

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VILLAGE OF WARWICK  
APRIL 6, 2026**

11,170

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard. Trustees: Barry Cheney, Thomas McKnight, and Mary Collura. Also, present was Village Clerk Raina Abramson, Warwick Police Chief John Rader, and Village Accountant Michael Vernieri. Absent was Trustee Carly Foster. Others present, Megan Cooke and Raymond Maher.

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

Mayor Newhard stated that, as part of his ongoing updates regarding the Convergent Energy and Power battery fire, he wanted to inform the public that on April 3, 2026, the Village received the environmental assessment report from LaBella Associates, the Village's engineering consultant retained to conduct an environmental investigation at the battery energy storage facility located at 28 Church Street. He noted that the report was immediately posted on the Village website. Mayor Newhard relayed that, according to LaBella's environmental engineer, the surface soil, subsurface soil, and groundwater data obtained as part of the assessment did not indicate any adverse environmental impacts resulting from the battery fires at the site, and that the metals detected were most likely attributable to naturally occurring local conditions in the soil and groundwater.

Mayor Newhard further stated that the report was a thorough document of over 100 pages. He acknowledged that he had not yet reviewed it in detail but intended to do so and to speak with the engineer who conducted the work. He emphasized that the purpose of his statement was to inform the public that the report had been received and was now available, noting that the Village had been awaiting it for some time.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE REPORT](#)

**Appointments for the Official Year 2026 of the Village of Warwick**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to accept the Mayor's recommendations of appointments for the Official Year 2026 of the Village of Warwick.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Appointments for the Official Year 2026 of the Village of Warwick**

Attorney to the Village Board – J&G Law, LLP - J. Benjamin Gailey, Esq. & Isabelle Hayes, Esq.

Attorney to the Planning Board – Law Office of Elizabeth Cassidy, PLLC – Elizabeth K. Cassidy, Esq.

Alternate Attorney to the Planning Board – Bluestein, Shapiro, Frank & Barone, LLP – William A. Frank, Esq.

Attorney to the Zoning Board of Appeals – Bluestein, Shapiro, Frank & Barone, LLP – William A. Frank, Esq.

Labor Relations – Keane & Beane, P.C. – William Kang

Bond Counsel – Norton Rose Fulbright US LLP

Village Engineer – Engineering & Surveying Properties, PC

Water System and Facilities Engineer – Barton & Loguidice

Engineer Responsible for Reservoir Resources and Dam Safety – Tectonic Engineering

Accountant – Michael Vernieri

Computer Consultant – TCG Solutions, Kevin Brand

Computer Programmer – Edmunds & Associates, BAS, Municipity

Web-Site Maintenance – Searchlight Consulting

Recreation Registration Platform - BeClutch

Court Prosecutor – Rametta & Rametta, LLC - Robert Rametta, Esq.

Consulting Engineer to the Building Department - LaBella Associates, D.P.C.

Registrar of Vital Statistics - Eileen Astorino (Term 1/1/22 – 12/31/29 approved 12/1/25)

Deputy Registrar of Vital Statistics – Carolyn Purta (Term 1/1/25 – 12/31/29 approved 12/1/25)

\*The FY 2026-27 Professional Service Agreements for the period of June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027, are on file in the Clerk's Office.

Deputy Mayor – Barry Cheney

Deputy Clerk – Jennifer Mante

Deputy Treasurer – Denise Bulnes

Public Works Supervisor – Michael Moser

Assistant Public Works Supervisor – Michael Finelli

Working Leader – Jason Makuch

Water Distribution Supervisor – Christopher Bennett

Recreation Director – Ron Introini

Assessor – Deborah Eurich

Official Banks – Webster Bank, Orange Bank and Trust

Associate Village Justice – Peter Barlet

Risk Management – Raina Abramson

Emergency Management – Michael Moser, Michael Finelli, Michael Newhard

911 Coordinator – Kristin Bialosky

**Village of Warwick**  
**Board of Trustees**  
**April 6, 2026**  
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Village Newspaper – Warwick Advertiser  
Citizens Awareness Panel/Jones Chemical – Michael Newhard, Barry Cheney, Michael Moser.  
Records Management Officer – Raina Abramson  
Office Personnel Liaison – Raina Abramson  
DPW Personnel Liaison – Michael Moser  
Village Health Official – Dr. Anthony Martini  
Safety Officers: Michael Moser, Boris Rudzinski, Thomas McKnight  
Summer Concert Coordinators – Michael Gurvich, Adam Young, Ally Metcalf  
Village Historian – Ivy Jordan Tulin  
Village Poet Laurette – *TBD*  
Village Artist in Residence – Lisa Cullen

**Planning Board**

Members – 5 Year Terms, Chairman & Alternate - Annual

**Chair** – Jesse Gallo (Annual Chair Appointment - Expiring April 2027)

**Member** – Bryan S. Barber (Five-Year Member Appointment – Expiring April 2031)

**Alternate Member** – Matthew LoPinto (Annual Appointment - Expiring April 2027)

**Zoning Board of Appeals**

Members – 5 Year Terms, Chairman & Alternate - Annual

**Chair** – John Graney (Annual Chair Appointment – Expiring April 2027)

**Member** – Nikki Delille (Five-Year Member Appointment - Expiring April 2031)

**Alternate Member** – VACANT (Annual Appointment - Expiring April 2027)

**Architectural and Historic District Review Board**

Members – 5 Year Terms, Chairman & Alternate - Annual

**Chair** – Michael Bertolini (Annual Chair Appointment - Expiring April 2027)

**Member** – Chris DeHaan (Five-Year Member Appointment – Expiring April 2031)

**Alternate Member** – VACANT (Annual Appointment - Expiring April 2027)

**Shade Tree Commission**

Members – 3 Year Terms, Commissioner - Annual

**Commissioner & Member** – Lynn Cheney (Member Appointment – Expiring April 2029 & Annual Commissioner Appointment – Expiring April 2027)

**Member** – Sherwood Stevens (Three-Year Appointment – Expiring April 2028)

2026 Village Board Liaison Roles

<u>Deputy Mayor</u> <u>Barry Cheney</u>	<u>Trustee</u> <u>Mary Collura</u>	<u>Trustee</u> <u>Thomas McKnight</u>	<u>Trustee</u> <u>Carly Foster</u>
Public Works Operations	Office of the Treasurer	Planning & Zoning / AHDRB / OC Planning	Office of the Clerk
Engineering and Infrastructure Projects	Youth / WYDO / Warwick Valley Community Center / Warwick Valley Prevention Coalition	Environmental	Parks & Recreation
Veterans	Public Health	Albert Wisner Library	Economic Development & Tourism & Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce
Code Enforcement / Building Department	Historical Society	Town of Warwick Police Department	Warwick Valley Schools
Emergency Services	Public Interface and Outreach	Technology Oversight / Cybersecurity	Shade Tree Commission
Citizens Awareness Panel/Jones Chemical	Senior Citizens	Government Efficiency / Policy Development	Transportation & Mobility
	Ethics	Safety Committee	
	Summer Concert Series		

<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Alternate</u>	<u>Alternate</u>
Economic Development	Parks & Recreation	Public Works Operations	Youth / WYDO / Warwick Valley Community Center / Warwick Valley Prevention Coalition
Transportation & Mobility	Environmental	Code Enforcement / Building Department	Engineering and Infrastructure Projects
Planning & Zoning / AHDRB / OC Planning	Veterans	Emergency Services	Government Efficiency / Policy Development
			Summer Concert Series

**Acceptance of Minutes**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried for the Acceptance of Minutes: March 16, 2026, Special Meeting and the March 16, 2026, Regular Meeting.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried for the Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$905,622.39.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**1. Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget of the Village of Warwick for FY 2026-27.**

The Village Clerk read the legal notice.

**VILLAGE OF WARWICK  
LEGAL NOTICE**

**PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON THE TENTATIVE BUDGET OF THE VILLAGE OF WARWICK** for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2026, will be held on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. at Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY at which time and place all interested persons will be given an opportunity to be heard.

Copies of the Tentative Budget will be available for review on the Village's website, [www.villageofwarwickny.gov](http://www.villageofwarwickny.gov) beginning March 27, 2026. Hard copies will be made available to the public by mail upon receipt of written request.

The compensation proposed to be paid to each member of the Village Board is as follows:

Mayor \$63,843.22  
Deputy Mayor \$11,173.28  
Trustees \$ 9,354.54 (each)

**BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
VILLAGE OF WARWICK  
RAINA ABRAMSON, VILLAGE CLERK  
Dated: March 27, 2026**

Mayor Newhard provided an overview of the proposed 2026–2027 Village budget, stating that it reflects a continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, infrastructure investment, and maintaining a high level of services for residents. He noted that the budget remains within New York State’s tax cap requirements while also addressing critical capital needs across all departments.

He explained that the allowable tax levy increase for the fiscal year was set at 2%, which is the lesser of the statutory cap or the Consumer Price Index. The proposed budget complies fully with this requirement. The total proposed tax levy is \$4,581,885, comprised of \$3,677,815 in general taxes, \$404,070 in water and land tax support, and \$500,000 allocated toward sewer plant improvements, which will support both daily operations and long term capital projects.

Mayor Newhard further noted that the Village is continuing to prepare for a major \$22 million sewer treatment plant upgrade. He stated that the Village has secured a \$3 million grant through the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, and that sewer related taxes will support repayment of a 15 year bond issued through that program.

Mayor Newhard stated that the proposed budget reflects a proactive funding strategy to ensure that critical infrastructure projects can be completed while responsibly managing long term debt. He explained that the water and land tax for fiscal year 2027 will be dedicated entirely to a reserve fund supporting long term water system improvements and reliability.

He outlined several General Fund capital investments supporting core municipal operations. These included new desks and furniture for the court to improve functionality and workspace efficiency, and the continuation of the records management project to advance digitization and improve access to Village records. At the Department of Public Works facility, improvements include skim coating and painting of bay floors and electrical upgrades to garage bay doors to enhance operations and safety.

Under police and parking, Mayor Newhard noted the installation of license plate reader technology to enhance public safety and the purchase of a second handheld ticketing device. For

streets and roads, he referenced planned Wheeler Avenue sidewalk repairs to improve pedestrian safety and ADA compliance, the purchase of a dump truck, and the continuation of the annual road paving program. He added that additional road improvements will be supported through New York State reimbursements, including CHIPS, PAVE NY, POP (Pave Our Potholes), and Extreme Winter Recovery funding.

In Parks and Recreation, he highlighted the replacement and installation of security cameras at Veterans Memorial Park and the DPW facility, new garbage and recycling receptacles throughout the Village, repurposing the former skate park into pickleball courts at Veterans Memorial Park, installation of heat at the Stanley-Deming Park pavilion bathrooms, rehabilitation of Fowler Garden, and installation of drinking fountains at the new Veterans Memorial skate park.

Mayor Newhard also emphasized that the Village continues to aggressively pursue grant funding to reduce the burden on taxpayers. He stated that applications have been submitted for the Community Development Block Grant, NY Forward, the Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund grant, and federal funding through Senators Schumer and Gillibrand for the wastewater treatment plant. He noted that total anticipated grant funding is approximately \$7.7 million. He noted that the Water Fund supports system reliability, regulatory compliance, and long term infrastructure planning.

Mayor Newhard continued by outlining Water Fund capital projects and administrative improvements. He stated that water administration includes the replacement of the water and sewer billing system printer as part of a shared upgrade supporting both funds. Under water purification, he noted the continued construction of Well No. 3, which is nearing completion, the installation of a new backwash meter at the reservoir water treatment plant, and the replacement and upgrade of clear well pumps. He further detailed improvements to water pump stations, including repairs to the Hilltop tank, and transmission and distribution projects such as reservoir land acquisition supported by a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Water Quality Improvement Project (WQIP) grant, replacement of Water Department Vehicle No. 3, installation of the Sheffield pressure reducing valve, and continuation of the water meter replacement program.

Mayor Newhard stated that the Village has secured grant funding for these efforts, including approximately \$940,131 in federal funding for Well No. 3, \$288,150 through the WQIP program for reservoir land acquisition, and approximately \$2.4 million for dam safety and upgrades.

He then reviewed Sewer Fund capital projects, noting that sewer administration includes shared equipment upgrades, while sewer collection system work includes repairs to rotating biological contractor units. He stated that the Village will continue progress on the \$22 million sewer treatment plant upgrade project, which is expected to begin this year.

Mayor Newhard also addressed utility rates, stating that the proposed water rate will increase by 10% to support infrastructure, operations, and rising costs, while sewer rates will remain unchanged.

In closing, Mayor Newhard stated that the proposed budget reflects a balanced and forward-looking approach that remains within the New York State tax cap, invests in critical infrastructure and equipment, and advances major long-term projects, including the sewer plant upgrade. He noted that the Village is leveraging approximately \$11.3 million in potential grant funding across all funds while maintaining essential services and planning for the future. He then opened the floor for public comment and encouraged residents to participate in the budget process.

Ms. Megan Cooke asked for clarification regarding the increase in the police budget, specifically what new services are being provided as a result. She also inquired whether the police budget includes employee benefits, or if those costs are categorized separately under employee benefits.

Mayor Newhard responded that the costs associated with the police budget are part of a contract with the Town.

Ms. Cooke asked for clarification regarding tax-exempt properties listed in the budget, questioning whether multiple properties were associated with Convergent Energy or if it applied only to the Church Street location. It was clarified that only one of the properties is associated with that project.

Ms. Cooke expressed concerns regarding the tax exemptions, noting that the company appeared to be receiving significant tax benefits. She referenced the status of a bond and a mechanic's lien and asked whether the Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has the authority to revoke such agreements.

Trustee Cheney responded that the IDA does have the ability to claw back benefits, but noted that no specific action had been indicated for this project.

Mayor Newhard acknowledged concerns regarding the situation, including that no jobs were created by the project.

Ms. Cooke concluded by expressing appreciation to the Board for their efforts.

There were no further comments.

**Close the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget of the Village of Warwick for FY2026-27**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to close the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget of the Village of Warwick for FY 2026-27.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Announcements**

1. The Village of Warwick hydrant flushing will begin on April 20, 2026, from approximately 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. until all the fire hydrants are completed.

Trustee Cheney stated that, due to voluntary water restrictions over the past two years, the Village had only been able to conduct hydrant flushing twice annually instead of three times, and had been mindful of those limitations when planning the schedule.

2. The Village of Warwick has selected Lisa Cullen as the 2026–2027 Artist in Residence. Trustee Collura announced that the Village of Warwick invited local artists to submit qualifications for the 2026–2027 Artist in Residence program. She explained that the program is intended to expose the community to local artists, create opportunities for engagement, and demonstrate the Village’s support for the arts. The selected artist will serve a one year term beginning June 1 and will participate in community engagement activities including a public artist talk, hands on workshops, and a public showcase or exhibition.

Trustee Collura stated that applicants were required to be at least 18 years of age and reside within the Town of Warwick, including the Villages of Florida, Greenwood Lake, and Warwick. A total of 14 applications were received and reviewed by a jury consisting of Mayor Newhard, Trustee Collura, representatives from Wickham Works, the Albert Wisner Public Library, and a current Artist in Residence. She noted that the jury unanimously selected Lisa Cullen as the next Artist in Residence. Ms. Cullen, a Village resident, focuses on community and interactive art using recycled materials and operates Kids Art Club, a local business introducing children to artistic techniques and concepts.

Trustee Collura further explained that the Village will transfer \$5,000 to Wickham Works, which will administer the program. This includes a \$4,000 stipend for the artist

and \$1,000 to support planning and coordination of the public programs. She concluded by congratulating Ms. Cullen.

**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.

Mr. Raymond Maher, of Woodside Drive, expressed concerns regarding what he described as a revised map related to the Village View project. He stated that, to his knowledge, the project had received final approvals in or around 2022, including all required maps and documentation. He further stated that he later came across a map he believed to be an updated version from 2025, which, in his opinion, had not been posted on the Village website or reviewed through the Planning Board, Village Board, or a public hearing process.

Mr. Maher questioned how such a change could occur without what he believed to be proper review or public input. He also expressed concern regarding the property in question, which he described as sensitive and including wetlands or designated open space, and stated his belief that the area had been impacted. He requested clarification on the process and asked that the Village Attorney contact him regarding the matter.

Mayor Newhard stated that he would look into the matter.

Mr. Maher referenced prior documentation related to the project and stated that the review process had taken place over several years and was well known to those involved. He expressed concern that, in his view, a subsequent approval appeared to have occurred in 2025.

Mr. Maher stated that, in his view, the Village Engineer and Building Inspector had allowed excavation work to occur near the edge of a stream. He further stated that he believed the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation may have issued a stop work order, although he was not certain. Mr. Maher expressed concerns regarding what he described as a

lack of communication and requested greater transparency from the Village regarding the situation and how such actions occurred.

