

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
April 6, 2020**

8537

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard. Trustees: William Lindberg, George McManus, Barry Cheney, and Eileen Patterson participated via Zoom Videoconference. Also, present was: Village Clerk, Raina Abramson and Village Accountant, Michael Vernieri. Others present via Zoom Videoconference; Katie Bisaro, Patricia Svoboda, Willis Naina and others. In consideration of the current COVID-19 health crises and pursuant to Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 the public was able view the meeting at the above date and time via Facebook Live on the Village's FB page <https://www.facebook.com/VillageofWarwick> or participate on Zoom using the following information: Join Zoom Meeting <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/999125001?pwd=eThjVFFIbjlsNEZZbFRBeGN0cWVXQT09> Meeting ID: 999 125 001 Password: 656773 Teleconference: +1 646 876 9923

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

Mayor Newhard began the meeting with a message of heartfelt sympathy to the family of former Mayor, Jim Pawliczek. "Jim was the Mayor of Florida for many, many years from 2002 – 2018 and he did remarkable work. He did a lifetime of work actually, he was always involved in his community but as Mayor, he had very important accomplishments including the purchasing and restoration of the Mapes House which includes the Seward birthplace. He also did major improvements for the downtown in the form of parking and he really did wonderful things. He was a gentle man, tall, handsome, and had a great sense of humor. I enjoyed his company; we would commiserate quiet often. He will not only be missed by the people of Florida but by many of us in our community. Our love goes out to his family."

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McManus, seconded by Trustee Patterson and carried to accept the minutes of March 16, 2020 and March 26, 2020.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Patterson Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McManus and carried for the authorization to pay all approved and audited claims #20001625 – 20001746 in the amount of \$456,506.33.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Patterson Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Correspondence

1. Letter of resignation from Planning Board Member, Karl Scheible.
2. Letter of thanks from St. Anthony Community Hospital.
3. Letter from Planning Board Chairman, James Patterson regarding Warwick Feed and Grain Zone Change Request.

Privilege of the Floor

(Please limit your comments to **five (5)** minutes. If reading a document, please submit a copy to the Clerk. Please note all remarks must be addressed to the Board as a body and not to individual Board members. Please state your name clearly before speaking). These rules are taken from the Handbook for Village Officials – New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials.

No comments were made.

Motions

Bid Award – TAM Enterprises, Inc – Vertical Spiral Screen / Orchard St. Pump Station

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McManus and carried to award the bid to TAM Enterprises, Inc. for the Vertical Spiral Screen for the Orchard Street Pump Station Project in the amount of \$375,000 per the recommendation of Village Engineer, David Getz.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Patterson Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

PK Songer Plumbing - Payment #1 WWTP UV Disinfection Project

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Lindberg and carried to approve payment #1 in the amount of \$27,075.00 to PK Songer Plumbing for the Wastewater Treatment Plant UV Disinfection Improvement Project Contract No. 1G – General Construction per the recommendation of Village Engineer, Barton and Loguidice and DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Patterson Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Schedule Public Hearing – Tentative Budget FY 2020-2021

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Lindberg, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to schedule a public hearing on the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 on Monday, April 20, 2020 at 7:30 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Patterson Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion/Work Session

1. Tentative Budget for FY 2020-2021

Village Account, Michael Vernieri, discussed the general fund revenue, water fund revenue, sewer fund revenue, and the project highlights for the general, water, and sewer funds.

Mr. Vernieri explained that the goal this year was that for every single fund, the Village would have a total balanced budget, and this goal was accomplished. Mr. Vernieri also explained that the most difficult part of the budget was the water fund because there were a number of different items that needed to be worked on this fiscal year such as the possibility of acquiring land near the reservoir, the construction of Well #3, and River Street and Robert Drive watermain.

Trustee Cheney inquired how the sales tax listed in the general fund changed from previous year. Mr. Vernieri expressed that the sales tax in this budget has gone down about \$150,000 because sales tax is a real unknown at this time and a smaller check in July is expected. Mr. Vernieri was also concerned that Governor may delay or not send the Village some of the funds that the Village normally gets from the State.

Mayor Newhard clarified that the Village will not be going over the 1.78% tax cap and Mr. Vernieri discussed the water and sewer rates.

Trustee Patterson inquired, due to the current situation, if the Village should expect expenses to increase for supplies and treatments for the water treatment plant and expressed, as a discussion point, that it may be most responsible to increase the amount that was budgeted.

Mr. Vernieri said that there are excess funds in water operation which would cover any anticipated increase however, the Village planned to use most of the increase of the water and sewer rates within the sewer fund. He expressed that the Village does have enough money within operations if an unexpected increase occurred. Mr. Vernieri expressed that the problem with sewer, is if the Village had to use excess money to cover costs, it would put the Village below the 15% established in the fund balance policy and then the Village would have to try to make that up in future years, but there is no problem if that happened in the water fund. He stated that it would be up to the Board to increase the sewer rates or not, but the water rates do not need it. Mr. Vernieri expressed that if the Village doesn't increase the sewer by close to 8% then it is \$70,000 x 10 years or \$700,000 because the raise will remain in the budget for 10 years, so he felt the point is well taken. Mr. Vernieri said that if the Village doesn't use it, the Village is hurting the future revenue when some of the expenses are definitely going up. Mr. Vernieri also felt that the sewer expense would go up once the plant is in process. He stated that if the Board decides to raise the sewer or water by 8%, it would all go to sewer where it is definitely needed.

