

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
MARCH 16, 2026**

11,135

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, March 16, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor Michael Newhard; Trustees Barry Cheney, Carly Foster, and Mary Collura; Village Clerk Raina Abramson; Village Attorney Isabelle Hayes. Absent was Trustee Thomas McKnight and Village Attorney Benjamin Gailey. Others present, Town of Warwick Police Chief John Rader, Lugene Maher, Raymond Maher, Stephanie Kowalsky, and others.

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

Mayor Newhard provided an opening update regarding the Village's ongoing response to the Battery Energy Storage System fire since the March 2 meeting. He reported that violations had been issued to Convergent Energy and to the owner of the property at 28 Church Street. He also noted that Village officials met on March 9 with representatives from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority Battery Storage Safety Committee and the Governor's Office. He stated that a synopsis of that discussion had been posted on the Village website and that discussions with State officials would continue.

Mayor Newhard further explained that environmental testing had been conducted at the site by LaBella Associates, the firm retained by the Village. He detailed that soil samples were taken earlier in the week, followed by water sampling on subsequent days, and emphasized that environmental testing remained a critical component of the Village's response. He stated that testing and follow up efforts would continue until all concerns had been fully addressed.

In addition, Mayor Newhard expressed concern that public safety considerations had not kept pace with the advancement of battery storage technology. He indicated that, despite the presence of fire suppression systems, the prolonged release of gases during such fires posed a significant public safety issue. He stated that this concern had been clearly communicated during the meeting with State officials and would remain a focus of ongoing discussions.

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried for the Acceptance of Minutes: February 17, 2026 & March 2, 2026.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Acceptance of Reports

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried for the Acceptance of Reports – February 2026: Clerk’s Office, Treasurer’s Statement of Revenue and Expenditures, Justice Department, Planning Department, Department of Public Works and Building Department. 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 Absent 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 \$263,051.04.

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

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

1. Police Report.

Town of Warwick Police Chief John Rader reported on several significant investigations currently being handled by patrol officers and the Detective Unit, noting that the cases reflected only a portion of the work underway but demonstrated the department’s dedication and strong partnerships with other law enforcement agencies.

Chief Rader first described an armed robbery that occurred on March 9 on Maple Avenue within the Village. He explained that officers and detectives quickly identified several suspects and determined they were located in the Port Jervis area. With assistance from the Port Jervis Police Department, a search warrant was executed later that evening at a residence on Barcelow Street. Evidence related to the incident was recovered, and three individuals were transported to the Port Jervis Police Department for questioning. As a result of the investigation, two individuals were arrested, transported to the Town of Warwick Police Department for processing, and charged with two counts of armed

robbery, three counts of grand larceny, and one count of criminal facilitation. He noted that the investigation remained active and that additional arrests were anticipated.

Chief Rader next reported on a February 27 traffic stop conducted by Officer Matt Laya on South Main Street in the Village of Florida for multiple vehicle and traffic violations. During the stop, the officer discovered evidence of several criminal offenses. The driver and two passengers were arrested and charged with possession of fentanyl, criminal possession of stolen property, including approximately fifteen stolen checks and multiple credit cards, criminal possession of forged instruments in the form of driver's licenses, identity theft related to another vehicle, and various vehicle and traffic violations. He stated that notification efforts and coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies were ongoing.

Chief Rader also discussed an investigation that began on January 25 regarding an alleged threat and potential fraud involving Fullerton Insurance Agency. He reported that the investigation had identified more than twenty victims to date, with that number continuing to grow. A search warrant had been executed at the business earlier in the year to obtain documents, electronic devices, and other evidence related to the case. He noted that the Town of Warwick Police Department was working closely with the Orange County District Attorney's Office and that charges were pending. He encouraged anyone who had conducted business with the agency and believed they may be a victim to contact the Detective Unit.

In addition, Chief Rader announced that the Police Academy summer sessions had been scheduled for July 13 through July 24 and August 3 through August 14, and that further information would be posted on the department's social media pages. He also reported that members of the Police Department had been invited to attend the annual dinners of the Town's four fire departments, where they planned to recognize outgoing chiefs from the Greenville, Greenwood Lake, Florida, and Warwick Fire Departments in appreciation of their strong working relationships with law enforcement. He concluded by noting that he would provide the department's 2025 statistics at the following month's meeting.

- 2. Public Hearing on a local law titled "Applying Zoning Designation to Village View Estates Annexed Parcel," which local law would apply the Village of Warwick Residential (R) zoning district designation to the annexed parcel from the Town of Warwick into the Village of Warwick, currently identified as Town Tax Map No. 43-1-4.2. To view the Village View Annexation Map, please go [HERE](#).**

The Village Clerk read the public hearing notice.

**VILLAGE OF WARWICK
NOTICE OF HEARING
INTRODUCTORY LOCAL LAW
APPLYING ZONING DESIGNATION TO VILLAGE VIEW ESTATES
ANNEXED PARCEL**

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that there has been introduced before the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick, New York, on February 17, 2026, a local law titled "Applying Zoning Designation to Village View Estates Annexed Parcel," which local law would apply the Village of Warwick Residential (R) zoning district designation to the annexed parcel from the Town of Warwick into the Village of Warwick, currently identified as Town Tax Map No. 43-1-4.2.

A complete copy of the Introductory Local Law is available for inspection at the Village Clerk's Office.

NOW, THEREFORE, pursuant to Section 20 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick, New York, will hold a public hearing on the aforesaid Local Law on March 16, 2026, at 7:30 P.M. or soon thereafter, at the Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, New York 10990 at which time all persons interested therein shall be heard.

The Village of Warwick will make every effort to assure that the hearing is accessible to persons with disabilities. Anyone requiring special assistance and/or reasonable accommodations should contact the Village Clerk.

Dated: February 18, 2026

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE VILLAGE OF WARWICK
RAINA ABRAMSON, VILLAGE CLERK

Trustee Cheney began by explaining that the matter under consideration involved the proposed annexation of an approximate 0.6-acre parcel currently located in the Town but had previously been reviewed as part of an earlier approval process. He noted that the annexation had been discussed and acted upon several years prior, including the granting of site plan approval at that time. He indicated that the current action represented one of the final steps needed to complete the process. Trustee Cheney asked Village Attorney Isabelle Hayes to clarify whether the remaining actions were largely procedural in nature.

Village Attorney Hayes explained that the substantive approvals had already been completed during the earlier review, and that the Village was now moving forward with the final

administrative steps required to formalize the annexation. These steps included the preparation and filing of the necessary documentation with the Orange County Clerk to complete the annexation process.

Ms. Lugene Maher addressed the Board during the public hearing and stated that she understood the parcel under consideration had previously received approvals and that annexation into the Village was intended to allow the property's zoning designation to align with surrounding Village parcels. She indicated that this aspect of the proposal made sense from a planning standpoint. However, she reminded the Board that a restrictive covenant had been included as part of the original approvals, which she understood to prohibit the annexation of other Town properties owned by the same builder into the Village. She raised this point as a reminder for the Board and asked how that restriction was being addressed in relation to discussions about a potential water tower project, inquiring whether any updates could be shared.

Ms. Maher also expressed concern regarding recent site activity, stating that tree clearing had begun on the property the previous Friday. She questioned what level of oversight the Village's engineering inspector would have during both the tree clearing phase and the subsequent construction process. She reported that, in her view, wetland areas and other restricted portions of the property had been impacted shortly after work began, including the movement of heavy equipment through areas she believed were protected. She indicated that these actions raised concerns about enforcement and oversight, and she asked the Board to clarify what responsibility and accountability the Village would have to ensure that the builder complied with all applicable local and state regulations throughout the duration of the project.

Mayor Newhard responded to Ms. Maher's comments by acknowledging the concerns that had been raised regarding recent site activity. He stated that the events reported on the previous Friday underscored the need for close oversight of the project. He explained that the Village had already spoken with its consulting engineer, who, along with the Building Inspector, would be on site the following morning to monitor conditions and ensure compliance with applicable restrictions.

Mayor Newhard further indicated that he had personally met with the Building Inspector to emphasize the importance of the project and the need to closely observe all conditions and limitations associated with the development. He assured those present that the Village would be vigilant in its oversight and committed to ensuring that the requirements governing the project were properly followed.

Ms. Lugene Maher asked a follow up question seeking clarification on the standard procedures for engineering oversight on a project of this nature. She inquired about the typical frequency with which the Village's consulting engineer would be present on site to monitor compliance during activities such as tree clearing and construction. She expressed interest in understanding how often inspections would occur as part of the normal course of project oversight.

Mayor Newhard responded that engineering oversight on development projects is typically tied to specific milestones, with inspections occurring at key stages rather than on a constant basis. He explained that the frequency of site visits can vary depending on the nature and complexity of the work being performed. He noted that routine or less complex activities may not require frequent on site observation. However, he indicated that, based on the concerns raised and the conditions associated with this particular project, the Village anticipated that closer monitoring would be necessary moving forward.

Ms. Lugene Maher continued her remarks by stating that, in her view, the builder had long been aware of environmental constraints on the property, noting that the parcel had been under the builder's ownership for many years. She referenced the presence of a culvert and expressed her opinion that recent site activity demonstrated a disregard for environmental regulations. She further stated that, after concerns were raised about the movement of heavy equipment through areas she believed to be restricted, additional equipment was still brought onto the site. She emphasized that she felt it was important for this information to be shared with the Board and included as part of the public record.

Mr. Raymond Maher addressed the Board and asked about the process for ensuring that all previously established conditions and restrictions associated with the project were being reviewed and enforced as construction activities began. He noted that the project had been under consideration for many years and that the Planning Board approvals and related documentation were extensive and complex. He questioned whether the Village's consulting engineer reviews the full set of approval documents and conditions prior to the start of building activity to confirm that the developer is aware of and complying with all requirements.

Mayor Newhard responded that the Village's consulting engineer does carefully review project documentation and associated conditions. He clarified that Village Engineer Keith Woodruff serves as the Planning Board engineer and is thoroughly familiar with the approvals and restrictions tied to development projects. The Mayor described Mr. Woodruff as careful, conscientious, and highly observant in his review and oversight responsibilities, noting that while this level of scrutiny can sometimes be frustrating for applicants, it ultimately helps ensure that requirements are properly followed.

Trustee Foster asked whether it would be possible for the Village to establish an internal inspection schedule for the project. She suggested that such a schedule could help ensure consistent oversight, even if it was not formally communicated to the applicant or the builder.

Mayor Newhard responded that he would be meeting with the Village Engineer the following day and would discuss the possibility of establishing an internal inspection schedule for the project. He indicated that he agreed such an approach could be beneficial in helping to ensure appropriate oversight.

Trustee Cheney stated that the Board should be kept informed about ongoing site activity and any new phases of work as they begin. He emphasized the importance of maintaining awareness of developments at the project site in order to support appropriate oversight and responsiveness to emerging issues.

Trustee Foster added that, in addition to any established inspection schedule, the Village should consider conducting unannounced or random site visits. She suggested that this approach could be useful in situations where the developer deviates from the anticipated schedule or accelerates work activities.

Trustee Cheney stated that day to day observation of site activity would likely fall more under the responsibility of the Building Inspector rather than the Village Engineer. He indicated that the engineer could be brought in as needed if questions or issues arise.

The Board thanked Mr. and Ms. Maher for their comments during the public hearing.

There were no further comments.

Close Public Hearing - Village View Estates Annexed Parcel Zoning Designation

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to close the Public Hearing on a local law titled “Applying Zoning Designation to Village View Estates Annexed Parcel,” which local law would apply the Village of Warwick Residential (R) zoning district designation to the annexed parcel from the Town of Warwick into the Village of Warwick, currently identified as Town Tax Map No. 43-1-4.2.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Announcements

1. The Village of Warwick Easter Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at Veteran’s Memorial Park.

Correspondence

1. Town of Warwick Neighbor Notification Letter from Friedler Engineering, PLLC regarding the Town of Warwick Planning Board's review of an application for site plan
2. approval and Special Use Permit for the renovation and use of a Class II Home Occupation of an existing accessory structure located at 73 Kings Highway.

