go there and the link that's there does not work. But Marisa did e-mail it to me today. The welcome packet. Page one is all the information about the village. That had 1 of the Trustees right because many was on the board at that point in 2019. That welcome packet needs to be completely reviewed and updated because there's a lot of other information there and that's not right. And like Lynn said, it needs to get out to people. We never got anything, we never heard anything about it. We moved here 4 years ago. The calendar and the upcoming events if you look at the upcoming events the most recent thing happened in March. That needs to be updated. I know Marisa's got a lot her plate and this is not all on her but I think we need somebody that is focused on communication because it is an important part of what we need here in the village. We need people to know what's going on and the only way they're going to know that is if they can go to the website and get correct information. If we can't find the links to get to the calendar, it takes like 3 or 4 clicks just to get to a calendar, instead of the calendar that shows up when you open the page, that has nothing on it. We need to look at updating that the website and keeping it updated.

Scott Clemens: I'm wondering if there was a way that you guys can paint lines down at the tennis courts for pickleball as well?

Manager Revella: Yeah. We asked Jay DeGroodt, he contracts with us to do paint. So, I hope he can get over there and get it done.

Scott Clemens: Also, there's a new memorial down at Bradley Field. The big stone, great memorial. Love to see it, but the bench is positioned in a terrible spot. So, you're just sitting there looking at a block that's 8 feet away. If you could back that up a little bit, that be beneficial. Also, I was wondering if there's a way you could put a buffer or a snow fence on Richardson Street during the winter season.

Manager Revella: There's no median. He's talking about between the curb and the sidewalk, there's no grass mall.

Scott Clemens: I'll clean the sidewalk, the plow will have to take it off the road. Where it drains *inaudible* We've discussed that great length for 25 years. I think it's something maybe to act on that and do something and really resolve it. It's to a point of great stress for the homeowners that own that sidewalk.

Ker Market Representative 1: We came here for clarification. We received an e-mail from Dean Stickles. Since, it's very hard for us to understand how the Building Department functions, we thought that we would bring it to you guys so maybe we can understand. *read email into minutes*

Manager Revella: He's talking about the outdoor café permit. Did he give any information on that? Rob will make sure that you get an outdoor café permit over to your place tomorrow. If that's what you want to do. If you have tables and chairs out on the village sidewalk, you're supposed to have an outdoor café permit. That's something that this board reviews often. He could bring over the paperwork, you can look at it and see if it's something you want to do.

Ker Market Representative 1: Is there a fee associated with that?

Manager Revella: Yes. It's an annual fee, 100 bucks a year to have tables and chairs outside. Usually, you have where you are going to put your table and chairs on a drawing or something. How you are going to fix them and then the board will look at it. If it's okay, they'll say sure. That's pretty much it.

Ker Market Representative 1: If the business is not a café, they still use table and chairs, do they have to pay the fee?

Manager Revella: Yes.

Ker Market Representative 1: Why other businesses didn't have to do that?

Manager Revella: I don't know. I don't know which other ones may have stuff outside and didn't get a permit. I'll make sure Rob checks.

Ker Market Representative 1: I just find it very interesting that Dean sees our business, that is a year old, but does not see other businesses that have been on Main Street for several years. That's why we bring it to the board because we can't have conversation with the Building Department. It's very confusing. They give us information when we inquire and we ask for the businesses, they say that they didn't have to go through the same process. That's why we're asking. For instance, when we had to put our letters on the windows, we were told that we needed a building permit application. We actually paid for a building permit application to put those letters on the windows to be able to go in front of the Planning Board to present our letters. And Darlene told us, when you put those letters on your window, make sure that you put the building permit on your door so everybody can see what you're doing and nobody can complain about it. Being in the construction business for pretty much our entire professional lives, to put a building permit to put stickers on windows was a little strange to us.

Manager Revella: I think that it should have been a sign permit, not a building permit but its pretty similar.

Ker Market Representative 2: What we're asking here is, we don't want to be targeted. If you don't want businesses to come into town, they should say we don't want anybody else in town. But there is double standards here because there is no other business on Main Street, we spoke to everyone, nobody paid for a permit. Request, you already have our money, that you would approve us for putting the tables out and everyone else puts tables out and they never got in trouble. They've had the tables out for years. When we went to get approval for 1 sink, took them 3 months. If John didn't stop them from harassing us, we still would be waiting for a sink a year later. Thank you, John. John had stopped in and apologized. They have something against us, whatever it is it's not ethical. Talk about ethical stuff, Dean also made a comment "they're not from around here". We live 25 mins up the road. Yes, Dean has some type of issue and he's targeting us. No other business on Main Street had to pay for it. So, we're asking the board, somebody should talk to him. We already paid for something that nobody else pays for, that you would approve us to have the tables out there, since we've already gone through enough with him. Please, somebody step up and put an end to this prejudice. Thank you.

