

**Village of Walden
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting
December 16, 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:

Present:

Mayor:
Deputy Mayor
Trustees

Becky Pearson
Lynn Thompson
Gerald Mishk
Cheryl Baker
Ralph Garrison, Jr
Liz Kyle
Bill Taylor

Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager
Marisa Kraus, Village Clerk
John Cappello, Village Attorney

Mayor Pearson: So, thank you for coming tonight we appreciate everyone who comes out to see us. roll call, we are all here. Go on to the public hearing. So, there were some comments from the last meeting. If anybody wants to talk about those comments or whether you have comments. Or what you'd like. But you left the public hearing open so. Anybody from the public would like to talk please stand up and state your name.

Resident: I read the article that was in the paper about the meeting on the E bikes and it was someone who stated that they saw no reason for them not to be able to go on the sidewalks. I disagree with the idea of E bikes going on the sidewalks I don't think it's safe I know the person that said they have been here 37 years and didn't see a problem I've been here longer than that and I see a problem. There's a lot of people that I don't agree with E-bikes on these sidewalks, but I know you can't do anything with kids. I think years ago they tried to really doesn't work but there's a lot of elderly people. During the day there are people walking their dogs on the sidewalks and just my experience of seeing a woman riding her E bike standing up down the street, if that kind of action happens on the sidewalk it's not safe. So, I just disagree with E-bikes being allowed on sidewalks. Thank you.

Mayor Pearson: Anyone else.

Mary Ellen: According to this no person shall operate any electric scooter on the sidewalk in the village. And it's talking about trails which are interesting so they're going to be allowed on rail trails. But then it says any operation on a village trail should be limited to class 1 and 2 E-bikes only. But I'm going to tell you something I know someone who is now deceased because of an accident that he had on the rail trail being run over by a manually powered bike, so part of the problem is enforcement. They have regulations but they need enforcement. And we don't even monitor regular bikes; they don't stop at stop signs or red lights. So, this can become another waste of paper, it's important to have it in the books but it needs to be enforced.

Mayor Pearson: Anybody from the board has anything further you want to talk about right now.

Trustee Mishk: I just want to address the factor that was referred to at the last meeting of the handicap that are driving scooters on the sidewalks they're not considered E-scooters. And I printed this document out; they're considered mobility scooters. And I don't think there's an issue with all that stuff, but they don't travel at the speeds that an E-bike would travel.

Mayor Pearson: I also looked up a couple of other laws, one from Port Jervis. And it also talked about not every law that I read said no to the bikes on the sidewalk. Also, the ones that talk about trails it says are designated by the village or town or city. I think that the rail trail is a perfect one, it's paved and it's nice. Yes, you will still have to be careful, even though you go fast you still must be careful just like any other scooter or bike.

Mayor Pearson: Okay, so anyone wants to make a motion to close the public hearing?

Trustee Mishk: I'll make a motion.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll second

Mayor Pearson: Any further Discussion? All in favor?

Aye: Deputy Mayor Thompson, Trustee Taylor, Trustee Garrison, Trustee Mishk, Trustee Baker

Mayor Pearson: We will move on to the next public hearing local law 2006 of 2005-yard sale continuance. Anyone from the public want to talk about yard sales?

Mayor Pearson: So yeah, yes anyone wants to make a motion to reopen the hearing.

Trustee Baker: I'll make the motion.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: All in favor?

Aye: Deputy Mayor Thompson, Trustee Taylor, Trustee Garrison, Trustee Mishk, Trustee Baker

Mayor Pearson: So, anyone from the public? No public okay. Anyone on the board have anything further?

Trustee Garrison: Yes, I do. I have people approach me about this. There are a lot of residents who are not happy about having to pay a fee to hold a yard sale.

Mayor Pearson: There's no fee to have a yard sale it's just registering so we know that in 2-3 days if things are still up a week later, we know it's not supposed to be. And if you have a violation, it's not until the second or third that you get fined.