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.

Waive Reading the Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of \$22,160,000 Bonds

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to waive reading the resolution authorizing the issuance of \$22,160,000 bonds of the Village of Warwick, Orange County, NY, to pay the cost of the various improvements to the Village Wastewater Collection and Treatment Facilities, in and for said Village.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 16, 2026.

A RESOLUTION AMENDING PRIOR BOND RESOLUTION DATED JANUARY 22, 2019, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$12,250,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF WARWICK, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FACILITIES, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE, TO INCREASE THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST AND THE AMOUNT OF BONDS AUTHORIZED TO \$22,160,000 (AN INCREASE OF \$9,910,000).

WHEREAS, pursuant to the bond resolution dated January 22, 2019, the Board of Trustees (the "Board") of the Village of Warwick, Orange County, New York (the "Village"), authorized the issuance of \$12,250,000 bonds of said Village to pay the cost of the various improvements to the Village wastewater collection and treatment facilities, including the partial reconstruction, redesign and expansion of the existing wastewater treatment plant and new equipment therefor, and new mechanical screen equipment at the Orchard Street pump station, and including incidental expenses in connection therewith, at an estimated cost of \$12,250,000.

WHEREAS, the Village now desires to increase the estimated cost and the amount of bonds authorized of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes from \$12,250,000 to \$22,160,000, an increase of \$9,910,00, NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick, Orange County, New York, as follows:

Section A. The bond resolution of the Village duly adopted by the Board of Trustees on January 22, 2019, entitled:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$12,250,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF WARWICK, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FACILITIES, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

is hereby amended to read as follows:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$22,160,000 BONDS OF THE VILLAGE OF WARWICK, ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK, TO PAY THE COST OF THE VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS TO THE VILLAGE WASTEWATER COLLECTION AND TREATMENT FACILITIES, IN AND FOR SAID VILLAGE.

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital purposes hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (the "Act") to the extent required, have been performed and said capital purposes have been determined by the Village Board to have no significant impact on the environment within the meaning of the Act;

WHEREAS, it is now desired to authorize the financing of such capital purposes;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick, Orange County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. For the class of objects or purposes of paying the cost of the various improvements to the Village wastewater collection and treatment facilities, which may include, but are not limited to, the partial reconstruction, redesign and expansion of the existing wastewater treatment plant and new equipment therefor, and including incidental expenses in connection therewith, there are hereby authorized to be issued \$22,160,000 bonds of said Village pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 2. The estimated maximum cost of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is hereby determined to be \$22,160,000, and the plan for the financing thereof is by the issuance of \$22,160,000 bonds of said Village authorized to be issued pursuant to this bond resolution, provided, however, that the amount of bonds

ultimately to be issued shall be reduced by any Federal or State grant moneys received and applied to pay part of the cost of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes.

Section 3. It is hereby determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid class of objects or purposes is thirty years, pursuant to subdivision four of paragraph a of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law. It is hereby further determined that the maximum maturity of the bonds authorized will exceed five years.

Section 4. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Village Treasurer, the chief fiscal officer. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Village Treasurer, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 5. The faith and credit of said Village of Warwick, Orange County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such bonds becoming due and payable in such year. To the extent not paid from sewer rents or charges, or other available sources, there shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property in said Village a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 6. Such bonds shall be in fully registered form. All obligations issued hereunder shall be signed in the name of the Village of Warwick, Orange County, New York, by the manual or facsimile signature of the Village Treasurer and a facsimile of its corporate seal shall be imprinted or impressed thereon and may be attested by the manual or facsimile signature of the Village Clerk.

Section 7. The powers and duties of advertising such bonds for sale, conducting the sale and awarding the bonds, are hereby delegated to the Village Treasurer, who shall advertise such bonds for sale, conduct the sale, and award the bonds in such manner as he or she shall deem best for the interests of said Village; including, but not limited to, the power to sell said bonds to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, provided, however, that in the exercise of these delegated powers, he or she shall comply fully with the provisions of the Local Finance Law and any order or rule of the State Comptroller applicable to the sale of municipal bonds. The receipt of the Village Treasurer shall be a full acquittance to the purchaser of such bonds, who shall not be obliged to see to the application of the purchase money.

Section 8. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds, including determining whether to issue such bonds having substantially level or declining annual debt service and all matters related thereto, prescribing whether manual or facsimile signatures shall appear on said bonds, prescribing the method for the recording of ownership of said bonds, appointing the fiscal agent or agents for said bonds, providing for the printing and delivery of said bonds (and if said bonds are to be executed in the name of the Village by the facsimile signature of the Village Treasurer, providing for the manual countersignature of a fiscal agent or of a

designated official of the Village), the date, denominations, maturities and interest payment dates, place or places of payment, and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the Village Treasurer. It is hereby determined that it is to the financial advantage of the Village not to impose and collect from registered owners of such bonds any charges for mailing, shipping and insuring bonds transferred or exchanged by the fiscal agent, and, accordingly, pursuant to paragraph c of Section 70.00 of the Local Finance Law, no such charges shall be so collected by the fiscal agent. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Village Treasurer shall determine.

Section 9. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150 - 2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 10. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- (1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or
- (2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

(3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 11. Upon this resolution taking effect, the same shall be published in summary in the official newspaper of the Village, together with a notice of the Village Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 12. This resolution is adopted subject to permissive referendum in accordance with Section 36.00 of the Local Finance Law and Article 9 of the Village Law.

Section B. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

(1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said Village is not authorized to expend money, or

(2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with,

and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

(3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section C. Upon this resolution taking effect, the same shall be published in summary in *The Warwick Advertiser*, the official newspaper, together with a notice of the Village Clerk in substantially the form provided in Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section D. This resolution is adopted subject to permissive referendum in accordance with Section 36.00 of the Local Finance Law.

