

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
DECEMBER 16, 2024**

10,439

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, December 16, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard. Trustees: Barry Cheney and Thomas McKnight. Also, present was Village Clerk, Raina Abramson and Village Attorney, Stephen Gaba. Absent were Trustees, Carly Foster and Mary Collura. Others present, Warwick Police Chief, John Rader, Gail Hoffer-Loibl, Stephen Wanczowski, Mark Potempa, Donna Kaminski, and Bill and Judy Lindberg.

The Mayor called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight, and carried for the Acceptance of Minutes: December 2, 2024, Work Session & Board Meeting.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Absent

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Acceptance of Reports

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight, and carried for the Acceptance of Reports – November 2024: Clerk’s Office, Justice Department, Planning Department, Department of Public Works, and Building Department.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Absent

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight, and carried for the Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$291,982.20.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Absent

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

1. Police Report.

Police Chief John Rader reported that the Orange County District Attorney's Office notified the department on November 19 that Tyler Williams of Middletown pled guilty to arson in the second degree. The incident occurred last December, shortly before Christmas, when Williams intentionally set fire to an occupied house in the Town of Warwick. This act was in retaliation for tickets issued to him by the New York State Police the night before.

Chief Rader detailed the extensive investigation, which spanned approximately four months. The case began with suspicions raised by the first responding officers and was handled collaboratively by the Warwick Police Department's detective unit, the State Police, the Town of Goshen Police, the District Attorney's Office, the County Fire Investigation Unit, the Sheriff's Office, and the ATF. Over 22 electronic search warrants were served during the investigation. Chief Rader commended the professionalism and perseverance of the officers and detectives involved and noted that Williams faces an approximate 20-year prison sentence when sentenced next month.

Chief Rader also announced that the department received a \$10,000 grant award for the 2025 National Night Out from Senator Skoufis' office. He expressed gratitude for the grant and looked forward to planning another successful community event next summer.

Chief Rader provided a synopsis of the police response to the Jennings Creek Fire. The first reports of the fire were received on November 8, and planning began the following day to station officers in the East Shore Road area while maintaining coverage for the rest of the Town. The department was tasked with supporting residents in the Forest Knolls, Forest Park, Sterling Forest, and Long Meadow Road sections, maintaining traffic posts with several detours in New York and New Jersey, and protecting the thousands of firefighters who responded.

The response involved additional officers and dispatchers, who took on extra shifts to ensure regular police coverage was not compromised. Over a two-week period, the department conducted two evacuations: approximately 20 homes in Forest Knolls on November 10 and about 130 homes in collaboration with the Village of Greenwood Lake Police Department on November 16. Assistance was provided by numerous agencies, including the New York State Police, New York State Park Police, the Orange County Sheriff's Office, and others.

A command post was established at the Greenwood Lake Firehouse, and the department continued to respond to regular duties, handling nearly 700 calls for service and three serious motor vehicle accidents, one of which was fatal. Despite these challenges, the department successfully facilitated the Veterans Day Parade during this time. Chief Rader commended the officers for their dedication and teamwork, highlighting their efforts in managing one of the largest fires in New York State while ensuring uninterrupted protection for the Town.

Mayor Newhard noted the impressive effort involved in the response to the Jennings Creek Fire and mentioned that the Village's winter newsletter had just been released. The newsletter includes a listing of all the fire companies that participated as well as the local restaurants that generously supported the effort.

Chief Rader added that Station Three served as a housing area for firefighters during the Jennings Creek Fire, highlighting the fortunate timing of that facility's availability for the Warwick Fire District. Local restaurants also supported the effort by ensuring firefighters had necessities and meals during their deployments, which often lasted up to 72 hours. Fire departments from across New York State, spanning from the Canadian border to Long Island, contributed to the response. Chief Rader noted the impressive scale of the collaboration and commended the teams for extinguishing the fire in just two weeks, calling it an extraordinary achievement.

Mayor Newhard noted the fortunate outcome that no structures were affected, although it was tragic that a life was lost. He acknowledged that the situation could have been far worse.

