

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
APRIL 7, 2025
REORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

10,609

The Reorganization Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard. Trustees: Barry Cheney, Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight. and Mary Collura. Also, present was Village Clerk, Raina Abramson. Others present: Jeanine Garritano Wadeson, Craig Wadeson, Madeline Wadeson, Carmine Garritano, Kathleen Garritano, Kristina Hoti, Sabrina Hoti, Kyle Knapp, and Rafael Cox.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
The Village Clerk held the roll call.

1. Swearing in of the newly elected official for the Office of Justice with a four-year term: Jeanine Garritano-Wadeson.
2. Appointments for the Official Year 2025 of the Village of Warwick.

Appointments for the Official Year 2025 of the Village of Warwick

Attorney to the Village Board – J. Benjamin Gailey, Esq. J&G Law, LLP
Attorney to the Planning Board – Law Office of Elizabeth Cassidy, PLLC – Elizabeth K. Cassidy, Esq.
Alternate Attorney to the Planning Board – Naughton & Torre, LLP – Ashley N. Torre, Esq.
Attorney to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Naughton & Torre, LLP - Ashley N. Torre, Esq.
Labor Relations – Keane & Beane, P.C. – William Kang
Bond Counsel – Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP
Village Engineer – Engineering & Surveying Properties, PC
Water System and Facilities Engineer – Barton & Loguidice
Engineer Responsible for Reservoir Resources and Dam Safety – Tectonic Engineering
Accountant – Michael Vernieri
Computer Consultant – TCG Solutions, Kevin Brand
Computer Programmer – Edmunds & Associates, BAS, Municipity
Web-Site Maintenance – Searchlight Consulting
Court Prosecutor – Rametta & Rametta, LLC - Robert Rametta, Esq.
Registrar of Vital Statistics - Eileen Astorino (Term 1/1/22 – 12/31/25 approved 12/20/21)
Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics – Carolyn Purta (Term 1/1/22 – 12/31/25 approved 12/20/21)
Consulting Engineer to the Building Department - Martin Roger's Consulting Engineers

*The FY 2025-26 Professional Service Agreements for the period of June 1, 2025 – May 31, 2026, are on file in the Clerk's Office.

Deputy Mayor – Barry Cheney
Village Clerk – Raina Abramson

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Deputy Clerk – Jennifer Mante
Village Treasurer – Sadie Andryshak
Deputy Treasurer – Denise Bulnes
Public Works Supervisor – Michael Moser
Assistant Public Works Supervisor – Michael Finelli
Working Leader – Jason Makuch
Recreation Director – Ron Introini
Assessor – Deborah Eurich
Official Banks – Webster Bank, Orange Bank and Trust
Associate Village Justice – Peter Barlet
Risk Management – Raina Abramson
Emergency Management – Michael Moser, Michael Newhard
911 Coordinator – Kristin Bialosky
Village Newspaper – Warwick Advertiser
Citizens Awareness Panel/Jones Chemical – Michael Newhard, Barry Cheney, Michael Moser.
Records Management Officer – Raina Abramson
Office Personnel Liaison – Raina Abramson
DPW Personnel Liaison – Michael Moser
Village Health Official – Dr. Anthony Martini
Safety Officers: Michael Moser, Boris Rudzinski, Thomas McKnight
Summer Concert Coordinators – Michael Gurvich, Adam Young, Ally Metcalf
Village Historian – Ivy Jordan Tulin
Village Poet Laurette – *TBD*
Village Artists in Residence – *TBD*

Planning Board

Members – 5 Year Terms, Chairman & Alternate - Annual

Chair & Member – Jesse Gallo (Annual Chair Appointment - Expiring April 2026 & Five-Year Member Appointment - Expiring April 2030)

Alternate Member – Vanessa Holland (Annual Appointment - Expiring April 2026)

Zoning Board of Appeals

Members – 5 Year Terms, Chairman & Alternate - Annual

Chair & Member – John Graney (Annual Chair Appointment – Expiring April 2026 & Five-Year Member Appointment - Expiring April 2030)

Architectural and Historic District Review Board

Members – 5 Year Terms, Chairman & Alternate - Annual

Chair – Michael Bertolini (Annual Chair Appointment - Expiring April 2026)

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Member – Matthew LoPinto (Annual Appointment – Expiring April 2030)

Shade Tree Commission

Members – 3 Year Terms, Commissioner - Annual

Commissioner – Lynn Cheney (Annual Appointment – Expiring April 2026)

Member – Sherwood Stevens (Three-Year Appointment – Expiring April 2028)

2025 Village Board Liaison Roles

<u>Deputy Mayor</u> <u>Barry Cheney</u>	<u>Trustee</u> <u>Mary Collura</u>	<u>Trustee</u> <u>Thomas McKnight</u>	<u>Trustee</u> <u>Carly Foster</u>
Public Works Operations	Office of the Treasurer	Planning & Zoning / AHDRB / OC Planning	Office of the Clerk
Engineering and Infrastructure Projects	Youth / WYDO / Warwick Valley Community Center / Warwick Valley Prevention Coalition	Environmental	Parks & Recreation
Veterans	Public Health	Albert Wisner Library	Economic Development & Tourism
Code Enforcement / Building Department	Historical Society	Town of Warwick Police Department	Warwick Valley Schools
Emergency Services	Public Interface and Outreach	Technology Oversight / Cybersecurity	Shade Tree Commission
Citizens Awareness Panel/Jones Chemical	Senior Citizens	Government Efficiency / Policy Development	Transportation & Mobility
	Ethics	Safety Committee	
	Summer Concert Series		
<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Economic Development	Parks & Recreation	Public Works Operations	Youth / WYDO / Warwick Valley Community Center /