Trustee Garrison: Maybe it's not so much a fee maybe it's about having to get a permit.

Mayor Pearson: That's fine, I'm just saying that it's been that way for years, it hasn't been changed but people may not follow it, but it's been in the law for years, so we aren't changing that part. The only thing we are changing is the time and amount.

Trustee Garrison: They feel that they shouldn't have to get a permit to do that on their property or have a maximum allowed to do that.

Mayor Pearson: But you can do that. I'm sure if they went to the village manager, he could say yes, that's fine.

Trustee Garrison: I know it's a slippery slope you don't want someone running a business out of their garage, but sometimes people are weird about getting permission to do things on their property.

Attorney Cappello: I would say section 225 section A. leave B there.

Mayor Pearson: Okay how do we feel about that?

Trustee Garrison: I'm fine with that.

Mayor Pearson: Anyone else from the board? Bill?

Trustee Taylor: Yeah, I'm just trying to wrap my head around, this thing's been around since 1973 so can somebody give me a history lesson here why was this chapter brought up in the first place.

Mayor Pearson: It was brought up because the fines were very excessive, it was \$250.

Trustee Taylor: No, I mean in 1973.

Mayor Pearson: Oh, I don't know. We talked about this last time there were a lot of homeowners that would just have a constant yard sale. And they would just leave their stuff on the sidewalk. At the time the fine was \$250 or jail time. So, we changed the law to make it better. You have 2 days and if you need to spend longer then you can reach out to the manager to see if you can extend it.

Trustee Taylor: So, the intent was not to have it look like Sanford?

Mayor Pearson: Correct, there are codes already for property maintenance but that really was not proper maintenance that was a table set outside.

Manager Revella: I just want to interject for just a second. The online audience is saying that it's very hard to hear, I think it's the air, if you can just pull your mics closer, thank you, sorry.

Trustee Taylor: So, we are invoking another administrative task by imposing a number of allowable yard sales correct, somebody 's tracking it.

Mayor Pearson: Yes, they're tracking it but there was an X number before I can't remember what it was before.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: It was 4 people I thought.

Trustee Taylor: So, who's tracking it.

Mayor Pearson: The clerk. It doesn't have to go to the building department. She will have a form to fill out. It's just to follow up if we need to.

Trustee Taylor: So, we also indicate here that they want to be notified tender 10 days in advance. So, what caveat does the resident have if it rains on that day that they schedule.

Attorney Cappello: Or they could put it on their notification form I'm going to have it July 18th and 19th rain date 25th.

Trustee Taylor: So, you think we should imply that in this.

Mayor Pearson: No, I think it can be on the form that Marisa has, that's what they're going to fill out that can be stated on the form. That's my opinion.

Trustee Taylor: I guess I kind of got some feedback myself and it falls in line with what the trustee Garrison heard as well yeah, I know we're trying to make things better but sometimes we don't. I think we have this fear that the village is going to turn into a dump but if you are clear that you can't prevent traffic or do anything on village property. But if my neighbor had to sell some personal belongings because he was moving or replacing furniture then I wouldn't have a problem with that myself.

Mayor Pearson: Well, I can't say that people are not going to follow this law anyway really because it's been in the books since 1973, we're trying to make it better and easier. Many people never even knew what was on it.

Trustee Taylor: So, if nobody was following it in the past. What are we doing here?

Mayor Pearson: Said those laws were there, as Mary Ellen said those laws are there just in case, I mean you're supposed to enforce them, yes, but if they're not, they're there to be enforced if they must. If somebody does that and your neighbor has these tires and it is still out there three weeks later and you're not happy with that and he says well I don't have to change that.

Trustee Kyle: I think the other option would be like Bill was saying those thing like it hasn't been enforced would be to remove that section of code entirely but then there's nothing we can do in the event that someone did just leave stuff out or was running a business out of their house I think it's more for enforcement purposes, then hey we're trying to crack down and nobody's allowed to do anything so it provides a way for there to be consequences for leaving stuff out there.