Chief Rader emphasized the remarkable efforts of the responders, noting that the fire came within five feet of some houses, yet the firefighters were able to protect them. He attributed this success to the dedication and skill of the volunteers who responded to the emergency.

2. Continuation of the Public Hearing on proposed Local Law No. 8 of the Year 2024 to amend the Village Code by enacting Chapter 115 entitled "Short-Term Rental Property."

The Village Clerk read the public hearing notice.

CONTINUATION OF PUBLIC HEARING

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Village Board of the Village of Warwick will hold the continuation of a public hearing on the 16th day of December 2024, at 7:30 p.m., at Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY 10990, on a proposed Local law No. 8 of the Year 2024 to amend the Village Code by enacting Chapter 115 entitled “Short-Term Rental Property”.

The purpose of this Local Law is to promote the public health, safety, and welfare by establishing a municipal registration and permit requirement for all short-term rental units within the boundaries of the Village of Warwick and by enacting regulations for the administration and enforcement of the Village’s permitting requirement.

A copy of the proposed local law is on file in the office of the Village Clerk and is available for inspection by interested persons during Village Clerk’s business hours, and the proposed local law has also been posted on the Village’s website www.villageofwarwick.org.

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

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

Mayor Newhard noted that no additional comments had been received at this time.

Village Attorney Stephen Gaba suggested briefly reviewing the changes made to the text since it was published for the public hearing.

Mr. Gaba provided an overview of the recent changes to the short-term rental law. Key updates included:

- The term length for short-term rental permits was changed from one year to two years, including renewals, in Sections 115-6 and 115-8.
- A typo in Section 115-5(4)(3) identified by the County Planning Department was corrected by removing the word "and."

- To address a Planning Board comment, language was added to Sections 115-2 and 115-3 to clarify that homeowners do not need to be present during short-term rentals, reinforcing the existing intent of the law.
- A new paragraph was added to Section 115-1 explaining why properties in the Central Business (CB) zone are not required to be owner-occupied. The rationale reflects the commercial nature of the district and reduced expectations regarding the impact of nearby short-term rentals.
- A provision was added to Section 115-4 requiring a notarized statement from the homeowner's association if a property is subject to association bylaws. This statement must confirm whether short-term rentals are permitted under the bylaws.

Village Attorney Stephen Gaba noted that the red-lined version of the short-term rental law had been posted on the Village's website for public review and comment. He also explained that a local law must be in its final form and available to legislators for at least seven business days before a vote. Since this requirement would not be met at this meeting, the Board would not be able to act on the law until their first meeting in January, unless further changes necessitate postponing the vote.

Village Attorney Stephen Gaba noted that the Board could act on the SEQRA resolution adopting a negative declaration for the short-term rental law during the meeting. He stated that it was appropriate for the law to have a negative declaration and suggested moving forward with the resolution. However, he clarified that since the Board had only the minimum number of members present, a unanimous vote would be required to adopt the resolution.

Trustee Cheney brought up a potential complication regarding state legislation on short-term rentals. He noted that a state bill related to short-term rental registries was delivered to the governor on December 12. The governor has 10 days, until December 22, to act on it. The bill stipulates that municipalities with their own short-term rental registries in place before the governor signs the legislation could continue managing them locally. However, if the registry is not established before the governor signs, the state would assume responsibility, and the Village would no longer need to implement its own registry.

Trustee Cheney added that it seemed unlikely the governor would sign the state bill on short-term rentals. He explained that the bill proposed a two-year registry and required hosts to collect sales tax, aiming to level the playing field between short-term rentals and traditional accommodations such as hotels, motels, and bed-and-breakfast establishments.

No comments were made by the public.

Mayor Newhard stated that the public hearing would remain open.

