

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

9760

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Deputy Mayor, Barry Cheney, Trustees: Carly Foster, Mary Collura, and Thomas McKnight. Also, present was Deputy Village Clerk, Jennifer Mante and Recreation Director, Ron Introini. Mayor, Michael J. Newhard was absent. Others present: Gloria Bonelli and Glenn Weinberg.

The Deputy Mayor called the meeting to order and led in the Pledge of Allegiance.
A moment of silence was held for Warren McFarland.
The Deputy Village Clerk held the roll call.

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Foster, and carried for the Acceptance of Minutes: August 21, 2023

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

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

Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Collura, and carried for the Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$348,983.17.

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

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

Presentation

1. 2023 Recreation Report

Recreation Director, Ron Introini summarized the attendance from the 2023 Summer Recreation Program.

Trustee McKnight acknowledged the delay issues during the registration process that caused frustration for parents. The issue was investigated and was found to be a bug on the software

company's end, to which they ensured the Village it had been fixed so that next year the same problem would not persist.

Different ideas were discussed in how to make the registration process more convenient for working parents, such as a different day for signup and the possibility of a week-to-week program.

Trustee Collura wanted to see the website become fully translatable, as the page where you sign up for programs was only available in English.

A discussion ensued regarding the consideration of lowering the camp counselors' minimum age from 16 to 15, as the Park Program was the most popular program, but the number of participants was based on how many counselors the Village could employ. Lowering the age requirement could potentially lead to more counselors which would increase the participation capacity.

2. Joule Power

Glenn Weinberg, representing Joule Power, gave a presentation on the benefits of community choice aggregation (CCA).

A lengthy discussion ensued that included questions by the Board associated with the program.

The Board asked for a sample contract, access to a webinar, as well as an extended rate chart. Mr. Weinberg confirmed he would provide those items.

Discussion

1. Amrex Chemical Co., Inc

Trustee Cheney explained that Amrex, the Village's supplier of Potassium Permanganate had declared force majeure on their contract for the chemical and charged the Village \$2.65/\$2.85 per pound instead of the contractual amount of \$1.80 per pound. The letter was sent to the Village's attorney for analysis and was determined that the reasons given from Amrex was not applicable to declare force majeure and that the Village was not obligated to pay the higher amount. Trustee Cheney further explained that it was the last payment of their contract which ended on May 31, 2023, and Amrex did not propose a bid for the current fiscal year. The Village had already paid the invoice for the contractual amount, but Amrex was asking the Village to consider paying the full amount billed. Trustee Cheney asked the rest of the Board what their thoughts were.

Trustee Foster asked if Amrex had given the Village notification of the price increase prior to delivery and invoicing.

Trustee Cheney said they did not.

The Board unanimously agreed not to pay the higher amount.

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.

Motions

Approval of Payment #3 – TAM Enterprises – South St. Sidewalk Replacement Project

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight, and carried to approve payment #3 in the amount of \$9,338.69 to TAM Enterprises, Inc. for the South Street sidewalk replacement project for work that includes installation of curbing, sidewalk, and retaining walls, per the recommendation of Village Engineer, David Getz. Funds are appropriated in budget code A5110.4400 in the FY2023-24 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 Absent

Discussion

Trustee Cheney estimated the sidewalk project to be completed by September 30, 2023.

Trustee McKnight asked if the plan was to pave the portion of the road disturbed by the project.

Trustee Cheney confirmed that it would be.

A discussion ensued regarding a large vehicle that was parked in an awkward location near an intersection and the possibility of it being moved further down the street.

Facility Use Request – Railroad Green, Wallkill River Center for the Arts Art Event

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight, and carried to grant permission to the Wallkill River Center for the Arts to use Railroad Green to hold a public art event on Monday, October 9, 2023, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with setup to begin at 7:00 a.m. and breakdown to be completed by 3:00 p.m. Request includes setup of a pop-up tent, table, and painting easels on Railroad Green where a ‘quick draw competition’ will take place. Request also includes preregistered artists to be spread out across the Village with portable painting easels for a two-hour painting session to be displayed and judged on Railroad Green. 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 Absent

Discussion

Gloria Bonelli, President of the Board of the Wallkill River for the Arts, was asked by the Board to speak on behalf of the event.

Ms. Bonelli explained this was the 8th year of the Hudson Valley Plein Air Festival and described the event in detail and asked if there was a map of historical buildings that could be handed out to the artists.

Trustee Collura said she would reach out to the Historical Society.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Foster, and carried to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 9:05 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 Absent

Public Comment – *Non-Agenda Items*

No comments were made.

Final Comments From the Board

Trustee Foster provided updates surrounding the Village's Master Plan and explained that the Village's memorial policy would need to be updated to accommodate the Veterans Memorial Park Master Plan. This would involve conversations with the Tree Commissioner regarding the placement of trees that match the habitat and ecosystem of an area. Trustee Foster was waiting for the landscape architect to integrate information gathered from a recently completed survey and then the final version of the master plan should be coming to the Board shortly.

Trustee Foster noted that the Mayor and herself had been debriefed by USDOT on the Village's RAISE grant application and received positive feedback, though they were ultimately unsuccessful in being selected for funding in that round. It was explained that the Village of Warwick's application was highly recommended for funding, which was impressive for a first-time applicant. However, out of 347 applicants that were highly recommended, only 162 were selected and the final criteria was based on geographic proximity, in which Kingston was selected. Trustee Foster said she had learned a lot and the Village is planning on sending a notice of intent for next year's RAISE grant.

Trustee Foster mentioned that the Comprehensive Plan Advisory Group/Committee met last week and discussed the possibility of holding joint sessions with the ZBA, Planning Board, developers, and public to discuss the comp plan goals/vision as well as areas of the zoning code that could be improved. She also noted that the timing of these meetings would need to be planned around filling the Planning Secretary position and other public engagement sessions in the fall.

Trustee Foster said there was a good amount of interest in the Climate Smart Committees Taskforce and believed it would be well attended.

Trustee Collura announced the newly created Village Newsletter, which was mailed to all Village residents, was also available as a PDF on the Village website and that the information would also be shared through Facebook.

Trustee Cheney said the newsletter had been well received.

Trustee McKnight announced an upcoming Climate Smart Task Force meeting on Wednesday, September 13th, at Village Hall and highlighted the importance of benchmarking the energy consumption of the Village's operations, stating that waterworks facilities and wastewater treatment plants were the major contributors. There was an emphasis on the need to reduce emissions in line with New York State's ambitious targets of 40% reduction by 2030 and 85% by 2050. To address these goals, Trustee McKnight put together a draft climate action plan focused on government operations. This plan aimed to identify areas with high energy consumption and set reduction targets, such as converting streetlights to LEDs, replacing aging DPW vehicles with alternative fuel options, as well as ongoing collaborations such as with Orange and Rockland to explore energy-efficient water pumps.

Trustee McKnight encouraged community involvement and feedback of the plan, emphasizing that it was a collective effort and announced the intention to post a non-approved draft of the plan on the Village website and invited the public to the next task force meeting. Additionally, the Hudson Valley Regional Council would assist in conducting a greenhouse gas emission inventory for the community. Trustee McKnight emphasized the importance of aligning these efforts with state targets and the potential for further progress in sustainability.

Adjournment

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Absent

Jennifer Mante, Deputy Village Clerk