

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025**

10,859

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard. Trustees: Barry Cheney, Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight, and Mary Collura. Also, present was Village Clerk, Raina Abramson and Village Attorneys, Benjamin Gailey and Isabelle Hayes. Others present, Michele Ries and Karen Clark (virtual).

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

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried for the Acceptance of Minutes: September 2, 2025.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye 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 – August 2025: Clerk’s Office & Tax Collection Report, Treasurer’s Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, Justice Department, Planning Department, Building Department, and Department of Public Works. All reports are on file in the Clerk’s Office.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye 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 Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried for the Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$238,511.65.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

1. Police Report.

The Mayor announced that Police Chief Rader was unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency. However, he had submitted his year-end report for review. The Mayor noted that Chief Rader was very proud of the report and the work reflected in it, and encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to him directly.

2. Bid Opening – Electrical Power Supply.

Village Clerk, Raina reported that the Village had received one bid package from M&R Energy Resource Corporation.

The Village Clerk read the bid proposal.

Michele Ries explained that while a seven-month energy contract bid had initially appeared as an option, it would not have been in the Village's best interest. She noted that electricity pricing is heavily tied to natural gas, particularly since the closure of Indian Point has increased reliance on natural gas. Because winter months consistently trade at higher prices, a short contract period such as seven months would result in the Village paying the weighted average of the most expensive months.

Ms. Ries stated that she had reached out to the Village earlier to recommend considering longer terms, as spreading usage across a broader span helps bring the average cost down. She pointed out that the seven-month option would have cost the Village an estimated \$12,000 more annually, or roughly \$1,000 per month, based on usage of 1.4–1.5 million kilowatt hours.

She indicated that the 12-month contract was priced higher than the 24-month option, and the 31-month option was comparable to the seven-month plus two-year rate. She advised that the 24-month bid was the lowest overall and, therefore, the most favorable for the Village.

Ms. Ries also briefly discussed the New York State green energy incentive, noting that part of the rising costs in energy are linked to state efforts to support renewable energy projects such as offshore wind. She added that the Village is already contributing to green energy through these programs.

Ms. Ries further explained that the costs of green energy were already included in the

Village's current energy pricing. She noted that she had broken out the numbers to show the additional expense if the Village chose to pursue 100% green energy. She reminded the Board that while they had previously discussed this option, achieving full qualification for larger grant opportunities would require committing to 100% green energy.

Trustee McKnight noted that the purpose of pursuing green energy had been to help the Village qualify for certain actions that would have resulted in additional points toward grant funding. However, he stated that the requirements had been very unclear.

Ms. Ries added that, based on her experience working with other municipalities and state colleges, the process of navigating these requirements could be very challenging.

Trustee McKnight stated that the Village had been told it could not qualify for renewable energy credits because quantification could not prove the source of the energy. He called this a poor explanation and noted that even state representatives did not dispute his concern. He added that New York State's handling of the matter had been problematic and advised the Board to disregard the option entirely, as it would cost more without providing any real benefit.

Ms. Ries agreed that while green energy would cost more, it could be worthwhile if the Village were able to recover the added expense through grant incentives, in which case the option would make sense.

Trustee McKnight gave the example of a grant that allowed the Village to install solar panels on the DPW roof, which was projected to save about \$30,000 annually. He explained this as an instance where one investment could lead to additional benefits. However, he added that when the Village pursued renewable energy credits, New York State indicated the project would not qualify, and he noted that in practice, very few municipalities actually pursued them.

Ms. Ries explained that while municipalities can purchase green power, most sources such as national wind or state wind do not qualify for grant eligibility. She noted that only certain designated local power sources would count, but in her experience she had never seen anyone successfully receive the grant funding. She remarked that this was concerning and has led her to begin discouraging others from pursuing the option since it has not delivered the promised benefits.

Trustee McKnight agreed, adding that the only time renewable energy credits are typically sold is when corporations are required to purchase them. He noted that corporations are compelled to buy certain credits, which creates demand in those cases.