UNAPPROVED

			Warwick Valley Prevention Coalition
Transportation & Mobility	Environmental	Code Enforcement / Building Department	Engineering and Infrastructure Projects
	Veterans	Emergency Services	Planning & Zoning / AHDRB / OC Planning
			Government Efficiency / Policy Development
			Summer Concert Series

Appointments for the Official Year 2025 of the Village of Warwick

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to accept the Mayor's recommendations of appointments for the Official Year 2025 of the Village of Warwick.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried for the Acceptance of Minutes: March 17, 2025, Village Board Meeting and the March 28, 2025, Work Session.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried for the Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$292,302.83.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

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Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

3. Public Hearing on a proposed local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year 2025–2026.

The Village Clerk read the Public Hearing Notice.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Village Board of the Village of Warwick will hold a public hearing on the 7th day of April, 2025, at 7:30 o'clock p.m., at Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY 10990, on a proposed Local Law No. 4 of the Year 2025 entitled: "A Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit Established in General Municipal Law §3-c".

The local law proposes to override the limit on the amount of real property taxes that may be levied by the Village and to allow the Village Board to adopt a budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c.

The Village Board will at the above date, time and place hear all persons interested in in the subject matter hereof. Persons may appear in person or by agent. All written communication addressed to the Board must be received by the Board at or prior to the public hearing.

BY ORDER OF THE VILLAGE BOARD
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
RAINA ABRAMSON
VILLAGE CLERK

Mayor Newhard opened the public hearing by explaining that the proposed local law was a procedural requirement in the event that the Village needed to exceed the 2% property tax cap. He emphasized that although the Village was *not* piercing the cap this year, passing this local law would have been necessary had that been the case.

Trustee Foster noted that while the cap will not be exceeded this year, future budget cycles may require it due to rising costs outpacing the 2% limit. She explained that essential services and inflationary pressures make it increasingly difficult to stay within

the cap, requiring more creativity each year to balance the budget while maintaining core services.

Trustee McKnight provided specific examples of recent cost increases, including a 12.7% rise in health insurance premiums for staff, a 14.9% increase in the police budget, 11.7% increases in both workers' compensation and liability insurance, an 8.4% increase in electricity, and 10.9% for gas. He stressed that these categories represent substantial portions of the Village budget and that holding the line at 2% was not only difficult but potentially unrealistic moving forward. He credited Village Treasurer Sadie Andryshak for her diligence during the budget process, which included numerous work sessions.

Trustee Foster added that the Village's ability to dip into reserves without overextending them is the result of sound fiscal management in prior years. She cautioned that careful monitoring is necessary to ensure the Village remains protected against future emergencies.

Trustee McKnight agreed, calling emergency reserves critical for maintaining essential services, and stated that the Board would need to revisit the issue in the next fiscal year based on evolving needs and available resources.

Mayor Newhard reiterated the months of collaborative work put into the budget process, highlighting the efforts of Treasurer Sadie Andryshak, Village Account Michael Vernieri, the Board, and department heads. He noted that the budgeting process began in January and took place over several months, involving complex and sometimes difficult conversations. Trustees McKnight and Foster confirmed that the discussions were not easy, and Trustee Foster noted that grant funding had also played a role in helping the Village stay under the cap.

Close Public Hearing – Proposed Local Law to Override the Tax Levy Limit

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to close the Public Hearing on a proposed local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year 2025–2026.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

4. Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget of the Village of Warwick for FY 2025-26.

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The Village Clerk read the Public Hearing Notice.

LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF THE VILLAGE OF WARWICK for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2025, will be held on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY at which time and place all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard. Copies of the Tentative Budget will be available for review on the Village's website, www.villageofwarwick.org beginning March 28, 2025. Hard copies will be made available to the public by mail upon receipt of written request.

The compensation proposed to be paid to each member of the Village Board is as follows:

Mayor	\$61,387.71
Deputy Mayor	\$10,743.54
Trustees	\$9,060.09 (each)

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
RAINA ABRAMSON, VILLAGE CLERK**

Dated: March 28, 2025

Mayor Newhard read the Budget Recap:

FY2025-26 Budget Recap

The New York State Comptroller has set the tax cap for 2025-2026 at 2%, with the allowable levy growth being the lesser of the 2% cap or the inflation factor, which is currently 2.99%.

The total tax levy for the Village of Warwick includes a general tax of \$3.56 million, a water land tax of \$476,070, and \$428,000 for sewer plant improvements, totaling \$4.47 million.

The funds from the sewer land tax will be used to repay a 15-year bond borrowed from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) for a \$12 million sewer plant upgrade, with a \$3 million grant already secured from EFC.

Additionally, water land taxes collected in 2025-2026 will be directed towards the Water Infrastructure Reserve.