Trustee Taylor: Can you tell me what are the other businesses? I'm wondering where they're at that have tables and chairs on the sidewalk.

Ker Market Representative 1: There is the Barber shop next to us. Who said that he had chairs outside for a long time there. Weaker chairs that got destroyed by the elements after a while so that's why they're not there anymore. He said that he didn't need to ask anyone to put those chairs on the

sidewalk. Brittney has chairs and a table outside. We organize events with Brittany she's a great asset for the village. She told us that she never had to ask for anything for those 2 chairs and the table on the sidewalk. But we hear about it one year after we've been open already and coming from Dean, it's extremely suspicious. You were talking about ethics earlier and you were talking about trust, we're the kind of business that people come and spend time talking to us. And for the people that we see coming to our shop, it's beyond the trust level. It's not even a lack of trust at this point. People are afraid. They're afraid to come talk to you guys. People are worried coming to you guys to address their concerns.

Ker Market Representative 2: Most of them are about Dean.

Ker Market Representative 1: Dean right from the beginning we've heard, he likes you or he doesn't like you. I'm sorry, this is a 2 tier system. He likes you, you can do whatever you want. Even some electricians can do whatever they want. Or you cannot do anything. So, we send him an answer and we don't get anything back so might as well as bring it to the board. Are we going to get back stabbed by Dean? Are we going to feel the heat from it?

Mayor Pearson: We used to have a place over here that tables out and they came every year to get the permit. I do know that the law states there needs to be a permit, board needs to approve it because part of its handicapped accessible, people walking by, how big the tables are. It was not just the table being there and that people don't want you to be there. I've always wanted tables on Main Street. I love that look. But there is a process that we go through. Not sticking up for anybody in the Building Department. I'm just saying what the process is. At the comp plan meeting just talked about that a couple nights ago. About changing some of that. That may come before the board shortly about tables and what constitutes food and what doesn't and who has to pay. Because Sweeney's pays. They're outside every year. So, there's things that the comp plan is talking about that may benefit the whole village. What we'll do is talk to the manager, do some due diligence on our end and see what's happening.

Ker Market Representative 1: Appreciate it. Last comment I will say that \$100 per business is not going to make or break your budget. But for a small business owner paying \$100 a year to try to make the village look more welcoming and better looking, I think that it would be really appreciated if you guys could not charge \$100. The approval process I understand. You don't want the tables to be too wide, too big, too bulky. I understand that but the \$100 fee, to me is a little steep. There are other things on Main Street that could be addressed. Next to us we have a pizza joint that's been closed for years. The old canopy that is dirty, ripped. If you want the street to look like a ghetto, you have an empty store with canopy that is all ripped and dirty.

Continued discussion about old sign on their building

Mayor Pearson: I would really like to hear from our Building Department, as well. Not that we're not trusting you, but I just think that's fair to everyone. That's how I feel about it.

Manager Revella: And just to make sure, they still need the application with the sketch where you are putting the tables and chairs.

Mayor Pearson: If you could give it to the clerk, Marisa, your drawing, she'll put it in our packet for the meeting. The Friday before the meeting, so it's going to be by the 13th.

Payment of Audited Bills

Deputy Mayor Thompson made a motion to approve payment of audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Mayor Pearson: I sent all my correspondence to the board. Had a couple complaints.

Miscellaneous Comments from the Board of Trustees

Trustee Baker: It was a great Memorial Day. It was a beautiful day, no rain. Mother Nature decided to cooperate with us so it was great to see the participation. We have our Flag Day coming up, June 8th.

Mayor Pearson: 1 o'clock at Veterans Memorial Park.

Trustee Taylor: Just to reiterate, Memorial Day, yes, I did make it up the hill. I know there was a lot of speculation relevant to that. As long as it keeps showing up, the PD commitment to village functions. High level visibility that I see on a regular basis. It's just a wonderful thing to see. Nobody's out looking to make it a revenue generating process, but just the comfort level that we get by seeing our Police Department totally involved with the community. 1 quick question and I'll just digress and it's for the weight limit on trucks, a lot of people are getting their pools filled, what's the story on those big water tanks?

Manager Revella: I think the exceptions are for local delivery.