Ms. Ries agreed with the concerns raised and said that in practice the Village would likely just end up spending more money on green energy without receiving any grant credit in return. She noted that while green energy options are available, there did not appear to be any qualifying local sources that would make the Village eligible for grants. She added that past options, such as Texas wind, did not meet the requirements. She emphasized that while choosing green power does contribute to environmental goals, the Village itself would not directly benefit, as the additional cost is simply reflected in the supply price.

Mayor Newhard commented that the discussion provided good information. He added that the public was also hearing the information, which he considered beneficial.

Ms. Ries stated that she supports environmental initiatives and considers herself environmentally conscious, but admitted that the complexity of the programs has become overwhelming to navigate.

Trustee McKnight explained that he had contacted several agencies, including NYSERDA, DPS, and CEC, before finally receiving a clear answer. He was told that no municipalities actually pursue the option, which led him to question why it was listed as an action item for municipalities to strive toward.

Ms. Ries shared that a state school she worked with had pursued the same higher-level green energy option, but to her knowledge had not experienced any real success with it either, which she found frustrating.

Trustee McKnight observed that the lowest bid and best value appeared to be the 24-month option, though it still represented a 6% increase over the current rate.

Ms. Ries confirmed that the 24-month option was the lowest available, noting that all of the other bids had come in higher.

Trustee McKnight questioned why the 31-month option was priced higher than the 24-month option and asked for clarification.

Ms. Ries explained that the 31-month option was more expensive because it included an extra winter season, which raised the weighted average cost. She noted that prices are always higher when winter months are included, and the best way to balance them is with a full 12-month average. She acknowledged that this was frustrating but emphasized it was simply how the energy market operates.

Mayor Newhard remarked that with a 6% increase in rates, it was important for the Village to move forward with getting the solar project operational.

Ms. Ries asked how long it would take for the solar project to become operational.

Trustee McKnight stated that the Village was already under contract for the solar project and noted that the panels would be installed on the DPW garage roof.

Ms. Ries responded positively and asked whether the solar project would completely offset the Village's energy use and serve as the full source of power.

Trustee McKnight explained that the solar project would cover the DPW building, but since wastewater and water treatment are categorized under DPW and represent the highest energy users, the project would tie back into the grid to help offset other accounts as well.

Ms. Ries expressed support for the solar project, noting that initiatives like this were important and beneficial for the Village.

Trustee McKnight asked whether other municipalities were experiencing comparable rate increases, noting that a 6% rise represented a significant annual cost.

Ms. Ries explained that many municipalities were facing higher power prices, so a 6% increase was not unusual. She noted that while the Village's usage of 1.4 million kilowatt hours was significant, some municipalities with larger facilities such as water treatment plants or extensive street lighting faced much higher costs.

Ms. Ries added that the clean energy standards were factored into current energy pricing, as reflected in the materials she had provided. She noted that projections showed costs continuing to rise, though prices could decrease if the standards were relaxed. She added that while there was no way to predict future changes, recent rate increases such as those by Central Hudson had already caused public concern. She emphasized that delivery charges often made up the largest portion of electric bills, creating financial strain for many residents.

Mayor Newhard thanked Ms. Ries for her presentation and input.

Ms. Ries reminded the Board that they had two agreements to review and emphasized that the matter was time sensitive.

Village Clerk Raina Abramson stated that the decision can be made tonight at the Board meeting.

Ms. Ries stated that if the Board chose to make a decision tonight, she could take the agreement with her, scan it, and send it so the company would have it by the following morning. She emphasized that the choice was up to the Board.

Village Clerk Raina Abramson thanked Ms. Ries for assisting the Village in understanding and clarifying the contract terms.

Ms. Ries stated that she had been concerned about the seven-month option.

Village Clerk Raina Abramson explained that the unusual contract terms were due to an attempt to align them with the Village's natural gas contracts, which sometimes involve the same companies. She noted that the 24-month option would not match that schedule.

Ms. Ries advised that in future negotiations the Village should consider asking about alternative contract terms or "sweet spots," as these can sometimes provide lower rates than standard options. She noted that in past cases, terms such as 16 months had been more favorable than 12, and in the current case, the 24-month option represented the best value.