Mayor Pearson: Okay, anything else? Anything from the public before I close the hearing? Anyone want to make a motion to close the public hearing?

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll make a motion to close the public hearing.

Trustee Baker: I'll second

Mayor Pearson: All in favor?

Aye: All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Pearson: John your manager's report.

Manager Report:

-Had a conference with the EFC and engineer regarding the sewer plant project. All our finance paperwork is in, so we can be funded. We are waiting for EFC and DEC to give us a date.

-I had a meeting with the rec coordinator and DPW super regarding snow before the storm. I also checked on the guys during snow removal.

-I had a meeting over at Lustig Court with the mayor, engineer, and the village attorney to go over the drainage issue.

-I went to the transportation council for the county, they went over funding for the bridge repairs. I gave that information to the town grant writer to try to push to get hill street bridge finished.

- Attended Christmas in the square with almost all the board. Wind was a little much, but it was wonderful.
- I had a meeting with the deputy mayor and town officials regarding grant writing opportunities.
- I went over property violations with the village attorney and the building department so they could get prosecutions going. We had a couple little conflicts, but they went to court.
- Went over the midyear budget with all the department heads showing them where they are and need to be.
- Went over the comp plan with a resident that wanted to review the notes and minutes.
- Went over the status of the work with the treasurer and the financial consultant regarding bank recs. The mayor and deputy mayor also got a little update from them and went over some office issues as well.
- The Rec Department teen center is still going Friday and Saturday, pickleball has picked up, then the Anita Vandermark community center there are lots of events going on there, they also have cornhole, fitness programs, senior programs all down there, indoor soccer. Basketball registration is up and family movie night is set for December 19th at 6:30pm.
- Building department has been going through zoning and planning issues, property maintenance, permits, CO reports trying to keep up on those as well.
- The clerk updating Facebook and website as needed, going over foils, handicap requests, calendar, water sewer billing, civil service, dig permits, and IT issues.
- Finance working on the bank recs, retirement deductions, billing concerns, account receivables.
- Public works has been working on maintaining vehicles, wear and tear from the snow and salt.
- Water department replaced 2 meters, 7 endpoints, and did 2 closing inspections, post carding properties to make sure meters are getting replaced. They just want you to be aware out there if you see anything that looks weird, water coming out of windows or icicles where they don't belong, please let us know because that means someone's pipe burst. We do have some snowbirds here and a few vacancies during the holidays we want to limit the damage to those properties.
- Sewer repair on Maple Street there was a clog and collapsed line, and they did help decorate for the holidays.
- Police, the personnel are getting trained, the new people already went up to the range to qualify so you will see them out on their field training. One person finished the academy, and we have three more that will finish in the spring. Since last meeting there were 294 blotters, 4 arrests, 25 traffic stops with 10 tickets issued, three MVA's, and 38 parking tickets.

Mayor Pearson: Anyone have anything for the manager? Bill?

Trustee Taylor: No, the parking on sidewalk issue I guess we probably all saw the e-mail relevant to that how do we address that?

Manager Revella: So, they did have a few details going out addressing the ticketing for parking on sidewalks until they get clarification on towing and will be taking that route for the offenders that are not compliant.

Trustee Taylor: Going forward?

Manager Revella: Yes Sir.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I would just like to reiterate that John and I had a good meeting with the town of Montgomery about the grants my biggest thing is I think we need to be vigilant and have a monthly schedule so that we are in touch with them. Like really a monthly schedule so we can stay on top of what's available and bring to them anything that any of us may have stumbled upon that could benefit the village. Uh and I just wanted to ask Jerry, brought up at the last meeting, about this outside company that's doing repairs. Here in the village and they have their employees up in a bucket and the bucket is driving. Down to the streets with the man up there I know I called you were we able to get in touch with anyone to let them know that this was not such a safe practice.

