

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
VILLAGE OF WARWICK
NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

10,925

The Regular Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Warwick was held on Monday, November 3, 2025, at 7:30 p.m. in Village Hall, 77 Main Street, Warwick, NY. Present was: Mayor, Michael J. Newhard. Trustees: Barry Cheney, Carly Foster, Thomas McKnight, and Mary Collura. Also, present was Deputy Village Clerk, Jennifer Mante. Others present, Safe Streets 4 All Project Coordinator, Aliza Schiff, Bill and Judy Lindberg, Jason Makuch, Ethan Pope. Stephen Wanczowski, and Donna Kaminski.

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

Mayor Newhard began by introducing the evening's agenda item regarding the formal gift of the new skate park from the Warwick Skatepark Initiative to the Village of Warwick. He expressed enthusiasm and gratitude for the remarkable work that went into creating the park. However, he shared that only a week after the park's opening, graffiti had appeared on the facility, which was deeply disheartening for everyone involved in its development. He stated that the police were conducting an investigation into the incident.

The Mayor emphasized that the skate park is "the People's Park," belonging to the entire community rather than any individual or group, and that all residents share the responsibility of maintaining it with pride and integrity. He stressed the importance of protecting the park as a valued recreational asset, not allowing it to be damaged or defaced "on a whim and a spray can." Mayor Newhard noted that while the Village fully supports creative expression and public art—an example of which would be discussed later in the meeting—such creativity must occur in appropriate places, not at the expense of community property. He reiterated that the Board would not tolerate vandalism and would continue to work closely with the police when such issues arise. To help prevent future incidents, he stated that security cameras would be operating full-time at the park and that improved lighting would also be installed to deter damage.

Trustee Foster commented that the skate park itself was a work of art, noting the care and craftsmanship that went into its creation. She pointed out the many small design details, including the integration of a boulder into the structure, as examples of the thoughtfulness behind the project. Trustee Foster suggested that part of the community messaging should emphasize that, while the park serves as an athletic facility, it is also a creative work—and just as people would not deface other forms of art, the same respect should be shown to the skate park.

Mayor Newhard agreed with Trustee Foster's remarks, stating that it was a very good message and thanking her for the comment.

Acceptance of Minutes

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee Collura and carried for the

Acceptance of Minutes: October 20, 2025.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Cheney, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried for the Authorization to Pay all Approved and Audited Claims in the amount of \$356,548.42.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Announcements

1. The Village of Warwick Department of Public Works has been selected by the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce to receive the MVP Award, which will be presented at the Chamber's 86th Annual Gala on November 20, 2025.

Mayor Newhard expressed his gratitude to the Chamber for choosing to honor the DPW, stating that the recognition was well deserved. He praised the men and women of the department for their outstanding work throughout the year, noting their ability to adapt to changing needs and overcome challenges while consistently delivering excellent results. He said he was proud of their efforts and pleased that their dedication was being acknowledged publicly.

Correspondence

1. Letter from Village of Warwick Planning Board Chairman, Jesse Gallo, regarding the proposed Blain Town Square project under review by the Town of Warwick.

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.

VILLAGE OF WARWICK BOARD OF TRUSTEES
RESOLUTION ACCEPTING OFFER OF DEDICATION OF
SKATEPARK IN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

WHEREAS: By resolution, dated December 16, 2024, the Board of Trustees previously accepted an offer by the Warwick Skatepark Initiative to dedicate the labor and materials necessary for construction of a skatepark at a designated location in Veterans Memorial Park, which acceptance was subject to a determination by the Village that the work had been properly performed and the materials and equipment had been installed in accordance with the plans. The designer of the plans, Artisan Skateparks, has now submitted a letter, dated October 30, 2025, affirming that all contractors and suppliers have been fully paid, there are no claims, liens or encumbrances related to the project and all contractual obligations have been satisfied.

THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees, in reliance on the Artisan Skateparks letters, accepts dedication of the work, materials and equipment provided by the Warwick Skatepark Initiative to construct the skatepark at Veterans Memorial Park and affirms

that unconditional ownership of the work, materials and equipment is vested in the Village of Warwick.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that on behalf of the Village of Warwick, the Board of Trustees extends its gratitude and appreciation to the Warwick Skatepark Initiative for its generous contribution to the Village's recreation facilities.

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

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

Barry Cheney, Trustee, voting Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Aye

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

Discussion

Former Village Board Trustee Bill Lindberg spoke about the history and development of the Warwick Skatepark Initiative. He noted that the Mayor had mentioned the ten-year effort behind the project, and confirmed that it had indeed been a full decade of dedication. He identified members of the committee who had been part of the journey, including Jason Makuch, Steve Wanczowski, Pat Tyler, Donna Kaminski, his wife Judy Lindberg, Dave Getz, Mary Collura, Mayor Newhard, Mark Potempa, and Lynn Ruvolo.

Mr. Lindberg recalled that approximately nine or ten years ago, while he was still serving on the Village Board, local skaters, Steve Wanczowski and Pat Tyler, had approached the Board with funds they had raised to build a new skate park. At that time, they had first presented the idea to the Vernon Town Board, but the proposal was rejected. He noted that while opinions on skate parks may have changed since then, the rejection ultimately brought the project to Warwick at just the right time.

He explained that the Village's existing skate park, built in 1999, had been aging and constructed of wood, whereas modern skate parks are made of concrete. The timing for replacement was ideal, and the Village warmly welcomed the project. Mr. Wanczowski and Mr. Tyler contributed \$43,000 in seed money, which became the foundation for what would grow into a decade-long community effort. Mr. Lindberg said that the group went on to form the *Warwick Skatepark Initiative* and met hundreds of times over the years to make the new park a reality.

Mr. Lindberg continued, explaining that the committee met at Village Hall nearly every other week to discuss the project's design, fundraising strategies, and overall direction—starting completely from scratch. He said the group was fortunate to partner with Pillar Design Studio from Arizona, a premier skate park design firm. Committee members held numerous meetings with representatives from Pillar, who provided valuable guidance throughout the process. Mr. Lindberg added that Mr. Wanczowski and Mr. Tyler, also contributed helpful insights, and the committee hosted a forum to gather input from the community's skating enthusiasts, ensuring that all the best ideas were incorporated into the final design.

Steve Wanczowski explained that in the early stages of planning, he and Pat Tyler faced challenges in determining the material lists and overall project costs. When Pillar Design Studio became involved, the process became much clearer. The designers were able to provide detailed cost estimates and presented options for what could be achieved within a set budget, allowing the committee to make informed choices about the park's final design and features.

Mr. Lindberg recalled that Pillar Design Studio's initial project estimate was approximately \$350,000. At the time, however, the committee had only \$43,000 in funds, leaving a significant gap that they knew they would need to close through additional fundraising and community support.

Mayor Newhard asked whether the initial \$43,000 raised covered the design work completed by Pillar Design Studio.

Mr. Lindberg confirmed that part of the initial \$43,000 had gone toward the design work. He explained that during that period, the committee focused on refining the design, spreading awareness, and finding additional funding sources. Their efforts ultimately paid off when the Kosuga Foundation provided a generous gift of \$650,000, which he described as a moment when "all the stars aligned." The total project cost came to approximately \$642,000.

Mr. Lindberg noted that he and Mayor Newhard worked closely together for nearly a year with representatives from the Kosuga Foundation to finalize the funding. He added that the Foundation wanted assurance that their substantial contribution would be managed appropriately, so the committee worked with CFOS (Community Foundation of Orange and Sullivan).

Mr. Lindberg explained that the CFOS served as the fiscal sponsor for the Warwick Skatepark Initiative, providing the group with 501(c)(3) nonprofit status. This arrangement created an agreement among the Warwick Skatepark Initiative, CFOS, and the Village of Warwick, which allowed the project to move forward on a formal basis. After negotiations with representatives from the Kosuga Foundation, the committee received a \$650,000 grant, which Mr. Lindberg described as “a dream from heaven.” He recalled having a photo taken with members of the Kosuga Foundation holding the check that made the long-awaited project possible.

He noted that Pillar Design Studio had advised that once funding was secured, scheduling would take roughly a year, so there was a period of waiting before construction began. During that time, the Village agreed to handle the site preparation work, which included tree and stump removal and substantial excavation. Mr. Lindberg commended Jason Makuch from the Department of Public Works for his extensive effort at the site, remarking that he seemed to spend more time there than anyone else.

He went on to recognize Mark Potempa of Ground Control Excavating, who volunteered his crew, equipment, and expertise to perform the bulk of the site preparation. Following a geotechnical study by Tectonic Engineering, it was determined that the existing topsoil could not support the skate park’s concrete structures, requiring the removal of approximately four feet of soil—hundreds of truckloads in total. Recycled concrete aggregate was then brought in and compacted under Tectonic’s supervision to ensure the site’s stability. Mr. Lindberg said that Mr. Potempa and his crew spent five weeks on the project, work that Pillar estimated would have otherwise cost \$132,000, which they provided free of charge. He praised their contribution, noting that their banner was proudly displayed at the park.

Mr. Lindberg added that the skate park’s construction was completed by Artisan Skateparks of Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, a company known for building skate parks across the country. Their crew of six to twelve skateboarders worked on-site for sixteen weeks, from June through the end of September. The workers came from places including New Hampshire, Newburgh, North Carolina, and Iowa, and brought both skill and passion to the project. While they followed the construction plans provided by Pillar, they also used their firsthand experience as skaters to make design improvements, which could be seen in the park’s finishing touches such as the placement of boulders, rocks, and other detailed features.

Mr. Lindberg continued, sharing that the Artisan Skateparks crew told him the Warwick skate park was one of the best they had ever built, largely because of the enthusiasm and passion they brought to the project. He said the team couldn’t wait to start skating it themselves once construction was complete. Mr. Lindberg described the collaboration between Artisan, Pillar Design Studio, the Kosuga Foundation, and Mark Potempa as both rewarding and enjoyable, calling it a “fun, fun project.”

He expressed deep pride in the committee's dedication and extended special thanks to the Department of Public Works, including DPW Supervisor Mike Moser, Jason Makuch, and Tony Rivera, for their outstanding support throughout the process.

Mr. Lindberg then shared photos of the completed skate park, highlighting the bowl feature and explaining that the park's design successfully combined both bowl and street elements—a unique advantage, as many skate parks only feature one or the other. He said the design made the park suitable for all ages and for various activities, including BMX biking, skateboarding, and scooters. Pointing to one of the images, he joked that he had never gone into the bowl himself because he wasn't sure he could get back out.

He added that Brad Siedlecki from Pillar Design Studio had suggested incorporating the park's natural boulders into the design, which ultimately helped the skate park blend seamlessly into its surroundings. Mr. Lindberg concluded his presentation by asking if any Board members had questions.

Mayor Newhard thanked Mr. Lindberg and the entire Warwick Skatepark Initiative committee for their hard work and dedication. He gave special recognition to Mr. Lindberg for his leadership, saying that he had been the project's strongest advocate and had guided it from start to finish. The Mayor added with a smile that Mr. Lindberg had clearly proven there is life after serving as a Trustee, hinting that there may be more projects ahead for him. He concluded by expressing the Village's deep gratitude and announcing that the Board had a resolution before them to formally accept the new skate park as a gift from the committee.

Slow Down Warwick Campaign – Artist Selection AMENDED

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to select artists Yuke Li & Elizabeth Laule to design and execute temporary public art projects for the Slow Down Warwick campaign as part of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safe Street for All Initiative grant project and authorize Mayor Newhard to execute a contract for the same, with the total amount not to exceed \$60,000.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Discussion

Trustee Foster introduced Aliza Schiff, a consultant working with the Village on the *Safe Streets for All* initiative, a program funded through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) in partnership with the Town of Warwick. She explained that Ms. Schiff had been leading the coordination with the Village to issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for artists participating in the *Slow Down Warwick* campaign. Trustee Foster praised Ms. Schiff's professionalism, noting that she has extensive experience in this field, and said that she had been a pleasure to work with throughout the process. She added that Ms. Schiff would provide an overview of the artist selection process and explain how the two artists being recommended for approval by resolution that evening were chosen.

Aliza Schiff explained that the Village of Warwick had issued an RFQ open to all local and regional artists interested in creating demonstration projects designed to slow traffic at ten designated entry points into the Village as part of the *Slow Down Warwick* campaign under the *Safe Streets for All* initiative.

She reported that the Village received 14 eligible applications from artists in the region. A five-member selection committee reviewed the submissions, consisting of Mayor Newhard, Trustee Foster, Village Treasurer Sadie Andryshak, DPW Assistant Supervisor Mike Finelli, and Village resident, artist, and graphic designer Kenny Eicher. Each panelist initially reviewed and scored the applications independently. The artists' submissions included images of previous work relevant to the project, a résumé, and a letter of interest describing their proposed approach and motivation for participating.

Following the initial scoring, the panel convened for a joint meeting the previous week to review the top-ranked candidates, discuss their strengths and weaknesses, and make a final selection. The RFQ allowed for up to three artists to be chosen, and the committee ultimately selected two. The first selected artist was Yuke Li, based in Mineola, New York. Ms. Schiff stated that the panel felt Ms. Li had the strongest background in public art of this type and demonstrated a clear understanding of the project's goals. Ms. Schiff shared examples of Ms. Li's previous work, including projects completed in New York City's Union Square, Rye, New York, and other mural and structural installations, noting the creativity and adaptability evident in her portfolio.

Trustee Foster added that one of the qualities that most impressed the selection committee about Yuke Li was her proven experience working within the public right-of-way and collaborating with municipal stakeholders. She noted that Ms. Li had previously partnered with the New York City Department of Transportation on a project that involved coordinating over 100 volunteers to paint a roadway installation. Trustee Foster said this demonstrated Ms. Li's ability to navigate

municipal processes effectively and manage community engagement, making her a particularly strong fit for the *Slow Down Warwick* project.

Ms. Schiff continued by introducing the second selected artist, Elizabeth Laule, a Village of Warwick resident. She said the panel was very impressed with Ms. Laule's strong background in community engagement, which was a key component of the project. Because the *Slow Down Warwick* campaign requires public input both in the design phase and throughout implementation, the committee felt Ms. Laule's experience working collaboratively with the community would be invaluable.

Ms. Schiff explained that while Ms. Laule did not yet have experience painting directly on roadways, she had extensive experience creating murals and working as a scenic and prop maker. The panel believed her skills would complement those of Ms. Li, and that the two artists would collaborate effectively.

She added that she had personally checked references for both artists, all of which were positive, and held preliminary discussions with each of them. Both expressed enthusiasm for the project and openness to working together. Ms. Schiff shared that Ms. Laule had already begun researching roadway painting techniques, including studying a technical guide created by Street Plans, a nationally recognized resource for tactical urbanism projects. She concluded by saying she was confident that with both artists on board, the Village would have a strong, creative, and well-executed project.

Trustee Foster added that while some of the selected projects would involve roadway painting, the *Safe Streets for All* initiative also included opportunities for other types of creative installations to be explored in collaboration with the transportation safety planner. She said that one of the aspects that made Elizabeth Laule particularly appealing to the committee—beyond her local knowledge, stakeholder engagement experience, and inclusive approach—was the diversity of her artistic portfolio. Ms. Laule demonstrated the ability to work across multiple mediums, showing both flexibility and creativity, while some other applicants had more narrowly focused styles that limited adaptability.

Trustee Foster explained that this versatility would be valuable as the Village and Town continue to test and refine this type of public art approach. The current *Slow Down Warwick* campaign is being treated as a pilot program, with the potential for future expansion into other areas of the Village and Town if successful. She said the committee saw great benefit in pairing an artist like Yuke Li—who has experience working at a large scale and within municipal settings—with a local artist like Ms. Laule, who brings community connection and the potential to grow with future projects.

Trustee Foster concluded by noting that the evaluation criteria shared with the Board emphasized several key factors: the artists' ability to work at scale, their availability to engage with Village stakeholders, and the overall quality and professionalism demonstrated in their submitted work.

Ms. Schiff confirmed that the selection was a unanimous decision, with all members of the panel in full agreement on the choice of both artists.

Trustee Foster remarked that the overall quality of the submissions had been very high and that it was exciting to see such strong interest from the artist community, noting that there had been 14 eligible submissions.

Mayor Newhard added that there were actually more than 14 submissions in total.

Ms. Schiff clarified that several additional applications had been received but were not included in the final count because those artists were located outside the local or regional area specified in the RFQ.

Trustee McKnight asked what the next step in the process would be following the artist selection.

Mayor Newhard pointed out that there was a motion regarding the topic for the Board's consideration.

Trustee Foster explained that the next steps would involve contracting and project coordination. She noted that the Village now had a signed agreement with Creighton Manning and would soon hold kickoff meetings with both the engineering firm and the selected artists. Together, they would identify specific project locations and begin developing design concepts.

She stated that the project must also go through the National Environmental Policy Act (*NEPA*) review process. Once the general types of improvements and their locations are determined—though not necessarily the exact art concepts—the Village will submit them to the Federal Highway Administration (*FHWA*) for review. Trustee Foster anticipated that the project could qualify as a categorical exemption since it did not involve major construction. After FHWA approval, the Village would be able to proceed with implementation.

She emphasized that community engagement would play a major role throughout the process and that the project would tie into the broader, Town-wide Transportation Safety Planning effort.

Trustee Collura noted that when Elizabeth Laule created her previous mural project, she had developed a community engagement packet that was fun, easy to use, and accessible to participants.

Trustee Foster agreed, explaining that one of the key goals of the *Slow Down Warwick* campaign was to encourage a cultural shift in how people move through the community. She said the Village of Warwick should be viewed as a place where drivers slow down, particularly in school zones, and show respect for the community and its residents. Trustee Foster emphasized that engagement at all levels—and through a variety of creative and visible means integrated into the streetscape—would be essential in helping to foster that mindset.

Mayor Newhard expressed his enthusiasm for the project, remarking that it was truly exciting.

Trustee Foster stated that she would amend the motion to include authorization for contracting, noting that the current wording did not specify that provision. She said she would read the revised motion accordingly.

Trustee Cheney asked if the value of the contract associated with the project had been determined.

Trustee Foster confirmed that the total project budget would not exceed \$60,000. She explained that the allocation between the two artists still needed to be finalized, as the original plan had been to divide the funding evenly.

Trustee Cheney asked whether the contract would specify a lump sum amount for each artist.

Ms. Schiff responded that yes, the contract would include specific amounts for each artist. She explained that the totals would be determined before the contracts were finalized.

Trustee Cheney recommended that the motion be amended to specify that the total amount would not exceed \$60,000.

Vacation Carryover – Matthew Hann

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

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

2025/2026 Winter Office Intern – Gianna Marin

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to hire Gianna Marin to the position of Village of Warwick Office Intern at 32.5 hours per week for approximately six (6) weeks with a start date of December 12, 2025. The rate of pay to be in accordance with the FY25-26 budget.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

2025/2026 Winter Engineering Intern – Cameron Kellan

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to hire Cameron Kellan to the position of Village of Warwick Engineering Intern at 32.5 hours per week for approximately five (5) weeks with a start date to begin mid-December. The rate of pay to be in accordance with the FY25-26 budget.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Home for the Holidays, Horse & Buggy Rides

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce to hold the Home for the Holidays event and to allow the traditional horse & buggy rides to take place by Dun Dreaming Farms, Sean Geary, as previous years during the holidays in the Village of Warwick. The rides will be offered during the following dates: November 23, 29, 30, December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21. The times for the rides will be approximately 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The route will be the same as in past years, starting on Railroad Avenue and continuing to Main Street, then onto South Street, ending back at Railroad Avenue. Completed park permit, security deposit, and proof of insurance from the Chamber of Commerce have been received. Approval pending proof of insurance from Dun Dreaming Farms, Sean Geary.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Home for the Holidays, WVCSD Ribbons on Meters

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to approve the implementation of free parking for the period of November 23, 2025, through January 1, 2026, per the request of the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce and to grant permission to the Warwick Valley High School FFA to hang ribbons on the meters after November 23, 2025, in coordination with the Village of Warwick DPW. Proof of insurance has been received from the Warwick Valley Central School District.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Home for the Holidays, Santa

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce to have Santa visit the sleigh on Railroad Green on Sunday, November 23, 2025, and on additional dates in December 2025 to be announced by the Chamber of Commerce. The Village of Warwick DPW to install the sleigh on Railroad Green by Friday, November 21, 2025. Completed park permit, security deposit 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 Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Facility Use Request – Home for the Holidays, WVSD Organizations and Non-Profit Groups

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee Foster, seconded by Trustee McKnight and carried to grant permission to the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce to have non-profit groups, including Warwick Valley School District organizations, sell items such as hot chocolate, warm cider, and snacks on Railroad Green on the following dates: November 23, 29, 30, December 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, and 21, 2025, during the Home for the Holidays event. Request includes use of electricity and the setup of tents. Completed park permit, security deposit, proof of insurance, including insurance from the Warwick Valley Central School District, have been received. Pending proper insurance requirements from additional non-profit groups that participate in this event.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Abstain

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Resolution for the Unpaid Village of Warwick FY 2025-2026 Tax Collection

Whereas; according to Real Property Tax Law § 1436, on or before November 1, the tax collecting officer must deliver an account of the unpaid taxes to the Board of Trustees; and

Whereas; attached is an account describing each parcel of real property upon which taxes are unpaid, the person or persons in whose name the property is assessed, and the amount of unpaid tax totaling \$58,530.28 for the FY 2025-2026 Village of Warwick tax collection; and

Whereas; the Village Board of Trustees has compared the Village Clerk's account of the FY 2025-2026 unpaid taxes with the original FY 2025-2026 tax roll, and has determined that the account is accurate; and

Whereas; each member of the Village Board shall execute the attached certificate which recites that the account and the tax roll have been compared and found to be correct and that the total amount of taxes unpaid for FY 2025-2026 is \$58,530.28; and

Whereas; the signed certificate and account describing each parcel of real property upon which taxes are unpaid, the person or persons in whose name the property is assessed, and the amount of unpaid tax totaling \$58,530.28 for the FY 2025-2026 Village of Warwick tax collection will be returned to the Orange County Commissioner of Finance's Office prior to November 15th in the year in which the levy is made; and

Whereas; these facts must also be included in the official minutes of the Village of Warwick; and

Whereas; within 15 days of the tax collecting officer delivering an account of the unpaid taxes to the Board of Trustees, the Board must file the tax roll and warrant in the office of the Village Clerk. A copy of the tax roll must be permanently retained as a public record.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the facts set forth in the foregoing paragraphs are hereby included in the official minutes of the Village of Warwick and that the Village Board shall undertake the actions described therein.

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 Aye

Carly Foster, Trustee, voting Aye

Thomas McKnight, Trustee, voting Aye

Mary Collura, Trustee, voting Aye

Michael Newhard, Mayor, voting Aye

Public Comment – *Non-Agenda Items*

No comments.

Final Comments from the Board

Mayor Newhard stated that he and Trustee Foster wanted to take a moment to update the Board on the *New York Forward* grant the Village had been working on with its task force. He explained that a significant part of the grant process involved public outreach, which the Village had conducted through several methods. One of the most effective outreach tools, he said, was a community and business survey designed to gather input on what residents and visitors value most about the Village's downtown area.

Mayor Newhard reminded the Board that the *New York Forward* grant focuses on downtown revitalization, encompassing parks and other elements that contribute to the overall vibrancy of the community. He then turned the floor over to Trustee Foster to provide additional details about the survey.

Trustee Foster described the *New York Forward* community and business survey as extensive and highly informative, expressing appreciation to the many residents who took the time to complete it. She reported that the Village received approximately 160 responses, with most participants completing the entire survey. The questionnaire covered a wide range of topics designed to help guide downtown revitalization priorities.

She explained that the survey gathered input on how people currently use the downtown area, what outcomes matter most to them, and which types of projects they believe should be prioritized. The suggestions varied widely and included ideas such as building rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, wayfinding improvements, parking management, energy efficiency upgrades, heritage tourism initiatives, housing and mixed-use development, small business and entrepreneurship support, mobility and safety improvements, community resilience, and inclusion.

Trustee Foster noted that while many respondents felt nearly all categories were important, several themes stood out. These included a strong desire for more outdoor seating in the downtown area, improved pedestrian safety, and the addition of public restrooms. She also mentioned that many participants expressed support for rooftop gathering spaces, which she thought was an especially creative idea, along with continued concerns about parking and downtown flooding.

She highlighted the encouraging diversity of respondents, explaining that the demographic breakdown closely reflected the Village's population, making the results representative of the broader community. Trustee Foster concluded that the survey findings would be valuable for the Board and for each Trustee in their liaison roles as they consider future priorities and planning efforts.

Trustee McKnight asked which specific areas of the downtown were identified in the survey responses as being of concern for flooding.

Trustee Foster resumed by reviewing the survey's findings related to flooding and other environmental concerns. She explained that, with the help of AI tools, she was able to organize and analyze the 160 detailed responses into topic-specific summaries.

She reported that respondents frequently mentioned flooding near and along the creek that affects downtown buildings on Main Street, as well as the need for creek clearing and improved

stormwater management. Veterans Memorial Park was also identified as a location that commonly experiences flooding. Other problem areas included South Street between Park and Galloway Heights Road, lower Forester Avenue, and the Peck's parking lot, all noted as recurring flood hot spots. Respondents also cited flooding issues on Overlook and Highland Avenues, stormwater runoff and drainage problems on Southern Lane, and some flooding concerns on Elm Street.

In addition to flooding, residents highlighted excessive heat in certain areas and suggested that the playground needed more shade. Trustee Foster described the feedback as "super specific and actionable," and said she had shared a folder with the Board containing all the survey summaries. She suggested that, if the Board agreed, some of those summaries could be made available to the public on the Village website.

Mayor Newhard agreed that sharing portions of the survey summaries on the Village website would be a good idea, suggesting that it could be done once the *New York Forward* grant application was completed.

Trustee Foster added that she had created a "summary of summaries," which condensed the survey findings into a more concise and readable format. She suggested that this version might be the best option to post on the Village website, since the full collection of documents was quite lengthy.

Trustee Collura noted that the Village newsletter was scheduled for release the following month and suggested that the survey summary could also be included there.

Trustee Foster agreed that including the summary in the upcoming newsletter would be a great idea. She added that receiving around 160 responses was impressive given that the survey had only been open for two weeks.

Mayor Newhard commented that the survey might have been open a little longer than two weeks, noting that the Village had promoted it at the Farmers Market during that period. He said there were about two weeks between those outreach events, but even so, the overall window was quite short. He commended the strong level of participation, saying the Village had received a tremendous number of responses in a relatively brief time.

Trustee Foster added that approximately 66% of survey respondents were Village residents, while most of the remaining participants lived within the Town of Warwick.

Mayor Newhard emphasized that the survey was just one component of the Village's broader public outreach for the *New York Forward* grant. He said that in addition to promoting the survey at the Farmers Market, Board members and volunteers had meaningful conversations

with residents who preferred to share their thoughts in person rather than through the online form. He said it was wonderful to hear people's ideas firsthand—what they loved, what they didn't, and everything in between.

The Mayor also mentioned his recent visit with the Park Avenue School Student Council. He described the students as bright and enthusiastic and said they completed a simplified version of the survey. One of the questions asked what they would do if given a million dollars, which prompted creative and entertaining responses.

He added that all public outreach materials and feedback are being shared with the Village's grant writer to support the *New York Forward* application. The Mayor also spoke about a recent walk through the Village with local architects and designers, which lasted about three hours. During the walk, participants viewed the community through a design-focused lens, discussing ways to improve aesthetics, functionality, and the overall downtown experience.

Trustee Collura agreed, saying it was inspiring to see the Village's potential through the perspective of the architects and designers who participated in the walk.

Mayor Newhard agreed with Trustee Collura's comment about seeing the Village's potential through the architects' eyes, remarking that their perspective was truly inspiring. He said the recent walk with local architects and designers had helped the Village identify several potential projects, which were now being defined and refined over the next few days. While still in development, he wanted to share some of the concepts being explored to give the Board a sense of direction.

He said one major area of focus was improving streetscapes, particularly in the historic district surrounding Lewis Park, where efforts could enhance the visibility and branding of the area's historic buildings. He noted that High Street and Church Street serve as important connecting corridors between residential and commercial areas, making them natural priorities for revitalization.

The Mayor also highlighted the *Wawayanda Creek corridor* as another potential project area. He described it as an underused but ecologically rich part of the Village that could be reimagined to celebrate its biodiversity and strengthen its connection to the downtown.

Another proposed project involved the redevelopment of the bandstand at Stanley-Deming Park. He explained that the site, used for performances during the COVID-19 pandemic due to its natural amphitheater setting, was part of the original Stanley-Deming Park Master Plan but had not been revisited in recent years. The plan would explore ways to improve accessibility, particularly for those with disabilities, while maintaining the site's usefulness for concerts and community gatherings.

Public restrooms were also identified as a priority, both through community feedback and as a carryover from the Village's previous *New York Forward* application.

Mayor Newhard then described what he called a “transformational project”—the potential redesign of the CVS parking lot on Main Street. He said that during the architects' walk-through of the Village, the group observed that the parking lot disrupted the otherwise continuous historic storefront presence, comparing it to a “missing tooth” in the downtown streetscape. He explained that the concept would be to reorient the site so that parking is moved behind the building, restoring the traditional Main Street frontage while still maintaining adequate parking. Discussions with the property owner were already underway, and the owner had expressed interest in exploring possibilities. The second phase of that concept could include a parking structure behind CVS, which would be a more expensive undertaking but could provide significant benefit to both the property owner and the Village.

Mayor Newhard shared that he had asked the architects involved to prepare conceptual renderings of each project. These sketches would give the State a clearer sense of the Village's vision and strengthen the application by visually demonstrating how the projects could take shape. He said that in feedback from the previous year's application, the grant committee had suggested that the Village's proposals could have been more detailed and visually realized, and this approach directly addressed that advice.

He concluded by saying the *New York Forward* application was due in four days, on Friday, and that everything was coming together well. Expressing enthusiasm, he said he was confident in the Village's efforts, adding with conviction, “This is our year.”

Mayor Newhard and asked for any final comments from the Board before adjourning the meeting.

Trustee Collura shared her Halloween update, noting that her neighborhood saw an impressive 2,000 trick-or-treaters this year. She then announced the results of the annual *Scare the Mayor* contest, commenting that each year the displays seem to grow scarier, more creative, and more elaborate, making the judging process increasingly difficult. She expressed how much fun the event was and praised all participants for their enthusiasm and community spirit.

Trustee Collura also mentioned that a high school student, Ryan Barnable, from Mr. C's TV and Film class, had accompanied the judging team to document the event. She thanked both Mr. C and Ryan for capturing the excitement and “silliness” of the evening.

She announced that the first-place winner was Gareth Harkness of Welling Avenue, whose elaborate circus-themed display featured live actors and spooky effects that created a thrilling experience for visitors. The second-place winner was the Cuomo family of William Close, who

created a detailed handmade display featuring skeletons and other original Halloween decorations. Trustee Collura continued by announcing that the third-place winner was the Santiago family of West Street, whose clown-themed display was especially frightening. She noted that the Santiago family participates every year and consistently does an outstanding job. Trustee Collura closed by thanking everyone who took part in the *Scare the Mayor* contest and congratulating all the winners for their creativity and community spirit.

Trustee Foster made an announcement on behalf of the Warwick Valley Chamber of Commerce, which is launching its annual *Support Your Local Everything* campaign. As part of the initiative, the Chamber will be selling \$20 tote bags filled with coupons from participating local merchants. Proceeds from the tote bag sales will be donated to the food pantry. The bags will be available for purchase from November 23 through December 22.

She also noted that the Chamber will once again participate in the *American Express Small Business Champions* program, reminding everyone that *Small Business Saturday* will take place on November 29.

Trustee Cheney reminded residents that the Village remains under voluntary water conservation measures. He noted that while recent heavy rainfall brought about 2.3 inches of precipitation according to his rain gauge, it was not enough to fully replenish the Village's water capacity. He encouraged everyone to continue conserving water, especially indoors during this time of year when outdoor usage is minimal.

He suggested practical steps such as running full loads in dishwashers and washing machines, taking shorter showers, and being mindful of everyday water use. Trustee Cheney expressed confidence that with continued conservation efforts and a winter of normal precipitation, the Village would recover from the current drought conditions.

Mayor Newhard reminded residents that Election Day would be the following day and encouraged everyone to vote if they had not already done so. He noted that polls would be open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Trustee Cheney added that there had been several changes to election districts this year, including updates to district numbering, boundary lines, and polling locations. He noted that there would be no polling at the Church Street Firehouse this year and that four districts would now vote at the Albert Wisner Public Library.

He advised residents to verify their polling information by visiting either the New York State Board of Elections or the Orange County Board of Elections website. By entering their address and personal information, voters could confirm their district and polling place. He said he was

unsure whether the system also provided a sample ballot but confirmed that it would list the correct polling location.

Adjournment

A **MOTION** was made by Trustee McKnight, seconded by Trustee Cheney and carried to adjourn the regular meeting at approximately 8:30 p.m.

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

Trustee Cheney Aye Trustee Foster Aye Trustee Collura Aye

Trustee McKnight Aye Mayor Newhard Aye

Jennifer Mante, Deputy Village Clerk