In terms of projects, the Village has earmarked funds for several general fund improvements, including security upgrades at Village Hall, carpet installation at Village Hall, and sidewalk repairs, with \$678,407 in grant funding anticipated for projects like ADA sidewalk installations, Safe Streets 4 All, and records management.

The water fund will focus on key infrastructure upgrades such as the construction of Well #3, a new sewer line for Well #3, water tank replacements, and water meter replacements, with expected grants totaling \$2,054,051.

The sewer fund will also focus on necessary upgrades, including the replacement of office heating and AC units, along with continued improvements to the sewer plant. Water rates will increase by 5%, but sewer rates will remain unchanged.

Mayor Newhard invited the public to comment on the tentative budget and encouraged residents to review the budget information posted on the Village website.

Resident Kyle Knapp asked for confirmation that the Village was not exceeding the tax levy limit for the upcoming fiscal year. Mayor Newhard confirmed that the Village was staying within the limit and affirmed that this would remain true for the full fiscal year. Trustee Cheney provided additional details about the budget's structure. He noted that in order to achieve a balanced general fund budget, the Village would be drawing approximately \$450,000 from its general fund balance, which currently totals about \$2.1 million. This represents roughly a 20% reduction in the fund balance. Trustee Cheney also discussed the Village's reliance on sales tax revenue, with an expected \$1.3 million allocated in the budget. He explained that this revenue comes from a county-wide distribution agreement and has been stable in recent years, though early numbers this year show a slight decline of about 2%. Trustee Cheney described the projection as conservative, given potential changes in consumer behavior. He also noted that approximately \$400,000 from the water fund balance would be used to balance the water budget.

There were no further public comments.

Close Public Hearing - Tentative Budget of the Village of Warwick for FY 2025-26

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster to close the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget of the Village of Warwick for FY 2025-26.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Announcements

1. The Village of Warwick Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 19, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Veteran's Memorial Park.
2. The Village of Warwick hydrant flushing will begin on April 21, 2025, from approximately 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. until all the fire hydrants are completed.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Village Resident, Robin Wall, regarding the four way stop sign at McEwen Street and Wheeler Avenue.

Mayor Newhard noted that the information would be helpful to share with the Village's traffic engineer.

2. Letter regarding the proposed amendment to Chapter 36 of the Village Code to allow chickens in the village.

Public Comment - Agenda Items Only

GUIDELINES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

The public may speak only during the meeting's Public Comment period and at any other time a majority of the Board allows. Speakers must be recognized by the presiding officer, step to the front of the room/microphone, give their name, residency, and organization, if any. Speakers must limit their remarks to three minutes (this time limit may be changed to accommodate the number of speakers) and may not yield any remaining time they may have to another speaker. Board members may, with the permission of the mayor, interrupt a speaker during their remarks, but only for the purpose of clarification or information. The Village Board is not required to accept or respond to questions from the public at meetings but may request that inquiries be submitted in writing to be responded to at a later date. All remarks must be addressed to the Board as a body and not to individual Board members. Interested parties or their representatives may also address the Board by written communications.

Resident Rafael Cox, who has lived in the Village for 32 years, expressed interest in keeping chickens—and potentially ducks or rabbits—within Village limits. He noted that he had been in contact with Cornell Cooperative Extension and planned to provide additional informational materials to the Board once received. He asked about the status

of the topic and how to move forward.

Mayor Newhard responded that he too had been in touch with Cornell Cooperative Extension, which offered to provide the Village with information and possibly lead a public listening session. He explained that the Village is maintaining a file of correspondence received on the issue, reflecting the variety of community perspectives. He emphasized that due to the Village's dense layout, public health and neighborhood concerns would need to be addressed thoroughly.

Mr. Cox asked if there was any documentation explaining the original reasoning behind the 1976 law that prohibited backyard animals. Mayor Newhard said no documentation had been found so far, though Trustee Collura suggested that newspaper archives could be searched for context.

Trustee Foster also mentioned that she had drafted a preliminary ordinance for potential review and discussion, which could incorporate future input from Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Mr. Knapp asked if there was a timeline for moving forward; Mayor Newhard replied that there was no definitive timeline at this point, as the Board is still reviewing information and considering options.

There were no further public comments.

Resolution To Fund A Capital Project:
Maple Avenue Pump Station

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Warwick has undertaken and approved a project for the relocation of the Maple Avenue Pump Station; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the said project is \$1,126,000; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Warwick proves to the said project with ARPA funds to the extent of \$207,921.70, with DASNY Grant funds to the extent of \$250,000 and with Village Infrastructure Reserve Fund to the extent of \$668,078.30;

WHEREAS, pursuant to General Municipal Law §6-c(8), the said expenditure of funds from the Village's Infrastructure Reserve Fund is subject to permissive referendum;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

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1. That the Village of Warwick approves the aforesaid expenditure of funds from the said sources on of the Maple Avenue Pump Station Relocation Project; and

2. That, due to the said expenditures from the Village's Infrastructure Reserve Fund, the approval of the said funding of the Maple Avenue Pump Station Relocation Project is subject to permissive referendum and, therefore, this Resolution shall not take effect until at least thirty (30) days after its adoption, or until approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the Village if within thirty (30) days after its adoption a petition for referendum under Village Law Article 9 is filed with the Village Clerk; and

3. That the Village Clerk shall publish and post notice of the approval of this Resolution within ten (10) days from the date hereof.

