

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
March 3, 2015**

Mayor Maher 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	Brian Maher
Trustees	Willie Carley
	Sean Hoffman
	Edmond Leonard
	Gerald Mishk

Absent:

Deputy Mayor	Sue Rumbold
Trustees	Bernard Bowen

Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager  
Tara Bliss, Village Clerk  
Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

**Presentation – Vanacore, DeBenedictus, DiGiovanni, & Weddell – Auditors Report**

Mayor Maher explained that the auditors were not able to attend tonight's meeting to give their report, we will schedule another time for them to attend a meeting in the future.

**Village Manager's Report –**

- Have been responding to inquiries regarding our RFPs for Auditing services and Wastewater Treatment Operator. Have had some discussions with the Clerk and the Attorney as needed.
- Having good correspondence with PBA and CSEA on general employment matters and such.
- Has had a lot of correspondence with many people about snow removal and how they would like it done.
- Edmunds Lane had a water main break which caused a sink hole. It was a 250,000 gallon loss and took a while to repair.
- Meeting with water/sewer rate committee and have another meeting tomorrow.
- Met with the Walden Little league, Cal Ripken league, and the Recreation Coordinator regarding field use at Bradley Park. It was very productive and we discussed the future and coordinating efforts at the field.
- The Village Budget is in the finishing drafts stage. Peter is putting in the second round of numbers and hopefully will something to give to the Board shortly.
- We got the packets out to the State DOT regarding the Ulster Ave project. We are ready for the next phase and will hopefully give us approval to bid it out shortly. Once that is done, we will need to issue a bond for the project. It would be an all-encompassing bond to pay out of and back into it as well.

- Transportation Council Executive Meeting is next week and we are working on TIP amendments. The County wants to push more bridge improvements. State is also fixing a lot of bridges in the county.
- Had some issues with frozen pipes at a few different locations. Frost line was really deep this year and some service lines are more susceptible than others.

Trustee Leonard asked what the contractors said about the rail on the roof.

Manager Revella replied they said it should be replaced but that all depends on whether we have funding to fix it which is about \$60,000-\$70,000 to fix. Already have that composite material to purchase ourselves

Trustee Mishk asked about the DPW report that mentions a number of frozen meter issues and if that is unique this year.

Manager Revella replied that the number may change but it does happen every year. It could be due to people turning back their heat to save money and some may have been susceptible to a gap somewhere to cause it to freeze.

Trustee Mishk clarified that these are the inside meters not outside and then asked what we do about it.

Manager Revella confirmed they are the inside meters that are the homeowners' responsibility to maintain.

### **Approval of the February 17, 2015 Minutes**

Tabled.

### **Trustee's Committee Reports**

#### **Town of Montgomery & Library Board liaison – Trustee Leonard**

Trustee Leonard reported nothing new at this time.

#### **Village Offices Liaison – Trustee Bowen**

Trustee Bowen was absent.

#### **Police Department Liaison – Deputy Mayor Rumbold**

Deputy Mayor Rumbold was absent.

#### **Planning and Zoning Boards as well as the Building Department Liaison – Trustee Hoffman**

Trustee Hoffman reported that he met with Dean and there are no Zoning Board meetings in the month of March as there are no applications at this time. We reviewed the status of the Auto Zone and Ice Cream Stand projects which are both the same at this time. The water/sewer rate committee meeting is tomorrow.

#### **Recreation & Parks Department, Emergency Services, and Valley Central School Board Liaison – Trustee Carley**

Trustee Carley reported Recreation Coordinator was away last week and he has nothing new for the School Board at this time.

### **Village Justice and DPW Liaison - Trustee Mishk**

Trustee Mishk stated that he had nothing new to report.

Mayor Maher explained that there is a 7<sup>th</sup> Action item tonight, another Temporary Event Sign Application.

### **Public Comment on Business of the Board**

Brenda Adams, 31 Valley Avenue, asked for more information about the Little Free Library that is on the agenda.

Manager Revella replied that it was not discussed previously because Ginny feels it's great and we have one of our own already to be put in Wooster Grove.

Mayor Maher added that we thought it could be handled administratively if Ginny was ok with it and we were ok with it. If she was not ok with it we would not have put it on as Action this evening.

Manager Revella added that tonight we are talking about the location of it.

### **Action Items**

#### **Little League Parade Request 4/11/2015 9am**

Manager Revella stated it is the same route as usual. Lineup at 8:30am in the Square and they will march down Ulster Avenue to Albany Avenue. We would need to close down Ulster Avenue and the Square.