Continuation of Public Hearing - Chapter 115 entitled "Short-Term Rental Property"

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Cheney, and carried to hold open the Public Hearing on a proposed to amend the Village Code by enacting Chapter 115 entitled "Short-Term Rental Property" until January 6, 2025.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Absent

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Announcement

1. 2024 Village of Warwick Christmas Eve Sing-along & Apple Eve Event.
2. Village of Warwick Christmas Tree Pickup.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Anthony L. Rossi, Mayor of the Township of Vernon, extending appreciation for the generous support of the Village of Warwick First Responders during the funeral procession of Vernon Township Volunteer Fireman, Cpt. Michael Basson, on November 5, 2024.
2. Letter from Orange County Executive Steven Neuhaus notifying the Village of Warwick of the FY2025 Community Development Block Grant award of \$148,420.00 for the Wheeler Avenue ADA Sidewalk Project.

Discussion

1. Proposed stop signs at certain intersections in the Village of Warwick.

Trustee McKnight provided an update on the Village's efforts related to the Safe Streets for All grant and the Transportation Safety Action Plan, as outlined on the Village's website.

The initiative focuses on pedestrian safety zones and promoting non-motorized mobility, addressing driver behaviors identified as the leading cause of incidents, and utilizing data-driven decision support for policymakers.

Trustee McKnight highlighted the use of radar signs installed at various locations around the Village to collect data on traffic patterns and vehicle speeds. This data, stored in a cloud-based system, enables informed, data-driven decisions. Preliminary findings pointed to two intersections of concern due to consistent speeding: Forester Avenue at Veterans Memorial Park, where traffic in both directions picks up speed due to the downhill slope, and West Street at Pond Hill, which includes a bus stop and has shown patterns of speeding in several locations.

Trustee McKnight included initial data in the meeting agenda and suggested exploring potential traffic-calming measures, such as installing four-way stop signs at these locations. He invited input from the Board and Police Chief John Rader for further discussion.

Chief Rader expressed agreement with the usefulness of the radar speed signs, emphasizing their value as a tool for collecting 24-hour traffic data, which is otherwise impossible to monitor manually. The data provides insights such as the percentage of speed violations, higher speeds, and the 85th percentile of traffic speeds, serving as a reliable gauge for traffic patterns. He noted the significant volume of vehicle traffic revealed by the data, mentioning that, over a 13-day period, more than 22,000 vehicles were recorded traveling on West Street, which he found remarkable.

Chief Rader noted that over 21 days, nearly 26,000 vehicles were recorded on Forester Avenue, providing valuable insights into traffic patterns. He highlighted the usefulness of this data for the police department, as it helps identify peak problem times and allows for the deployment of uncommitted officers to address issues when not engaged in other calls.

Chief Rader acknowledged the logic in considering traffic-calming measures like stop signs, particularly at intersections with high pedestrian activity, such as those near Village Cove residents, Pond Hill residents, and park access points. He emphasized that while such measures could improve safety, enforcement would still be necessary, potentially shifting from addressing speeding complaints to handling stop sign violations.

Chief Rader expressed his intent to consult with contacts in law enforcement for additional insights and ideas, describing the discussion as an important and valuable conversation to continue.

Mayor Newhard noted that discussions with Trustee Cheney had also included simplifying the intersection of Burt Street and McFarland Drive. He acknowledged the current layout as confusing and emphasized the importance of addressing it as part of the broader conversation on traffic safety and simplification.

Chief Rader agreed that the intersection of Burt Street and McFarland Drive is confusing due to its unusual configuration and lack of a standard four-way, 90-degree alignment. He described common issues, such as vehicles heading toward Colonial Avenue hesitating when turning left onto Burt Street and drivers from Galloway Heights Road not yielding the right-of-way. He also highlighted the uncertainty around movements from McFarland Drive, creating awkward pauses and confusion.

Chief Rader questioned whether the intersection's current configuration effectively slows traffic or addresses safety concerns, particularly given the hill and straightaway toward Park Lane. He noted that many residents from Burt Farms use this route to access the park. Chief Rader emphasized that both the Burt Street/McFarland Drive intersection and the previously discussed intersections are worth further discussion to explore potential solutions.