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

The vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

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

Discussion

Trustee Cheney provided an explanation regarding the bond resolution amending the prior authorization for financing improvements to the Village's wastewater collection and treatment facilities. He stated that the project had originated approximately eight years earlier, around 2017, when the Village applied to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation for grant funding and was awarded slightly more than \$3 million.

He explained that, in the years since the initial planning and funding authorization, project costs had increased significantly due to factors such as inflation, tariffs, and impacts associated with the COVID period. Trustee Cheney noted that earlier cost projections for the construction components of the project had been estimated at approximately \$15 million. However, when bids were ultimately received, they came in at roughly \$18.5 million, which he characterized as substantially higher than the engineer's estimates.

Trustee Cheney further stated that, in anticipation of financing needs, the Village had previously pierced the tax cap and began setting aside funds annually to help offset future debt service costs. He indicated that the Village had been reserving just under \$500,000 per year, consistent with projections for the anticipated principal and interest payments associated with long term bonding. He estimated that by the time construction was

completed and permanent financing was secured, the Village would have accumulated approximately \$6 million to reduce the amount that would need to be bonded.

He explained that the remaining balance would be financed through long term bonds, and that, based on the projected annual debt service level, the repayment period was expected to be approximately 24 years. Trustee Cheney noted that this timeframe was consistent with the useful life of the infrastructure being constructed, and that bond terms for similar facilities often extend up to 30 years. He added that the Village was continuing to actively pursue additional funding opportunities that could further reduce the overall financial burden of the project.

Mayor Newhard added that the Village would be returning to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation to request a re examination of the project in the hope that additional State funding might be available. He noted that the Village had also reached out to its State representatives and was pursuing potential federal funding opportunities. This included applications for Community Project Funding through the office of Congressman Pat Ryan, as well as requests being prepared for submission to the offices of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Senator Charles Schumer. The Mayor stated that the Village intended to continue aggressively seeking grant funding in order to reduce the overall borrowing amount and potentially shorten the repayment period for the project.

Trustee Cheney added that the Village expected to be eligible for long term financing through the EFC (Environmental Facilities Corporation), including options that could involve very low interest or potentially no interest borrowing.

Mayor Newhard noted that the availability of low or no interest financing through the Environmental Facilities Corporation had not been anticipated when the project was first initiated. He stated that the Village also intended to conduct public outreach to review and explain the project as it progressed, particularly in light of the increased costs compared to earlier projections. The Mayor emphasized that, although the Village had previously pierced the tax cap to set aside funds for the project, that proactive step had positioned the Village to move forward with construction without the need for additional tax increases as the project advanced.

Seasonal Hire – Public Works Laborer / Brush Pile Attendant – Thomas DeLuca

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to hire Thomas DeLuca to the position of Seasonal Department of Public Works Laborer to perform duties of Brush Pile Attendant at Veterans Memorial Park for the period of April – November

2026 during designated brush pile operation dates and times. Start date April 4, 2026, end date November 29, 2026. Per the recommendation of the DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Payment #16 – TAM Enterprises, Inc. – Well #3 Water Treatment Plant Project

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to approve payment #16 in the amount of \$48,462.54 to TAM Enterprises, Inc. for the Well #3 Treatment Plant Project as per the recommendation of Pitingaro & Doetsch Consulting Engineers, P.C. Funds are appropriated in budget code H.8330.2000.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Resolution Amending Schedule of Fees to Change Building Fees

WHEREAS, Village of Warwick Code §64-1 provides that a comprehensive schedule of fees, including Building Department fees, be approved by the Village Board; and

WHEREAS, in order to amend the Village's Schedule of Fees to change the Building Department fees it is necessary for the Village Board to adopt a resolution; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Village's Schedule of Fees is hereby amended as follows:

In the Schedule of Fees, under heading “Building Department” the following fees shall be amended:

Category	Sub-Category	Type of Fee	Amount
Building Department	Building Permit	Exterior; Solar Panels without Energy Storage, Shed, Fence, Generator, and ABOVE Ground Pool	\$150.00
Building Department	Building Permit	Solar Panels with Energy Storage; New Deck without Roof Structure	\$200.00

In the Schedule of Fees, under heading “Building Department” the following fees shall be added:

Category	Sub-Category	Type of Fee	Amount
Building Department	Building Permit	Solar Panels; Energy Storage; Solar Panels with Energy Storage	\$500.00

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

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Aye

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Absent

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

Discussion

Trustee Foster asked whether the proposed adjustment was related to the ongoing review of workload impacts associated with various applications and permitting activities.

Trustee Cheney explained that the proposed change to the building fee schedule was primarily prompted by the need to retain an outside consultant to assist with the review of applications related to solar panels and smaller scale or residential energy storage systems. He stated that the consultant's review fee was approximately \$250 per application, and that the increase in the Village's fee to \$500 was intended to account for that additional cost.

2026-27 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund Grant Application

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to submit a 2026-2027 Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant application to support a Document Conversion and Access Project for Building Department records and authorize the Mayor to sign the same.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Mayor Newhard expressed his appreciation to Village Clerk Raina Abramson as well as Deputy Clerk Jennifer Mante for their work on the project associated with the motion. He noted that although the motion itself appeared minor, it related to a much larger and critical project for the Village. He thanked both staff members for their dedication and for the late hours spent working to move the project forward.

Trustee Foster thanked staff for their work on the records conversion project. She noted that digitizing records is important for transparency and accessibility, explaining that it can be difficult for residents to understand or access information when records are not

available electronically. She expressed appreciation for the effort, stating that having electronic records makes it easier to reference information moving forward.

Village Clerk Abramson reported that the departments were expected to begin using the Laserfiche system within approximately one month. She stated that training was scheduled for the following month and that, in the meantime, staff were working on setting up the structure for the records that had recently been returned from the Clerk and Treasurer's offices.

