

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

11,095

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, February 2, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Trustees Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight, and Mary Collura; Village Clerk Raina Abramson. Absent were Mayor Michael Newhard and Trustee/Deputy Mayor Barry Cheney. Others present, Stephanie Kowalsky and Colleen Daly.

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

Trustee Collura stated that Mayor Newhard and Trustee Cheney were absent from the meeting as they were attending the New York Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) Winter Legislative Session. She explained that this annual session provides municipal officials with the opportunity to receive training and updates on legislative matters, as well as to advocate on behalf of the Village. She noted that attendance at the conference is incorporated into the Village budget, as the Board places value on continued education and advocacy efforts.

Trustee Collura also acknowledged the Department of Public Works for its continued cleanup efforts following the previous weekend's storm and thanked the DPW staff for their hard work. She then turned the floor over to Trustee McKnight for an update regarding the battery situation.

Trustee McKnight read an update prepared by Mayor Newhard regarding the battery fire at 28 Church Street. He stated that on January 28, 2026, the Village received a battery fire monitoring synopsis report from LaBella Associates, the Village's engineering consultant retained to conduct the environmental investigation at the Convergent Energy and Power battery storage facility located at 28 Church Street. He noted that the report was included under correspondence on the evening's agenda and had also been posted to the Village website under the Residents menu on the webpage dedicated to the Battery Energy Storage System.

Trustee McKnight further reported that the Village had received correspondence from Warwick Valley BBA LLC, the property owner of the site where the battery system is located. He explained that the battery energy storage system involved in the recent fire is situated on private property and is operated by Convergent Energy and Power under a lease agreement with Warwick Valley BBA LLC.

He stated that the Village received two letters from the property owner's legal counsel. The first letter, addressed to the Village Building Inspector, indicated that the property owner was extremely concerned about the fire and had begun the process of terminating the lease, regaining possession of the property, and facilitating removal of the battery system. The letter also noted that this process may take time due to New York State landlord-tenant laws and the bankruptcy of the battery manufacturer.

The second letter, addressed to Convergent Energy and Power, outlined alleged lease defaults, including building code violations, permit issues, the existence of a mechanic's lien on the property, and the release of hazardous and regulated substances. The letter specified time frames under the lease for Convergent to cure the alleged defaults.

Trustee McKnight concluded by stating that the Village continues to focus on public safety, code enforcement, and environmental protection, and that updates would be provided as additional information becomes available. He directed residents to the Village website for background information and ongoing updates related to the incident.

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried for the acceptance of Minutes: January 20 & 23, 2026

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Absent

Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried for the authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$273,208.53.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Absent

Announcements

1. Notice of Completion of Tentative 2026 Assessment Roll & Hearing of Complaints.

Correspondence

1. Battery Fire Air Monitoring Synopsis dated January 28, 2026, from LaBella Associates, the Village of Warwick's engineer consultant contracted to perform an Environmental Investigation at the energy storage developer Convergent Energy & Power's Church Street Battery Storage Facility at 28 Church Street.

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.

Stephanie Kowalsky questioned whether the Village's YouTube live stream was functioning properly. The Board briefly discussed the issue and confirmed that the meeting was streaming live. It was noted that the meeting could be viewed directly through the Village of Warwick's official YouTube channel.

Colleen Daly asked whether the Long Environmental Assessment Form associated with the battery energy storage system project had been located.

Trustee Collura responded that staff were still working to compile and confirm all related documentation before releasing it publicly.

Ms. Daly also asked whether a soil sample had been conducted at the site following the battery fire.

The Board discussed the status of soil testing. It was clarified that soil sampling had not yet been completed at that time but was being coordinated with LaBella Associates. The Board indicated that testing was anticipated to take place in late February or early March and would require approximately two to three days to complete.