Trustee McKnight added to the discussion by referencing the Safe Streets for All grant application process. He noted that, as part of the application narrative, crash data from the Department of Transportation (DOT) for the period between 2017 and 2021 was reviewed. Two of the top areas identified in the data were Burt Street and Campsite Way, which he speculated might have been interchangeable.

Chief Rader clarified that the accidents mentioned in the DOT crash data likely did not occur on the side streets themselves but rather at the intersection. He speculated, based on his understanding of the reports, that most of the accidents likely happened on Forester Avenue.

Chief Rader discussed the need to evaluate complaints about speeding by considering whether the area is primarily residential or a route used for commuting or as a cut-through. He noted that West Street and Forester Avenue fall into the latter category. While radar signs are an invaluable tool for enforcement, he emphasized the long-term value of implementing traffic-calming measures, such as stop signs, to reduce speed at busy intersections. Chief Rader recommended further exploration of these measures as part of a broader strategy.

Trustee McKnight highlighted an interesting data point from the radar sign analysis on Forester Avenue. Over a 13-day period, the data showed that southbound traffic, heading from Colonial Avenue toward the school, recorded 26,000 vehicles, while northbound traffic at the same intersection recorded 38,000 vehicles—a large increase. He suggested this disparity might indicate that more drivers are using Forester Avenue as a cut-through route from outside the Village.

Chief Rader noted that the data showed approximately two-thirds of vehicles passing through the area were exceeding the posted speed limit, which is 25 mph and decreases to 20 mph near Burt Farms due to the school zone. He suggested that slowing traffic earlier in this stretch made logical sense. While emphasizing that the ideal solution would be for drivers to adopt safer habits, Chief Rader acknowledged the need for actionable measures given the limitations of relying on behavioral change alone. He highlighted the challenges faced by officers, who must patrol the entire Village while handling calls, making tools like the radar speed signs invaluable. These signs allow for data collection to inform more effective deployment of officers during uncommitted time, helping address high-speed areas within existing resource constraints.

Trustee McKnight suggested tabling the discussion for the time being and revisiting it when the full Board is present. He noted that the topic could be integrated into broader conversations related to the Safe Streets for All initiative.

Chief Rader mentioned that he and Trustee Cheney had reviewed data on tickets issued and vehicle stops, noting that not all stops result in a ticket. He confirmed that the areas in question are being actively patrolled but acknowledged that enforcement efforts would likely need to be increased.

2. NYSERDA Grant Agreement & DPW Solar Project.

Trustee McKnight reported that the Village received word from NYSERDA about a Clean Energy Communities grant totaling \$187,500, which consolidated five smaller grants. The funding will support a clean energy project involving the installation of a solar array on the DPW garage. The proposed 100-kilowatt-hour system is expected to offset approximately 17% of the municipality's government operations electricity usage, equating to an estimated \$40,000 in annual savings.

The Village aims to complete the project at no cost by leveraging the grant and federal incentives, though confirmation of those incentives is pending. The bidding process cannot fully proceed until NYSERDA signs the contract, which the Village has submitted without redlines and is awaiting approval. Once the contract is signed, the bidding

process will be reopened and re-noticed. The Village Engineer has been tasked with overseeing technical specifications and project management to ensure the project meets all necessary requirements.

Mayor Newhard thanked Trustee McKnight for his efforts on the Clean Energy Communities grant project, acknowledging the significant work involved and the learning curve required to manage so many details.

Trustee McKnight noted that, while the Village appreciates the grant funding, it was surprising when NYSERDA abruptly halted their grant program. He explained that, as a non-competitive program, municipalities meeting the qualifications could apply and receive funding. The sudden pause, announced on a Monday, prevented the Village from pursuing additional grants it had been preparing for. Trustee McKnight expressed hope that the program might reopen in the future and assured that the Village would make the best use of the funding it currently has.

3. Lighting and landscaping on the proposed Colonial Avenue intersection.

Mayor Newhard noted a discussion item on the addendum regarding new state DOT resolutions for lighting and landscaping at the proposed Colonial Avenue intersection. He suggested that Village Attorney Stephen Gaba review the resolutions and indicated they would be sent to him for consideration. Mayor Newhard also mentioned reaching out to obtain the intersection plan, which had been provided, and acknowledged having some immediate questions. He planned to follow up and recommended revisiting the discussion after Mr. Gaba's review. While recognizing the state's eagerness to move the project forward, he emphasized the importance of ensuring all Village concerns are addressed.

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.

No comments.

RESOLUTION ADOPTING A NEGATIVE DECLARATION UNDER SEQRA

WHEREAS, the Village Board is considering adopting a local law amending the Village Code in regard to regulation of short-term rentals; and

WHEREAS, this is an action subject to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"); and

WHEREAS, the Village Board as Lead Agency in SEQRA review has prepared a short Environmental Assessment Form ("EAF"); and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has determined that the proposed local law constitutes an Unlisted Action under SEQRA;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the Village Board approves the EAF and authorizes the Mayor to sign the same, and
2. That after considering all of the information presented to it, including the EAF, the Village Board determines that the proposed action does not present any potential significant adverse environmental impacts and adopts the Negative Declaration attached hereto.

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

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Absent

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Absent

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

**RESOLUTION APPROVING A DONATION AGREEMENT FOR CONSTRUCTION
OF A SKATEPARK IN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK**

WHEREAS, the Skatepark Initiative, in cooperation with The Community Foundation, has proposed to dedicate to the Village of Warwick the labor and materials necessary for construction of a skatepark at a designated location in Veterans Memorial Park in accordance with the design plans prepared by Pillar Design entitled “Skatepark” (Project No. 22-027); and

WHEREAS, The Vincent Kosuga and Pauline Kosuga Foundation, Inc., has offered to provide a financial donation to fund the construction of the skatepark; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Warwick Village Board wishes to accept the said offer of dedication to allow the Skatepark Initiative to construct the said skatepark and dedicate it to the Village; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has before it a proposed Agreement for Escrow and Expenditure of Charitable Donation which memorializes the terms of the said offer of dedication and the supporting charitable donation.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the Village Board hereby approves the Agreement for Escrow and Expenditure of Charitable Donation and authorizes the Mayor to execute it and any documents necessary to carry out the terms and provisions thereof; and

2. That the Village Board hereby accepts the Skatepark Initiative's offer of dedication to the Village of Warwick the labor and materials necessary for construction of the skatepark; and

3. That the Village Board hereby grants a temporary work easement to the Skatepark Initiative to perform the said work in Veterans Memorial Park subject to provision of general liability insurance in an amount not less than \$2,000,000 naming the Village as an additional insured; and

4. That the Mayor is hereby authorized to sign all documents necessary for the allowing the Skatepark Initiative to carry out work on construction of the skatepark, including, without limitation, building permit applications, licenses, and tax documents; and

5. That, upon tender of the labor and materials by the Skatepark Initiative for acceptance by the Village, the Village shall accept the same, provided, however, the Village reserves the right to make, at its own expense, any changes, modifications, additions or deletions to the project work necessary to bring the project work into compliance with the building plans.

Mayor Newhard presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by Trustee Cheney,

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Absent

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Absent

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

Discussion

Mayor Newhard expressed gratitude to Stephen Wanczowski and Bill Lindberg for their efforts, acknowledging the teamwork involved in navigating the complexities of legal considerations. He commended their success in addressing the challenges, noting that the result was a testament to their hard work and collaboration.

Mayor Newhard remarked on the extraordinary generosity of the \$650,000 grant, noting that this amount does not include in-kind services, which he confirmed with Mr. Lindberg to total \$132,000 so far. These services included time and equipment used to prepare the site.

Mayor Newhard noted that additional in-kind services are expected, ensuring that the project will be completed with little to no use of taxpayer money. He described this as an incredible accomplishment and expressed deep gratitude to the Skate Park Initiative for their passion and perseverance. Acknowledging the years of dedication to the project, he commended their unwavering commitment to making it a reality.