Trustee Cheney presented the foregoing resolution, which was seconded by Trustee Foster,

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **APPROVED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Aye

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

Resolution To Fund Well #3 Project

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Warwick has undertaken and approved a project for the establishment of Well #3; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost of the said project is \$1,295,800; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the of Warwick proposes to pay for the said project with ARPA funds to the extent of \$336,048 and with federal funds from an EPA Clean Drinking

Water Grant to the extent of \$959,752;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

1. That the Village Board approves the aforesaid expenditure of funds from the said sources for establishment of Well #3; and
2. That the Village Mayor is authorized to sign all documents necessary to carry out the terms hereof.

Trustee Cheney presented the foregoing resolution, which was seconded by Trustee Foster,

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **APPROVED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Carly Foster, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Mary Collura, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting	<u>Aye</u>

Vacation Carryover - Andrew D'Alessandro

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Village of Warwick Employee, Andrew D'Alessandro, to carry over 5 vacation days.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney	<u>Aye</u>	Trustee Foster	<u>Aye</u>	Trustee Collura	<u>Aye</u>
Trustee McKnight	<u>Aye</u>	Mayor Newhard	<u>Aye</u>		

Seasonal DPW Laborer – James Quackenbush

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to hire James Quackenbush to the position of Seasonal Department of Public Works Laborer for up to 40 hours per week for 16 weeks with a start date of May 1, 2025, per the recommendation of DPW Supervisor, Michael Moser. Salary will be based on the FY24-25 & FY25-26 budget.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Full Time Laborer – Shane Augusta

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to hire Shane Augusta to the position of Full Time Laborer at the current Collective Bargaining rate, with the condition of obtaining a CDL within one year of hire date. Start date to be April 25, 2025, per the recommendation of DPW Supervisor, Michael Moser.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Trustee McKnight questioned the rationale for adding a new full-time Department of Public Works employee, noting that the DPW already represents one of the largest portions of the Village budget.

Trustee Cheney responded that the new position was to replace a DPW employee who had recently left for a job with the County.

Trustee McKnight clarified that the motion reflected a backfill of an existing position rather than the creation of a new one.

Mayor Newhard confirmed that it was a backfill of an existing position and noted that the new hire would be brought in at a lower pay rate.

Employee Training – Michael Finelli & Andrew D'Alessandro

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to allow the DPW employees, Michael Finelli and Andrew D'Alessandro to attend the Dollars & Sense of Municipal Operations Workshop on April 22, 2025, in Middletown, NY. This Workshop is part of the Cornell Local Roads Road Master Program, the program allows individuals to build a strong foundation in both technical and management skills. Credits from the course will go towards Road Master Certification. Cost of Workshop \$70.00 per person. \$60.00 workshop fee \$10.00 Road Master Enrollment fee. Village vehicle will be used for transportation. Funds are appropriated in budget code A5110.4750.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Well # 3 – Change Order No. 1, TAM Enterprises, Inc.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order No. 1 for the Well #3 Water Treatment Plant General Contract with TAM Enterprises, Inc. for additional work performed beyond the scope of their original contract, increasing the contract cost by \$7,050.70, as recommended by Pitingaro & Doetsch Consulting Engineers, P.C. Funds are appropriated in budget code F.8330.2350.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Trustee McKnight inquired about the nature of the overage related to a proposed change order.

Mayor Newhard explained that the overage was due to inadequate footings at the existing plant, which required additional work.

Trustee Cheney added that a previous change order involved exposing underground piping to determine the exact layout, due to the lack of reliable as-built plans from the

original construction. He explained that the project includes a built-in \$100,000 contingency, and the current overage is being covered within that pre-approved amount.

Trustee McKnight asked whether there appeared to be a pattern of TAM Enterprises uncovering additional work items once projects were underway.

Trustee Cheney responded that in this case, the added work was due to unforeseen underground conditions, which are common in infrastructure projects. He explained that rather than incurring higher upfront design costs, it is often more cost-effective to address such issues as they arise. He also noted that the change order amounts were relatively minor.

Trustee McKnight expressed concern that overages seem to occur frequently with TAM Enterprises and questioned whether the company should begin accounting for the likelihood of encountering issues when working in older Village infrastructure.

Mayor Newhard responded that the purpose of the built-in contingency is to address exactly these types of unforeseen issues.

Trustee Cheney explained that if the Village were to shift the risk of unforeseen conditions onto the contractor, the contractor would likely increase the base contract amount to account for that uncertainty. He noted that he worked with Pitingaro & Doetsch Consulting Engineers to evaluate the cost details submitted by TAM Enterprises and was able to negotiate a small reduction—approximately \$1,000 in one instance. He emphasized that each change order is not accepted automatically and is reviewed thoroughly to identify any opportunities for cost savings.

Trustee McKnight remarked that while he doesn't claim to fully understand the blend of art and science involved in contract bidding, the recurring overages raise concerns. He questioned whether contractors might be submitting lower initial bids with the expectation of recovering costs later through change orders for unforeseen conditions.

Trustee Cheney responded that in this case, the contractor was bidding based on a specific design and set of parameters. When conditions arise that necessitate a change to that design, the contractor is entitled to additional compensation for the resulting changes in scope.

Well # 3 – Change Order No. 2, TAM Enterprises, Inc.