Trustee Leonard made a motion to approve the Walden Little League Parade Request for Saturday, April 11, 2015 with the closure of Ulster Avenue from the Square to Albany Avenue between 8:30am and 11am. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Memorial Day Parade Request 5/25/2015**

Mayor Maher explained this will be tabled tonight because we have not received the formal request letter from the organizers.

### **Little Free Library – Montgomery Montessori School**

Parinaz Mokhtari, Montgomery Montessori School, explained that this is basically a take a book leave a book program so the community can walk by and grab a book. The public doesn't have to leave a book but certainly can. It's meant to be a way for the public to share literature with each other. They will advertise the program for us. They basically noticed there are people who aren't library members or don't have the funds to purchase a book. They have 2 in the Village of Montgomery one in Walden Savings Bank and one at their School. They are planning to put another one by the Village park and are doing well, very favorable. They saw a nice one at the Walkkill Library. It's a nice gesture to the community to help bring them together through literature. Once a location has been determined they will do all the work for it. They will install it and maintain it once a month. It would have a mixture of children's books and adult books. They all have stamps on them so it's interesting to see where they have been. They have replenished the 2 in Montgomery twice since August. They tend to circulate too. Some people may put notes in them and return the same books.

Manager Revella added that Ginny is already planning on putting one in Wooster Grove. He would request that the Board allow him by motion to work with Ginny and the Montessorri School to determine another location.

Trustee Maher made a motion to authorize the Village Manager to work with the Montgomery Montessori School and the Josephine-Louise Public Library to determine a location for another Little Free Library. Seconded by Trustee Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Surplus SUV**

Manager Revella stated he would suggest a minimum bid of \$1,000 for this 2006 Chevy Tahoe.

Trustee Mishk stated that this vehicle was removed from the Police Department last year. At that time he suggested that it be given to the Recreation & Parks Department and thought it was going that way. DPW was using it but he still recommends giving it to Parks to drive employees around town. He is not sure what the cost of repairs is but \$1,000 is not a lot of money and it doesn't take a lot to drive the truck around town. He would suggest keeping it in circulation.

Manager Revella explained that it needs extensive repairs, not sure we want to put funds into it. The belly of the bottom is rotting out and would need new steel which is pretty extensive. Just for clarity sake, you do not have to accept any bids if we are happy with them.

Trustee Mishk stated he would like to see the costs first and see if it's usable.

Mayor Maher asked if there was a need for a vehicle in Parks Department.

Manager Revella replied yes.

Mayor Maher asked if there was a plan to purchase a new vehicle.

Manager Revella replied yes.

Trustee Mishk asked to see costs of minimal repairs. It will not likely be going more than 20-35 mph and could potential serve a good use there. Fred's vehicle is on its last legs also and the SUV could be used there a little more.

Mayor Maher asked Trustee Mishk as the DPW liaison to work with John on getting costs and bring this up again in the future. For now we will table it.

### **Stop DWI Resolution 22-14-15**

Manager Revella explained this is the same resolution we pass every year to get the Stop DWI program set up.

Attorney Donovan explained there are 3 periods of time for the year, they give you the amount for the first and will let you know for the other 2 amounts. In order to be eligible for the funds we need to have this to accept the funds.

Trustee Carley made a motion approve Resolution 22-14-15 Stop DWI. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Special Event Sign Request – Col Bradley Hose #2**

Trustee Leonard made a motion to approve the Temporary Sign request from the Enterprise Steamer Co#2 of the Walden Fire Department for their May 9, 2015 flower sale. Seconded by Trustee Hoffman. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Special Event Sign Request – Orange Hose Company**

Trustee Carley made a motion to approve the Temporary Sign request from the Orange Hose Company of the Walden Fire Department for their April 5, 2015 Easter Breakfast. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **EZ Pass Location**

Clerk Bliss explained this would allow residents to purchase an EZ Pass tag for \$25 of which \$4 is profit to the Village of Walden. We would have to purchase a minimum of 25 tags up front. Residents would purchase the tag and can choose to just use the \$25 on the tag and add funds to it as they go or they may attach a credit card to their account. There is a money back guarantee on the tags if we determine we are not a good location for selling the tags, we can return them. We would be listed on their website as a location and would have a link to our website so it does have some free advertising options available. She consulted with Tara Stickles, Town of Montgomery Clerk, as they are also a location to purchase tags from. She indicated that it is not difficult but that it has taken two years to go through their 25 tags. She and John had discussed that it seems like a lack of advertising as we had no idea the Town of Montgomery was a location.

Trustee Mishk asked if residents could refill their tag here.