Facility Use Permit – Veterans Memorial Park, National Night Out 2026

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Town of Warwick Police Department to use Veterans Memorial Park for National Night Out 2026 on Tuesday, August 4, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., with a rain date of Tuesday, August 11, 2026. The request includes use of the Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion, pavilion lighting, electricity, restrooms, and sound system. The event will include food trucks and barbequing. A completed park permit has been received. Approval is contingent upon receipt of appropriate insurance from all participating food trucks.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Absent

Facility Use Request - St. Patrick's Day Parade

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Warwick St. Patrick's Parade Committee to hold a St. Patrick's Day Parade on Sunday, March 8, 2026, with lineup at 10:30 a.m. and step off at 11:00 a.m. The parade will lineup in the St. Anthony Community Hospital parking lot, proceed east bound on Grand Street, south down Main Street/Oakland Avenue, right on Orchard Street, right on Elm Street, with the parade ending at 16 Elm Street. Completed facility use permit, security deposit, and proof of insurance have been received. Permission from the property owner of 16 Elm Street to end the parade at their location has been received. The parade route has been approved by the Town of Warwick Police Department and St. Anthony Community Hospital to accommodate parade line-up.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Absent

Facility Use Request – Linear Park, Duck Derby

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to Winslow Therapeutic Riding Center to hold the Duck Derby event on Sunday,

May 17, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Linear Park by the Wawayanda Creek and the South Street parking lot, with set up to begin at 8:00 a.m. and breakdown to be completed by 3:00 p.m. Completed park permit, proof of insurance and security deposit have been received.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Absent

Employee Training – UDIG NY Spring into Safety Event

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to grant permission to DPW Employees Mike Finelli, Jason Makuch, Chris Kane, Dylan Gerstner, and Matt Hann to attend the UDIG NY Spring into Safety Event on February 24, 2026, at the Newburgh Armory, Newburgh, NY and for Mike Moser, Chris Bennett, Tim Palmer and Mike Faulls to attend on March 24, 2026. The event is free of charge and takes place on both days from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., with registration at 7:30 a.m. Village vehicles will be used for transportation.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Absent

Public Comment – *Non-Agenda Items*

No comments were made.

Final Comments from the Board

Trustee Foster announced the Chamber of Commerce’s Galentine’s event scheduled for February 13 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at participating merchants throughout Warwick. She encouraged residents to visit downtown businesses to enjoy shopping, dining, special sales, and festive activities.

Trustee Foster also provided an update on the Town-wide Transportation Safety Action Plan. She explained that the initiative includes two primary components: town-wide crash

investigations and solution development. She reported that the first public meeting had recently been held at Town Hall and that a dedicated website, WarwickSafetyActionPlan.com, had been launched to provide ongoing updates. Information is also available on the Village website. She stated that extensive crash data analysis is currently underway, including review of four fatalities in the Town between 2020 and 2024, as well as numerous serious motor vehicle accidents. She explained that crash data is analyzed through a system known as CLEAR, which evaluates each reported crash to identify contributing factors and determine whether potential mitigation strategies may be implemented. In addition, public feedback is being gathered to identify areas of concern, and real-time speed data is being analyzed using monitoring equipment installed throughout the Village.

Trustee Foster noted that a stakeholder advisory group has begun meeting to provide input on key issue areas and that each of the Villages will host their own public meetings as the process continues.

She further explained that the second component of the initiative is the Slow Down Warwick campaign. As part of this effort, demonstration projects are expected to be installed in the spring at previously identified trouble spots within the Village. These temporary measures will allow the Town and Village to evaluate whether the interventions effectively reduce vehicle speeds and improve safety. Data will be collected before and after implementation, and depending on the results, successful measures may be expanded to other areas throughout the Town.

Trustee Collura announced the upcoming Warwick Cares Community Care Cards event scheduled for Saturday, February 7 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Warwick Valley Community Center on Hamilton Avenue. She explained that the event would include a Valentine-making session, with completed cards to be distributed throughout the community and through Meals on Wheels. She noted that games and prizes would also be part of the event.

Trustee Foster added that the Winter Wiggle event which had been postponed due to dangerously cold temperatures would be rescheduled and that updates would be provided once a new date was confirmed. She noted that although the event may take place closer to the spring, the originally planned decorations would still be used.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 7:45 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Absent Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye
Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Absent

Raina M. Abramson, Village Clerk