Trustee Taylor: That's why I'm asking. I don't want to be the guy raising the issue about somebody filling their pool because I get that, but it has been brought to my attention as somebody asked me that question.

Manager Revella: I'm going to announce this to the public, the rate being paid for the gallons of water that they get from a truck is way higher than if it's just a random hose from your house. They can get a waiver for the sewer portion if they want and it's slower, but it's a lot cheaper. I asked the attorney to check if there's any exceptions for that. I'm not sure, he's gonna check though.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: Do we have residents that can get a discounted rate if they use village water for their pool?

Manager Revella: They could give me a waiver of the sewer portion. They're paying less per gallon using our water even with the sewer already on top of it. I know what they charge for delivery truck.

Attorney Cordisco: The exception only applies to fuel delivery trucks.

Trustee Taylor: Good to know, but it still makes me question the weight limit because of the lateral issue. It's always going to come up.

Manager Revella: They're not accepted, so if you see one, let the police know.

Mayor Pearson: National Night Out, I haven't heard anything. Are we doing it, not doing it? It's in August. Has it started? Is there a committee?

Manager Revella: Yes. I'll ask the chief if there's a committee.

Mayor Pearson: We talked about the bluestone going to Wooster.

Manager Revella: Yes.

Mayor Pearson: Where is Ulster Ave 2 lot subdivision?

Manager Revella: On the left. The house that was 2 houses, that combined to 1 house first for those people. They are separating it back to 2 houses.

Mayor Pearson: I did hear from somebody about the water runoff on Coldenham Rd. Mud and water. Are they back up and running and working?

Manager Revella: No.

Mayor Pearson: Do they have the right silt fencing and all the right stuff?

Manager Revella: They were cited for that. I actually took the picture and sent them around on Saturday. It filled Olley Park.

Mayor Pearson: I've had a couple complaints about phones and can't get a call into the village. I talked to Marisa today. I had an email from someone, it goes to a voicemail and then it gets cut off. I know Marisa is working on it. Flag Day, June 8th at Veterans Memorial Park. Hope you all can come. Memorial Day Parade was awesome. Thank you all for showing up. It was just very nice to be included and being there. The church sleepover, did we finish with that?

Building Inspector Wallner: We're still working on it.

Mayor Pearson: 1 other correspondence and I think we all got it from Mrs. Robinson on Maple St. Are we dealing with that?

Manager Revella: There's 2 different things going on there.

Trustee Mishk: Is it true there's no electricity there?

Manager Revella: I don't know that.

Mayor Pearson: The Maybrook parade for the 100th anniversary. I would like to invite all the departments of Walden. If they want to come. Can we do that? I did say that we were going to be there they would like to know a head count. This is for July 11th but I think if we could have a big showing from Walden with all the departments and people just to say congratulations to Maybrook. I think that would be awesome. If we can get that out to all the departments and maybe get t-shirts made. Maybe 2 flags, 1 they can keep that says congratulations Maybrook and give 1 of those flags out to the people in Maybrook. That would be kind of cool.

Executive Session – Personal History of Particular Person, CBN for PBA, Attorney Client

Trustee Mishk made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personal history of a particular person, PBA negotiations and attorney client. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reconvene

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

Treasurer Hours

Trustee Mishk made a motion to have the Treasurer work full days Monday through Friday including Friday through 5pm to do Edmonds catch up, training, and other items for the finance department. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Village of Walden Board of Trustees
Regular Meeting
June 3, 2025
Motions & Resolutions

Approval of Minutes – May 20, 2025

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve the May 20, 2025. Seconded by Trustee Baker. 4 ayes. 1 abstention (Trustee Taylor). Motion carried.

Park Use Request – Alcohol Waiver - Jurgens

Trustee Mishk made a motion to approve park use request – alcohol waiver. Seconded by Deputy Mayor Thompson. All ayes. Motion carried.

Overlook Terrace Town Hall

Deputy Mayor Thompson made a motion to hold a Town Hall at Overlook Terrace on Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 6:30pm. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

Review of Fee Schedules

Deputy Mayor Thompson made a motion to accept fee schedule for \$50 an hour for the scout cabin. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Motion carried.

CDBG – Set Public Hearing

Trustee Baker made a motion to set public hearing for CDBG for Jun 17, 2025 at 6:30pm or soon thereafter. Seconded by Trustee Taylor. All ayes. Motion carried.

Payment of Audited Bills

Deputy Mayor Thompson made a motion to approve payment of audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Baker. All ayes. Motion carried.

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