Bid Award for Electrical Power Supply – Constellation Energy

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to accept the bid and enter into a contract with Constellation Energy for Electrical Power Supply at the fixed price of \$0.09115 per kilowatt hour and authorize the mayor to sign the same. The contract will begin November 1, 2025, and be for a term of 24 months.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Presentations

1. Karen W. Clark, P.E., Barton & Loguidice – Presentation on the Village of Warwick Wastewater Treatment Plant Project.

Ms. Clark reported that since the last meeting most of the work had involved permit-related issues and consultations with Orange and Rockland County to address power supply for the project. She explained that a discrepancy with the DEC (Department of

Environmental Conservation) SPDES (State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit had been identified, as effluent monitoring had incorrectly been used as the sampling location for about 20 years. The permit has now been modified to match the actual sampling location at the front end of the plant, resolving the issue and satisfying a requirement needed for EFC (Environmental Facilities Corporation) approval. She also noted that coordination continued with Orange and Rockland regarding reworking power distribution to the site, including the proposal for a new transformer.

Trustee Foster sought clarification, asking if the Village had been sampling effluent quality prior to treatment.

Ms. Clark clarified that the Village had always sampled both influent and effluent as required. The issue was that the permit listed flow monitoring as effluent flow monitoring, while in practice the Village had been submitting influent flow monitoring.

Mayor Newhard asked Ms. Clark to explain the issue in simpler terms for better understanding.

Ms. Clark explained that the Village's SPDES permit sets limits on the amount of flow that can be discharged. The plant measures flow at the front end through a partial flume with an ultrasonic flow meter. Historically, a weir and flow meter had been located at the back end of the plant, but when the facility was upgraded, the flow monitoring was moved to the front without the permit being updated. As a result, the permit had not reflected actual operations for decades.

Trustee Cheney asked for confirmation that the SPDES permit had now been updated to show flow monitoring at the front end of the plant.

Ms. Clark confirmed that the permit now aligned with both the plant's current operations and the original design plans.

Trustee Cheney asked whether the new plant would include a flow meter at or prior to the outfall.

Ms. Clark explained that effluent sampling would still take place at the back end of the plant as part of the project, where water quality analysis would be conducted. She noted that influent flow had been measured at the front end of the plant for quite a long time.

Trustee McKnight asked Ms. Clark what the impact of the change was and whether it had caused the Village to fail any SPDES permit requirements.

Ms. Clark responded that the situation had not caused the Village to fail any SPDES permit requirements. She explained that the issue was simply that the influent and effluent flows were not being measured on an equal basis. The Environmental Facilities Corporation flagged the discrepancy because they will not fund projects or approve plans unless they match the SPDES permit. At that point, it was clarified that the Village had not used an effluent flow meter in many years. Ms. Clark added that the change likely dated back to when the RBC facility was upgraded, at which time the requirement appears to have fallen through the cracks. While there is still a weir at the back end of the post-aeration tank, there has not been a flow meter there for a long time.

Trustee McKnight asked if the implication was that the mismatch between the permit and operations could have put funding at risk.

Ms. Clark clarified that the issue with the SPDES permit had been raised by the Environmental Facilities Corporation, which required the Village to resolve the inconsistency before moving forward with project funding and approvals. She explained that the discrepancy arose because the DEC permit had not matched the facility's operations for some time, and a modification to the permit was therefore necessary. This modification has since been completed and is on file with the treatment plant. She then addressed electrical service for the project, explaining that Orange and Rockland had originally planned to bring in new poles, but those poles were not located on Village property, making that plan unworkable. The design was revised to use a transformer on Village property, with the line running underground into the distribution system. Ms. Clark noted that this change required multiple meetings with Trustee Cheney and the utility company, but the issue has been resolved. She added that the cost letter had been provided, but the work would need to be phased carefully to avoid conflicts with construction.

Ms. Clark also explained that updated wetland regulations required the project to undergo a new wetland delineation. While the new delineation was not substantially different from the original, the project had to shift slightly further away from the wetlands. As a result, the tanks had been relocated slightly to the south, more in line with the existing RBC structure. This adjustment required changes to grading plans and pipe alignment, but nothing dramatic.

