



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The public session of the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Laurie DeNardo. Present were Mayor Laurie DeNardo, Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock, Trustee Nan Woodworth, Trustee Bob Carson, Trustee Margaret Schimizzi, Superintendent of Public Works Terry Wilcox, Streets Supervisor Ken Barber, Code Enforcement Officer Scot Cole, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation Craig Bond, Treasurer Angela Ventra, Village Clerk Fred Warrick. Also in attendance were Sergeant in Charge Ethan Mosher and Officer Aaron Jumper. There were approximately five other people in attendance.

RECOGNITION

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to promote Officer Aaron Jumper to Sergeant. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried. Clerk Fred Warrick performed the Oath of Office to swear in Officer Jumper as a Sergeant. His wife did the honors of pinning his badge.

PUBLIC BE HEARD

Several campers of Clute Park campground came to be heard.

Terry Smith asked why the storage rate increased. Stated there is no security, campers on a vacant lot with no cameras, boat docks are unsafe, canal is shallow at the docks, garbage is not picked up completely, 24 campers mow their own lawn, claimed the rest of the park is not getting mowed timely, grass is flown everywhere, Wi-Fi works a little during the week but not on weekends when there are more people. Storage rate was raised but rent on the daily campers was not increased at all, which he suggested is a better way to make up revenue. Permanent campers are increased but transients are not. He asked for an explanation for the increase.

Tammy Porter, seasonal since 2006, raised concerns of discrimination in rates citing new first time seasonal campers are being charged \$2,000 extra for the first year but that's not getting applied to every new seasonal camper. She claimed one person that it did not get applied to sat at her campfire at the beginning of the season and bragged that he did not have to pay it and picked on another camper that did and called her "probbie" (on probation). She explained that it meant that you could be prevented from future camping if you didn't pass probation.

She also claimed to have first-hand knowledge that someone is buying plane tickets for the Park Manager's family to go to CA and that person is a first-year seasonal that did not have to pay the extra \$2,000. She supported the previous concerns by Mr. Smith about the docks and mowing.

Robert Woods supported the concern over prices. He noted that with the seasonal campers, the boat launch, and the winter storage is \$775 extra in one year and feels it is excessive. The playground they have in the campground is 30+ years old and the kids need more or better equipment to play on.

Jean Rogers has been camping in Clute Park for 30 years. She noted that in the last 2-3 years that there has been a severe decline in upgrades, and upkeep in maintenance and they are paying more but getting less. She asked why and how it can be justified. She asked if the Village was looking at the revenue generated by campers and if they were giving back a percentage each year in upgrades to the campground. Lakeside is getting upgrades but not the campground.

Brent Miller for the last 7 years has been running a cornhole league in Beaver Dams. The biggest complaint is that people don't like driving up the hill in the winters and that the location is not central enough. He would like to bring the league to the Village of Watkins. He would like the opportunity to use the Community Center through the winter months. The charge is \$50 per team. They start in October and end in April. He stated the soccer league only pays \$25 a week to use the Community Center and he would like that rate. He was encouraged to complete the application for the Community Center so that it can be reviewed by the Board.

Gene Rondinaro stated his family has been in Watkins for 100 years. He expressed that the majority of the funding has gone to the Lakeside and not the campground. Mayor Laurie DeNardo explained that the campground is leased property with Cargill and that grants cannot be awarded to projects that are not village-owned property.

He also expressed that condos were going up all over the place down by the lake. He is concerned that the area cannot sustain that kind of traffic if any high-density housing or a hotel was considered. Asked if the board could make a resolution to retain the campground so that it can never be changed into something else. He also feels that the waiting list for campers is used as an excuse that if they don't like things they can be easily replaced.

Christine Deyo stated she also agrees that the waiting list is used as an excuse to not have to improve the campground. She claimed she had to replace a dock plank after reporting it twice to the camp office without anything being done. She feels they cannot afford the extreme rate hikes.

Luanne Howe asked why winter storage goes to \$500 but boat parking is \$300, asking what is the difference if you're still parking it on a lot.