He also questioned, who would be responsible for any required remediation, suggesting that responsibility could involve the applicant, the engineer, or the Village, depending on how approvals were granted. He added that he did not believe the actions in question were reflected in the previously approved documentation.

Mayor Newhard stated that he would reach out to the Village Engineer regarding the matter.

Mr. Maher stated that he had to submit a FOIL request to obtain a map and expressed that such information should be available on the Village website.

Mr. Maher stated that the map in question was, in his view, unexpected and appeared to have been created after the final approval of the Village View project. He expressed concerns regarding the developer and questioned what actions the Village would take moving forward, including whether the Village would contact the DEC New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or if that agency would initiate contact.

Mayor Newhard stated that the DEC had not contacted the Village regarding the matter.

Mr. Maher stated that he was attempting to get in contact with the DEC again.

Mayor Newhard stated that he had previously asked Mr. Maher to provide the name of the individual he had contacted.

Mr. Maher stated that, in his understanding, portions of the property had previously been designated as open space as part of the Village View project approvals. He described the original layout as limiting development near a stream, with the road placement reflecting setback requirements.

He expressed concern that a more recent map appeared to show development extending closer to the stream than he believed was previously permitted. He stated that the area had been cleared and significantly altered, and questioned the purpose of the clearing if development was not allowed.

Mr. Maher also referenced a proposed house associated with a building permit and raised questions regarding whether additional infrastructure improvements, such as upgrades to the pump station, would be required.

Mayor Newhard stated that he had asked the Village Engineer to drive by the site each morning.

Mr. Maher stated significant damage had already occurred at the site, describing the removal of large trees and expressing concern about the extent of clearing that had taken place.

Trustee McKnight stated that there is a distinction between something being formally signed and approved and a delineation.

Mr. Maher indicated that, in his view, there were additional concerns related to the property along Woodside Drive and stated that he believed over-clearing had occurred in that area.

Trustee McKnight stated that the plans signed by the Village are the official versions and noted that he had not compared them.

Mr. Maher stated that, in his view, the map indicated an approval in 2025, which he noted was several years after the original approvals.

Trustee McKnight asked for clarification as to whether the document had been formally approved or if it had been prepared by the Village's engineer.

Mr. Maher referenced the prior approval process, including environmental review and Planning Board approvals, which he stated were completed in or around 2022. He questioned how a document from 2025 had come into existence after those approvals.

Trustee Cheney stated that he had not seen the document.

Mr. Maher further stated that, in his opinion, only the Village Engineer and Building Inspector had access to it.

Trustee Cheney stated that the document in question appeared to be a model home and tree clearing plan, explaining that it showed the proposed limits of tree clearing and the location of the model home.

Mr. Maher questioned the extent of the tree clearing shown on the plan, stating that, in his view, the area had been approved as open space and expressing concern that development should not occur there.

Trustee Cheney stated that the Board would need to speak with the Village Engineer regarding the matter.

Mr. Maher stated that certain lots had previously been approved as part of the project and referenced the annexation of Town property. He reiterated his concern that areas he understood to be designated as open space were now being shown differently and questioned how those changes had occurred.

Trustee Cheney stated that the property is privately owned and that the owner is permitted to act within the law.

Mr. Maher responded that, the applicable standards were those approved in 2022 rather than what he believed to be reflected in a 2025 document.

Trustee Cheney further stated that the document presented may not be inconsistent with the Planning Board's prior approvals and noted that the matter would need to be reviewed.

Mr. Maher stated that the document appeared to be new and reiterated his concern that it may conflict with prior approvals.

Trustee Cheney responded that the document's timing did not necessarily mean it was inconsistent with those approvals.

Mr. Maher further stated, in his view, that the DEC had taken action at the site and expressed concern regarding potential impacts to what he described as public, open space.

Trustee Cheney clarified that the area was not public space, while Mr. Maher referenced his understanding of prior approvals and clustering provisions.

Mayor Newhard noted that such designations do not necessarily protect trees.

Mr. Maher responded by referencing wetlands protections and again questioned how the map in question had been approved without what he believed to be appropriate review.

Mayor Newhard stated that the Village would look into the matter. He stated that, in his understanding, the document appeared to be a working plan outlining what the developer intended to do, rather than an approved map.

Mr. Maher responded that the work had already been completed and expressed his belief that the map had been provided prior to that work.

Mayor Newhard reiterated that the document would indicate to the engineer what was proposed.

Mr. Maher disagreed, stating his belief that the engineer had provided the map.

Trustee Cheney clarified that the reference was to the Village Engineer, not the developer's engineer.

Mr. Maher stated that the Engineer and Building Inspector had visited the site.

Trustee Cheney asked for clarification as to whether he was referring to the Village Engineer, to which Mr. Maher responded affirmatively.

Mr. Maher further stated his belief that they had reviewed the site and provided the map.

Trustee Cheney stated that the map had been submitted to the Village by the developer.

Mr. Maher responded by describing how he came to view the map and stated that, in his opinion, it identified wetlands in the area, which raised concerns for him. He questioned the purpose of clearing within that area.

Mayor Newhard responded that he did not know the specific purpose of the clearing but stated that tree clearing may be permitted in certain areas, including wetlands, while noting that removal of stumps may be subject to different restrictions.

Trustee Cheney added that such activity could depend on whether the work is within a regulated buffer area.

Mr. Maher stated that, in his understanding, prior constraints related to wetlands had required the road to be placed along an adjacent property, and he expressed his belief that development in the area in question would not be permitted.

Trustee Cheney explained that certain activities are permitted within a 100 foot buffer area while others are not, noting that road construction is not allowed within that buffer, but that other activities are permitted.

Mr. Maher stated that the matter should have been brought to the public's attention, as he believed the area had been understood to be wetlands and designated open space. He expressed his opinion that, had this information been presented earlier, residents may have responded differently during the approval process. He stated that further input from the DEC would be important.

Mayor Newhard again requested that Mr. Maher provide the name of the individual he had spoken with at the DEC.

Mr. Maher stated that he did not have direct contact with the individuals in question, describing the situation as a brief encounter and indicating that, by the time he arrived, they had already left and contacted a regional office, but Mr. Maher stated that he would try to get the name and email it to the Mayor.

Mr. Maher thanked the Board for their time.

**Seasonal DPW Laborer – James Quackenbush**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to hire James Quackenbush to the position of Seasonal Department of Public Works Laborer for up to 40 hours per week for 16 weeks with a start date of May 4, 2026, per the recommendation of DPW Supervisor, Michael Moser. Salary will be based on the FY25-26 & FY26-27 budget.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Payment #1 – Fanshawe, Inc. – Relocation of the Maple Avenue Booster Station Project**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to approve Payment #1 in the amount of \$27,740 to Fanshawe, Inc. (d/b/a Rockland Electric) for the Relocation of the Maple Avenue Booster Station Project as per the recommendation of Village Engineer, Barton & Loguidice. Funds are appropriated in budget code H8320.2000.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**FY-2027 Community Development Block Grant Program – Schedule Public Hearing**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to schedule a Public Hearing for Monday, May 18, 2026, to discuss projects considered for funding under the FY-2027 Community Development Block Grant Program.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**GOVERNING BODY FAIR HOUSING RESOLUTION**

The Village of Warwick supports the Fair Housing Act (42 USC 3601) which prohibits discrimination by direct providers of housing such as landlords and real estate companies as well as other entities, such as municipalities, banks or other lending institutions and homeowners insurance companies whose discriminatory practices make housing unavailable to persons because of: race, color, religion, sex, national origin, nationality, familial status, or disability. This municipality further objects to discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing or land to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, nationality or disability as prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (Federal Fair Housing Law). Therefore, the Municipal Council does hereby approve the following resolution.

BE IT RESOLVED, that within available resources, the municipality will assist all persons who feel they have been discriminated against under one of the aforementioned categories, to seek equity under federal laws by filing a complaint with the New York State Human Rights Law and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as appropriate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the municipality shall publicize this resolution and through this publicity shall cause owners of real estate, developers, and builders to become aware of their respective responsibilities and rights under the Federal Fair Housing Law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the municipality will at a minimum include, but not be limited to:

- (1) the printing and publicizing of this resolution, a fair housing public notice and other applicable fair housing information through local media, community contacts and placement on the Municipal website and in other social media;
- (2) distribution of posters, flyers, and any other means which will bring to the attention of those affected, the knowledge of their respective responsibilities and rights concerning fair housing.

Trustee Cheney presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by

Trustee McKnight,

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Absent

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

**Village of Warwick Office Intern - Michael Lupkovich**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to hire Michael Lupkovich to the position of Village of Warwick Office Intern at 32.5 hours per week for approximately thirteen (13) weeks. The rate of pay to be in accordance with the FY25-26 and FY26-27 budget. Start date to be determined by Village Clerk, Raina Abramson.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**On-premises liquor license for Warwick Wine Garden and Supper Club LLC**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to acknowledge receipt of the Standardized Notice Form from the New York State Liquor Authority for an on-premises liquor license for Warwick Wine Garden and Supper Club LLC located at 22 McEwen Street, Warwick, NY 10990 and authorize the Village Clerk to submit a letter notifying the New York State Liquor Authority that there are no objections to this notification and application.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Facility Use – Veterans Memorial Park – Warwick Fire Department Picnic**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Fire Department to use the Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion for a Department Picnic on Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. The request includes

use of alcohol, catered food, electricity, speakers, pavilion lighting, restrooms, Village-owned tables and chairs, and inflatables. Completed park permit application and proof of insurance, including Host Liquor Liability and confirmed coverage for the inflatables, have been received.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Facility Use – Veterans Memorial Park – Warwick Adult Kickball**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Adult Kickball League to use the football field and the Daniel Prial Field at Veterans Memorial Park from May 15, 2026, through August 6, 2026, on Friday evenings from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., except during the Fireman’s Carnival. The request includes use of field lights, speakers, electricity, and restrooms. The request also includes permission to have a hot dog cart on select evenings to provide complimentary food and beverages for players and their families. All events shall be coordinated with other organizations that regularly use the park for practices and games. Completed park permit application and proof of insurance have been received.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Facility Use – Stanley-Deming Park – First Grade End of Year Celebration**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to grant permission to Park Avenue Elementary to hold a First Grade End of Year Celebration at Stanley-Deming Park on Monday, June 1, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a rain date of Friday, June 5, 2026. Request includes use of restrooms. Completed park permit application and proof of insurance have been received.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Facility Use – Stanley-Deming Park – Union AME Church Juneteenth Celebration**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Union AME Church to use Stanley-Deming Park to host a Juneteenth Celebration on Friday, June 19, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with setup beginning at 8:00 a.m. and cleanup completed by 7:00 p.m. with a rain date of Saturday, June 20, 2026. The request includes use of electricity and sound systems, tents, restrooms, Village-owned tables and chairs, and up to 2 (two) food trucks. Food trucks shall be placed in coordination with DPW Supervisor Mike Moser. A completed park permit application, proof of insurance, and security deposit have been received. Approval is pending receipt of insurance from all participating vendors and food trucks.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2026-2027 VILLAGE BUDGET**

WHEREAS, a tentative budget (the "Proposed Village Budget") for the Village of Warwick was prepared and introduced for the 2026-2027 fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on April 6, 2026, and all interested persons were afforded an opportunity to be heard with respect to the Proposed Village Budget, after which such public hearing was closed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor and the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick hereby adopts the proposed Village Budget of the 2026-2027 fiscal year, including any amendments to such budget as approved by the Board of Trustees, which shall, upon adoption, become the final Village Budget for the

2026-2027 fiscal year: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, the Village Clerk and any officer, employee or consultant, as directed by the Mayor is authorized and directed to take any and all actions that are reasonably necessary, proper, or convenient to carry out the purposes of this Resolution.

Trustee McKnight presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by Trustee Cheney,

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Carly Foster, Trustee, voting	<u>Absent</u>
Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Mary Collura, Trustee, voting	<u>Aye</u>
Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting	<u>Aye</u>

**Discussion**

Trustee McKnight stated that the budget process was difficult and noted that, in his experience, this year was particularly challenging.

Mayor Newhard responded that the Board was able to make it work.

Trustee Cheney expressed appreciation for the work conducted by Trustee McKnight and Village Clerk Abramson in reviewing salaries, including comparing compensation beyond the Village to identify equitable standards. He noted that the effort involved multiple work sessions and described it as a valuable step taken by the Board to bring salaries more in line. He thanked both individuals for their efforts.

Trustee McKnight stated that the Board gathered salary survey data from municipalities across Orange, Rockland, and Sullivan Counties, as well as from other areas throughout New York State. He explained that this information provided a baseline of market rates for various positions and helped establish a framework for evaluating salaries.

Mayor Newhard expressed appreciation for the efforts of the department heads, noting that the budget process takes several months and typically begins early in the year. He stated that the process was more challenging this year due to the Treasurer's absence on leave, which required additional internal work by staff.

Mayor Newhard recognized the contributions of Sadie Andryshack for her role in advancing the budget to completion and also commended the Deputy Treasurer, Denise Bulnes, for taking on additional responsibilities during that time. He further thanked the Board for their participation in numerous work sessions and careful review of the budget, noting the challenges of addressing major projects while remaining within the 2% tax cap. He expressed gratitude for the collective effort that allowed the budget to be completed successfully.

Trustee McKnight noted that costs across the board have increased at rates well above 2%.

**Temporary Part-Time Clerk – John Mante**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to appoint John Mante as a temporary, part-time Clerk to perform the required 100% verification of Village Clerk and Treasurer records digitized under the current 2025–2026 NYS Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant. This position will be for up to 20 hours per week, for a period not to exceed 17 weeks, at a rate of \$17.50 per hour. The start date will be determined by the Village Clerk, Raina Abramson.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye    Trustee Foster Absent    Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye    Mayor Newhard Aye

**Temporary Part-Time Clerk – Emma DeRosa**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to appoint Emma DeRosa as a temporary, part-time Clerk to perform the required 100%

verification of Village Clerk and Treasurer records digitized under the current 2025–2026 NYS Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant. This position will be for up to 20 hours per week, for a period not to exceed 17 weeks, at a rate of \$17.50 per hour. The start date will be determined by the Village Clerk, Raina Abramson.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**2026 ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOLS AND CONFERENCES - AMENDED**

WHEREAS, there is to be held during the coming official year (a) NYCOM’s Annual Meeting and Training School (b) NYCOM’s Fall Training School (c) NYCOM’s Public Works Training School, (d) NYCOM’s Winter Legislative Meeting, (e) NYCOM’s Regional Training Events, (f) IIMC’s Regional and State Training Events, (g) NYSBOC Building Conferences and Seminars, (h) NY Planning Federation, and (i) Orange County Department of Planning;

WHEREAS, attendance by certain municipal officials and employees at one or more of these meetings, conferences or schools benefits the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the following officers and employees are authorized to attend the following schools:

1. Mayor, Michael J. Newhard, Trustees: Barry Cheney, Mary Collura, Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight:
  - a. NYCOM’s Annual Meeting and Training School, Fall Training School, Winter Legislative Meeting, and Regional Training Events
2. Village Clerk Raina Abramson, Deputy Clerk Jennifer Mante, Village Treasurer Sadie Andryshak, Deputy Treasurer Denise Bulnes:
  - a. NYCOM’s Fall Training School and Regional Training Events

- 3. Village Clerk Raina Abramson:
  - a. International Institute of Municipal Clerk’s (IIMC) Regional and State Training Events.
- 4. DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser and Assistant Public Works Supervisor, Mike Finelli:
  - a. NYCOM’s Public Works Training School
  - b. NYSBOC Building Conference
- 5. Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Boris Rudzinski:
  - a. NYSBOC Building Conference
  - b. NYSBOC Building Seminars
- 6. Village of Warwick Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals:
  - a. NY Planning Federation
  - b. Orange County Department of Planning
  - c. NYCOM’s Regional Training Events related to Planning & Zoning

2. That this resolution is effective immediately.

\_\_\_\_\_ presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by

\_\_\_\_\_

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows: **AMENDED**

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting \_\_\_\_\_

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting \_\_\_\_\_

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting \_\_\_\_\_

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting \_\_\_\_\_

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion**

Trustee Cheney noted that the Code Enforcement Officer attends New York State building conferences and seminars and observed that both the Department of Public Works Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor also serve as Code Enforcement Officers. He suggested amending the resolution to include New York State building seminars as an

approved training item for those positions and made a motion to amend the resolution accordingly under item number four as letter C.

**Amendment to Resolution - NYSBOC Building Seminars**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to amend the resolution to add NYSBOC Building Seminars under item 4 as letter (c).

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**2026 ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOLS AND CONFERENCES**

WHEREAS, there is to be held during the coming official year (a) NYCOM's Annual Meeting and Training School (b) NYCOM's Fall Training School (c) NYCOM's Public Works Training School, (d) NYCOM's Winter Legislative Meeting, (e) NYCOM's Regional Training Events, (f) IIMC's Regional and State Training Events, (g) NYSBOC Building Conferences and Seminars, (h) NY Planning Federation, and (i) Orange County Department of Planning;

WHEREAS, attendance by certain municipal officials and employees at one or more of these meetings, conferences or schools benefits the municipality;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

1. That the following officers and employees are authorized to attend the following schools:

1. Mayor, Michael J. Newhard, Trustees: Barry Cheney, Mary Collura, Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight:
  - a. NYCOM's Annual Meeting and Training School, Fall Training School, Winter Legislative Meeting, and Regional Training Events

2. Village Clerk Raina Abramson, Deputy Clerk Jennifer Mante, Village Treasurer Sadie Andryshak, Deputy Treasurer Denise Bulnes:
    - a. NYCOM's Fall Training School and Regional Training Events
  3. Village Clerk Raina Abramson:
    - a. International Institute of Municipal Clerk's (IIMC) Regional and State Training Events.
  4. DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser and Assistant Public Works Supervisor, Mike Finelli:
    - a. NYCOM's Public Works Training School
    - b. NYSBOC Building Conference
    - c. NYSBOC Building Seminars
  5. Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Boris Rudzinski:
    - a. NYSBOC Building Conference
    - b. NYSBOC Building Seminars
  6. Village of Warwick Planning Board & Zoning Board of Appeals:
    - a. NY Planning Federation
    - b. Orange County Department of Planning
    - c. NYCOM's Regional Training Events related to Planning & Zoning
2. That this resolution as amended is effective immediately.

Trustee McKnight presented the foregoing resolution which was seconded by Trustee Collura,

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Absent

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

**Wastewater Treatment Plant Sand Filter Travelling Bridge Tracks Emergency Purchase**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to authorize the Village to accept the quote estimate from TAM Enterprises dated April 2, 2026, in the amount of \$19,300 to repair the Sand Filter Travelling Bridge Tracks at the Wastewater Treatment Plant as an Emergency Repair in accordance with the Village Procurement Policy Section V.B requiring immediate action to maintain proper functioning of the equipment. Funds are appropriated in budget code F.1440.4950.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**RWTP Clearwell Pump Replacement Bid Award - J Squared Construction Corp.**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to accept the proposal from J Squared Construction Corp. for the RWTP Clearwell Pump Replacement project at 20 Water Lane, in an amount not to exceed \$69,000, and to authorize the Mayor to enter into a contract for the same, as recommended by the Village Engineer, Engineering & Surveying Properties, P.C. Funds are appropriated in account G.1440.4700.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Absent Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

**Public Comment – *Non-Agenda Items***

No comments were made.

**Final Comments from the Board**

Trustee Cheney provided an update on the ongoing New York State Department of Transportation (DOT) highway project in and around the Village. He outlined several upcoming and ongoing projects, including the start of roundabout construction at the intersection of Route 94, County Route 1, and Reservoir Road, expected to begin in late

May with completion anticipated in the fall. He also noted that work on the culvert near Homestead Village Drive is already underway and is expected to be completed by the end of June.

Trustee Cheney further reported that the Galloway Road culvert and sidewalk project is scheduled to take place from mid-June through early September. He added that improvements at the Route 17A and Colonial Avenue intersection, including median removal, drainage work, and signal upgrades, are expected to occur during the summer months.

He noted that the timing of the larger projects is intended to coincide with when school is not in session to help minimize impacts. Trustee Cheney acknowledged that the work may cause inconvenience and asked residents to be patient, exercise caution in work zones, and follow posted signage and directions from flaggers.

Trustee Collura announced several upcoming events, beginning with the annual Glitter Ball scheduled for Friday, April 10. She noted that the event is co-hosted by the Warwick Valley Community Center Core Theater Group and Wickham Works and serves as a fundraiser for the Pride Parade and related events. She stated that the event will begin at 7:00 p.m. at Wickham Woodlands and that tickets are available for purchase on the organization's website.

Trustee Collura announced additional upcoming community events. She noted that the Warwick Historical Society will celebrate its 120th anniversary with a free community event on Sunday, April 19, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., featuring tours of historic properties, refreshments, maps, and a "time travelers passport" program for children.

She also announced the annual Operation Clean Sweep event, organized by the Chamber of Commerce in partnership with various community organizations. The event will include collections for recyclables, paper shredding, eyeglasses, hearing aids, sneakers, unused prescription drugs, cell phones, batteries, and books. Additional off-site collections will be available for refrigerant-containing items, motor oil, and electronic waste. The event is scheduled for April 25 in the Chase parking lot. Trustee Collura added that volunteers may register to participate in community clean-up efforts and can pick up supplies at the Chamber office on Main Street.

Mayor Newhard commented on the growth of the Operation Clean Sweep event, noting that it has expanded significantly from its earlier beginnings as a small community clean-up effort.

Trustee Collura remarked on the strong community participation in Operation Clean Sweep, noting that many organizations are involved and expressing appreciation for the collaborative effort.

Trustee McKnight provided an update regarding a FOIL request he submitted to the New York State Department of Public Service (DPS) concerning communications related to Orange and Rockland and the battery fire incident on Church Street. He stated that the request, submitted in early January, sought records including communications, requests for proposals, vendor due diligence, and safety guidelines.

Trustee McKnight noted that the response has been delayed multiple times but is now expected in the near future. He stated that, once received, the information will be shared with the public as previously committed. He added that he is hopeful the response will help provide additional clarity on the situation.

Mayor Newhard commented on recent improvements to the Village Hall conference room, noting that the Department of Public Works completed the majority of the work, including painting and refurbishing the conference table. He stated that the updates significantly transformed the space.

Mayor Newhard also thanked Ms. Kristin Bialosky of Village Building and Planning and other staff members for their input and contributions to the project, as well as Ms. Jane Glassman of the Architectural Review Board for her assistance. He noted that the project is still ongoing and invited residents visiting Village Hall to view the updated space.

### **Adjournment**

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 8:35 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye    Trustee Foster Absent    Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye    Mayor Newhard Aye

## Village of Warwick

### FY 2026–2027 Proposed Budget Summary

**Fiscal Year: June 1, 2026 – May 31, 2027**

The proposed 2026–2027 Village Budget reflects a continued commitment to fiscal responsibility, infrastructure investment, and maintaining the high level of services residents expect. This budget stays within New York State’s tax cap while addressing critical capital needs across all departments.

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#### **Tax Levy and Tax Cap**

The New York State Comptroller has set the allowable tax levy increase for the 2026–2027 fiscal year at 2.00%, which is the lesser of the statutory 2% cap or the current Consumer Price Index (CPI) of 2.63%.

The Village’s proposed budget complies fully with this requirement.

**Total Proposed Tax Levy: \$4,581,885**

This levy is comprised of:

- **General Tax:** \$3,677,815
- **Water Land Tax:** \$404,070
- **Sewer Plant Improvement:** \$500,000
- **Prior Year Omissions:** \$0

These components fund both daily operations and long-term capital improvements.

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#### **Special Funding Components**

##### **Sewer Plant Improvement**

The Village continues to prepare for a major \$22 million sewer treatment plant upgrade.

- The Village has secured a \$3 million grant from the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC).
- Sewer-related taxes collected will support repayment of a 15-year bond issued through EFC.

This proactive funding strategy ensures the Village can complete this critical infrastructure project while managing long-term debt responsibly.

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### **Water Land Tax**

A Water Land Tax will be collected in FY 2026–2027 and dedicated entirely to the Water Infrastructure Reserve Fund, supporting long-term system improvements and reliability.

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### **General Fund – Equipment & Capital Projects**

The General Fund supports core municipal operations and includes the following planned investments:

#### **Court**

- Purchase of new desks and furniture to improve functionality and workspace efficiency

#### **Village Hall**

- Continued Records Management Project, advancing digitization and improving access to Village records

#### **Central Garage (DPW Facility)**

- Skim coating and painting of bay floors
- Electrical upgrades to garage bay doors to improve operations and safety

#### **Police & Parking**

- Installation of license plate reader technology to enhance public safety
- Purchase of a second handheld ticketing device for Police Department use
- Electrical improvements at the South Street parking lot

#### **Streets & Roads**

- Wheeler Avenue sidewalk repairs to improve pedestrian safety
- Purchase of a dump truck for DPW operations
- Annual road paving program

- Additional road improvements funded through NYS DOT reimbursements:
  - CHIPS: \$148,891
  - PAVE-NY: \$43,441
  - NYS Pave Our Potholes (POP) Program: \$49,915
  - Extreme Winter Recovery: \$28,673
  - **Total State Road Funding: \$270,920**

### **Parks & Recreation**

- Replacement and installation of new security cameras in Veterans Memorial Park, at the Department of Public Works facility, and Microfiltration Plant
- New garbage receptacles throughout the village
- Repurposing the old skatepark into pickleball courts at Veterans Memorial Park
- Installation of heat at the Stanley-Deming Park & Memorial Park pavilion bathrooms.
- Fowler Garden rehabilitation project
- Installation of a drinking fountain at the new Veterans Memorial Park skate park

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### **Grant Funding – General Fund**

The Village continues to aggressively pursue outside funding to reduce the burden on taxpayers. Applications have been submitted for:

- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** \$148,000
- **NY Forward:** \$4,500,000
- **LGRMIF (Records Management):** \$75,000
- **Federal Funding (Schumer & Gillibrand):** \$3,000,000

**Total Anticipated Grant Funding: \$7,723,000**

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### **Water Fund – Equipment & Capital Projects**

The Water Fund supports system reliability, regulatory compliance, and long-term infrastructure planning.

## **Water Administration**

- Replacement of the water and sewer billing system printer, a shared upgrade that supports billing operations across both the Water and Sewer Funds

## **Water Purification**

- Continued construction of Well #3
- Installation of a new backwash meter at the Reservoir Water Treatment Plant
- Replacement and upgrades to Reservoir Water Treatment Plant clearwell pumps

## **Water Pump Stations**

- Hilltop tank repairs to maintain system integrity

## **Transmission & Distribution**

- Reservoir land acquisition (supported by NYS DEC WQIP grant)
- Replacement of Water Department vehicle (Water Van W3)
- Installation of Sheffield Pressure Reducing Valve (PRV)
- Ongoing water meter replacement program

## **Water Fund Grants**

- Federal Grant – Well #3: \$940,131
- NYS DEC WQIP – Reservoir Land Acquisition: \$288,150
- NYS DEC WQIP – Dam Safety & Upgrades: ~ \$2,400,000

**Total Anticipated Water Fund Grants: ~ \$3,628,281**

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## **Sewer Fund – Equipment & Capital Projects**

### **Sewer Administration**

- Administrative and billing system support improvements (included in shared equipment upgrades noted above)

### **Sewer Collection System**

- Repairs to Rotating Biological Contactor (RBC) units

### **Sewer Treatment Plant**

- Continued progress on the \$22 million sewer plant upgrade project
- 

### **Water and Sewer Rates**

- **Water Rates:** Proposed 10% increase to support infrastructure, operations, and rising costs
  - **Sewer Rates: No increase proposed**
- 

### **Closing Summary**

This proposed budget reflects a balanced and forward-looking approach:

- Staying within the State tax cap
- Investing in critical infrastructure and equipment
- Advancing major long-term projects, including the sewer plant upgrade
- Leveraging over \$11.3 million in potential grant funding across all funds
- Maintaining essential services while planning for the future

The Village Board welcomes public input and encourages residents to participate in the budget process.