

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE
VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 2014

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The public session of the meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Mayor R Mark Swinnerton, Jr. who led the assembled in the pledge of allegiance. Present were Mayor R Mark Swinnerton, Trustee Scott D Gibson, Trustee Paul E Clifford, Trustee Kevin J Smith, Trustee Anthony J Fraboni, Superintendent of Utilities Mark L Specchio, Sergeant Steven M Decker, Clerk/Treasurer Donna J Beardsley and Senior Account Clerk Typist Rhonda E Slater. Also present were Park Manager Michelle Hyde, Water Supervisor Harley Connelly and Fire Chief Judson Smith. Absent were Superintendent of Streets, Parks and Cemeteries Donald R Perry, Police Chief Thomas R Struble, Electric Supervisor Minard LaFever and Code Enforcement Officer Gregory Larnard. There were approximately six others in attendance.

ADDITIONS TO OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA

Superintendent Specchio had one Parks Department personnel matter for executive session. He then added streetlights for Franklin Street under the Electric Department and water complaint - Orchard Ave under Water Department.

Trustee Clifford brought up a tree removal request from the Walkers, but it was not added to the agenda.

Mayor Swinnerton added a resolution in opposition to the Crestwood LPG storage project as 8.1.

PUBLIC BE HEARD

Angeline Franzese commented that she was pleased to see tonight's proposed resolution come before Board for approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[Minutes for Regular Meeting July 21, 2014](#)

[Minutes for July 21, 2014](#)

Trustee Scott D Gibson made the motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on July 21, 2014. Trustee Paul E Clifford seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[Minutes for Regular Meeting August 4, 2014](#)

[Minutes for August 4, 2014](#)

Trustee Anthony J Fraboni made the motion to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees held on August 4, 2014. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Trustee Paul E Clifford, Trustee Anthony J Fraboni, Trustee Kevin J Smith

Nay: None

Abstain: Trustee Scott D Gibson. Motion Carried.

REPORTS

[Parks Department Report](#)

[Parks Report August 1 - 14, 2014](#)

Trustee Anthony J Fraboni made the motion to approve the Parks Department report. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. Park Manager Hyde discussed the fact that it has been a very busy summer, with a Jet Ski Event and Swim Event this coming weekend. Fire Chief Smith commented that Charlie Saptura is busy writing an emergency plan for the weekend events. The Board then discussed the summer recreation program. Park Manager Hyde stated that it went well with approximately 80 kids signed up and an average of 60 children/day attending. She is working with the school to see if they can incorporate the school's early morning program into the summer recreation program to better work with parents' work days. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Street Department Report

Street Report August 1 - 14, 2014

Trustee Paul E Clifford made the motion to approve the Street Department report as presented. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. The Board commented that Street Supervisor Perry is on vacation. Trustee Gibson inquired about the work at the intersection of Second St and Glen Ave. Superintendent Specchio replied that the Village crew has installed a tee in the storm sewer at this location and filled it in with flowable fill. It is anticipated that it will be blacktopped when they come to do the streets. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Water Department Report

Water Report July 31, 2014 - August 13, 2014

Trustee Kevin J Smith made the motion to approve the Water Department report. Trustee Scott D Gibson seconded the motion. Mayor Swinnerton then brought up the water issues on Orchard Ave. Water Supervisor Harley Connelly responded that the Village has marked out areas that are not the same as on our maps and will be investigating further. The Board then specifically discussed the Idlwilde Inn owned by Mr. Vandenhurk. Supervisor Connelly stated that they have found that there is a very large draw in this area around 10am which could be caused by theft of services or the State Park campground usage. He further stated that if they can find the cause of this draw and eliminate it, it may help with the Riley water issue. Discussion followed. Trustee Clifford then asked about the results of the manhole cover removal during the heavy rainfall. Superintendent Specchio stated that the heaviest inflow was found to be from Madison Ave and Second Street, proving there is an issue somewhere on the side hill in this area. Trustee Clifford then inquired about the request for WGI to slow the waste flow so the sewer plant wouldn't be overwhelmed. Superintendent Specchio explained that the request was made because of the heavy rain. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Electric Department Report

Electric Report August 4 - 15, 2014

Trustee Scott D Gibson made the motion to approve the Electric Department report as submitted. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. Trustee Gibson asked about Superintendent Specchio's request to discuss the Franklin Street streetlights. Superintendent Specchio explained that there is currently one fixture that is not operational and he would like permission to replace it before the Grand Prix Festival. The cost for the light is \$860. It is not a decorative fixture, but would get us through and could be used elsewhere in the Village once new decorative lights were purchased for Franklin Street. The Board approved the request. Mayor Swinnerton then asked about streetlight replacement on the side streets. Superintendent Specchio assured him that LEDs are being installed as faulty ones are found. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Wastewater Department Report

There was no report.