Advertise – Part-Time Clerks

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to advertise for two (2) part-time Clerks to perform the required 100% verification of records digitized under the current 2025–2026 NYS Archives Local Government Records Management Improvement Fund (LGRMIF) grant for the Village Clerk and Treasurer's offices. The positions will be up to 20 hours per week for a period not to exceed 17 weeks at \$17.50 per hour, funded through the \$73,820 LGRMIF grant award.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request - Warwick LGBTQ+ Day of Acceptance Parade

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Valley Community Center to hold the Warwick LGBTQ+ Day of Acceptance Event on Sunday, June 14, 2026. The parade will step off at 11:00 a.m., with lineup beginning at the Community Center. The parade route will be as follows: Hamilton Avenue to Orchard Street, left onto Oakland Avenue/Main Street, proceed up Main Street, right on South Street, left on High Street, right onto Forester, arriving at Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion at approximately 11:45 a.m. for the Warwick Pride Celebration event. Completed facility use permit and security deposit have been received. Approval is contingent upon receipt of proof of insurance and authorization from the New York State Department of Transportation. The Town of Warwick Police Department has been informed of the event and will assist with the parade route.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Trustee Collura reported that the annual Pride event and parade, which is held on the second Sunday of June, will coincide with Flag Day this year. She stated that she had communicated with the Commander of the American Legion, which holds its annual flag burning ceremony on that day, and that coordination had taken place between the Legion and parade organizers to adjust timing. She noted that this would allow the veterans' ceremony to proceed without interruption from the parade.

Facility Use Request – Veterans Memorial Park, Warwick Pride Celebration - AMENDED

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Valley Community Center to use Veterans Memorial Park for a Warwick Pride Celebration event on Sunday, June 14, 2026. Event set up to begin at 6:00 a.m., with the event taking place between 11:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. Clean-up to be completed by 6:00 p.m. Request includes use of the Veterans Memorial Park Pavilion, restrooms, the addition of portable toilets, electricity, sound systems, tents, portable tables and chairs, temporary decorations, and use of the McFarland Drive parking lot. In addition, approximately 6 (six) food trucks, 6 (six) craft vendors, and 25 (twenty-five) support organizations to be set up in Memorial Park along the roadway and lawn area nearest the pavilion. Request also includes for the DPW to provide 4 (four) extra garbage and recycling cans, at least 60 (sixty) chairs, and 8 (eight) folding tables, parking cones, 1 (one) 12-foot ladder, and 4 (four) pieces of 4' x 8' staging to be assembled at the pavilion by Friday, June 12, 2026 and for the DPW to mow the lawn at the Community Center the week of June 8th, prior to the event. Completed facility use permit and security deposit have been received. Approval pending proof of insurance. Proof of insurance must be received from each vendor prior to the event.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Trustee Collura noted that the DPW (Department of Public Works) has a total of sixty chairs available. As a result, the motion, which originally requested eighty chairs, was amended to reflect the accurate number.

Facility Use – Railroad Green, Community Health Fair

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to the Union African Methodist Episcopal Church to use Railroad Green on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with a rain date of Saturday, June 13, 2026, for a Community Health Fair. The request includes access to electricity, a sound system with a DJ, placement of one portable toilet, and the setup of tents for the duration of the event. A completed facility use permit, proof of insurance, and the 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 Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Road Closure - Railroad Avenue, Community Health Fair

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to close Railroad Avenue on Saturday, June 6, 2026, with a rain date of Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 6:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for the benefit of the Union A.M.E. Church Community Health Fair.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use – Stanley Deming, Second-Grade Picnic

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Park Avenue Elementary to hold a second-grade class picnic in Stanley-Deming Park on Tuesday, June 2, 2026, between 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. with a rain date of Thursday, June 4, 2026. Request includes use of restrooms. Completed park permit and proof of insurance have been received.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use – Stanley Deming, You are Here! Warwick Arts Fest

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Wickham Works to hold *You are Here! Warwick Arts Fest, Celebrate 250* at Stanley Deming Park on Saturday, September 5, 2026, from 2:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with a rain date of Sunday, September 6, 2026, with setup to begin at 7:00 a.m. and breakdown to be completed by 9:00 p.m. Request includes use of restrooms, installation of vendor-owned pop up tents, professional installation of 3 (three) 20' x 30' tents and a stage to be installed on the lawn adjacent to the Kosuga bandshell and pavilion, use of sound systems, the pavilion where a DJ will be set up, the bandshell, and the basketball courts where up to 5 (five) food trucks will be located. Request also includes DPW to provide 6 (six) large garbage bins, 4 (four) recycling bins, up to 6 (six) metal barricades and plastic fencing, traffic cones, up to 10 (ten) Village-owned folding tables, up to 60 (sixty) Village-owned folding chairs, access to the park for tent installation on Friday, September 4, 2026, and Monday, September 7, 2026, for breakdown. Town of Warwick Police, Fire, and EMS will be notified prior to the event. DPW has approved the event parking plan, weather permitting. Completed park permit, proof of insurance, and security deposit have been received. Pending permission from Park Avenue Elementary to use the school parking lot. Pending proper insurance requirements from any participating vendors.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use – Chase Parking Lot, Operation Clean Sweep

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to grant permission to The Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce to hold Operation Clean Sweep on Saturday, April 25, 20256, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with setup to take place at 8:00 a.m. and breakdown to be completed by 2:00 p.m. Request includes use of the far end of the Chase Bank Parking Lot for a shredding event and the installation of pop-up tents for other collection stations near the caboose. The event is in coordination with the Lions Club and Girl Scouts. Completed facility use permit and security deposit have been received. Approval pending updated proof of insurance.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use – Stanley Deming, Too Good to Toss