Amanda Ratchford updated the Board on the Water Improvements Project.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on August 15, 2023

Trustee Nan Woodworth made a motion to approve the minutes for the regular Board meeting held on August 15, 2023. Trustee Margaret Schimizzi seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cheroch made the motion to approve all Department Head reports. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

VOTING ITEMS

Pay App

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi made a motion to approve McCrossin's Pay App #5 for \$1,317,462.46 for work performed and stored materials/equipment for the Water Systems Improvement Project. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Change Orders

Trustee Nan Woodworth made a motion to approve Design Change Order #1 for Clute Park Sewer Study. Trustee Margaret Schimizzi seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Trustee Bob Carson made a motion to approve Change Order #4 for hazardous abatement work required at the pumphouse. Trustee Margaret Schimizzi seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Cemetery Application

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to approve the purchase of a Cemetery Management System (CIMS). One-time license fee of \$1,300 and an annual hosting and system support fee of \$400/year. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Taser/Body Cam Bundle

Trustee Nan Woodworth made a motion to approve the purchase of a Taser & BodyCam Bundle - \$38,310.70 over 5 years. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion was tabled to follow the procurement policy and provide three written quotes. The motion was withdrawn.

RESOLUTIONS

Budget Amendment

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to approve a resolution to amend the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

WHEREAS the Board of Trustees approved the purchase of one (1) 2023 580SN Case Loader, SN JJGN58WTLPC782270 on October 18, 2022; and

WHEREAS it is necessary to amend the 2023 – 2024 adopted budget to accurately allocate funds for the first annual lease payment by the transfer of such funds from individual departments into an Installment Purchase - Debt Principal account and Installment Purchase - Debt Interest account.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village Board of Trustees authorizes its Treasurer to transfer monies from GL accounts AA.7140.200 (CC/EC – Equipment Expense), AA.5010.200 (Streets – Equipment Expense), EE.0787.000 (Electric – Repairs & Maintenance), FF.8320.200 (Water – Source/Supply – Equipment) and GG.8120.200 (Sanitary Sewer – Equipment) in the amount of \$4,000 each to AA.9785.600 (Installment Purch – Debt Principal) in the amount of \$19,500 and AA.9785.700 (Installment Purch – Debt Interest) in the amount of \$500.

Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Health Insurance

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve a resolution to request an extension to the 3-year waiver from compliance for by the Greater Tompkins County Municipal Health Insurance amend the 2023-2024 fiscal year budget.

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen submitted an official resolution in 2019 authorizing the Village of Watkins Glen to join the GTCHMIC in accordance with the terms and conditions outlined in the GTCMHIC Municipal Cooperative Agreement (MCA), and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 16 of 2019 the GTCMHIC Board of Directors adopted a policy outlining a process of applying for 2020 membership to the Consortium, and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that the Village of Watkins Glen did not bring all of the active employees into the Consortium as required by Section A.3. of the MCA due to contract conditions at that time, and

WHEREAS, due to new leadership and new contract negotiations since said year 2020, the Village of Watkins Glen would like to request an extension with the GTCMHIC to add an additional three years to the existing waiver of Section A.3. MCA compliance, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Village of Watkins Glen will request an additional three-year extension with the GTCMHIC to be waived of compliance with section A.3. of the GTCMHIC's 2023 MCA, effective through December 31, 2025.

Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Office Hours

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to approve keeping the office hours from 7:30a – 3:30p Monday through Thursday and 7:30a – 1:30p Fridays. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

Non Profit Safety Inspections

Trustee Nan Woodworth made a motion to approve non-profit safety inspections to \$35 from \$60. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion Carried.

AUDIT

General Audit

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the general audit dated September 15, 2023 in the following amounts:

General	\$41,455.76	Sewer	\$4,125.66
Electric	\$198,897.45	Water	\$5,287.15
Joint Activity (CVWRF)	\$24,287.09		
Summer Rec	\$7,236.90		

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

BOARD CONCERNS

Campground Fees

The rates are to be reviewed and brought back to the Board for final approval.

Mowing Town of Dix

Superintendent of Public Works Terry Wilcox informed the Board that Village Streets crew has been maintaining the grass around the water towers in the Town of Dix and will be informing them that they will no longer be doing so.

Church Safety Inspection Fees

Code Enforcement Officer Scot Cole brought to the board the idea to reduce the safety inspection fee for churches to fall in line with the discounts given to non-profits for park rentals. The Board agreed to take it to a vote to include all non-profits. See voting for results.

Catholic Charities of Schuyler County

Mayor Laurie DeNardo reviewed an email from the Catholic Charities of Schuyler County requesting to use LaFayette Park to host a meeting to raise awareness on Domestic Violence. The Clerk will respond with a rental application and inform the organization of the non-profit rate.

Ribbon Cutting

Lulu-B Women's Clothing Outlet has a ribbon cutting for the opening of this new business on Wednesday 9/6 at 1:00p.

EXECUTIVE

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock motioned to move into an executive session for personnel. Trustee Margaret Schimizzi 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 Bob Carson motioned to adjourn at 8:30 p.m. Trustee Nan Woodworth 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