



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 07, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The public session of the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Deputy Mayor Louis Perazzini. Present were Deputy Mayor Louis Perazzini, Trustee Laurie DeNardo, Trustee Bob Carson, Trustee Nan Woodworth, Superintendent of Public Works Terry Wilcox, Village Clerk Fred Warrick and Treasurer Angela Ventra. Also present was Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Craig Bond, Water Supervisor Megan Fox, Water Treatment Plant Operator 2A Wade Pike and Sergeant-in-Charge Ethan Mosher. There were approximately 3 other persons in attendance.

PUBLIC BE HEARD

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on January 17, 2023

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on January 17, 2023. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve all Department Head reports. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

VOTING ITEMS

Lighting Poles for Shed Transport

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the donation of 12 lighting poles to Cargill in exchange for transporting the previously donated shed to the concrete pad in the Parks Maintenance area. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

Rapael Specchio Jr. Petition for Annexation

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the resolution for Raphael Specchio Jr.'s petition for annexation.

WHEREAS, a petition was filed by Raphael Specchio, Jr. (the "Petitioner"), with the Clerk of Village of Watkins Glen on August 29, 2022, seeking to annex certain real property situated in the Town of Reading, identified as Summit Place and comprising Tax Parcel No. 64.08-1-34 (the Property), by the Village of Watkins Glen (the "Village"); and

WHEREAS, a joint hearing on the Petition was held by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen (the "Village Board"), and the Board of Trustees of the Town of Reading, on statutory notice, on the 16th day of November, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board, having considered the Petition and supporting papers and upon all proceedings had on the Petition, did by a majority vote at a meeting of the Board on February 7, 2023, deny the Petition for the reasons as set forth herein; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board, hereby adopts this resolution pursuant to Section 711(2) of the New York General Municipal Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Petition for annexation is DENIED based on a determination that the proposed annexation is not in the overall public interest, for the reasons that:

a) The purpose of the annexation is to join two parcels of real property (64.08-1-34 with 64.08-2-21) owned by the Petitioner to allow him to sell a portion of the conjoined land and retain a conforming lot. As such the proposed annexation is for the sole benefit of Petitioner and does not benefit the surrounding residents; and

b) The proposed annexation would be a financial burden to the Village because the Village would be required to supply public works services (Water/Sewer/Electric) to the annexed land at a substantial cost to Village taxpayers.

Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. Laurie DeNardo recused herself. The remaining Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Summer Recreation

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the resolution to support and approve a Summer Recreation program.

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen (“Village”) Parks and Recreation department wishes to provide a safe, wholesome and fun environment for children during the summer months; and

WHEREAS, the Village Parks and Recreation has the facility and grounds to accommodate a Summer Recreation Program (“Program”); and

WHEREAS, to support the Program, the Village has a need for temporary summer seasonal employees to work with the Program; and

WHEREAS, the positions needed will be created and included in the Municipal Budget within the Parks and Recreation department for the 2023-2024 fiscal year,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen support and approve a Summer Recreation Program and grant the Superintendent of Parks and Recreation to create the following temporary summer seasonal positions:

- 1 – Summer Youth Supervisor - \$22-\$24/hour- starting April/May 2023.
- 1 - Summer Recreation Assistant \$20-\$22/hour starting May/June 2023.
- 1 - Park Health Director - \$30-\$35/hour starting June 26, 2023.
- 12-14 Summer Student Aide - \$15/hour starting approximately June 26, 2023.
- 3-4 Recreation Attendant positions - Campground Office at \$15-\$18 starting April 10, 2023.

Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

Tax Certificate Sale – Unpaid Property Taxes

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the resolution authorizing to advertise a tax certificate sale of 2022 unpaid property taxes.

WHEREAS, the following is an account of the unpaid taxes as of February 1, 2022 for the 2022-2023 tax year of the Village of Watkins Glen:

2022 UNPAID TAXES as of February 1, 2023

Tax Map ID	Name	Location	Amount
64.08-4-48	Jack E Wright Sr	206 Reading Road	\$ 2,110.95
64.12-1-40	Anthony C Motta Sr	528 Bath Street	\$ 1,623.09
64.12-1-6	Melanie A Peters	315 Bath Street	\$ 1,728.67
65.09-4-24	Wayne Weller	308 Third Street	\$ 873.19
65.09-4-31	Gregory E Harding	206 N Decatur Street	\$ 2,961.13
65.09-5-18	Gregory S Wayland	Monroe Street	\$ 354.80
65.09-5-26	Katherine Walker	204 Cross Street	\$ 1,108.68
65.09-5-28	Mary Lea Cornish	109 N Jackson Street	\$ 443.48
65.09-5-29	Paul M Westfall	107 N Jackson Street	\$ 781.56
65.09-7-13	John / Mary / Mike Margreno	204 Second Street	\$ 886.95
65.09-7-14	John / Mary / Mike Margreno	202 Second Street	\$ 1,020.01
65.09-7-16	John / Mary / Mike Margreno	100 N Decatur Street	\$ 2,805.53
65.10-1-8.2	DONROC Inc	517 E Fourth Street	\$ 4,292.81
65.13-10-1	Finger Lakes Breeze Prop LLC	113 E Second Street	\$ 1,416.93

65.13-10-29	Donna M Smith	309 Third Street	\$ 1,330.42
65.13-10-30.1	Jonathan D Smith	Third Street	\$ 35.50
65.13-10-30.2	Donna Smith	Third Street	\$ 53.25
65.13-11-10	Ada B Merrick	310 Fifth Street	\$ 771.65
65.13-5-30	Martha C Hornby	707 Porter Street	\$ 1,206.24
65.13-5-31	Timothy J Miller	212 Eighth Street	\$ 1,303.82
65.13-5-6	Charles D Rums smoke	110 Seventh Street	\$ 1,310.79
65.13-6-14	Mary Gauck	207 Eighth Street	\$ 1,152.99
65.13-7-17	Terry L Hanville	135 S Monroe Street	\$ 2,257.02
65.13-7-34	Lucas B MacIntosh	417 S Madison Avenue	\$ 1,226.52
65.13-8-13	Christopher K Turner	104 Lakeview Avenue	\$ 2,288.40
65.13-8-14	Bank of New York Mellon	203 S Glen Avenue	\$ 1,704.13
65.13-8-27	Martin Wojcik & Padua Ridge	216 Lakeview Avenue	\$ 1,135.31
65.14-1-27	John / Mary / Mike Margreno	805 Magee Street	\$ 1,365.93
65.14-1-42	Robert D Phenes	310 Ninth Street	\$ 2,293.61
65.14-1-53	Joseph Fazzary	310 Eighth Street	\$ 860.33
65.14-1-6	Darrin J Stocum	411 E Fourth Street	\$ 1,490.04
65.14-1-65	Thomas C VanAmburg	701 N Perry Street	\$ 1,064.40
65.14-2-9	Jacqueline M Meehan	1007 Magee Street	\$ 1,670.28
65.17-3-18	Christopher S Scholz	107 Durland Avenue	\$ 1,392.48
65.17-3-24	Jennifer L De La Osa Cruz	139 Durland Avenue	\$ 1,666.16
65.17-3-29	Gaylord Francis	108 Fourteenth Street	\$ 1,188.49
65.17-4-29	Brent W Eva	422 S Franklin Street	\$ 2,677.74
65.17-6-26	Edward Worth	203 S Decatur Street	\$ 1,487.09
65.17-6-28	David Waite	S Decatur Street	\$ 186.24
65.18-1-26	Thomas R Santobianco	200 Twelfth Street	\$ 1,433.66
65.53-2-12	Alice Hill	309 Madison Avenue	\$ 26.63
65.53-2-14	James T DiBella	305 S Madison Avenue	\$ 886.97
65.53-3-18	Lori B Alpern	307 N Franklin Street	\$ 1,135.31
65.53-3-20	Wildflower 301 LLC	301 N Franklin Street	\$ 5,236.60
65.53-3-21	Wildflower 301 LLC	233 N Franklin Street	\$ 4,398.75
65.53-3-29	Franklin Street Cafe 301	205-207 N Franklin Street	\$ 2,706.57
65.54-1-5	Robert Carson	509 N Franklin Street	\$ 1,271.33
65.54-2-1	Nicole A Hollenbeck Jilson	500 N Porter Street	\$ 1,152.99
65.54-2-8	Mary S Gauck	507 N Perry Street	\$ 1,241.74
76.06-1-4	Anirudh Padmala	101 Grandview Avenue	\$ 1,241.74
76.06-1-9.12	Asphalt Central	20 Fairground Lane	\$ 10,403.84
76.06-1-9.2	Asphalt Central	Fairground Lane	\$ 727.27

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this Board having compared this account of unpaid back taxes totaling \$83,765.11 due on the 2022-2023 warrant hereby authorize the Village Clerk to advertise said properties for tax certificate sale and add the cost of said advertising equally to the properties listed above.

Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

[Election Inspectors – Residency Requirements](#)

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve resolution for election inspector residency requirements.

WHEREAS, there is a relatively small population in the Village of Watkins Glen, it is not always possible to fill election inspector positions with Village residents who are duly qualified to hold such positions, and

WHEREAS, the Board further finds that it is authorized to appoint qualified residents of Schuyler County outside of the Village to said offices under said § 3-300 and § 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law to expand such residency requirements to allow residents of Schuyler County to be eligible for appointment to said position.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Clerk is permitted to recommend election inspectors outside of the Village of Watkins Glen, but still residing within Schuyler County.

Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

[Approved Election Inspectors](#)

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the resolution approving election inspectors for the March 21, 2023 election.

WHEREAS, Election inspectors who are trained on the voting machines are needed to work at the upcoming Village Election on March, 21, 2023, and

WHEREAS, Election inspector's compensation for the March 21, 2023 Village Election will be \$150.00 for the day per inspector with the polling hours being Noon to 9 p.m.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen, New York hereby approve the Village Clerk's recommendation and do hereby appoint Karen Solomon as election chairperson and Mary Hoose, Earle Ferris and Alyce Stratton as election inspectors for the March 21, 2023 Village Election.

Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

[Training](#)

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve Sergeant-in-Charge Ethan Mosher to attend a free NYSP Sex Crimes Seminar held March 8-9, 2023 at the New York State Police Academy in Albany, NY. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. In further discussion, Ethan will come back to the Board to have lodging approved once a reservation is obtained. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

[Sewer Credit](#)

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve a sewer credit request for 501 N. Franklin in the amount of \$290.00. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

[WGFD Member Application](#)

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the Member Application for the use of the WGFD Building by Charlie Smith III for a birthday party on 2/18 from 12p – 3p. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

[EMPLOYEE STATUS CHANGES](#)

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the status change of Officer Thomas Kane from Full Time Police Officer to Part Time Police Officer. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve the status change of Officer Wesley Hines from Part Time Police Officer to Full Time Temporary On-Call Police Officer. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

AUDIT

General Audit

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve the general audit dated February 6, 2023 in the following amounts:

General	\$97,951.83	Sewer	\$803.44
Electric	\$262,070.51	Water	\$8,602.83
Joint Activity (CVWRF)	\$26,540.97	DRI Projects	\$26,540.97

Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

BOARD CONCERNS

Change of Occupancy Form

Due to Code Enforcement Officer Scot Cole's absence this was postponed for discussion.

Parking Division for the Watkins Glen Police Dept.

Sergeant-in-Charge Ethan Mosher went over with the Board for consideration the idea of adding a Parking Division with 1-4 employees (non-officers) making an estimated \$15/hour, working less than 20 hours a week, strictly enforcing parking violations. Trustee Laurie DeNardo suggested that Ethan put together some figures on parking violation revenue to balance the cost and present those findings at a future Board meeting. Trustee Nan Woodworth also suggested that Ethan include this in his upcoming budget talks for the new fiscal year.

Zoning Laws Review

Trustee Laurie DeNardo announced the desire to create a committee to review the current laws and look for needed changes.

Conference between Town of Dix and Village – Contracts & Past Due Balance.

Town Supervisor Dominick Smith, Deputy Supervisor Frank "Joe" Hammond, Councilman David Hertel, Councilman Brian Ervay, Councilman Jeff Meehan, and Town Attorney Robert L. Halpin joined Village attorney Dave Ealy and Deputy Clerk Barb Peterson as added attendees for this conference. Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Craig Bond was not in attendance for this portion of the meeting.

Dave Ealy issued a letter to the Town of Dix in December regarding an exceedingly high balance due for Water supplied by the Village. Attorney Haplin sent a response that same month. The Village and Town agreed to a meeting, eventually set as this date. Haplin sent Ealy another letter the night before this Board meeting detailing a list of concerns citing issues with billing and discrepancies with Village meters measuring water consumed and usage reflected on the individual customer meters. The Town also claimed that 2021 had roughly 4.5 million gallons and 2022 had 3.3 million gallons unaccounted for.

The Town of Dix had a water bill balance in May 2022 around \$55,000 which climbed to \$367,000 by November.

The Boards acknowledged the existence of five (5) related agreements:

1. Water Supply Agreement 2002
2. Water Supply Agreement Amendment 2009
3. Sewage Disposal Agreement 2005
4. Sewage Disposal Agreement Amendment 2008
5. Watkins Glen International Agreement 2004

The Town states stalled payments are a result of discovering billing discrepancies between what's being used by customers and what's being consumed some place in the system. Possible leaks, system errors, or theft.

Billing was explained as the Town receiving a bill from the Village based on the amount of water passing through the Franklin Street pump station. The Town receives a spreadsheet from the Village providing a detailed breakdown of usage by Dix residential and commercial customers, of which the Town uses to bill customers. The Town collects those debts and then in turn uses those funds to pay the Village.

Electromagnetic Flow ("MAG") Meters are used at all pump stations providing extreme usage accuracy; therefore, any discrepancy would be anywhere between after it passes through Franklin Street pump station to arriving at Dix residential and

commercial sites.

Some reasons for possible discrepancies discussed are:

- Mandatory flushing for sampling that is not metered (supposed to be reported prior to doing so, so that a meter can be put on). ☹
 - Thousands of gallons resting in holding tanks.
 - Theft
 - Leaks. 📌
- ☹ There are three (3) holding tanks between Franklin Street pump station and Dix customers that can hold up to 500,000 gallons of water. That stored amount is water billed to the Town (because it passed through Franklin Street pump station), but has not yet been billed to a customer because it has not yet passed through a customer meter.
- 📌 A 4" water line can lose 4,000 gallons per minute.

Two customers that consume a large amount of water and have been identified as possible causes of discrepancy were identified as Lucky Hare and Watkins Glen International, which are private businesses in the Town of Dix in which the Village does not have jurisdiction or authority to access or act upon without permission, because they are part of the Dix system. The Village states that these two businesses have been reported to the Town Supervisor for concerns multiple times, but the Town has not responded with any resolution.

Lucky Hare reportedly has faulty meters that require replacement, of which falls on the responsibility of the Town. The business is a brewery requiring large amounts of water who has received bills in recent past on average of \$2.75 a month, which is a clearly and indication of a meter problem. The Town indicated that a contractor has been hired and replacement meters are in the works.

Watkins Glen International (WGI) reportedly has had leaking hydrants, may be flushing hydrants unmetered, and may have possible leaks in one or more pipes, of which falls on the responsibility of the Town to determine and handle. The Village may assist as needed based on request. Barb Peterson added that WGI has not provided a hydrant flushing meter reading in months, which is supposed to happen at least monthly. It was also noted that WGI has a bypass before their meter that may be being used at times it shouldn't be.

These two businesses alone could account for the total discrepancies claimed by the Town.

The Town of Dix receives, per written agreement, roughly \$5,000 per month from WGI for Operation & Maintenance costs, of which the Village receives nothing. The Town claims WGI has not paid them at all for seven (7) months. According to Water Supervisor Meghan Fox, WGI claims to be offline, but she confirmed they have had water usage during that entire period. She also reported that she is certain there are leaks at the track that have gone unresolved, of which falls on the responsibility of the Town.

Halpin commented that the purpose of the meeting is not to say the Village is at fault for any of the problems the Town has with the unallocated water. The Town is just trying to figure out why they are exceedingly above the 15-20% threshold. Dominick Smith explained that the lack of fiscal responsibility that the Town had prior to him caused financial hardship, identifying that the Town has not raised rates in five (5) years and the Town has chewed through its reserves. He confirmed that based on billing from the Village, without factoring in any error, the Town owed the Village \$288,000 as the remaining past due for 2022 and also whatever the 2023 balance was to-date. He stated that if he could collect all back debt and the bulk of what is owed by WGI, he could make a payment of \$285,000. He expressed that he inherited a mess.

The conference came to a close with Halpin's request that the Village attorney and he review the agreements to determine what they say versus what is actually being done, and will provide guidance on if anything is being violated or should be amended or re-written. Halpin added that the Town feels the Village has the staff and experience, and they would like the Village to consider taking all administrative and maintenance responsibilities. The Town would be willing to alter the agreements so that the Village receives direct payments. Currently the Village does not find acquiring the administrative and maintenance responsibilities of the Dix water system to be in their best interest.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Laurie DeNardo motioned to enter an executive session to speak with counsel on a separate legal matter at 8:15 p.m. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to adjourn at 8:25 p.m. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Fred Warrick
Village Clerk