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to grant permission to Wickham Works to use the east side of Stanley Deming Park for the Too Good to Toss event from Friday, June 5, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. through Monday, June 8, 2026, at 12:00 p.m. Donation drop off will take place on Saturday, June 6, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. with a free shopping event to occur on Sunday, June 7, 2026, between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Set up to begin on Friday, June 5, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. with cleanup to be completed on Monday, June 8, 2026, by 12:00 p.m. The request includes use of the basketball court and the lawn area around the handball court, use of restrooms and water fountains for the entirety of the event, and access to the water at the basketball courts for filling the tent weights. Additional requests include 18 (eighteen) parking spaces near the entrance of the basketball court to be reserved for drop-off and pick-up only. In coordination with DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser, Village of Warwick DPW is requested to: lock the back gate to the basketball court next to the tool shed, provide a minimum of 15 (fifteen) orange parking cones, place 10 (ten) to 12 (twelve) garbage cans/recycling bins in the basketball court, designate parking in the grass behind the basketball courts and designate additional temporary accessible parking spaces on Parkway, close to the entrances of Stanley Deming Park, and pickup of leftover items and trash on Monday, June 8, 2026. The Warwick Police, Fire, and EMS Departments have been notified of the event. The event details and traffic plan have been approved by DPW Supervisor, Mike Moser. The Village of Warwick will contribute up to half of the total event cost, with a maximum payment of approximately \$2,100, to cover the rental, delivery, set up, and pickup of tents, tables, and chairs. Funds to be appropriated in FY2026-27 Budget Code A7550.4950. 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 Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use – Stanley Deming, Back-to-School Bash

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried to grant permission to Warwick Assembly to use the pavilion, gazebo, and grass area in between, in Stanley Deming Park on Saturday, July 25, 2026, from 12:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for a Back-to-School Bash event. Set-up to begin at 10:00 a.m. and breakdown to be completed by 4:00 p.m. Request includes the use of electricity, speakers for music, restrooms, and up to (2) two truck vendors; an ice-cream truck and/or Bubble Bus parked near the entrance of the park. Completed park permit, security deposit, and proof of insurance have been received. Approval pending proof of insurance from vendors.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Schedule a Public Hearing - Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to schedule a public hearing on the Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2026-2027 on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

VILLAGE OF WARWICK
RESOLUTION OF ADOPTION
LOCAL LAW NO. 2 OF 2026
APPLYING ZONING DESIGNATION TO
VILLAGE VIEW ESTATES ANNEXED PARCEL

WHEREAS, an introductory Local Law, entitled “Applying Zoning Designation to Village View Estates Annexed Parcel” was introduced before the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick on February 17, 2026, and upon notice duly published and posted, a public hearing was held on March 16, 2026, before the Village Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, public discussion was heard at such hearing concerning the merits and environmental significance of said introductory local law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the adoption of the Local Law titled “Applying Zoning Designation to Village View Estates Annexed Parcel” is a SEQR Unlisted

action and is determined not to have a significant adverse effect on the environment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Local Law entitled “Applying Zoning Designation to Village View Estates Annexed Parcel” of the Village of Warwick be and hereby is adopted as Local Law # 2 of 2026 of the Village of Warwick on March 16, 2026.

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

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Aye

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Absent

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

Return of Planning Board Escrow Balance – 25 Park Avenue

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to return the Planning Board escrow balance of \$596.75 to Tim and Amy Smith for site plan approval at 25 Park Avenue. All invoices have been paid as per emails from the Village Engineer and Planning Board Attorney.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Return of Zoning Board Escrow Balance – 25 Park Avenue

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Collura, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to return the Zoning Board of Appeals escrow balance of \$645.57 to Tim and Amy Smith for a variance located at 25 Park Avenue. All invoices have been paid as per emails from the Village Engineer and Zoning Board of Appeals Attorney.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Trustee Cheney’s Report: Trustee Cheney reported that, although the region remains under a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation drought watch advisory, the Village’s reservoirs have fully recovered and are currently full and overflowing due to recent precipitation and snowmelt. As a result, he stated that the Village would be discontinuing the voluntary water restrictions that had previously been in place. He added that residents are still encouraged to conserve water and noted that additional information on conservation efforts is available on the Village’s website. He remarked that while reduced usage may impact revenue, maintaining the water supply remains the priority.

Trustee Cheney also provided an update on upcoming NY DOT (New York State Department of Transportation) highway improvement projects affecting the Village and surrounding areas. He explained that work would be ongoing throughout the spring and summer months, with some projects extending into late summer. He stated that a box culvert replacement on Route 17A near the entrance to Homestead Village Drive would result in one way traffic controlled by a temporary signal, likely causing traffic delays. He also noted a culvert project on Route 94 near Barrett Road, which is expected to be a relatively quick operation.

He further reported that work was underway at the traffic circle at the intersection of Route 94 and County Route 1A, including relocation of overhead utilities, with full construction to follow. He indicated that a detour would likely be implemented during that phase, and that additional details would be shared as they become available. Trustee Cheney noted that the Mayor had been in contact with the DOT project manager to address concerns and advocate for traffic patterns that would best serve the public.

In addition, he stated that sidewalk improvements within the Village were largely complete, with ongoing work focused on the installation of ADA compliant ramps. While this work would have minimal impact on vehicular traffic, he noted that pedestrian access may be affected in certain areas.

Finally, Trustee Cheney reported that a culvert replacement project on Route 17A near South Street, in the area of Larry's Deli, is scheduled to begin in June and will require a full road closure with a detour. He stated that the project is anticipated to be completed by the end of August.

Trustee Foster asked about the status of the sidewalks between Oakland Avenue and South Street.

Trustee Cheney responded that the sidewalk work between Oakland Avenue and South Street would be completed as part of the ongoing project. He then provided an additional update regarding work at the intersection of Colonial Avenue, Route 17A, and Route 94. He explained that the project would include relocation of overhead utilities and the decommissioning of the existing pump station. He noted that the Village was nearing readiness to proceed with that work following construction of the new pump station on Grant Street.

Trustee Cheney stated that this phase of the project was expected to take approximately two months and would involve periodic disruptions to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. He added that the completed project would include improved pedestrian accommodations at the intersection.

Trustee Foster thanked Trustee Cheney for their coordination efforts related to the project.

Trustee Foster's Report: Trustee Foster provided an update on recent public meetings that were held over the past several weeks across the three villages. She stated that the meetings were well attended and generated a significant amount of feedback from the public. She noted that she attended all three sessions.

Trustee Foster also reported that the Village has been sharing update videos to help keep residents informed about the project. She stated that these updates are being distributed through social media platforms and encouraged residents to engage with and share the information. She explained that the intent of these efforts is to increase public awareness of the project, including key issues, factual information, and feedback received from the community.