Mayor Newhard asked what would happen if the Village waited a year for the increase and Mr. Vernieri expressed that by waiting a year you are losing \$70,000 for the next ten years.

Trustee Patterson asked Mr. Vernieri to provide a ballpark of what the 8% increase would represent for each homeowner. Mr. Vernieri stated that it's approximately a 3% increase for water and sewer. Trustee McManus stated that with approximately 6,000 water and sewer users, the increase would be about \$11.60 per household.

The Village Board and Mayor Newhard were all in favor of increasing the sewer by 8%.

Trustee Patterson thanked Village Accountant, Michael Vernieri and Village Treasurer, Cathy Richards for their work on the budget.

Final Comments from the Board

Trustee Cheney explained that the motion that was made in the amount of \$375,000 for the Village's vertical spiral screen was necessary in part because of things that end up being flushed down the toilets that don't belong in the sewer system. Trustee Cheney would like to remind residents to pay extra attention to what they are flushing and asks to not flush anything other than toilet paper. He stated that blockage to the sewer lines can cause backups in homes and businesses. Other alternatives to toilet paper such as paper towels, facial tissues, and sanitary wipes even if the package states they are flushable, should not be flushed into the sewer lines. The build ups in the systems is one of the reasons why the Village has to spend the \$375,000 for the spiral screen that will be installed in the next six months.

Mayor Newhard discussed that during the coronavirus health crisis, certain matters have been brought to his attention. Mayor Newhard wanted to remind residents that waste management haulers are picking up garbage from households and businesses and that it is very important that everything be bagged and tied. It has come to Mayor Newhard's attention that many people are not bagging and tying their trash which is putting everyone at risk.

Mayor Newhard also stated that complaints have been received at Village Hall that people are disposing their facemasks in municipal parking lots, with the anticipation that somebody else is going to pick them up and that is a real disregard for the Department of Public Works and for anyone out there. There are plenty of places to dispose of these things, so please dispose of them properly.

Mayor Newhard stated that there are many good things that people are doing. Mayor Newhard mentioned that Kerry Foley had an idea, and connected with Nanette Hoey, and Eileen helped with this project. The Village is putting up banners with the statement, "You are essential to us and all of Warwick says thank you to all of our essential workers." Mayor Newhard was excited that these banners will be placed throughout the community as a thank you and reminder and importance of those at the frontline of what is going on. Mayor Newhard stated that the Village is asking people to send a note of thanks for the program called 'With Love'. Mayor Newhard read the press release:

Please help us send 'thank you's' to our local heroes. Let us send words of support and gratitude to our Health Care Workers, Grocery and Restaurant Workers and all those running essential businesses - our first responders and everyone on the front lines of the COVID-19 health crisis.

Take a moment with your family, write a note, create a YouTube video, draw a picture, be creative, and send it to us so we can post it. This is a moment to say, 'thank you' and encourage these brave men and women to keep up the brave work. We will get through this together- this is our strength.

Letters, pictures, emails, and even YouTube video messages can be sent to deputyclerk@villageofwarwick.org and will be displayed on the Village's Facebook page and website www.villageofwarwick.org.

Mayor Newhard thanked Mark Damia for offering to post the notes and images on the Village's website page for free.

Mayor Newhard stated that everyone is contributing and how every piece is part of what we are as a strong community and everyone is doing what they can. Mayor Newhard also thanked the families of our community who are hunkering down and taking it seriously.

Mayor Newhard also commented that if you do take-out from restaurants, please note that people are not allowed at this time to sit down with the take-out and eat their meals in restaurants. The Village has received complaints pertaining to this and has had to send the Code Enforcement Officer around to encourage people to comply.

Trustee Patterson took a moment to acknowledge the work that Village Clerk, Raina Abramson, has done to keep the Village in touch with the public and to keep the public in touch with the Village in response to the COVID-19 health crisis. Trustee Patterson thanked Village Clerk, Raina Abramson, for taking on a new industry and for learning a whole new field of technology.

Mayor Newhard also stated that the Village along with Town of Warwick Supervisor, Mike Sweeting, Village of Florida Mayor, Dan Harter, and Village of Greenwood Lake Mayor, Jesse Dwyer is launching an initiative called 'Bells of Hope' to ask every church and temple in the valley to ring their bells on Sunday, April 12, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. and that the sound can be heard throughout the entire Warwick Valley.

Mayor Newhard expressed that the Village Board will go into executive session by first signing off of the public Zoom videoconference meeting and then joining a private Zoom videoconference meeting in order to conduct the executive session.

Executive Session

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to go into executive session to discuss the medical, financial, credit or employment history of a particular person or corporation, or matters leading to the appointment, employment, promotion, demotion, discipline, suspension, dismissal or removal of a particular person or corporation.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Patterson Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Patterson, seconded by Trustee McManus and carried to exit executive session, resume the regular meeting and adjourn at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Lindberg Aye Trustee Patterson Aye

Trustee McManus Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Raina M. Abramson
Village Clerk