Pool Credits

Credit Requests

Trustee Kevin J Smith made the motion to approve the following pool credit requests. Trustee Scott D Gibson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Pool Filling Sewer Credit Requests

Acct #	Name	Readings	# of Units	Credit Requested	
D0520	Joseph Orbin	15974.0	16067.0	17	\$78.03
		16074.0	16302.0		
		16426.0	16453.0		
		16464.0	16560.0		
		16577.0	16787.0		
		16801.0	16938.0		
		16949.0	17045.0		
		17059.0	17356.0		
		17373.0	17395.0		
		17427.0	17496.0		
E0100	Scott Cleveland	17569.0	18156.0	8	\$36.72
				25	\$114.75

Zoning and Building Department Report
Codes Report August 4 - 15, 2014

Trustee Scott D Gibson made the motion to approve the Zoning and Building Department report as presented. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. Trustee Gibson asked about the Tops Supermarket sewer regulations violation. Superintendent Specchio stated that there is infiltration in the sewer behind the building. There is a meeting tomorrow morning with store officials to discuss the matter further. Trustee Gibson then asked about the Dunkin Donuts second entrance and dumpster surround. Superintendent Specchio replied that a meeting has been scheduled, but he is unaware of the date. Water Supervisor Connelly then brought up the Franzese sewer billing issues on Salt Point Road. He suggested that they install magnetic flow meters on the individual houses instead of billing the sewer off the lone water meter. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Superintendent's Reports
Superintendent's Projects August 4 - 15, 2014
WWTP Attack Plan August 1 - 14, 2014

Trustee Anthony J Fraboni made the motion to approve the Superintendent's Reports. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. Trustee Gibson then asked about the track slowing the wastewater flow down. Superintendent Specchio stated that the discharge can be dialed to a specific flow level which can help with how the sewer plant handles the inflow. The track was asked to dial it down so the plant could handle the heavy rainfall. Trustee Gibson then asked about the outcome of the decorative streetlights inquiry. Superintendent Specchio replied that the lights were beautiful, but had an equivalency of 400W. The units would have cost \$85/unit, but with the LED retrofit, the cost would be over \$600/fixture. Trustee Clifford then asked about the meeting with Greg Mathews regarding the paving of County Route 28. Superintendent Specchio stated that the current plan is to pave from the Village line to the Irelandville railroad tracks on County Route 28. He has requested that the County pave all the way down to Route 409. Mayor Swinnerton then asked if there have been any excursions at the sewer plant. Superintendent responded that there have not, but that the influent valves will need to be replaced or repaired. They will be taking it apart this week. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

CONFERENCE REQUESTS

There were no conference requests.

AUDIT

Trustee Anthony J Fraboni made the motion to approve the audit for August 18, 2014 in the following amounts. Trustee Scott D Gibson seconded the motion.

General	\$24,826.08	Water	\$2,448.28
Electric	\$155,664.23	Sewer	\$15,182.31

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

PUBLIC BE HEARD - revisited
David Crea

David Crea provided a written critique of Rob Mackenzie's risk analysis that was distributed at the last Board meeting stating that the risks have been overstated. Mayor Swinnerton replied that as the Mayor of Watkins Glen, he is looking at the matter strictly from a Village aspect and it's potential effect on the Village itself and not the County as a whole. Mr. Crea then asked about reinstating the parking spots in front of Carquest. The Mayor stated that the Village would look into it.

VOTING ITEMS

Mayor Swinnerton then brought forth a proposed resolution opposing the construction and operation of an underground liquefied petroleum gas storage facility. Trustee Scott D Gibson made the motion to approve the following resolution in opposition of the construction and operation of an underground liquefied petroleum gas storage facility. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. Trustee Clifford stated that it may be misconstrued as conflict of interest if he were to vote on this matter so he will abstain from the vote, but his personal opinion is that LPG storage is not the way to go because the risks are not worth the minimal number of jobs the facility would create. He also stated that he feels the resolution is more symbolic than anything else. Trustee Fraboni stated he was not in favor of the proposition and feels there is no benefit to the Village of Watkins Glen taking a stand on this issue. However, he did state that the Village does "hang our hat" on tourism and is not in favor of the Crestwood Project. Mayor Swinnerton stated that the Village's opinions do matter and that taking a stand on behalf of the Village residents is what the Board was appointed to do. Trustee Smith stated that he is in favor of industrialization,

but has to vote on how the constituents would like him to vote and not on personal opinions and the majority of them are against this project. Trustee Gibson stated that every business has risks and environmental issues, but looking at it from an economic standpoint, which is overwhelmingly tourism, this project does not seem to fit. The Mayor then called for a vote on the motion. The vote was as follows:

Yea: Mayor R Mark Swinnerton, Jr., Trustee Scott D Gibson, Trustee Kevin J Smith

Nay: None

Abstain: Trustee Paul E Clifford, Trustee Anthony J Fraboni. Motion Carried.

WHEREAS, Crestwood Midstream Partners LP (formerly known as Inergy Midstream, LP) submitted an application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (“DEC”) to construct and operate an underground Liquid Petroleum Gas (“LPG”) storage and transportation hub at the former US Salt property approximately three miles north of Watkins Glen, NY; and

WHEREAS, the DEC, has been Lead Agency for the project under the State Environmental Quality Review Act since February 2010; and

WHEREAS, the LPG facility would have the ability to store up to 2.1 million barrels of LPG in underground salt caverns created by former US Salt’s mining activities; and

WHEREAS, in summary of previous comments documented in annual reporting from the former Inergy Midstream Company, the potential to expand the facility in the future beyond what is currently being proposed is a real possibility; and

WHEREAS, current proposals include the construction of a rail facility capable of processing thirty-two rail cars per day, a truck facility capable of handling forty-five transports per day and several brine ponds with the capacity to store almost 1.2 million barrels of brine; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen geographic center is located at the intersection of two single lane State highways, a juncture which currently sees problematic high load truck traffic; and

WHEREAS, studies produced to evaluate risk, environmental impact, safety concerns and integrity of structural geology by those who support or oppose the project provide opposing points of view; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Region, including Seneca Lake, is home to New York’s largest and the country’s second largest wine producing trade, a source of commerce and economic benefit to the area; and

WHEREAS, the Finger Lakes Region, including Seneca Lake, is an area known for its natural and scenic beauty; and

WHEREAS, Seneca Lake is the source of drinking water for over 100,000 people of which, the Village of Watkins Glen draws its supply just south of the proposed project; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen and the surrounding area has become a major tourist destination sought after for its fishing, hiking, boating, camping and the natural wonder that is the Watkins Glen State Park, home to 19 waterfalls and gorges; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen has made great strides in developing partnerships with the community to help expand tourism and improve growth throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen will partner with the Village of Montour Falls in a new jointly-owned wastewater treatment plant situated at a geographic location between both communities to help save in operating costs, consolidate municipal operations and to provide new development opportunities at the location of both former treatment plants; and

WHEREAS, significant financial investment in the area from Local, State and Federal agencies have been made in recognition of the vital importance that tourism has on the area through programs such as,

- Project Seneca, a multi-million dollar state and federally supported investment to help revitalize the shores of Seneca Lake

- The 2011-2013 NY Main Street Grant Program which provided \$500,000 for Village of Watkins Glen commercial district building front improvements.
- The 2012-2014 RARP Program which provided \$150,000 for the Village of Watkins Glen commercial district exterior lighting improvements, general building beautification needs and Main Street apartment renovations.
- Transportation grants for gateway improvement studies and eco-tourism concepts to enhance Village entrance ways; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen recently adopted a comprehensive plan which identifies tourism as the most vital economic benefit to the community; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen and surrounding area have been called a “diamond in the rough” by winery interests looking to invest in the area, stating that the Crestwood Project is contrary to that goal; and

WHEREAS, the Crestwood Project has polarized the region with valid concerns of rampant industrialization, negative environmental impacts, safety risks, negative impacts to infrastructure and the potential to negatively affect the economic livelihood of a region dependent on tourism; and

WHEREAS, the majority of Village constituents who have approached the Village of Watkins Glen Board have spoken out against said project for reasons stated above;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, in keeping with the majority opinion of the local Village community, the Village of Watkins Glen Board respectfully requests that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation withhold approval of any plan for mass storage of LPG adjacent to or under Seneca Lake and exercise its power in identifying a more appropriate location for any such storage site.

BOARD CONCERNS/NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Smith inquired about the manhole down at the High School that is covered by a grate. Superintendent Specchio stated that Supervisor Connelly has measured the manhole and the Village should be able to use one of the covers we have on hand. The work should be completed tomorrow. Trustee Smith then asked about the school zone signs for the old Middle School. Superintendent Specchio was asked to look into what needs to be done to have the school zone shortened and the signs removed. Sergeant Decker stated that it has been discussed to shorten the school zone at Tenth Street.

Mayor Swinnerton then inquired about the Village taking over the sign shop from the County. Superintendent Specchio will provide a summary to the Board regarding the matter.

Mayor Swinnerton then requested that Trustee Fraboni attend the Montour Falls board meeting to be held on Thursday, August 21, 2014 at 7pm on his behalf as the JPC representative. They will be discussing the hiring of a chief plant operator. Mayor Swinnerton is hoping to hire a new person, with input from the JPC, that can work for the Village of Watkins Glen now and transition into the same position for the jointly-operated new wastewater treatment plant when the time comes.

Superintendent Specchio updated the Board on the wastewater treatment plant stating that the Village is working with Barton & Loguidice to finalize wet weather plan. He also stated that he has obtained a price quote to update the plant maintenance programming to work with Windows 7 or 8. The cost would be \$1279.00. The Board was in support of this request. Superintendent Specchio then stated that he is working on Koester's punch list and is pricing out a program that operates chlorination. He believes the quotes will come in at roughly \$1,000.00. Lastly, Superintendent Specchio stated that he has a meeting Wednesday morning with EJ, formerly Syracuse Castings, to discuss manhole lid replacements.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (as needed)

Trustee Paul E Clifford made the motion to exit public session and enter executive session at 8:16pm. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustee Scott D Gibson made the motion to exit executive session and adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Trustee Kevin J Smith seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rhonda E Slater