

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
DECEMBER 20, 2022
WORK SESSION**

9482

A work session of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Tuesday, December 20, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard, Trustees: Barry Cheney, Carly Foster, and Thomas McKnight. Trustee William Lindberg was absent. Also, present was Village Clerk Raina Abramson. Others present: Christine Tyler.

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

Discussion

1. Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Funding opportunities.

Trustee Foster explained that this is a federal grant funded by the Bi-Partisan Infrastructure Law. This opportunity will be released annually until 2026 but has a tight turnaround with a deadline of February 28, 2023. Trustee Foster said that she would love to see the Village submit this year but the ‘what’ is the big question.

Trustee Foster said that The RAISE grant is through the USDOT, and funding is up to \$25,000,000 with a minimum for rural areas, which the Village is considered, of \$1,000,000. The Village could pursue planning money (professional services, design, engineering reports) or capital money (breaking ground or purchasing right-of-way) or a mixture of both. Trustee Foster explained that 1.5 billion dollars is out but only \$225,000,000 is possible per state and 50% of the funding must go to rural areas. There is a local cost share of 20% for urban areas which can be waived for rural areas. The Village may submit up to three applications for three different projects that are connected in the same cycle. Trustee Foster explained that it is for surface transportation related work, and you must have spent all of the money by 2032 but everything has to be obligated by 2027, meaning that the municipality and the DOT must be in agreement of how that money is going to be spent.

Trustee Foster explained the allowed project types and criteria. She then proposed her ideas for projects on West Street, South Street, South Street Extension, Galloway, Forester, and connections beyond the Village for economic and tourism reasons. Trustee Foster provided examples such as having safe connections between the villages for pedestrians and cyclists. Trustee Foster stated that given the deadline, a planning grant would be easier than a capital grant, but that it would be tempting to go after the design and the construction, if the Village could somehow pull together a cost estimate for a doable scope.

The Village Board discussed possible eligible projects including sidewalks, pedestrian access to parks and schools, connectivity trails, complete streets, and smart city technology like smart lighting sensors and audible pedestrian countdown signals.

Trustee McKnight suggested building the scope around what the grant wants since it is what the Village needs. Trustee Foster said that there is a lot applicable to the Village with the only challenge being the timing.

Mayor Newhard suggested having Alta work on the grant since it's what they do and since they've already done some work for the Village, they have a foundation. Mayor Newhard said that the Village can connect and shape it with them. Trustee Foster suggested working with someone who has been successful with RAISE because they may have templates and have already been through the administrative requirements.

Trustee Cheney asked if the Village would be competing with the State DOT on this funding since the Village is talking about putting projects in that are on State roads. Trustee Cheney asked if this is something the State should be putting in for or collaborating with the Village to put it in. Trustee Cheney asked what's the States roll since the Village can't do anything on the State roads without their permission and at the same time seeing where their projects are.

Trustee Foster explained that States are eligible and States and local jurisdictions can submit a joint application but there would be a lead applicant as the primary point of contact. Trustee Foster said that as a next step, she did have a recommendation to speak to the State about this grant because they could potentially do something along the entire stretch and maybe provide a lot of the support on the application.

Trustee Foster was thinking of the Village's senior population, ADA population and migrant worker population that aren't driving. Mayor Newhard said that he wished that the Town was applying for this and did something that connected ShopRite and the Village since there are many people walking out there which is scary. Trustee Foster felt the ShopRite connectivity was important since it's the only grocery option. Trustee McKnight said that the one and a half miles from Dawson Motors to ShopRite would connect the strip mall with Noble Pies and go right past Price Chopper and if it was on the Ochs Orchard side it would provide a lot of connectivity. Mayor Newhard said that that would be the harder side due to the lay of the land. Trustee Foster suggested a crosswalk as well. Mayor Newhard said that it would be interesting not to create sidewalks but to create a multiuse pathway that is separated from the highway by a buffer. Mayor Newhard said that the NYSDOT is going to be straightening out the intersection between Ochs and County Route 1. He added that by having a crosswalk at Noble Pies and at ShopRite it would be traffic calming as well. Trustee Foster said that if there was a multiuse trail there, it would be difficult for people to safely get to that if they're living in the Galloway area.

Trustee McKnight discussed how many people have brought up West Street and kids walking from the Middle School and High School to the Village. Mayor Newhard explained the prior Safe Routes to School project and how the easements became very expensive.

Trustee Foster suggested that a Safe Routes to School project could be a separate project, since you could submit up to three applications, the Village could do something with NYSDOT and maybe they could be the lead agency and then the Village could submit their own project on West Street if the Village has the cost and items that can be carried over and submitted as a capital project and then maybe the Village could work with the County on putting together a planning application for a transit study or maybe ask the County if they would be willing to do one. Mayor Newhard said that those sound like great opportunities.

Mayor Newhard reiterated that the three proposals are West Street, Galloway and Route 94 which is 17A & Route 94, and last is a study.

Trustee Cheney said that if the Village seeks help writing the grant that it's important that they have had past success with the RAISE program. He also said that it's important for the Village to hire a consultant that can carry the project through from planning to design to construction and administration.

The Village Board identified some of the next action items as retrieving the Safe Routes to School files, creating an eligibility table, reaching out to the NYSDOT, speaking to Senator Skoufis, Senator Ryan, Supervisor Sweeton, Peter Fairweather, and contacting Alan Sorensen, Orange County Director of Planning. Trustee McKnight suggested reaching out to the Chamber of Commerce or Hello Warwick Valley for a list of businesses.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney, and carried to adjourn the work session at approximately 10:00 a.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Lindberg Absent

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye