

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
JUNE 17, 2024**

10,163

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, June 17, 2024, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard. Trustees: Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight, and Mary Collura. Also, present was Village Clerk, Raina Abramson and Village Attorney, Stephen Gaba. Absent was Trustee, Barry Cheney. Others present, Warwick Police Chief, John Rader.

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

Mayor Newhard noted that June 19th is Juneteenth, also known as Emancipation Day, commemorating the final end of slavery in the United States in 1865, despite the Emancipation Proclamation being signed in 1862. This day is now a federal holiday, and village offices will be closed in observance. He encouraged everyone to take this opportunity to learn more about its significance in American history.

Mayor Newhard shared that the Village of Warwick serves as a cooling center during the summer months. From 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. on workdays, Village Hall is open to the public as a space with air conditioning for anyone needing relief from high temperatures.

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried for the Acceptance of Minutes: May 20, 2024 & June 3, 2024.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Acceptance of Reports

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

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

Trustee Cheney Absent 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 McKnight, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried for the Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$257,594.71.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

1. Police Report.

Chief Rader stated that the armed robbery investigation at the Sunoco Station was still ongoing, noting that detectives are pursuing solid leads and encouraging the public to provide any relevant information.

Chief Rader discussed the severe spring storm that affected the Greenwood Lake area on May 23rd. In response, local departments established a unified command system at the Greenwood Lake police station. They deployed the Orange County Emergency Services mobile command unit and mobile dispatching unit to manage storm-related calls, allowing both stations to handle their normal dispatch duties. The command post included staff from local, county, and state agencies, Orange and Rockland utilities, and the Greenwood Lake School Superintendent. Although a full assessment from Orange and Rockland was pending, multiple utility poles and transformers were replaced that evening. Chief Rader estimated that over 1,000 trees had fallen, underscoring the extent of the damage caused by the storm. It was noted that miraculously, no one was hurt during the event.

Chief Rader highlighted a community engagement initiative, "Coffee With A Cop," held on May 21st at Cafe Dolce, aimed at fostering positive interactions between law enforcement and the public.

Chief Rader mentioned that the child safety seat check event at Price Chopper on June 2nd was well attended, emphasizing that this is an ongoing initiative requiring continuous effort. He encouraged community members to contact the station to schedule appointments for child safety seat checks, highlighting that technicians are available for this service. Chief Rader noted that technicians undergo comprehensive 40-hour initial training to ensure they are qualified to conduct these safety inspections effectively, as well as ongoing training each year in order to maintain the certification. During these inspections, technicians also check for recalls associated with the child safety seats brought in by community members. Chief Rader also mentioned that through grants

received, the department can provide child safety seats to those in need who cannot afford them.

Chief Rader highlighted that the police department has recently received two grants: one for \$100,000 designated for equipment purchases and upgrades, and another for \$189,000 aimed at technology upgrades. These funds will be used to enhance the services provided by the department.

Additionally, Chief Rader mentioned that interviews are scheduled for the promotion of new sergeants, and registrations for the junior police academy are still open, with spaces filling up quickly. Registration was for students between ages 10 and 15 years old within the Warwick School District, including Greenwood Lake and Florida.

Chief Rader announced that National Night Out is scheduled for August 6, and the groundwork has been laid out since February and March with assistance from Village Hall staff. The event will run from 5:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the police department anticipates a large turnout, aiming to build community engagement. Last year, approximately 2,500 people attended, and in 2020, around 500 participated. The event will feature activities such as The Black Bear Band, touch-a-truck, and participation from various organizations from both the Village and the Town. Chief Rader encouraged everyone to attend and enjoy the community barbecue and festivities.

Chief Rader explained how the Warwick Police Department was using social media to communicate community events, detours, and road closures with the goal of residents to be prepared. He mentioned the upcoming Warwick Fire Department carnival next week, culminating in fireworks on Saturday night, which typically causes heavy traffic. Chief Rader requested collaboration between the police department and the Village to cross-share announcements on social media, ensuring residents are informed and avoiding surprises or frustrations due to detours or delays.

Mayor Newhard thanked Chief Rader and the police department for their exceptional work during the Pride event and parade. He acknowledged the logistical challenges involved in managing a parade of that scale through the Village and commended the department for executing it seamlessly. Chief Rader responded, expressing appreciation for the recognition and noting that the event went smoothly, benefiting from good weather and contributing to a successful day for all involved.

Mayor Newhard shared details about Joe Sanzone's Eagle Scout project involving the creation of a dog park in Memorial Park. He highlighted the project's design and collaboration with the Eagle Scout, noting the high cost of fencing and the Scout's efforts in fundraising through brick sales. Mayor Newhard praised the Scout as a dedicated young man

with interests aligned with veterinary science, making the project meaningful for him. The location of the dog park is described as near the DPW area, tucked behind Mechanical Rubber, offering a picturesque green space with planned amenities such as parking and a pathway for accessibility.

Trustee Foster added that it will have a canine veteran and service dog Memorial feature.

Chief Rader suggested reaching out to the K9 Unit and they will gladly support the project.

2. Bid Opening – Electrical Power Supply.

Village Clerk, Raina Abramson read the Bid Notice.

NOTICE OF BID ELECTRICAL POWER SUPPLY

PLEASE TAKE NOTE that the Village of Warwick is seeking proposals for the supply of electrical power. Sealed proposals marked, "**Electrical Power Supply Proposals 2024/26**" on the outside of the mailing envelope must be submitted to the Village Clerk at 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY on or before June 17th, 2024, at 4:00 p.m. That evening all Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud at the Village Board Meeting which begins at 7:30 p.m.. Vendors should be aware that there could be an initial administrative delay of up to a month for the utility to change over accounts.

A listing of the Village of Warwick Orange and Rockland account numbers are available at the Village Clerk's office. The vendor submitting an RFP is responsible for obtaining historical data usage. Vendors must submit, via email to clerk@villageofwarwick.org, on a form written by the Vendor, a request for historical data usage. The Vendor is responsible for submitting this form to the utility and acquiring the historical data usage.

Specifications for the bid may be found on the Village of Warwick's website www.villageofwarwick.org or by emailing the Village Clerk's Office at clerk@villageofwarwick.org.

The Village Clerk may be contacted by email at clerk@villageofwarwick.org or by phone 845-986-2031 ext. 102. Questions are to be directed in writing to the Village Clerk at the above address and phone number. All questions must be received by June 12, 2024.

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

Village Clerk, Raina Abramson reported that the first bid received was from M&R Energy Resources. They obtained quotes from Constellation Energy, Direct Energy, and Smartest Energy, as well as NG (formerly Suez). The proposal from M&R Energy Resources indicates that Constellation Energy offered the lowest bid:

For a 12-month contract:

- Regular Power: \$0.08340 per kWh
- 100% Green Power: \$0.08620 per kWh
- 50% Green Power: \$0.08480 per kWh

For a 16-month contract:

- Regular Power: \$0.08312 per kWh
- 100% Green Power: \$0.08602 per kWh
- 50% Green Power: \$0.08457 per kWh

For the 24-month contract:

- Regular Power: \$0.08843 per kWh
- 100% Green Power: \$0.09152 per kWh
- 50% Green Power: \$0.08998 per kWh

The green power source specified in the bid is National Wind.

Ms. Abramson read the fixed prices per kilowatt hour for different types of energy contracts offered by Northeastern, with varying percentages of green power options.

A lengthy discussion occurred amongst the Board discussing the different options as well as methodically going over the numbers. It was noted that the cost of electricity in general had gone down from the previous contract and even with factoring in the more expensive green option from Constellation, it would still cost the Village less in electricity expenses compared to last year, as well as count towards programs under NYSEERDA that the Village had been working towards. Trustee Foster factored that the 100% green power cost about 3% more, but due to the decrease in energy rates, the Village would still save about \$30,000 per year. Village Attorney, Stephen Gaba added that you would get more bang for your buck going 100% green energy

versus going 50% when factoring in the Village's Climate Smart initiatives. Trustee McKnight said the Village was close to the \$50,000 grant level, and this decision would put the Village within fighting distance of the non-competitive \$100,000 grant.

The Board decided to accept the bid for the 16-month 100% Green Power from Constellation.

Announcement

1. Joe Sanzone's Eagle Scout Project Fundraiser "Buy a Brick Program" for the Veteran's Memorial Park Dog Park.

Trustee Foster announced the upcoming addition of a new dog park at Veterans Memorial Park in Warwick, led by Eagle Scout candidate, Joe Sanzone. The new dog park will honor military and law enforcement canines and their handlers. Trustee Foster invited community support through donations, including purchasing bricks to memorialize loved ones or promote businesses. Details for contributions are available on the Village's social media and website, with options to donate via Venmo or mail.

Trustee Foster added that there would be a stakeholder advisory group meeting for the Veterans Memorial Park master plan tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

Discussion

1. Draft Short-Term Rental Code.

Stephen Gaba went over the changes that were requested by the Board during the previous discussion.

A lengthy discussion occurred regarding parking and whether to incorporate specific parking regulations into the code or rely on existing provisions already outlined in the Village Code.

The Board also discussed the distinctions between an LLC, agent, owner, and/or resident agent.

Trustee McKnight proposed including the disclosure of the municipal permit number in the listing, mirroring the approach taken by the Town of Warwick's short-term rental code, to facilitate spot-checking of permits.

Violation fees were deliberated and adjusted to \$500.00 per day, consistent with the Town of Warwick's code.

Mr. Gaba discussed the flexibility to negotiate fines in justice court, noting that criminal fines go to the justice system, not the Village. He suggested adding a provision for civil enforcement if the Village wants fines paid directly to them. Mr. Gaba proposed that when someone is charged with a violation, the Board could consider negotiating a civil fine directly with the Village alongside any potential license suspension or revocation. He emphasized the efficiency of handling all aspects of the case in one process, rather than through separate code enforcement proceedings, to streamline administration and maintain compliance with Village codes.

Mr. Gaba would make revisions to the code and the topic would be discussed at a later date.

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.

Bid Award – Electrical Power Supply – Constellation Energy

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to accept the bid and enter into a contract with Constellation Energy for Electrical Power Supply at the fixed price of \$0.08602 per kilowatt hour and authorize the mayor to sign the same. The contract will begin July 1, 2024, and be for a term of 16 months.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

There was a discussion about whether the contract would be with M&R or Constellation. It was determined that the contract would be signed with Constellation.

Advertise for Bids – Village of Warwick Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to advertise and receive bids for the Village of Warwick Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Accept Proposal – Engineering & Surveying Properties – Land Surveying Services of Wheeler Avenue – Sidewalk Project

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to accept the proposal from Engineering & Surveying Properties to provide professional land surveying services of Wheeler Avenue, between Main Street and Cherry Street, for the purpose of an engineering design for new sidewalks with a total cost not to exceed \$7,850 and authorize the mayor to sign the same. Funds are appropriated in budget code A1440.4000.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Mayor Newhard clarified that this project was part of the HUD application process.

Facility Use – Stanley-Deming Park, Wickham Works Arts in the Park

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to Wickham Works to host an Arts in the Park event in Stanley-Deming Park on Friday, July 26, 2024, with a rain date of Sunday, July 28, 2024. The event will take place from 6 p.m. – 10 p.m. with setup to begin at 4 p.m. and breakdown to be complete by 11 p.m. Request includes use of the bandshell, pavilion and lawn area in-between, parking on the field behind the basketball courts, use of loudspeakers, set up of 2 (two) food trucks and the set-up of a portable video projection screen. Request additionally includes use of Village owned chairs, restrooms, water fountains, (2) two additional garbage and (2) two additional recycling cans to be positioned in the gazebo/pavilion park area and use of electricity in both the bandshell and pavilion. Approval is contingent upon proof of permission from the Warwick Valley Central School District to use the Park Avenue School for parking. Completed park permit, security deposit, and proof of insurance have been received. The Warwick Fire Department, EMS, and Police Department will be notified of the event. Approval is pending proper insurance from all participating vendors.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use – Memorial Park Pavilion – Boy Scout Troop 45

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Boy Scout Troop 45 to use the Veteran's Memorial Park Pavilion for a Court of Awards Ceremony and end of the year BBQ on Monday, June 24, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Request includes use of restrooms, electricity, and pavilion lights. Completed park permit and proof of proper insurance have been received.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Public Comment – Non-Agenda Items

No comments were made.

Reports

Trustee Cheney's Report:

No report/absent.

Trustee Foster's Report:

Trustee Foster indicated that Trustee McKnight will likely discuss one of the grants the Board plans to pursue. Specifically, they are preparing to write a grant proposal to support the implementation of the Veterans Memorial Park plan, which will be further discussed with the stakeholder advisory group tomorrow.

Trustee Collura's Report:

Trustee Collura announced that "Old Stories from Warwick's Past" has gone to print, marking her first project as a trustee. The collaboration with Jean Beattie May, the former Village Historian, resulted in a 124-page book, and plans are underway for a book release, signing, and reading event tentatively scheduled for July 12th, during the afternoon. They are finalizing the location for the event.

Trustee Collura mentioned that Warwick Cares, in collaboration with the Town of Warwick and an anonymous donor, has secured a significant number of 9" x 9" signs. These signs will be placed at all entrance points throughout Warwick, serving as a visible way to raise awareness and support for those in need.

Trustee McKnight's Report:

Trustee McKnight provided an update on a \$10,000 Clean Energy grant. The grant will be used to install heat pump systems in two separate office areas within the new DPW pole barn. Each office will require conditioning, and the proposed solution is to use mini split heat pump units. The quote received for materials and labor totals \$18,800, with the grant covering more than half of this cost. The heat pumps should be operational in the new DPW pole barn by September, bringing the Village closer to securing the \$50,000 grant, plus edging further towards the \$100,000 grant.

Trustee McKnight indicated that the next round of funding could support the installation of bike racks, as previously discussed. Trustee Foster inquired about the possibility of using the funds for designing custom garbage bins. Trustee McKnight mentioned that as the grants increase in size, more ideas are proposed. It was suggested that the artistic community be involved in the design of the garbage bins.

Mayor Newhard's Report:

Mayor Newhard discussed the status of the New York Forward grant, noting that the state has not yet announced it, likely within another month. He mentioned discussions with Mayor Harter and Jesse Dwyer, along with a conversation with Millennium Strategies, a grant writing company. Their perspective suggested that pursuing individual applications rather than a joint application with multiple communities would better serve Warwick's goals for the grant.

Trustee Foster noted that it's interesting because they had received feedback from the state indicating that a joint submission would be attractive. Thus, believed this guidance should override Millennium's perspective.

Mayor Newhard explained that they had considered involving three villages and the hamlet of Pine Island in their joint application for the New York Forward grant. However, due to Greenwood Lake's current challenges and Pine Island's status as a hamlet, it seemed that Pine Island was not well-positioned to participate. Mayor Newhard emphasized that both Florida and Warwick share the major DOT project, making them more prepared to leverage such grant opportunities. He mentioned plans to discuss the situation with the state, noting that Millennium, had provided some insights but that further dialogue with the state might be necessary.

There was discussion about Wickham Woodlands being a potential third partner in the grant application, but it was noted that all the derelict properties in the complex had already been purchased and plans for renovation were already in place.

Dial-a-Bus was also discussed as a potential inclusion.

Mayor Newhard mentioned that both he and Mayor Harter are enthusiastic about partnering for the grant. Millennium suggested that highlighting their collaboration could potentially increase the impact of their award if they both receive it. They plan to further discuss and clarify these details moving forward.

Trustee McKnight acknowledged the significant progress made by Village Clerk, Raina Abramson in securing a grant over a year ago to initiate the digitization of decades worth of Village records. This effort began with cataloging 480 cubic feet of paper records across the Clerk's and Treasurer's offices, marking a substantial first step. The next phase will involve the Building and Planning Department. Trustee McKnight praised Mr. Abramson's leadership and expressed excitement about the project's advancement.

Ms. Abramson enthusiastically mentioned the upcoming site visit by a new Records Management Officer (ROA) for New York villages to evaluate their project progress. She expressed hope that the ROA would provide guidance for their 2025 application, aimed at

implementing an electronic content management system by 2026. Emphasizing the project's multi-year scope, Ms. Abramson highlighted its potential benefit.

Executive Session

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to enter into Executive Session to seek confidential advice of counsel.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

In Executive Session

Michael Newhard, Mayor, Trustees Carly Foster, Mary Collura, Thomas McKnight and Village Attorney, Stephen Gaba.

Exit Executive Session and Adjourn Regular Meeting

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Foster, and carried to exit Executive Session, resume the regular meeting and adjourn at approximately 10:00 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Raina M. Abramson, Village Clerk