Manager Revella: So, I stopped the one truck and asked who was their supervisor and is there anyone I can talk to? They said he is not here today but will be in tomorrow. They also said they were not the same crew as the prior week.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: They were out there very late too it was really dark so I just have concerns about that I realized they're an outside entity so liability is on them but I don't want our police and our ambulance to be scraping a body off the street because they fall out of the bucket and get hurt or God forbid fall on someone 's property I just think it really needs to be addressed.

Mayor Pearson: Okay moving onto minutes, were looking at two minutes for November 3rd, 2025, anyone wants to make a motion to accept?

Trustee Mishk: I'll make a motion.

Trustee Garrison: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: Any discussion? All in favor?

Aye: Deputy Mayor Thompson, Trustee Taylor, Trustee Garrison, Trustee Mishk, Trustee Baker.

Abstain: Trustee Kyle.

Mayor Pearson: November 18th minutes. Anyone want to make a motion to accept?

Trustee Kyle: I'll make the motion.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: Discussion on those?

Trustee Taylor: Yeah, I let the clerk know that I was here that day, but when you look at the cover sheet it indicates that I was not.

Trustee Garrison: Same here, November 18 says that I was absent, but I was present.

Mayor Pearson: Alright with those corrections does anyone want to make the motion to accept?

Trustee Kyle: I'll make the motion.

Trustee Garrison: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: All in favor?

Aye: All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Pearson: Moving on to December 2nd. Anyone want to make a motion to accept the minutes for the December 2nd meeting?

Trustee Baker: I'll make the motion.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: Is there any discussion? All in favor?

Aye: Deputy Mayor Thompson, Trustee Garrison, Trustee Mishk, Trustee Baker.

Abstain: Trustee Taylor, Trustee Kyle.

Mayor Pearson: Moving on to the minutes for December 9th special meeting that we had to pay all the bills, anyone wants to make a motion?

Trustee Mishk: I'll make a motion we accept.

Trustee Baker: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: Any discussion on that. All in favor?

Aye: Deputy Mayor Thompson, Trustee Garrison, Trustee Mishk, Trustee Baker.

Abstain: Trustee Taylor, Trustee Kyle.

Mayor Pearson: Anyone want to make a motion to pay the audited bills?

Trustee Garrison: I'll make a motion to pay the bills.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: Any discussion on those bills? We were still holding the ones for the previous attorney.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: So, we're paying the one for the upgrade for the Police Department.

Manager Revella: It's up to the board.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I have no problem with that. I thought the email from the Chief was a very thorough, informative e-mail and it explains the need why it should be done.

Mayor Pearson: And the money is in the budget already.

Mayor Pearson: Any other comments on that?

Trustee Taylor: No, I agree I thought the e-mail was very clear and concise it outlined the benefits as well as the operation.

Mayor Pearson: Okay very good all in favor?

Aye: All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Pearson: Now business of the board. Local law 5 E-bikes.

Trustee Taylor: Yeah, I apologize, it was not here for the last meeting. But I agree with this lady that just presented the fact that I don't see a reason whatsoever that an E-bike needs to be on the sidewalk. I don't see the justification I haven't heard the justification. It's just an accident waiting to happen to coin a phrase. And then it's going to be too late to deal with the issue.

Mayor Pearson: And the comment was scooters.

Trustee Garrison: I think anything that is electric that's not a mobility scooter should not be on the sidewalk.

Trustee Taylor: Safety must be the number one priority always.

Trustee Garrison: Yeah, I don't want to be walking with my kids and must dodge a scooter.

Attorney Cappello: I can change that I wouldn't consider that a big change because I think that was the intent.

Mayor Pearson: Does anyone want to make a motion to accept the local law 5 with the addition of the mobility scooter.

Trustee Mishk: I'll make a motion to accept.

Trustee Garrison: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: All in favor?

Aye: All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Pearson: Local law six, yard sales. I know there's been some discussion on this and it's been in the books for a long time really trying to make it easier for people. So, is there any discussion on this? Anyone want to make a motion to accept local law six, yard sales?

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll make a motion.

Trustee Baker: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: All in favor?

