

**Village of Walden  
Board of Trustees Regular Meeting  
January 19, 2016**

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

On roll call the following were:

Present:

Trustees	Brenda Adams Edmond Leonard Gerald Mishk, Jr. John Ramos Brian Sebring
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Absent:

Mayor Deputy Mayor	Sue Rumbold Sean Hoffman
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Also Present:

John Revella, Village Manager  
Dave Donovan, Village Attorney

Trustee Ramos made a motion to select Trustee Mishk to act as the chairman of tonight's meeting. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Mishk stated that Mayor Rumbold was not able to be here due to personal reasons and that Deputy Mayor Hoffman had a work commitment he had to attend and could not be here this evening.

Manager Revella introduced a new full time employee Richard Nelson. He's been working in the Parks Department on a part time basis and was hired as a Laborer in our Water Department full time. Welcome Rich.

**Public Hearing – Local Law 3 of 2016 – Vehicle & Traffic Fines**

Trustee Adams made a motion to open the public hearing for Local Law 3 of 2016 – Vehicle & Traffic Fines. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard made a motion to close the public hearing for Local Law 3 of 2016 – Vehicle & Traffic Fines. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Leonard made a motion for Negative Declaration under SEQRA for Local Law 3 of 2016 – Vehicle & Traffic Fines. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Adams made a motion to Adopt Local Law 3 of 2016 – Vehicle & Traffic Fines. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Public Hearing – Waterfront Evaluation Plan (Greenway Grant) (continued from December 15, 2015 meeting)**

John Queenan, Village Engineer, explained that we just received the comments back from the State this afternoon on this plan. Most are pretty minor changes they have suggested. They want the background to emphasize the community description rather than the full description of the Village. They want an update on the conditions or a more thorough description. They would like some tie in to the 2014 strategic plan which we've had already. They would like an overall plan of the Village showing other parks as well as the location of the trends in the Village.

Trustee Adams made a motion to close the public hearing for Waterfront Evaluation Plan (Greenway Grant). Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Sebring made a motion for Negative Declaration under SEQRA for Waterfront Evaluation Plan (Greenway Grant). Seconded by Trustee Adams. All ayes. Motion carried.

Trustee Adams made a motion to Adopt Waterfront Evaluation Plan (Greenway Grant). Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Hearing – 9 Sadlier Place (continued from December 15, 2015 meeting)**

Jay Buchalski, Code Enforcement Officer, explained that as of this afternoon there has been no change to the condition of the property. The owner had asked us in a letter dated December 14, 2015 to give her 30 days to remove the pool. There has been no further correspondence.

Manager Revella stated there was no one from the property in attendance tonight.

Trustee Sebring made a motion authorize the Building Department and the Village Manager to remediate the pool condition at 9 Sadlier Place and any charges associated with it be charged to the property owner. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Village Manager's Report –**

- Great meeting with a solar energy company about potentially using solar energy to reduce our energy bills. Will continue to have those conversations.
- Finalizing Evaluations for all employees. Only a handful of employees left to finish. All inventories have been received.
- Began advertising for the Village Treasurer position in the Times Herald Record. Applications are due back at the end of the month.
- Finally got our new street sweeper.
- Going over with the 2 unions some grievances and some disciplinary matters. Continuing those and hoping to finalize them quickly.
- There was a new alternate appointment to the Zoning Board, Dan Svarczkopf of 64 Valley Avenue. He couldn't make it tonight due to work obligations.
- Working with the county on a potential new business in the Village. Could bring employment to the Village and fill some of our store front vacancies.

- Working with our attorney on the electric bill issues we are continuing to have and finalized our workman's comp issues and a letter will be going out as well as an email tomorrow.
- Buddhist temple meeting regarding plans for events this year as well as some development they have planned on beautification of the 5 acres of property they have next to our park. They will be going through the Planning Board process on those.
- Had a Transportation Council meeting and brought up our Ulster Avenue project. We have a meeting on February 4<sup>th</sup> set up at DOT in Poughkeepsie to keep that moving along.
- Leadership Day last week was great and well attended.
- The Village Clerk did have their baby today actually.