Finally, Ms. Clark reported that the project also needed confirmation from the DEC regarding an Article 5, Title 5 stream disturbance permit. She had received confirmation earlier in the day that the DEC's jurisdiction ended at the top of the stream bank, providing clarity for the project. With this determination, the design team could finalize the shifted site plan, update the electrical drawings, verify hydraulics, and coordinate the work between the general and electrical construction contracts.

Trustee Foster asked Ms. Clark what the acronym RBC stood for.

Ms. Clark explained that RBC referred to the plant's current "rotating biological contactor" process and briefly described how the media on a rotating shaft treats wastewater, noting that these units would be removed as part of the upgrade. She reported good news on the stream-disturbance question: the DEC confirmed its jurisdiction is limited to the bed and banks, so the project was clear on that point. She then noted a new regulatory item—DEC had identified a bald eagle nest within approximately a quarter-mile of the plant. DEC indicated that if construction noise would significantly exceed ambient levels, time-of-year restrictions might be required; Ms. Clark and the team requested clarification late that afternoon and would add any required limits to the drawings, similar to the existing bat-related tree-removal timing. She said the final coordination now involved updating plans for the wetland-driven tank shift and aligning the general and electrical contracts. She anticipated being ready to seek authorization to go to bid in the first or second week of October, with advertisement to follow and bid openings targeted for around November 22 to avoid holiday conflicts. She added that the specifications, including insurance language, had been sent to the Village Attorney for review, and any comments would be incorporated into the final set.

Trustee Cheney asked if a six-week period would be sufficient for the bidding process.

Ms. Clark responded that six weeks should be sufficient, noting that many contractors had already expressed interest. She added that the bid timeline could be extended by a week or two if necessary.

Trustee Cheney suggested setting the bid opening date for around December 5th or December 12th, possibly between the 9th and 12th.

Trustee Foster pointed out that holding the bid opening on November 22 would require the Board to review submissions during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Trustee Cheney noted that the Village would be constrained by the narrow timeframe between Thanksgiving and New Year's for scheduling the bid process.

Ms. Clark agreed that the holiday week could be avoided and confirmed the bid opening could be scheduled for December 9th or 10th, depending on the Board's preference.

Trustee Cheney asked and received confirmation that Ms. Clark would coordinate the bid schedule details with Village Clerk, Raina Abramson.

Ms. Clark confirmed the 15 RBC units would be decommissioned once the new systems were online.

Trustee McKnight asked what would happen to the land after the RBC units were decommissioned.

Ms. Clark stated that the future of the land where the RBC units are located was still undecided. She explained that the treatment equipment would need to be removed, but the site itself had not been repurposed. The area contained shallow six- to seven-foot concrete tanks with huts above them, which some municipalities had reused for purposes such as salt or outside storage. However, discussions with the Board had leaned toward having the contractor dismantle the structures, break up the tank floors, leave the concrete in place, and backfill the area. She noted that this process would generate a large volume of dirt that would need to be managed while the plant continued to operate during construction.

Trustee Cheney asked whether the contractor's responsibility for decommissioning the RBC area was included in the main bid specifications or set up as an alternate.

Ms. Clark explained that decommissioning the RBC area had originally not been included in the specifications. From a capital cost perspective, the Village had at one point considered handling the work on its own. However, she noted that it had since been identified as something to include as a bid alternate, and she had written it down as an item to be added to the specifications.

Trustee Cheney acknowledged Ms. Clark's clarification and thanked her for the explanation.

Trustee Cheney noted that if bids were received in early December, the Board would likely be positioned to make an award by mid-January.

Ms. Clark agreed, noting that the award timeline would depend on the Board's meeting schedule.

Trustee Cheney added that after the award, contractors would begin ordering materials and preparing so construction could start once winter weather conditions improved.

Ms. Clark reminded the Board that, as discussed at the previous meeting, tree removal must follow a specific timeline due to bat habitat restrictions, and possibly the newly identified eagle issue. She explained that if the award were delayed, provisions had been considered for a deduct option to allow a separate firm to complete the tree removal on schedule.

Trustee Cheney noted that in such a case, the Village would need to go out for a separate process to handle the tree removal.

Trustee Collura asked when eagles typically nest.