Trustee Collura's Report: Trustee Collura reported that the Village newsletter had been released and was available at Village Hall. She also stated that the summer concert schedule was currently being finalized and noted that a new policy had been implemented this year to avoid booking repeat performers in consecutive years. She explained that this approach is intended to diversify the lineup, attract different audiences, and showcase a broader range of artists, adding that the schedule was shaping up well.

In her role as youth liaison, Trustee Collura reported that she attended the Warwick Valley Prevention Coalition Youth Summit, where middle and high school students were invited to share feedback on issues affecting them. She stated that the goal of the initiative is to use that feedback to help guide future programming. She also noted that she attended a “Youth Unite” event, which was organized by a student and focused on bringing people together through shared cultural experiences, including food and dance.

Trustee Collura further announced that registration for the summer recreation program would open on May 9 at 9:00 a.m. She also shared information about a theater camp being offered at Mountain Lake by the Ghostlight Theatre Company, noting that the program is open to participants ages 9 through 17, that space was still available, and that more information could be found at <https://ghostlighttheatercamp/>

Trustee McKnight’s Report: Absent.

Mayor Newhard’s Report: Mayor Newhard addressed questions that had been raised regarding the difference between facility use permits for events and the lack of a permitting requirement for political rallies and protests. He explained that, based on guidance from legal counsel, activities protected under the First Amendment are generally not subject to the same permitting and insurance requirements as other types of organized events.

He stated that he had consulted with legal counsel connected to the New York Conference of Mayors, who provided clarification that individuals engaging in protected First Amendment activity cannot be required to obtain permits or provide insurance as a condition of exercising those rights. He noted that traditional public forums, such as sidewalks, parks, the Village Green, and the steps of Village Hall, are afforded special constitutional protections, and that requiring permits for protests in these areas could be considered a prior restraint.

Mayor Newhard explained that, while permits may not be required, the Village may impose reasonable time, place, and manner restrictions in order to address public safety and infrastructure concerns. He provided examples such as limiting the use of amplified sound during certain hours, restricting access to sensitive or recently restored areas, and managing crowd sizes in specific locations.

He also noted that, in many cases, events organized through social media may not have clearly identifiable organizers, which can make coordination more challenging. He stated that, when possible, the Village seeks to work with organizers to address safety concerns and logistical considerations.

In that regard, Mayor Newhard reported that he and Chief Rader had been in communication with representatives of the Hudson Valley chapter of Indivisible regarding an upcoming “No

Kings” rally. He stated that the organizers had initially proposed holding the event in the afternoon at Railroad Green, but, following discussions with Village officials, agreed to move the event to an earlier time, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Mayor Newhard further stated that the Village had recommended relocating the event to Memorial Park due to public safety considerations, but that the organizers declined that request. He noted that the Village remained concerned about the potential size of the gathering and that the Police Department was coordinating with other agencies and developing an operational plan to ensure adequate staffing and oversight for the event.

Chief Rader noted that the plan would be similar to the one implemented for a prior event in October, with adjustments as needed based on the circumstances of the upcoming gathering.

Mayor Newhard stated that he understood the frustration expressed by some residents regarding the differing requirements between permitted events and political rallies. He noted that applicants for organized events are typically required to meet various requirements, while activities protected under the First Amendment are subject to different standards. He emphasized that political rallies are distinct from other types of events permitted by the Village and acknowledged why questions had been raised. He then closed the discussion and moved on to public comment.

Public Comment – *Non-Agenda Items*

Ms. Stephanie Kowalsky addressed the Board and stated that she had prepared her remarks in advance and would try to keep them brief. She referenced the First Amendment and stated that it provides the right to peacefully assemble and petition the government, and she expressed her view that there is confusion surrounding that right.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that there are individuals she described as “agitators” participating in local gatherings, and alleged that some are not residents. She referenced involvement by individuals associated with the Warwick Democratic Party and a national organization, Indivisible. She stated that participants stand along Main Street, block pedestrian movement, shout, and display signs that she believes lack a clear grievance. She further alleged that participants encourage honking, use offensive gestures, and act in a manner she does not consider peaceful.

Ms. Kowalsky referenced a prior “Hands Off” rally in April 2025, stating that it was documented and discussed at a Village Board meeting in May 2025, where attendance was reported to exceed 600 people. She stated that she attended the event, spoke with participants, and observed out of state license plates. She recounted interactions with individuals she identified as not being from the area and described statements made to her during those interactions. She questioned whether the event met the standard of peaceful assembly and what specific grievance was being addressed.

She further stated that local businesses on Railroad Avenue were disrupted during that event and described traffic and pedestrian safety concerns, including individuals standing in roadways and vehicles searching for parking. She also referenced a “No Kings” event occurring on the same day as a Firemen’s parade, stating that the parade was subject to permits and insurance requirements while the rally was not. She described traffic congestion, road closures, and access issues involving fire department vehicles.

Ms. Kowalsky recounted additional incidents she stated occurred that day, including a verbal altercation inside a business, difficulty accessing police assistance, and a situation involving an elderly individual who fell and required medical attention. She stated that emergency responders had difficulty accessing the scene due to traffic conditions.

Ms. Kowalsky also referenced a social media group, stating that the Mayor had been mentioned frequently in posts and described as an ally. She identified individuals she stated were associated with the group and the Warwick Democratic Party. She further referenced a prior Board discussion regarding permits and police notification, and stated her view that police should be notified of events of this scale. She suggested that information related to such events could be found on social media.

Trustee Foster asked Ms. Kowalsky to clarify what specific action she was requesting from the Board.

Ms. Stephanie Kowalsky continued her remarks and stated that she would clarify her request to the Board. She asserted that ongoing gatherings in the Village are unsafe and escalating, and she questioned whether they should be considered protected First Amendment activity. She stated that organizers had declined a request to relocate the event to a different area and described statements she attributed to organizers regarding their intent to disrupt activity, remain visible, and utilize multiple locations.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that, in her view, the gatherings are not peaceful and do not present a specific grievance. She referenced statements she attributed to an individual she identified as an organizer and questioned the purpose of the gatherings. She also asserted that a small percentage of participants are local residents.