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to approve and authorize the Mayor to sign Change Order No. 2 for the Well #3 Water Treatment Plant

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General Contract with TAM Enterprises, Inc., for additional work performed beyond the scope of the original contract, increasing the contract cost by \$4,177.95, as recommended by Pitingaro & Doetsch Consulting Engineers, P.C. Funds are appropriated in budget code F.8330.2350.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Trustee Cheney explained that only one bid was received for each of the two chemical supply items, whereas in past years the Village typically received two or three. The single bid reflected a substantial price increase—potentially an additional \$70,000 for sodium hypochlorite based on last year’s usage. He noted that the submitted prices matched those offered by the same vendor the previous year and expressed confidence that reissuing the bid would attract multiple offers and more competitive pricing.

Mayor Newhard commented on the complexity of the bidding process, noting that while the Village follows it as part of its purchasing policy, he appreciated the collaborative effort by the professionals involved in recognizing that the submitted bids exceeded budget expectations. He expressed gratitude for the decision to rebid in pursuit of more reasonable pricing.

Rebid - Sodium Hypochlorite (Liquid Chlorine) and Sodium Bisulfite 36%

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura, and carried to reject all bids received on March 31, 2025, for Sodium Hypochlorite (Liquid Chlorine) and Sodium Bisulfite 36% and advertise and receive new bids for Sodium Hypochlorite (Liquid Chlorine) and Sodium Bisulfite 36%.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Orange County Water Authority for the 2025 Leak Detection Program

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to

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authorize the Mayor to submit an application to the Orange County Water Authority for the 2025 Leak Detection Program naming Christopher Bennett as the Authorized Contact.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Brush Pile Attendant – Mark Bellantone

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to hire Mark Bellantone to the position of Seasonal Department of Public Works Laborer to perform duties of Brush Pile Attendant at Veterans Memorial Park for the period of April – November 2025 during designated brush pile operation dates and times. Start date April 12, end date November 30, 2025. Per the recommendation of the DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Acceptance of Bid - Reiner Pump Systems - Purchase of Replacement Clearwell Pumps

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster, and carried to accept the bid from Reiner Pump Systems for the Purchase of Replacement Clearwell Pumps for the Reservoir Water Filtration Plant at a cost of \$50,672. The Board is accepting other than the lowest bid based on the bidder being a previous provider of pumps to the Village, their location being closer to the Village which will improve emergency service response and the bidder having visited the site prior to the bid to take measurements and check electrical service in support of providing the best pump to meet the facility's needs. Funds are appropriated in budget code F8330-4400 in the FY2024-25 budget.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Trustee McKnight asked what the delta (price difference) was between the lowest bid and the proposed bid.

Trustee Cheney responded that the previous low bidder submitted a price of \$49,644.58, while the bid being recommended for approval was \$50,006.72—just over \$1,000 more.

Advertise and Receive Proposals from Qualified Transportation Planning Firms

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to advertise and receive proposals from qualified transportation planning firms or consultants to assist in the development and implementation of two critical transportation safety initiatives: Townwide Transportation Safety Action Plan & Slow Down Warwick Demonstration Projects as part of the 2023 Safe Street for All program.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Veterans Memorial Park, George Washington Day 5K and Fun Run

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to The Historical Society of the Town of Warwick to use Memorial Park to hold a George Washington Day 5K and Fun Run on Saturday, July 19, 2025, with set up to begin at 7:00 a.m. and breakdown to be completed by 11:00 a.m. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. departing from Memorial Park to Forester Avenue, High Street, South Street, Park Lane, Park Place, Burt Street, McFarland Drive, Hudson Street, Long House Road, Aske Street, Bridges Street to White Oak, then exits through Memorial Park back to the finish/starting line per their letter received on March 26, 2025. The request includes use of electricity, pavilion bathrooms, and Memorial Park parking lots. Use of the concession stand bathrooms has been coordinated with Warwick Little League. The event is in coordination with other organizations that regularly use the park for practices and games such as Warwick Little League, Warwick Wascals, Warwick Football & Cheer, Warwick Adult Kickball League and Highlander Rugby. The Warwick Police Department, Warwick EMS, Warwick Fire Department, Warwick Grove and Supervisor Dwyer have been notified and approved of the event. DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser, approved the event details and traffic/parking plan. Completed park permit, proof of insurance and security deposit have been received.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Veterans Memorial Park, Warwick Adult Kickball League

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura, and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Adult Kickball League to use the football field and The Daniel Prial Field in Veterans Memorial Park from May 9, 2025, through July 18, 2025, on Friday nights from 5:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., except during the Fireman’s Carnival. Request includes use of the field lights at The Daniel Prial Field & football field, use of speakers, electricity, and restrooms. Request also includes permission for (1) one food truck or snack trailer to be parked on the pavement in proximity to The Daniel Prial Field during the allotted games. All events must be in coordination with other organizations who regularly use the park for practice and games. Completed park permit, proof of insurance, security deposit, and light fee has been received. Pending proper insurance requirements from participating food truck or snack trailer.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Railroad Green, Warwick Valley Gardeners

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura, and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Valley Gardeners to use Railroad Green on Friday, June 27, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for a pre-tour ticket sales event and on Saturday, June 28, 2025, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., with a rain date of June 29, 2025, for the Annual Countryside Garden Tour event. Request includes the setup of popup tents. Completed park permit, security deposit, and proof of insurance have been received.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