Ms. Clark clarified that the bald eagle nest was not on Village property. She noted that Tessa, the environmental scientist, had not observed anything during the wetland delineation conducted in June. However, the DEC's review of the site map indicated that a nest had since been identified within a quarter mile of the facility, which had not been present during the SEQRA and endangered species review completed in 2021.

Trustee Cheney reiterated that the trees must be removed by March 31 due to bat habitat restrictions. He explained that if the contract or general contractor was delayed, the bid specifications would include a deduct option. In that case, the Village would move quickly to issue a separate bid and obtain quotes to ensure the tree removal work was completed on time.

Ms. Clark added that a prepared map could be made available in advance, showing the limits of the delineation and tree removal, in case the Village needed to proceed separately with that work.

Trustee Cheney asked what the bid specifications estimated for project completion time and how many months were allotted.

Ms. Clark explained that the original project schedule allowed 18 months for completion. However, given the likelihood of awarding the contract in January, she suggested extending the timeline into late summer. She noted that much of the equipment required had long lead times of six to nine months, meaning contractors might not begin significant on-site work until June. She emphasized the importance of sequencing construction to avoid maintaining groundwater dewatering for an extended period while waiting for key equipment, such as the tank's diffusion system and blowers, to arrive. Typically, she added, contractors begin by securing bonds and insurance, signing contracts, ordering equipment, and submitting shop drawings for review, after which the physical construction is scheduled around the confirmed delivery dates.

Ms. Clark added that the project would require careful phasing. She explained that the equalization tanks currently functioned as secondary clarifiers for the RBC process, so they could not simply be taken out of service all at once. Instead, the work would need to be done one tank at a time and one filter at a time. She emphasized that if the new filters had a nine-month lead time, the existing filters could not be removed until the replacements were ready to avoid disrupting operations.

Ms. Clark estimated that, given the phasing requirements and equipment lead times, the project completion date would likely extend into the fall of 2027.

Trustee Cheney acknowledged Ms. Clark's response, noting that her estimate aligned with what he had been asking about.

The Mayor asked Village Attorney Benjamin Gailey to review the contract documents as part of the bid process.

Village Attorney Benjamin Gailey confirmed that he typically reviewed the contract, focusing particularly on the insurance, indemnification, and bond forms.

Ms. Clark stated that the only changes to the contract documents would involve the add/deduct items discussed over the past few months, which were not yet included in the bid forms. She said she would work to provide those updates as quickly as possible.

The Board thanked Ms. Clark for her detailed presentation and updates on the project.

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.

Advertise & Receive Bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project

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

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Advertise & Receive Bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project - AMENDED

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to advertise and receive bids for the construction of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project with a bid opening date to be established by the Village Clerk and Mayor.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Village Attorney Benjamin Gailey recommended amending the motion to include language specifying that the bidding date would be set by the Village Clerk in coordination with the Mayor.

Vacation Carry Over – Chris Kane

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to Village of Warwick Employee, Chris Kane, to carry over 5 vacation days.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Clean Waters Inc / Applied Specialties Innovations – Delivery of Charge-Pack 282 Polymer

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to enter into an agreement with Applied Specialties Innovations, LLC, the purchaser of Clean Waters Inc., to continue to provide delivery of Charge-Pack 282 Polymer (Liquid) to the Wastewater

Treatment Plant to complete the previously awarded contract period of June 1, 2025, to May 31, 2026 and authorize the Mayor to sign the same. All terms and prices will remain the same through the duration of the original contract with Clean Waters Inc. dated June 9, 2025.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

2025 Homecoming Parade

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Valley Central School District to hold a Homecoming Parade on Saturday, September 20, 2025, beginning at approximately 11:15 a.m. as per their letter received on September 5, 2025. Proper insurance is on file. The Warwick Police Department will assist with the event.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Exhibition on Private Property License – Warwick Valley High School PTSA

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant an Exhibition on Private Property License to the Warwick Valley High School PTSA to hold a Class of 2026 ‘Soak a Senior’ fundraising event at 71 South Street, Warwick, NY 10990 during Applefest on October 5, 2025, from 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. A completed Exhibition on Private Property License Application and certificate of insurance have been received. The Exhibition License Fee does not apply to nonprofit or educational organizations.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Trustee McKnight asked why a facility use request was necessary if the event in question was to be held on private property.