Aye: Deputy Mayor Thompson, Trustee Taylor, Trustee Mishk, Trustee Baker, Trustee Kyle

Abstain: Trustee Garrison.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I don't have a whole lot to report I had several conversations with Mike Bliss he's been actively involved with working on 3 of our grants. We have millennium, the greenway grant, that's for planning in the spring, and the trails grant.

Manager Revella: She's also working on potential New York forward downtown revitalization grant with us. Also, the T-mobile grant submitted but it takes 3-4 months. And we talked about the bridge grants for Hill Street.

Mayor Pearson: Let me ask about the waterfront park. We still have not paid that and we

Mayor Pearson: So, the question for the board is whether you want to go to the town with the grant writer or whether you want to stay with millennium that's been doing our work through the town before, because the town is getting rid of millennium.

Trustee Kyle: \$3000 as a price seems very steep.

Trustee Mishk: I think we should change over to Anna number 3 different in mind.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I do too and if it doesn't work, we can seek the services of someone else.

Trustee Garrison: I agree with Lynn, she went to the meeting, so I trust her expertise and feelings.

Trustee Taylor: I agree you know it's all about money and let's try something different.

Mayor Pearson: Okay, let's make a motion not to use millennium and go with the town.

Trustee Garrison: I'll make a motion.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll second.

Aye: All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Pearson: Okay, so we are going to look at that 144-11 and the whole code to make sure it's compliant.

Attorney Cappello: I was going to suggest we just kind of run it by the states to see if there's any upgrades since 1985 that we might find a reference for.

Mayor Pearson: Okay public comment would anyone like to come up?

Jerry H: A few things first, we found out a little bit about the night sky and the house behind us. Evidently the owner of the house is duplex with 2 renters in it, the owner of the house said put the lights up and said that he was required by law to put cameras on his rental. And he decided that he was just going to put the lights up as well as the cameras. And they requested that he tune them down or do something with them and he's done nothing so it's the owner of the house that did it. And the tenants don't sound like they're very happy about it either. Which I can believe, if you drive down Ridge, you'll see it you don't have to go very far down to see it because it's visible all the way down the block.

Jerry H: I brought this up before that there from the house the new house that was built on bridge was built they took down a no parking this side sign that was in front of the house it still has not been replaced. And parking on Clinton Street should not be allowed at all you cannot make a turn off a bridge under Clinton. Because there are cars parked on the other side and if there's anybody coming up somebody's backing up way back down the street to get out of the way because there is no place to pull over there is only room for one car in each direction and if there's a car parked you cannot get through there. And there's no way a fire truck would ever get down that street as it is right now so that street should not have parking allowed on. Gladstone. They've got it restricted to one side to a certain point and then it's allowed on both sides and it's no wider than earlier, so I don't know what the requirement is for that, but they should look at that as well.

Mayor Pearson: Thank you.

Faith M: I just wanted to correct a statement that I made at last meeting regarding accessory dwelling units and the town of Cornwall that is not their role, so their village attorney was correct. But village of Goshen, town Cornwall on Hudson and town of Highland would be 4 that we can investigate if we're going to have further discussions about some things that they have done with accessory dwelling units but there is not that requirement that it has to be a relative that is living in there so I wanted to correct that statement that I made and let you know that there are 2 Weeks in January that i will not be in town. If you guys want to have those conversations and applications for the targeted home improvement program for the \$40,000.00 loans are currently open, please apply but we don't anticipate funding them at this point until after the first of the year.

Mayor Pearson: Anyone else from the public.

Mary Ellen: Yes, I'm forced to get up and contradict my neighbor Jerry if you take the parking away on Clinton Street you might as well move all the houses because there will be no place for people to park.

Mayor Pearson: Alright moving on correspondence. I received 2 emails from our historian thank you Maryellen under your review and something that grant along appreciate that also the one from the parking on sidewalks everybody got that well and that is being addressed. And one from the Armonte limousine company who wanted to take children and seniors on a trip to Bethel.