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Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

'No Parking' Meter Covers - Warwick Valley Gardeners Garden Tour Ticket Sale

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to place eight (8) 'no parking' meter covers on parking meter numbers 104 – 107 on Railroad Avenue at the corner of Oakland and meter numbers 108 - 111 on Oakland Avenue, northbound side from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 28, 2025, with a rain date of Sunday, June 29, 2025, for the benefit of the Warwick Valley Gardeners Garden Tour ticket sale as per their letter dated March 14, 2025.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Railroad Green, Warwick Daisy Troop 228

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Warwick Daisy Troop 228 to sell GirlScout cookies on Railroad Green on Sunday, April 13, 2025, Saturday, April 26, 2025, and Sunday, April 27, 2025, between the hours of 10:45 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Completed park permit, security deposit, and proof of insurance have been received.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Veterans Memorial Park, Woodland Hollow Learning Center

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to the Woodland Hollow Learning Center to use the Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion for a Family Picnic on Friday, June 6, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Request

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includes use of restrooms, tables and chairs, and barricades to close the road leading up to the picnic pavilion beginning at 3:30 p.m.. Parking for the event will take place in the McFarland parking lot and in the parking lot next to the Danial Prial Field. Completed park permit, security deposit, and proof of insurance have been received.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye
Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Stanley-Deming Park, Park Avenue Elementary First Grade Picnic

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Park Avenue Elementary to hold a first-grade class picnic in Stanley-Deming Park on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, between the hours of 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. with a rain date of Friday, June 6, 2025. Completed park permit and proof of insurance have been received.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye
Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Stanley-Deming Park, D’Antono Dance Academy

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to D’Antono Dance Academy to hold an end of year celebration picnic in Stanley-Deming Park on Wednesday, June 25, 2025, from 4:00 p.m. to 7:45 p.m. with a rain date of Thursday, June 26, 2025. Request includes use of a portable speaker and use of restrooms. Completed park permit, proof of insurance, and security deposit have been received.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Mayor Newhard noted that the Village rarely permits outside organizations to use Stanley-Deming Park in this manner. He pointed out that while the Village does allow schools to use the space, this request falls outside that usual scope and brings up concerns about public access to the park during the scheduled time.

Trustee Foster stated that the group wouldn't be excluding the public from the park. She pointed out that, similar to pavilion use, their presence wouldn't prevent others from accessing the space.

Trustee Cheney suggested that the Village should clarify the terms of use, noting that the map submitted with the request appeared to include the playground area, which could imply restricted access for the public.

Village Clerk Raina Abramson explained that based on her conversation with the organizers, they were flexible about their setup location within Stanley-Deming Park. She noted that they would be bringing their own chairs and picnic tables and were not expecting exclusive use of the park. She added that they would be amenable to relocating to the other side of the creek if needed.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING VILLAGE OF WARWICK
LOCAL LAW NO. 4 OF 2025
TO PERMIT OVERRIDE OF THE TAX LEVY LIMIT
ESTABLISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW §3-c

WHEREAS, the Village Board has before it a proposed local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year 2025–2026; and

WHEREAS, following due notice the Village Board held a public hearing on the proposed local law,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the Village Board does hereby adopt the proposed local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year 2025 – 2026;

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2. That the said local law shall be effective immediately; and

3. That the Village Clerk is hereby requested and directed to publish, post and file the same in the Office of the Secretary of State in Albany.

Trustee Collura presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by Trustee Foster,

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **FAILED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Nay

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Nay

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Nay

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Nay

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Nay

Discussion

Trustee Cheney clarified that since the Village would not be overriding the tax cap, there was no need to pass the motion, and the Board would simply vote no.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2025-2026 VILLAGE BUDGET

WHEREAS, a tentative budget (the "Proposed Village Budget") for the Village of Warwick was prepared and introduced for the 2025-2026 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on April 7, 2025, and all interested persons were afforded an opportunity to be heard with respect to the Proposed Village Budget, after which such public hearing was closed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick hereby adopts the proposed Village Budget of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, including any amendments to such budget as approved by the Board of Trustees, which shall, upon adoption, become the final Village Budget for the 2025-2026 fiscal year: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, the Village Clerk and any officer, employee or consultant, as directed by the Mayor is authorized and directed to take any and all actions that are reasonably necessary, proper, or convenient to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

Trustee Collura presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by Trustee Foster,

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **APPROVED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Aye

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

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Budget Modification

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to approve the budget modification request as per the Village Treasurer's memo received April 2, 2025.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

2025 ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOLS AND CONFERENCES

WHEREAS, there is to be held during the coming official year (a) NYCOM's Annual Meeting and Training School (b) NYCOM's Fall Training School (c) NYCOM's Public Works Training School, (d) NYCOM's Winter Legislative Meeting, (e) NYCOM's Regional Training Events, (f) NYSBOC Building Conferences and Seminars, (g) NY Planning Federation, and (h) Orange County Department of Planning;

WHEREAS, attendance by certain municipal officials and employees at one or more of these meetings, conferences or schools benefits the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the following officers and employees are authorized to attend the following schools:

1. Mayor, Michael J. Newhard, Trustees: Barry Cheney, Mary Collura, Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight:
 - a. NYCOM's Annual Meeting and Training School, Fall Training School, Winter Legislative Meeting, and Regional Training Events

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2. Village Clerk Raina Abramson, Deputy Clerk Jennifer Mante, Village Treasurer Sadie Andryshak, Deputy Treasurer Denise Bulnes:
 - a. NYCOM's Fall Training School and Regional Training Events
3. DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser and Assistant Public Works Supervisor, Mike Finelli:
 - a. NYCOM's Public Works Training School
 - b. NYSBOC Building Conference
4. Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Boris Rudzinski and Assistant Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Patricia Petreshock:
 - a. NYSBOC Building Conference
 - b. NYSBOC Building Seminars
5. Village of Warwick Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals:
 - a. NY Planning Federation
 - b. Orange County Department of Planning
 - c. NYCOM's Regional Training Events related to Planning & Zoning

2. That this resolution is effective immediately.

Trustee McKnight presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by Trustee Collura,

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **APPROVED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Aye

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

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RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW
TO REPEAL AND RE-ENACT VILLAGE ZONING CODE §145-152(L)
REGARDING THE DURATION OF APPROVALS GRANTED
BY THE VILLAGE’S ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Warwick has received correspondence from the Village of Warwick Planning Board proposing an amendment to Village Zoning Code §145-152(L) regarding the duration of approvals granted by the Village’s Zoning Board of Appeals; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Warwick has before it a proposed local law entitled: “A local law amending Village of Warwick Village Code Chapter 145, ‘Zoning,’ to repeal and re-enact subsection 145-152(L) regarding the duration of approvals issued by the Village Zoning Board of Appeals”; and

WHEREAS, in order to consider adoption of the proposed local law it is necessary to first introduce it, make the necessary referrals, and hold a public hearing upon it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the movant of this resolution does hereby introduce the attached proposed local law;
2. That a public hearing on the said local law is hereby set for May 19, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.;
3. That the Village Clerk shall publish and post notice of the public hearing; and
4. That the Village Clerk shall submit a copy of the said local law to the County Planning Department for review Pursuant to General Municipal Law §239-m; and

Trustee McKnight presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by
Trustee Foster,

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **APPROVED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Aye

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO REPEAL AND
RE-ENACT SUBSECTION 4.1 OF VILLAGE CODE CHAPTER 69
APPOINTING A LOCAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR FLOOD DAMAGE
PREVENTION**

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Warwick has received correspondence from the Village of Warwick Planning Board proposing an amendment to subsection 4.1 of Village Code Chapter 69, entitled “Flood Damage Prevention” to change the designation of the Local Administrator from the Planning Board to the Building Inspector; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board of the Village of Warwick has before it a proposed local law entitled: “A local law amending Village of Warwick Village Code Chapter 69, ‘Flood Damage Prevention,’ to repeal and re-enact subsection 4.1, entitled ‘Designation Of The Local Administrator’”; and

WHEREAS, in order to consider adoption of the proposed local law it is necessary to first introduce it, make the necessary referrals, and hold a public hearing upon it;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the movant of this resolution does hereby introduce the attached proposed local law;
2. That a public hearing on the said local law is hereby set for May 19, 2025 at 7:30 p.m.;
3. That the Village Clerk shall publish and post notice of the public hearing; and
4. That the Village Clerk shall submit a copy of the said local law to the County Planning Department for review Pursuant to General Municipal Law §239-m; and

Trustee McKnight presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by Trustee Cheney,

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **APPROVED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Carly Foster, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Mary Collura, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting	<u>Aye</u>

Final Comments from the Board

Trustee Collura

Trustee Collura shared that she joined Bill Lindberg, the newly appointed Clean Streets Warwick Chairperson, for a cleanup effort on Route 94 southbound toward Florida. The group collected 33 bags of garbage in just a one-mile stretch—an area that had also been cleaned a year ago. She encouraged others interested in participating to contact Mr. Lindberg.

Trustee Cheney

Trustee Cheney announced that the LED streetlight conversion project had been completed, with a closeout meeting held the previous Thursday. While a few minor deficiencies were scheduled to be addressed during the week, training for the DPW on the Smart Controls and associated software was also set to take place. He noted that moving forward, the DPW would be more directly involved in managing streetlights and emphasized that residents should now report any streetlight issues directly to Village Hall, as Orange & Rockland is no longer involved in streetlight maintenance.

Mayor Newhard commented that the new LED streetlights look beautiful at night, noting they provide more consistent lighting and are less harsh compared to the previous sodium vapor lights.

Trustee Cheney explained that the new LED streetlights are designed to focus light more precisely in the areas they are meant to serve. He noted that different lighting levels were used based on intersections and traffic needs, with street-only areas receiving more subdued lighting. He added that the system allows for future adjustments, such as dimming the lights by 10% or 20% as needed. If any fixtures are shining inappropriately into residential areas, shields and other solutions are available to address those concerns.

Trustee McKnight asked whether the new LED streetlights included motion sensor capabilities.

Trustee Cheney responded that the lights are activated by darkness, indicating that while they are not motion-sensored, they are equipped with light sensors that turn them on at dusk.