She expressed concern that the situation places a burden on the Police Department and stated that officers are limited in their response. She questioned the legal guidance provided to the Village, referencing local and State requirements related to permits, insurance, and events that impact traffic. She stated her belief that the gatherings have moved beyond political expression and may involve conduct that could be considered unlawful.

Ms. Kowalsky further referenced social media activity, including statements she described as threats or defamatory, and identified individuals she alleged were associated with such activity. She also referenced a prior allegation made about her on social media.

Trustee Foster stated that she thought Ms. Kowalsky needed to stop.

Ms. Kowalsky responded that she did not need to stop and that she was “getting there, sweetie.”

Trustee Foster told Ms. Kowalsky not to call her “sweetie.”

Ms. Kowalsky responded that she only had a few more sentences to finish and again referred to Trustee Foster as “sweetie.”

Ms. Kowalsky continued her remarks and referenced a prior allegation she stated had been made against her on social media, which she described as a hate crime. She stated that the matter had been investigated and that her name was not identified, but that the allegation continued to be repeated publicly. She further stated that she believed these statements were intended to harm her reputation and referenced additional incidents involving her personal property, including damage to her vehicle and notes left on it. She stated that she had been informed that these matters could not be investigated due to lack of access to Village cameras.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that, in her view, the Village’s position regarding First Amendment protections was allowing behavior to continue and escalate. She expressed concern that such gatherings could become more aggressive and questioned who would be held responsible if someone were injured at an event where organizers were not formally identified. She referenced an individual, Don Kilcoyne, she stated had publicly identified himself as an organizer and questioned the Village’s preparedness for a large gathering, including crowd size, infrastructure capacity at Railroad Green, and whether local businesses had been consulted. She concluded by stating her belief that the situation should not be characterized as protected First Amendment activity.

Trustee Foster stated that she did not believe that the Mayor was characterizing the situation in that way and that consulting with an attorney was an effort to understand the appropriate course of action.

Ms. Kowalsky asked what the goal was and how long the situation would be allowed to continue.

Mayor Newhard stated that the purpose of communicating with organizers was to understand what activities were being planned. He noted that when the Village requested that the event be moved to the park, the situation began to fragment, and there was discussion of potentially having multiple protests or rallies.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that the Village had allowed the situation to continue and referred to the Village as “ground zero.”

Mayor Newhard stated that the Village does allow First Amendment rights.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that, in her view, the situation had moved beyond protected First Amendment activity and alleged that crimes were being committed. She referenced claims of incitement and violence and stated that she had reported concerns to the Sheriff’s Department. She asserted that certain statements and actions she attributed to individuals involved were not protected speech and referenced social media activity as part of her concerns.

Ms. Kowalsky further stated that social media content, including posts and videos, should be considered relevant, and she referenced statements she described as defamatory and threatening. She also expressed concern about the potential impact of large numbers of participants traveling from outside the area and questioned the tone and nature of the anticipated gathering, stating her view that it would not be peaceful or based on a specific grievance.

Mayor Newhard stated that he did not expect the gatherings to be without conflict but reiterated that individuals have the right to congregate. He stated that he did not understand what specific crimes were being committed by gathering and possibly yelling. He added that the Village was working to manage the situation, including limiting the duration of the event to a shorter time frame of 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that, in her view, organizers had indicated they would not comply with the agreed upon timeframe. She questioned what actions would be taken after 11:30 a.m. and asked whether enforcement would be possible given the anticipated size of the crowd.

Trustee Foster stated that the Village should consider the potential scale of the gathering and develop a safety plan in coordination with the Police Department, and Mayor Newhard noted that such a plan was already in place. She noted that the matter had been identified as involving First Amendment considerations and stated that the Village was not in a position to prevent people from congregating. She added that, while the Village has advance notice in this instance, that is not always the case, and that individuals are permitted to gather in public spaces to protest.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that protests are intended to address grievances and should remain peaceful, but asserted that, in her view, participants had indicated they did not intend to remain peaceful. She referenced legal guidance discussed earlier and stated that the Village has the ability to impose restrictions, citing local and State code provisions related to crowd size and traffic impacts.

Ms. Kowalsky further stated that the Village's actions were contributing to how organizers characterized Village leadership and expressed concern about the impact on residents who, she stated, feel unable to use public spaces or express themselves without concern. She reiterated her belief that the situation had moved beyond protected First Amendment activity and suggested that the Village could take additional action, including potential changes to local code. She also referenced communications she stated had been sent to Village officials and law enforcement.

Mayor Newhard stated that the Village Board had discussed potential changes to Village Code but noted that making such changes prior to the upcoming event would be difficult.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that, in her view, changes to Village Code should be considered moving forward, even if not implemented prior to the upcoming event. She questioned the purpose of the weekly gatherings and stated that she did not believe they conveyed a clear message. She expressed concern about the anticipated size of the event and asked about the potential cost of managing a crowd of that scale, including whether those costs would be borne by the Town or the Village. She also questioned whether Railroad Green has the capacity to accommodate the number of attendees being anticipated.

Trustee Foster stated that the Village was not hosting the event and described that characterization as a misstatement. She added that the Board would take the comments into consideration, investigate any reported threats of violence, and continue planning for public safety in connection with the event.

Ms. Kowalsky stated that the Village should consider measures to prevent similar situations in the future and expressed concern about the potential for larger crowds in subsequent years. She stated that, in her view, the Village and Railroad Green cannot accommodate large gatherings of this scale and raised concerns regarding parking enforcement and emergency access. She referenced prior incidents and questioned how emergency services would respond under such conditions. She concluded her remarks, and the Board thanked her for her 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 Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

In Executive Session: Mayor, Michael Newhard and Trustees Barry Cheney, Carly Foster, and Mary Collura.

Exit Closed Session and Adjourn Regular Meeting

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee Foster and carried to exit Executive Session, resume the regular Village Board meeting, and adjourn the regular meeting 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 Absent Mayor Newhard Aye

Jennifer Mante, Deputy Village Clerk