Trustee Mishk: I just want to say that the tree lighting ceremony was very beautiful. And I think the Grinch stole the show. And then I had a couple of quick questions John have we got any follow up on the GPS on the vehicles.

Manager Revella: On vehicles other than the police? The police have GPS; the police vehicles have GPS.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I thought we were saying for all village vehicles.

Trustee Mishk: This has been brought up before by me parking signs on Wait Street no park on this side. There's a sign that was taken down never put back up. That's all I have.

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I just wanted to ask John, talking about these narrow side streets and whatnot. How did you make out trying to get information about the side streets here off walnut street, Grandview, Millard I forget the other one.

Manager Revella: So, the intersections on Gladstone are, not necessarily the side streets they come up seeing left and right making sure there's not cars within 15 feet of the intersection, I did follow up with the Police Department to make sure to follow up on that.

Trustee Garrison: Just a couple things Christmas in the square was amazing it went very well. Shout out to DPW I saw them working with all this snow removal and making sure the roads are cleared. Police departments are doing a wonderful job I see them out and about.

Trustee Taylor: Yeah, just a couple of things are up and running on the Community Center now. My question is if we have a plethora of youth activities, we see it all the time, kudos good job we need those things. What if anything are we doing for the senior residents in this village?

Manager Revella: So, they have senior aerobics, music activities, their meetings, bingo, they play games and things like that.

Trustee Taylor: Any plans on maybe providing a lunch etcetera things like that, I know other communities do that that's the reason I'm asking?

Manager Revella: We did have lunch, they did just have their holiday lunch, but it was at spruce lodge. That was last week.

Trustee Taylor: And why would we not have it at our own Community Center?

Manager Revella: We weren't hosting, it was the town that ended up paying for it.

Trustee Taylor: Any plans on us hosting anything for the seniors relevant to that?

Manager Revella: I can ask the department.

Trustee Taylor: Just a curiosity question on my part dovetail on Ralph 's comment DPW great job as always having lived in the village for 40 years and commute to Buchanan and New York City I can honestly say that every time I got home the streets of this village were adequately cleaned. And that is in direct proportion to the efforts of the people that are out there doing it when we're stuck in the house. And finally, the comment constantly comes up and it's relevant to us on this day we do it every meeting and every meeting we're reminded to use our mics the people that are watching it can't hear us this thing works great if you pull it towards you. I've been guilty of it myself I'm not pointing anybody out but let's make the mic work for the people that are watching the meeting whether they're sitting here or watching it at home. I'm off my soapbox.

Mayor Pearson: We talked about putting the policy together for the zoning board planning board John for the saving of paper files and so that maybe we can do for the next meeting policy for that to make a motion to save them, so our attorney recommended a policy put

together. Web design meeting. You went to or someone went to that meeting what was that about. Do you like the plan?

Manager Revella: Yes We were getting proposals from the guy.

Mayor Pearson: And the phones here still need work. I can call Marissa in her office and be on hold and nobody picks up if she's not in and nobody will pick up a phone I can be on there for 5 minutes and it should roll over to something or should have it say I'm off today please call such and such and such and such so I don't know what we do about that. Also, Christmas was fun so thank everyone who made it happen. I know our departments were all on spot and thank you very much for that.

Mayor Pearson: Moving on for executive session, yes?

Attorney Cappello: So, it would be exec session for personnel history of a particular employee and no intention to return.

Mayor Pearson: No, not that I know of. We are meeting with the Police Chief and the Village Treasurer.

Manager Revella: The police chief and the Village treasurer as I was told. They were coming yes. Separately.

Mayor Pearson: Anyone want to make a motion for executive session?

Trustee Garrison: I'll make a motion

Deputy Mayor Thompson: I'll second.

Mayor Pearson: Any comments. All in favor?

Aye: All ayes, motion carried.

Mayor Pearson: Thank you for showing up tonight, we appreciate it.

Trustee Garrison: Made a motion to reconvene.

Trustee Mishk: Second.

Ayes: All ayes, motion carried.