Trustee McKnight

Trustee McKnight reported that several bids were received for the NYSERDA-funded solar array installation at the DPW garage, but most were disqualified due to failure to meet the required specifications. He recommended that the Board put the project back out to bid and emphasized the need to be especially clear in the reissued bid documents to ensure that vendors follow all instructions if they wish to be considered.

Trustee Cheney asked whether any follow-up conversations had taken place with the disqualified bidders. He suggested it might be helpful to understand why they failed to follow the instructions and did not provide the required information.

Trustee McKnight explained that the bids were inconsistent with the specified system size—some proposals came in well below the minimum requirement, while others exceeded it significantly.

Trustee Foster suggested that the bidders may have based their proposals on what they believed would physically fit on the roof, rather than adhering to the specified system size requirements.

Trustee McKnight confirmed that while some bidders based their designs on available roof space, the Village is obligated to adhere to the system specifications outlined in its contract with NYSERDA, which is tied to grant funding. He explained that although the Village aims to complete the project without out-of-pocket costs—aside from fronting expenses before reimbursement—it is currently relying on a 30% federal tax credit through direct pay. Given the uncertain national political climate, he cautioned that this credit could be reduced or eliminated, posing a potential financial risk if not carefully accounted for.

Trustee Foster asked for clarification on the value of the 30% federal tax credit and what the total project cost would be to the Village if the credit were not available. She emphasized the importance of evaluating the capital investment alongside the anticipated energy savings.

Trustee McKnight estimated that the value of the 30% federal tax credit could range between \$40,000 and \$120,000, depending on the final bid selected. He projected that if the Village had to cover the cost without the credit, the investment could be recouped in one to three years through energy savings. However, if the federal tax credit remains intact, the entire project would most likely be covered through grant funding.

Mayor Newhard expressed support for the solar project, stating that it remains a worthwhile investment. He emphasized that even without the 30% federal tax credit, the Village would still see a return on the project over time.

Trustee McKnight stated that steps are being taken to reissue the bid with clearer, more prominent instructions to avoid confusion. He acknowledged that the Village is slightly behind schedule but estimated that if the bid notice is released next week, the bid opening could occur by mid-May. Given that timeline, final discussions and approvals would likely extend into the start of the next fiscal year on June 1st.

Trustee McKnight announced that the Albert Wisner Public Library will hold its annual tax levy and trustee vote on Tuesday, April 8, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in the community room on the lower level of the library. He noted that all registered voters residing within the Warwick Valley Central School District are eligible to vote and encouraged residents to visit the library's website for more information.

Trustee Foster

Trustee Foster provided an update on the Safe Streets for All project, announcing that the project coordinator is now effectively on board and that intermunicipal agreements have been finalized with all participating municipalities. She met with the coordinator to discuss key data and areas under consideration for demonstration projects. To proceed with that portion, the Village must submit plans to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for a NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) review, after which funding can be formally obligated. While that portion of the grant remains uncertain, she expressed optimism that the outcome would be known soon. She emphasized the importance of expediting this part of the project due to potential timing constraints. Trustee Foster clarified that the planning component of the grant is already fully obligated and not at risk. An RFP will be issued soon to secure a transportation planner, and she inquired about the timeline for releasing that RFP.

Village Clerk Raina Abramson stated that she is still waiting to hear back from the Village Attorney but noted that the motion to advertise the RFP was placed on the agenda in the meantime.

Trustee Foster commented that she did not anticipate the Village Attorney would have significant feedback on the RFP.

Mayor Newhard agreed that the RFP appears to be fairly straightforward, while Trustee Foster noted that it's still beneficial to have the Village Attorney review it. Mayor Newhard added that he would also take a look at it and move it forward.

Trustee Foster reported that she and Mayor Newhard met with the Village Engineer and Mike Moser to review five proposals submitted in response to the Patriots Path RFP. The selection process is still underway, but she expressed excitement about the grant-funded project, which is part of the Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan and will include veterans memorials and the Patriots Path segment. Once a firm is selected, the Patriots Path subcommittee will begin meeting to move the planning process forward.

She also highlighted several park initiatives happening this year under the umbrella of the master plan, all of which are grant funded. These include progress on the skate park, a meeting scheduled this week regarding the pump track, and continued work on the kayak launch. Trustee Foster then revisited the \$150,000 grant awarded to the Village by the Town for park improvements. As discussed during budget planning, she proposed that \$50,000 be allocated toward projects already in the budget—such as pickleball courts, path upgrades, and improvements in Lewis Woodlands. Another \$50,000 would go toward the kayak launch, artist-fabricated bike racks throughout the Village, and potentially, if funds allow, a bird blind and seating improvements.

She recommended using the remaining funds to support design and engineering work related to a pedestrian-friendly redesign of the central parking area at Veterans Memorial Park. Once a landscape architect is selected, a change order could be issued to include this redesign work, pending approval from the Village Engineer.

Public Comment – *Non-Agenda Items*

Resident Kyle Knapp asked for clarification about planned improvements to Lewis Woodlands. He noted that the park is located in his neighborhood and was responding to earlier remarks about grant funding being allocated to that area.

Mayor Newhard responded that planned improvements for Lewis Woodlands include path upgrades and tree work. He also noted that a bridge in the area had been washed out and would need attention.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura, and carried to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 8:45 p.m.

The vote on the foregoing **motion** was as follows: **APPROVED**

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye