

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
JANUARY 3, 2022**

9143

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, January 3, 2022, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY via Zoom Videoconference. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard, Trustees: Barry Cheney, William Lindberg, Corey Bachman and George McManus. Also, present was Deputy Village Clerk Jennifer Mante.

Pursuant to Chapter 417 of the Laws of 2021 permitting local governments to hold meetings remotely and take such actions authorized by law without allowing the public to be physically present at the meeting due to safety concerns related to the delta variant of COVID-19, the public was able view the meeting live by the public on the Village of Warwick, NY YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCK7D7KGbZf6nYfbcWGH6-VA>

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

Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lindberg, seconded by Trustee Cheney, and carried for the Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$187,665.12.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Bachman Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

1. Village of Warwick Parking Courtesy.

Mayor Newhard began by saying the discussion regarding the idea of a Village of Warwick Parking Courtesy would continue.

Trustee Lindberg said the language from Skaneateles was given to Steven Gaba for review, it was also reviewed with NYCOM, which resulted in two recommendations; that no municipal funds be used to feed the meter, and there should not be any discretion with the program. Trustee Lindberg said there needs to be some criteria to give a courtesy card instead of Milissa putting in a quarter, she could take pictures of the car, timestamp it, give a courtesy envelope, and come back in thirty minutes. Trustee Lindberg continued by saying that if the car is still there, then give that person a ticket for an over extended meter. As far as criteria, Trustee Lindberg said that Mr. Gaba talked about certain spots in the Village where a courtesy card could be used such as,

certain days of the week or out of state license plates. Trustee Lindberg said that when he brought this idea from Skaneateles and talked to the police chief he wasn't thinking about criteria, that he thought about goodwill in the Village and giving someone a break. Trustee Lindberg suggested he call the police chief of Skaneateles to ask what criteria his police officers use to give the thirty-minute break on the meters. Trustee Lindberg said that he spoke to Milissa who told him she thinks it could occur once or twice a week, so it would not be a huge situation. Trustee Lindberg said that police officers have discretion to give warnings and he does not mind giving Milissa, the parking enforcement officer, some discretion in certain situations. Trustee Lindberg said to think about it as goodwill, to think about a visitor, possibly from out of state, coming back and saying ok, I did something wrong, but I got a break, and I had a pleasant experience in the Village of Warwick. Trustee Lindberg suggested to come up with some type of criteria to keep the program going, and the only thing that he could come up with was out of state plates. Trustee Lindberg clarified that he did not recommend giving courtesy tickets to somebody parked in a handicap spot or in front of a hydrant. Trustee Lindberg said he was thinking about a busy day in Warwick during the holidays, people from out of state coming in not aware of where to park, getting detained, etc., that it would be appropriate in some of those cases.

Mayor Newhard believed that Steve and NYCOM were correct in terms of criteria, that it had to be ironed out. Mayor Newhard expressed concern about how it could start ideas of favoritism and how we get that already. Trustee Lindberg agreed. Mayor Newhard liked the idea of talking to the police chief of Skaneateles but expressed concern that a police officer has a greater weight than a parking enforcement officer. Mayor Newhard continued by saying a police officer has discretion already and that Milissa gets her fair share of harassment from the public and does not want this to cause an increase of harassment to her. Trustee Lindberg agreed.

Trustee Cheney wanted clarification on one of the comments Trustee Lindberg made regarding Milissa and exceeded meter limits. Trustee Cheney asked if Milissa only gives exceeding meter limits once or twice a week. Trustee Lindberg responded by saying no, that he and Milissa talked about this a while ago and she doesn't think it would happen a lot, that she gives tickets to 99 percent of the people. Trustee Cheney asked if Trustee Lindberg had any idea how many overtime parking tickets Milissa gives a week. Trustee Lindberg responded that he does not know. Trustee Cheney stated that it seems to him that it would be more than that. Trustee Cheney said that he would be 100 percent in favor of what Trustee Lindberg suggests in terms of providing a grace period for people who are at meters and may have gotten hung up in a store, forgotten the time, or lost track. Trustee Cheney continued by saying he thinks it's a nice courtesy and that it will make us viewed as a more welcoming village. Trustee Cheney suggested that one of the things to consider is to give the grace period to everyone, which would cut out any discretion for Milissa. Trustee Cheney said he did not know how many visitors the Village gets from out of state, but he imagined there are a lot of visitors from out of town and we want them to come back, and our merchants want them to come back. Trustee Cheney stated that it is important, if not more important, to be able to offer the grace period to everybody, since we can't

discern who's a Town of Warwick resident or Village of Warwick resident and who isn't. Trustee Cheney said he would be interested in hearing how Skaneateles handles it and whether there are differences between having police officers and us having a parking enforcement officer do it. Trustee Lindberg agreed.

Trustee McManus wanted to know how the Warwick PD handles parking tickets, because they give tickets as well as Milissa. Trustee McManus expressed concerns about Mr. Gaba's letter saying that Village funds cannot be expended and by extending the parking beyond what the laws say is using Village funds, as well as giving up the fines, is taking away Village funds. Trustee McManus stated that if we have meters why not enforce the laws we have, and if you don't want to enforce the parking meters, just take the meters out. Trustee McManus said that Trustee Cheney wants to extend it to everybody who's over the meter, so why have them? Trustee McManus said he doesn't understand the rationale.

Mayor Newhard explained that the purpose of the meters is to keep people moving and did not think giving people thirty more minutes would create chaos. Trustee McManus rebutted by saying that we would be changing the written laws, changing the signs that are posted throughout the Village, and the signs that are on the meters. Trustee McManus said that ignoring the parking laws for thirty minutes for however many people a day is giving away Village funds through parking meter collections, and through the loss of fines. Trustee McManus said that there's no rhyme or reason to extend another thirty minutes to everyone who illegally parks. Trustee Lindberg responded by saying that it would not go that far, that not everyone would get a leeway. Trustee McManus stated that Trustee Cheney had suggested to give it to everyone.

Trustee Bachman asked Trustee Lindberg if it was possible that the police department Trustee Lindberg got his information from for this procedure doesn't have a criteria for who gets a ticket. Trustee Lindberg responded by saying what he noticed was that he doesn't see police officers giving tickets for meters and that he had never seen that happen, but he was sure it did in some cases. Trustee Lindberg said that he knew they gave tickets for the highways after November. Trustee Lindberg continued by saying you see tickets for cars parked on streets, but he would be curious to know how many tickets they give for parking meters, and he thinks it is low. Trustee Bachman wanted to know of the people who overstay the two-hour limit, do they typically overstay by fifteen, twenty minutes, or if they usually fall within the thirty minutes. Trustee Lindberg said he did not know.

Trustee Lindberg said he would call the police chief and find out what criteria he had, what instructions he gives his police officers', and how often it happens.

Mayor Newhard said that he thinks we need more information from Milissa. Mayor Newhard stated that he agreed with Trustee Cheney in that it sounded strange it would only be two a week, and that it seemed low considering the amount of tourism and activity. Mayor Newhard continued by saying that during the holiday season, tons of people don't seem to understand

there is still a two-hour limit for parking and they do get ticketed and are surprised by that. Mayor Newhard said that as far as courtesy goes, we do have that program which he thinks is great, and he thinks people appreciate it, so that is something to recognize as well.

Mayor Newhard asked Trustee Lindberg to get that information and email it to the Board. Trustee Lindberg agreed to do so.

Announcement

Trustee Cheney announced that the Village of Warwick Department of Public Works will be picking up Christmas Trees. Trustee Cheney said that the trees must be placed by the curb on Village Streets prior to January 12th, and that trees may also be dropped off until January 31st at the Town of Warwick Chip Site, located at 65 Public Works Drive, Warwick.

Mayor Newhard announced that St. Anthony's Community Hospital drive through testing site will be reopening, Tuesday January 4, 2022, at 20 Grand Street. Mayor Newhard said that this procedure will offer a more convenient option for community members, there will be no need for patients to get out of their car for registration or testing. Mayor Newhard continued by saying testing will be available Monday through Friday, from 10 a.m. to 4p.m., and that a prescription from your doctor is required. Mayor Newhard said the reason for that is they do not want people coming in because they're going out to dinner and getting a test, that they want people who are showing actual signs of COVID before testing happens. Mayor Newhard stated that prescriptions should either be sent or in hand from their primary care physician and that appointments are not necessary. Mayor Newhard said that this is being offered for symptomatic and asymptomatic patients and that the site is anticipated to be open through the end of January. Mayor Newhard wanted to thank St. Anthony's, stating that we are very lucky to have such a facility. Trustee Lindberg asked Mayor Newhard if he knew where in St. Anthony's because over the weekend, he had thought they were using the entrance to the Emergency Room. Mayor Newhard answered by saying no, it would be off Grand Street, not the Emergency Room. Trustee Lindberg asked if it was near Mt. Alverno. Mayor Newhard responded by saying yes.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Village of Warwick Planning Board Chairman, James Patterson, announcing his resignation effective March 31, 2022.

Mayor Newhard thanked James Patterson for being on the Board for a number of years and for being the Chairman for the past two years. Mayor Newhard said that it had been a very important two year period where his leadership was critical in shepherding through some very difficult Planning Board applications including; Elm Street, Village View, and the last phase of Warwick Meadows. Mayor Newhard said Mr. Patterson handled it extortionary well.

Privilege of the Floor

VIA EMAIL OR MAIL - Comments may be sent to the Village Board prior to the Village Board Meeting via email to: clerk@villageofwarwick.org or via mail: Village of Warwick, Attn: Village Clerk, P.O. Box 369, Warwick, NY 10990. Please indicate in your correspondence that you wish to have your comments read during privilege of the floor. Please limit your comments to **three (3) minutes**.

No comments were made.

Motions

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Lindberg, and carried to hold the General Village Election at the Goodwill Hook & Ladder Company, 25 Church Street Extension, on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. The polls will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Bachman Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Final Comments from the Board

Trustee Cheney said that some residents may have received a free water testing kit in the mail with a postage return envelope with an address from Hudson Valley Environmental Solutions in Newburgh. Upon visiting the company's website, Trustee Cheney discovered that they are a company that sells home water filtration and conditioning systems. Trustee Cheney warned that the company's objective in offering free testing kits is to sell home water systems. Trustee Cheney clarified that if you live within the Village, then your water is provided by the Village and tested on a regular basis. Trustee Cheney assured that the Village's water meets the requirements mandated by the State of New York and the Orange County Health Department. Trustee Cheney stated that the results of those tests are published in the Annual Water Quality report, which is available on the Village's Website or by contacting Village Hall and any further questions about your water can be answered by contacting the Village of Warwick Water Department at 845-986-2031. Mayor Newhard said the Village has gotten some calls and concerns about those water test kits. Mayor Newhard thanked Trustee Cheney for bring this to people's attention.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lindberg, seconded by Trustee Cheney, and carried to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 8:00 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Bachman Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Jennifer Mante, Deputy Village Clerk