Village Clerk, Raina Abramson, explained that the Village Code had been revised when the arcade was established to address exhibitions. She clarified that public exhibitions now required a simple license form to be completed, not as a fee for schools or nonprofit organizations, but rather so the Board would be informed of such events taking place.

Facility Use Request – Veterans Memorial Park, KC Elite Softball

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to KC Elite Softball to use either the Daniel Prial Field or Brown Field in Veterans Memorial Park from September 17, 2025, through November 19, 2025, on Wednesdays from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. All events must be in coordination with Warwick Little League and other activities taking place in the park. Completed park permit, proof of insurance, and security deposit 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 Aye

Facility Use Request – Stanley Deming Park, Wickham Works Holiday Market

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Wickham Works to hold the Holiday Love Local Maker Market at Stanley Deming Park on Friday, November 28, 2025, with a rain date of Saturday, November 29, 2025, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with setup to begin at 7:00 a.m. and breakdown to be completed by 6:00 p.m. Permission includes use of restrooms (if not already winterized), placement of port-a-potties if needed, use of electricity, and a DJ set up in the pavilion playing seasonal music. Village of Warwick DPW to provide 4 large garbage bins, 4 recycling bins and up to 6 metal barricades and plastic fencing. Town of Warwick Police, Fire, and EMS will be notified of the event. Completed park permit, proof of insurance, and security deposit have been received. Parking plan has been approved by DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser. Approval is pending NYMIR's confirmation of acceptable insurance coverage, receipt of proper insurance from participating vendors, and permission from Park Avenue Elementary to use the school parking lot.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

The Mayor noted that this was a new arrangement, as the Makers Market had traditionally been held at Lewis Park. He expressed that the Village welcomed the event to Stanley Deming Park and hoped it would be a great fit.

Reports

Trustee Cheney's Report:

Trustee Cheney reminded residents that there was a significant amount of construction occurring on Village roads. He asked that everyone be patient with the resulting delays and backups and stressed the importance of driving carefully through work zones to ensure the safety of workers, noting that roadwork can be very dangerous.

The Mayor acknowledged that while the Village was not yet under a drought alert, conditions had been extraordinarily dry.

Trustee Cheney added that the forecast for the next 14 days showed no precipitation.

The Mayor emphasized that in addition to conserving water, residents should be mindful of the heightened risk of fire due to the dry conditions. He noted that a fire had already occurred in West Milford and urged everyone to remain cautious.

Trustee Foster's Report:

Trustee Foster reported that a listening session with the Merchants Guild had been held several weeks earlier to discuss parking issues. She explained that the group considered releasing a survey to learn more about where employees were parking, why some were not using municipal lots, and what their parking needs might be. The effort also included providing information on existing parking options. She described the meeting as very productive and said updates would follow. Trustee Collura added that Stefanie Keegan, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce, had posted parking information on the Chamber's website. Trustee Foster shared that

the parking discussion continued with plans to eventually add information to Google Maps to further support accessibility.

In addition, Trustee Foster reported that she and the Mayor had an initial meeting with KaN Landscape Architects, who will be designing the Patriots Path. The architects conducted a thorough site visit, shared ideas, and appeared enthusiastic about collaborating with the subcommittee and other stakeholders.

She also noted that contracting was still underway with the transportation planning entity, with assistance from Village Attorney Benjamin Gailey and his team. In addition, an RFQ for the artist portion of the project was scheduled to be released on Friday. The Safe Streets for All grant's demonstration project would use public art and other roadway interventions in areas with habitual speeding or higher crash rates to promote safer driving behavior.

Trustee Foster announced that planning had begun for the upcoming Winter Wiggle event.

She also noted that the summer concert series had drawn to a close, praising the new committee—Adam, Ally, and Michael—for their hard work and the high quality of the performances throughout the season.

Trustee Collura's Report:

Trustee Collura reported that both she and her friends had experienced close calls with near-accidents over the weekend caused by reckless or inattentive drivers. She cautioned residents to drive carefully, pointing out that many people on local roads may not be familiar with Village streets, stoplights, or stop signs. She emphasized the importance of vigilance and caution, noting that her message tied into the Village's ongoing safety initiatives with the Slow Down Warwick Campaign.

Trustee Foster built on Trustee Collura's comments by thanking Trustee Cheney for reaching out to the State regarding speed enforcement options. She explained that several residents had requested speed cameras, but significant barriers existed. Legislative approval would be required at the State level, including support from both the Assembly and Senate representatives, and the use of cameras was currently limited to school zones. She noted that the information provided was helpful and added that the upcoming Town-wide Transportation Safety Action Plan would help determine whether pursuing such measures was necessary.

Trustee Collura asked whether the discussion also included red light cameras, explaining that her own close call had involved another driver running a red light.

Trustee Cheney shared that he had also experienced a driver running a red light somewhere outside of Warwick. He said he was moving slowly into the intersection at the time, so it did not result in an accident, but it easily could have.

Trustee Foster remarked there is never a valid reason for anyone to run a red light in the Village.

Trustee Collura elaborated on her earlier point about the dangers of red-light running, sharing a personal experience where she nearly continued through an intersection on Kings Highway without realizing the light had changed. She emphasized the importance of driver awareness in such situations.

She then gave a second report on the Warwick Wildcat spirit wear pop-up shop, an initiative she organized with Eva DeFries, a recent Warwick High School graduate. Trustee Collura thanked the local businesses that hosted collection boxes and noted that about 150 items were collected, ranging from umbrellas and socks to high-quality jackets. She also thanked Barry for helping clean the items before distribution. The pop-up shop, held on Saturday, was very successful. Eva set up the shop creatively, assisting children like a personal shopper and providing gift bags, tissue paper, and small giveaways such as beads and scrunchies. A do-it-yourself section with iron-on decals proved very popular, and adjustments were made to create smaller-sized items for young children. Trustee Collura shared her joy at helping personalize an item for one child and said the event was filled with smiles and excitement. She concluded that the initiative would likely continue throughout the year and gave special recognition to Eva for her excellent work.

The Mayor praised Eva DeFries as a young leader, noting that the spirit wear initiative had been her idea and commending her for taking the lead and carrying it out successfully.

Trustee McKnight's Report:

Trustee McKnight reported that under the Safe Streets for All grant, the Village had budgeted for two additional speed signs. The order had been placed, and the cost came in slightly lower than expected at \$5,907. He noted that the signs should arrive within a few weeks, bringing the Village's total to five. With more signs available, the Village would be able to leave some in place longer rather than moving them as frequently.

Trustee Foster added that the speed signs were also needed for data gathering purposes.

Trustee McKnight explained that the speed signs came with a cloud-based plan requiring annual renewal, but all of the collected data would be captured and available. He noted that this data could be used to support future grant applications, making the investment especially valuable.

Mayor Newhard's Report:

The Mayor announced that the Village would be reapplying for the NY Forward grant this year, which had just been announced. He stated that he and the grant writer had already met, and a meeting with the task force and the grant writer was scheduled for the following day. He planned to provide the Board with copies of last year's grant application and asked members to review it, critique it, and suggest areas—particularly projects—that could be better emphasized or expanded. He added that community outreach would begin soon, starting at the Farmers Market and potentially extending to a series of meetings.

Trustee McKnight noted that the Village had received feedback during the grant readout, confirming that the reviewers wanted to provide input on the projects but also expected the Village to present a fully developed idea.

The Mayor agreed, noting that projects should be “shovel ready” when presented in the grant application. He acknowledged that the grant feedback presented somewhat of a mixed message, but said the Village would work with it. He noted that last year's application had performed strongly, advancing to the second round and coming close to the finish line, though ultimately not selected. He expressed hope that this year would be successful.

Trustee Foster expressed confidence that this year's grant application would be successful.

Public Comment – *Non-Agenda Items* Ms. Clark confirmed

No comments.

Final Comments from the Board

No comments.

Executive Session

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to enter 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 Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

In Executive Session: Mayor Newhard, Trustees: Barry Cheney, Carly Foster, Mary Collura and Thomas McKnight and Village Attorneys, Benjamin Gailey and Isabelle Hayes.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to exit Executive Session and adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 9:45 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 Aye

Raina M. Abramson, Village Clerk