### **Approval of the December 1, 2015 Minutes**

Trustee Leonard has a correction on page 3, top paragraph, should be \$19 million not \$19,000.

Trustee Mishk had a correction on page 9, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, HR 218 should be without pistol permit not with.

Trustee Adams made a motion to approve the December 1, 2015 Minutes with corrections. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Approval of the December 15, 2015 Minutes**

Tabled as the minutes were not available.

### **Approval of the January 5, 2016 Minutes**

Tabled as the minutes were not available.

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

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

Trustee Leonard reported that he contacted Congressman Maloney's office about the Norfolk Southern Railroad issue we've been having. They have a new guy down there and he got right back to him. He also asked about funding for the proposed community center at Olley Park and he's waiting for response on that one.

#### **Recreation & Parks Department and Valley Central School Board Liaison – Trustee Ramos**

Trustee Ramos reported that the Board of Ed met on January 11<sup>th</sup> and discussed a lot about the budget coming up. Had a couple resignations due to retirements as well. He with Mr. Bliss and they discussed the yearly projects for 2016-2017. Things look great for the coming year. Also wanted to send out a congratulations to the Bliss family on the birth of their new baby girl this morning.

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

Deputy Mayor Hoffman was absent.

#### **DPW Liaison– Trustee Sebring**

Trustee Sebring reported he met with Larry the mechanic who is busy working on a police car today which is going well. It's going to take him a while to catch up on some things so he is pretty busy. He'll keep the Village running.

#### **Village Offices Liaison – Trustee Adams**

Trustee Adams reported that she met with Peter and discussed making some amendments to the budget and will be meeting about that shortly. We would like to table tonight's action item.

#### **Police Department Liaison – Trustee Mishk**

Trustee Mishk reported that he met with Chief and discussed some minor bugs with the body cameras. They are in full swing with them just fine tuning, the guys are getting used to wearing them, when to turn them on and off, and when to check the batteries. They have had to use it already as someone accused an officer of treating them poorly and when they played the camera back it was completely contradictory. As Trustee Sebring the cars are doing well. The judge advised him that they did receive a grant to get new chair for up here.

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

None.

#### **Action Items**

##### **Hearing Request – 21 Valley Avenue**

Manager Revella explained there is a large amount of household debris in the back yard that we would like to get removed.

Trustee Adams made a motion to set a hearing for 21 Valley Avenue for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 6:30pm or as soon thereafter as the matter could be heard. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

##### **Hearing Request – 42 South Montgomery Street**

Manager Revella stated we would like to table this for now as there are open permits for this property we need to get sorted out.

##### **Rehab Loan Guidelines**

Attorney Donovan stated that the Board had set up a committee of Trustee Adams, Trustee Leonard, Trustee Sebring, Manager Revella, and himself which met few times to develop these guidelines and make some changes. At this time we feel they are ready for adoption.

Trustee Adams asked about general remodeling; were we going to take that out.

Manager Revella replied yes.

Trustee Adams made a motion to adopt the Rehab Loan Guidelines. Seconded by Trustee Sebring. All ayes. Motion carried.

##### **Award Bid – Water Meter Replacement Project**

John Queenan, Village Engineer, explained that we official received 2 bids and one late bid that was discarded. He did a letter for the Board at the last meeting but there was  
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some confusion on his end so he is here again today. He would recommend awarding the bid to Schmidt's Wholesale who is the lower bidder that uses the cellular Badger meters.

Trustee Adams asked if both bidders bid the same way.

John replied no. The low bidder provided the bid the way we requested it and the second bidder provided 2 different options and though they felt they did, they did not meet our specification for the base bid.

Trustee Sebring made a motion to award the bid for the Water Meter Replacement Project to Schmidt's Wholesale, Inc. in the amount of \$677,700 base bid with Alternative 1 amount of \$419,683.50 and Alternative 2 amount of \$404,769. Seconded by Trustee Leonard. All ayes. Motion carried.

### **Budget Modifications**

Tabled at the request of the Finance Department.

### **Discussion Items**

#### **RFPs**

Manager Revella asked if everyone had a chance to think about RFPs they wanted to bid out. He'd like to get them ready to go out by the next meeting. We are putting out the Garbage Contract to be returned in March. We also have a contract that expired with the Accountant and the Wastewater Treatment Operator. We are free to bid the Attorneys Engineer. The Comptroller likes us to do this so it shows transparency in what we are doing. Not sure if anyone has any strong feelings one way or the other so we don't waste anyone's time in bidding and advertising, otherwise he'll have all the consultants we are going to need for the next year ready. Let him know if anyone has any change of heart. The law doesn't require you to change specifics, you can hire and fire at will whomever you want, but its good practice to RFP every so often.

#### **Public Comment**

Mark Merring, 44 Wileman Avenue, wanted to give a presentation to the Board about his water issues. The presentation is an effort to solicit answers to the questions of the brown water quality that has existed for years. Lived there in excess of 30 years he and several of his neighbors have to been plagued with brown water conditions which occurs on average 2 to 3 times per week. Complaints made to the Village Manager's office over the past 6 years result in him being advised to call DPW's Fred Perna and to let him know every time it happens which he has done. After a year of doing this with no action by the Village, Fred Perna decided that his tap would be excavated by the Village to determine if his tap was too low on the main and drawing sediment from the pipe. This has yet to occur. At one point in August of 2014 Tara Bliss advised him that his brown water was due to an upgrade to the system on Bradley Lane to improve the water system for everyone. Several calls to at the time Mayor Maher who was on vacation at the time but was going to speak with him in his home upon his return also in August 2014 and Village Manager John Revella have all gone unanswered until recently when he contacted a Trustee at which point he received an email. In his reply Mr. Revella apologized for the time it has taken to address these issue which is probably due to the following: Main replacements are being considered but the number of mains, cost, and the process can't be done quickly; the Village is completing several other important projects this year and Main replacement will take place after that. As having previously been a NYS licensed

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potable Water Treatment Plant Operator he is educated in water quality standards of required testing by the county and an independent certified testing agency. As such he has the following questions to the Board: Who does the Village of Walden employ or consult that is licensed by the state of New York to operate the Village of Walden's potable water system? Why are the monthly water samples which are to be drawn throughout the consolidated water system at various locations so as to represent the entire water system allowed to be drawn from the same 3 locations and submitted to the Department of Health for a period of about 3 years? Given the timeline of over 6 years, why have several other important projects been schedule prior to addressing these problems which now appear to be Village wide according to conversations with Tara Bliss, Trustee Jerry Mishk, and many other residents of Walden? All of this information indicates that there are major deficiencies within the infrastructure and day to day operation of the consolidated water system of the Village of Walden yet the priority seems to focus on permitting the construction of new homes and thus expanding an already overtaxed and broken water system. He looks forward to the Board's reply and thanks them for their time.

Mary Ellen Matise, 21 Clinton Street, commented about the garbage bags that must be filled with leaves in front of the old Concors' house have been sitting there and the garbage company have just been sitting there because the garbage company can't take them.

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

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

#### **Correspondence**

Trustee Mishk received correspondence from Mr. Merring who spoke this evening.

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

Trustee Adams commented that Leadership Day was great. Thank you to Tara.

Trustee Sebring commented that Leadership Day was well attended and Congratulations to everyone.

Trustee Ramos echoed the comments of the other Trustees, job well done.

Trustee Leonard said ditto.

Trustee Mishk agreed. He read the upcoming community events into the minutes.

#### **Executive Session**

Trustee Ramos moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel history of a particular person. Seconded by Trustee Adams. All Ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Reconvene**

Trustee Adams moved to reconvene the regular meeting. Seconded by Trustee Ramos. All ayes. Motion carried.

#### **Adjournment**

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

**Village of Walden Board of Trustees  
Regular Meeting  
January 19, 2016  
Motions & Resolutions**

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