Mayor Newhard noted that the effort has spanned 10 years, beginning as Project Nomad, with Donna Kaminski serving as the lead catalyst for the initial phase. He acknowledged how the project evolved into the Skate Park Initiative and recognized the dedication of individuals such as Stephen Wanczowski, Bill and Judy Lindberg, Mark Potempa, Pat and others who have worked tirelessly to keep the vision alive and bring the project to fruition.

Mark Potempa stated that he is ready to begin work as soon as he receives the go-ahead.

Mayor Newhard stated that the work by Artisan Design is scheduled for the summer of 2025, emphasizing how quickly the project is progressing. He highlighted the park's beautiful design and expressed confidence that it will meet the community's needs for years to come. He also noted its potential to attract visitors from across the Town, making it a valuable addition to the area.

Appointment of Sandra Alfonzo to Full-Time Typist (Spanish/English Speaking)

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight, and carried to appoint Sandra Alfonzo to the position of Full-Time Typist (Spanish/English Speaking) under the NY HELPS Program, position #90755H, allocated to the Non-competitive class in accordance with Orange County Civil Service with a start date of December 20, 2024. Sandra's last day of work as Provisional Billing Control Clerk will be December 19, 2024.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Absent

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW TO REVISE THE
VILLAGE CODE'S PROVISIONS REGARDING
AMUSEMENTS AND EXHIBITIONS**

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 34 – 'Amusements and Exhibitions'"; and

WHEREAS, in order to enact the said local law it is necessary to formally introduce it and to hold a public hearing on it,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the movant of this resolution does hereby introduce the proposed local law; and
2. That a public hearing on the proposed local law be set for January 21, 2025 at 7:30 o'clock p.m. and that due notice of the same is directed to be given by publication and posting; and

3. That the Village Board approves and adopts the Short Environmental Assessment Form prepared in regard to the proposed local law, determines that it constitutes an Unlisted Action, and adopts a Negative Declaration.

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

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Absent

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Absent

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

Purchase of Orange & Rockland Streetlight Heads

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight, and carried to approve payment of \$200,457.00 to Orange and Rockland Utilities Inc. for streetlight heads, using the Unassigned Fund Balance. This purchase was previously approved by resolution on July 18, 2022.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Absent

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**RESOLUTION APPROVING EASEMENT AGREEMENT FOR A WATER
PUMP/WATER BOOSTER STATION AND RELATED FACILITIES**

WHEREAS, the Village of Warwick has undertaken a public improvement project to its municipal water system entailing installation of a water pump/water booster station with related utility lines and facilities; and

WHEREAS, the said project requires grant of an easement over the St. Anthony's Hospital property at 20 Grand Street; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board has before it a proposed Easement Agreement with the owner of the said property allowing installation of the water pump/water booster station, related utility lines and facilities, a copy of which is annexed hereto;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the Village Board hereby approves the said Easement Agreement subject to completion and attachment of Description Schedules "A", "B" and "C" in form acceptable to the Village's Engineering Consultant; and

2. That the Mayor is authorized to execute the said Easement Agreement and any documents necessary to carry out the terms and provisions thereof.

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

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Absent

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Absent

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

Discussion

Mayor Newhard provided an update on the DOT project scheduled to begin in the spring, which originally started as a reclamation and repavement project. The work will span from Grand Street near the hospital, through the Village along Route 94, and out to County Route 1, where a roundabout is planned. Within the Village, the project includes repaving the roadway from Route 17A at Galloway to Bellvale.

Mayor Newhard explained that the Village had a pre-existing plan to reconfigure the Route 94, Maple Avenue, and Colonial Avenue intersection. Currently a dangerous Y-shaped intersection with no pedestrian crossings, the redesign will create a T-intersection with turning lanes and improved lighting. The plan also involves relocating a water pump station located beneath a monument in the intersection. After working closely with engineers and the hospital, the pump station will be moved to Grand Street, overcoming challenges related to property ownership and documentation.