Clerk Bliss replied no, only the initial purchase could be done here.

Mayor Maher stated that they would have Dave look over the agreement and draft a resolution for the next agenda.

#### **Public Comment**

Brenda Adams, 31 Valley Avenue, asked if the Board planned on attending the Town of Montgomery IDA public hearing on the 16<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm. There is a March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting also.

Mayor Maher explained he was planning on attending the public hearing personally. They didn't have this on the agenda because we were concerned it was Attorney Client privilege but were going to speak about it at the end of the meeting.

Brenda continued that the newspaper may have been wrong but it states that the Town IDA plans to discuss new Related Management apartments which are not new. It also said it would need to be Federally regulated, which she believes they already are. It states there will be a discussion surrounding a to-be-formed affiliate Walden Preservation LLP but she can't figure out if they were going to expand or build new.

Manager Revella replied they have not told us anything at all, this is the first we are hearing about it. It would have to go through the Planning Board anyway, but the issue is March 3, 2015

if they are going to be selling these apartments in our Village and others in the Tri State area to an affiliate company and when they do sell it they have to pay certain fees and taxes. They are trying to get around paying those fees. We have concerns about it.

Trustee Leonard asked how we would look up the Walden Preservation LLC and get some more information, such as a name or contact person.

Manager Revella replied it would be on the State website with Department of State. If you want to know the whole board you won't find it.

Mayor Maher stated he would find out.

### **Payment of the Audited Bills**

Trustee Hoffman made a motion to pay the audited bills. Seconded by Trustee Mishk. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Correspondence**

None.

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

Trustee Leonard stated that he was reading Facebook post by Chris White of the New Paltz News, and the rail trail system has gotten a huge boost in Ulster County. Have found funding for multiple projects including TAP money and DEP. Starting up to get 1.3 miles finished up this spring and summer hopefully. Will be the largest rail trail system in the state once all completed.

Mayor Maher wished a happy birthday to Trustee Hoffman and the whole room sang happy birthday.

Manager Revella stated that the Town of Montgomery IDA is meeting to discuss a reformation or sale to a subsidiary and are subject to certain taxes and fees but are looking to get those fees waived by the IDA.

Attorney Donovan stated that the purpose of the IDA (Industrial Development Agency) and the idea is for business attraction. For example the Town of Hamptonburgh had a site off County Route 99 where people have looked at the property for years and Macy's about 10 years ago wanted to put a distribution center there and the IDA was giving incentives to encourage them to move here. The idea is not there to provide breaks or incentives to existing businesses because they are already there, just new businesses. For what he is hearing from this case, that is contrary to the purpose of an IDA. It is not to give a break on sales tax, mortgage tax to a pilot.

Trustee Hoffman asked if he knew where we are in the process if we are at the public hearing step.

Attorney Donovan replied he is not sure how the Montgomery IDA works or what their rules or regulations are but in his experience with the County the public hearing is usually at the end of the process.

Manager Revella stated that they are open to the public to attend.

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Trustee Hoffman stated he went to their website to get more information and he didn't see much discussion on this topic as he thought he would. He wasn't certain if they present information and then do a public hearing in the beginning of the process but it sounds like it is specific to the individual IDA.

Attorney Donovan stated the differences are similar to how agendas are made for different municipalities and how they run their meetings. The Village of Goshen for example has commissioners and here we call them Liaisons.

Trustee Hoffman stated that he assumes the applicants submitted information to the Town of Montgomery; are we entitled to that information.

Attorney Donovan replied yes.

Trustee Hoffman asked Manager Revella to contact them and get the documents, FOIL them if required.

Trustee Leonard asked if we should write a letter stating our objections formally.

Attorney Donovan stated he is happy to assist in that but that is definitely a good idea.

Mayor Maher stated that he would work with John and Dave on a letter on this.

Trustee Mishk asked about the rent structure; is that new to that location.

Manager Revella replied he is not sure if it's the same. There is one that is income based.

Trustee Mishk stated he knew they were looking at renovations but what about new structures.

Manager Revella stated he was not certain but knows that they did come to this Board as well several years ago to do renovations which they completed. He can't really answer the questions not sure.

Trustee Hoffman stated that it was mentioned that they would have to go back to individual Planning and Zoning Boards of each municipalities to get, so this is not the end all for this project.

Attorney Donovan confirmed that is correct.

Mayor Maher stated he would gather information at the initial meeting as well as the public hearing and report back.

### **Adjournment**

Trustee Mishk moved to adjourn. Seconded by Trustee Carley. All ayes. Meeting adjourned.

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
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Motions & Resolutions**

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