The monument will also be relocated to a new pocket park created by the reconfiguration in front of the Buckbee Center. This park will provide a prominent and safe space to view the monument and the stone honoring Frank Forester. The redesigned intersection will include multiple pedestrian crossings, significantly enhancing walkability and safety.

Mayor Newhard expressed gratitude to Westchester Medical and the hospital for their cooperation and emphasized the project's alignment with the Village's broader goals of improving accessibility and redefining this area as the Village continues to grow.

Reports

Trustee Cheney's Report:

Trustee Cheney reported that the closing on the purchase of streetlights from Orange and Rockland is expected to take place this week, making the Village the new owner of the streetlights. Moving forward, residents with concerns about streetlights being out or other

issues should contact the Village DPW instead of Orange and Rockland. The DPW can be reached at 845-986-2031, extension 6, or via email at dpw@villageofwarwick.org.

Trustee Cheney also noted that the conversion of streetlights to LED fixtures is scheduled to begin in February or March, with all materials already on-site. A project kickoff meeting is planned for mid-to-late January, and the conversion process is expected to proceed quickly. He expressed satisfaction with reaching this milestone after a long process.

In addition, Trustee Cheney provided an update on the drought alert. While the Village's reservoirs are holding steady without further depletion, he urged residents to continue conserving water. Suggestions included fixing leaks, washing full loads of laundry or dishes, and practicing other water-saving measures, which can also help reduce water bills. He expressed hope that winter rains will replenish the reservoirs by spring.

Trustee Foster's Report:

No report.

Trustee Collura's Report:

No report.

Trustee McKnight's Report:

Trustee McKnight added that the Village received two smaller \$5,000 grants, totaling \$10,000, as part of the Clean Energy Communities Program through NYSERDA. These funds will be used to replant trees in the Village, addressing damage caused by the ash borer beetle, which significantly affected areas like Homestead Village. At an estimated cost of \$300 per tree, the grants will allow the Village to replace over 30 trees. Trustee McKnight expressed gratitude for the funding and emphasized the importance of rebuilding the tree canopy gradually.

Mayor Newhard's Report

Mayor Newhard expressed gratitude to Trustee Cheney and Village Attorney Stephen Gaba for their efforts on the streetlight project. He acknowledged the significant workload Stephen Gaba has managed, likening it to being in a batting cage without a bat, and commended him for handling multiple tasks each week. Mayor Newhard noted that

while the project had been a long time in the making, the timing aligned well with state funding opportunities.

Trustee Cheney added that the Village received over \$200,000 in funding from Senator Skoufis for the streetlight project. Additionally, a separate grant of approximately \$260,000 from Senator Skoufis is allocated for the pump station relocation, further supporting the Village's infrastructure initiatives.

Mayor Newhard announced that the Village's winter newsletter has been released and will soon arrive in mailboxes. He encouraged non-residents to access the newsletter, which contains updates on grants and projects, either at Village Hall or on the Village website.

He also noted that the first night of Hanukkah falls on December 25 and shared plans for setting up the menorah in Lewis Park with the help of the Historical Society and Moshe Schwartzberg, who organizes the event. The public is invited to attend the lighting at sundown, around 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. Mayor Newhard expressed appreciation for the coinciding celebrations of Christmas and Hanukkah this year and extended holiday wishes to all residents, including a Merry Christmas to Christian residents, a blessed Hanukkah to Jewish residents, and a blessed Kwanzaa to African American residents.

Mayor Newhard also shared announcements from the community. On December 21, the Ida Bartow Hicks Missionary Society of the Union AME Church will host a young people's Christmas concert at 5:00 p.m. at 98 McEwen Street, with the community warmly invited to attend.

Lastly, he highlighted a message from Warwick Cares, reminding everyone of the 988 hotline for mental health and suicide prevention support, an important resource during the holiday season.

Public Comment – *Non-Agenda Items*

No comments

Final Comments from the Board

No comments

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Cheney, and carried to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Absent

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Raina M. Abramson, Village Clerk