



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD TUESDAY, JULY 6, 2021

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The public session of the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Mayor Luke Leszyk. Present were Mayor Luke Leszyk, Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini, Trustee Laurie DeNardo, Trustee Nan Woodworth, Trustee Bob Carson, Village Clerk Lonnie Childs and Treasurer Rhonda Slater. Also, present were Parks and Event Center Manager Craig Bond, Code Enforcement Officer Darrin Stocum and Sergeant-in-Charge Ethan Mosher. Absent was Superintendent Terry Wilcox. There were three other persons in attendance.

VOTING ITEMS – Part 1

Water System Improvements Project CDBG Public Hearing and Grant Submittal Resolution

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

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen is eligible to apply for funding for the proposed Water System Improvements Project through the Office of Homes and Community Renewal's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Public Infrastructure Program; and

WHEREAS, in order to apply for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to help fund the Water System Improvements Project a public hearing is required prior to submittal of the grant application; and

WHEREAS, the Village Board desires to pursue 2021 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding in the amount of \$1,250,000 to assist in the completion of the proposed improvements;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Watkins Glen finds the proposed improvements to the public water system to be in the public interest; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Board authorizes a public hearing be held to discuss the submission of a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) application for the 2021 program year.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Board of the Village of Watkins Glen fully supports the Community Development Block Grant application and authorizes Larson Design Group to execute the application and all related forms and documents.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

CDBG Public Infrastructure Application and Grant Submittal

The public hearing on the CDBG grant was opened at 6:01 pm with a motion by Trustee Laurie DeNardo and a second by Trustee Nan Woodworth. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Amanda Ratchford, with Larson Design Group, went through a slideshow presentation on the Community Development Block Grant program, how it works and the general overview of needs for the proposed water infrastructure project that will be funded using the grant funds if awarded. There were no comments or questions from the public.

[Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC/Charter Communications Inc](#)

The public hearing on the Spectrum Northeast, LLC/Charter Communications franchise agreement was opened at 6:02 pm with a motion by Trustee Nan Woodworth and a second by Trustee Bob Carson. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[PUBLIC BE HEARD](#)

There were no comments from the public.

[APPROVAL OF MINUTES](#)

[Minutes for Regular Meeting June 2, 2021](#)

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on June 15, 2021. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[Minutes for Special Meeting June 21, 2021](#)

Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini made the motion to approve the minutes for the Special Board of Trustees meeting held on June 21, 2021. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and the vote was as follows:

Yeas: Mayor Luke Leszyk, Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini, Trustee Nan Woodworth

Nays: None

Abstain: Trustee Laurie DeNardo, Trustee Bob Carson Motion Carried.

[DEPARTMENT REPORTS](#)

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the department heads reports. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[VOTING ITEMS – Part 2](#)

[Town of Dix Sewer Credit Request – 3304 Wedgewood Rd](#)

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion approve a sewer credit to the Town of Dix for their customer William Tague, 3304 Wedgewood Rd, in the amount of \$850.51 for a broken water line. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[Reimbursement for Tire Damage – Jessica Sczepanski](#)

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to reimburse Jessica Sczepanski for tire damage incurred from hitting a curb at the intersection of Twelfth & Decatur Streets. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board was informed that the Streets Department went out and examined the curb in question and that it is within legal limits for height. The Police Department stated that it was illegal to hit a curb and she could have been ticketed. Discussion followed. The Board then voted on the motion and all were opposed. Motion Failed.

[American Rescue Plan Act – Coronavirus Local Fiscal Recovery Funds](#)

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion for the Village to request funding from the American Rescue Plan Act's coronavirus local fiscal recovery funds to non-entitlement units on behalf of the United States Department of Treasury. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[Rural Development Award Letter](#)

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to accept the Rural Development funding package offering \$4.5 million in a rural development loan with a 1.375% interest rate for 38 years. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the

motion. The Board was informed that the Village could accept the award as presented or decline it and request Rural Development to consider a loan and grant package in the National Pool. Discussion followed. Trustee Laurie DeNardo rescinded her original motion and re-motivated to decline the current offer and try for the loan and grant combo package in the National Pool. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Seneca Lake Event Center Café RFP

Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini made the motion approve the Village Clerk to put out an RFP for the rental of the Seneca Lake Event Center Café. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Temporary Seasonal Laborers – Parks Department

Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini made the motion to hire Wyatt Hodlofski and Ernest Panarites as seasonal laborers at a rate of \$12.50/hr. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Temporary Seasonal Hires, Lifeguard – Parks Department

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to hire Owen Bingham as seasonal lifeguard at a rate of \$15.80/hr. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Post Full-Time Cleaner Position

Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini made the motion to approve the Village Clerk to post a full-time cleaner position (40 hours per week), with benefits for the Village of Watkins Glen. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Memorandum of Understanding – Teamsters Contract, Cleaner Position

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion approve the following memorandum of understanding increasing the wage of the cleaner position in the Teamsters Contract. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

The following sets forth the terms established by this Memorandum of Understanding and Agreement by and between Teamsters Local Union 118 (“Union”) and the Village of Watkins Glen (“Village”), collectively described as “the parties”, to amend the June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2024 collective bargaining agreement (“Agreement”):

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen would like to increase the rate of pay for the “CLEANER” job classification that is listed in the current collective bargaining agreement, and

WHEREAS, the Parties agree to increase the rate of pay for the “CLEANER” job classification,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Parties agree to amend the Agreement as follows;

7.1.1 Base Wage Rates shall be amended as follows:

	Current	July 11, 2021	June 1, 2022	June 1, 2023
CLEANER	\$12.50	\$15.96	\$16.36	\$16.77

Except as set forth in this Memorandum of Agreement, all terms and provisions of the Parties’ CBA running from June 1, 2020 through May 31, 2024 shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Part-Time Police Officer New Hire – Police Department

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to hire Anthony Sciarra as a part-time police officer primarily working in the Bike Patrol Division at a rate of \$18.00/hr. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

CONFERENCE REQUESTS

State of New York Police Juvenile Officers and School Resource Officers Training

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve SRO Officer James Coleman, SRO Officer Michael Champion and Sergeant-in-Charge Ethan Mosher to attend the State of New York Police Juvenile Officers and School Resource Officers Training at the Fort William Henry Conference Center in Lake George, NY from August 30- September 3, 2021. The Watkins Glen School District will pay for the two School Resource Officers to attend the conference. The Village of Watkins Glen will only have to pay for Sergeant Mosher to attend at an approximate cost of \$1,200.00. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

AUDIT

General Audit

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve the general audits dated June 16 & 29, 2021 and July 2, 2021 in the following amounts:

General	\$146,798.75	Sewer	\$2,960.34
Electric	\$177,986.81	Water	\$13,598.31
Joint Activity (CVWRF)	\$15,225.64	Water Improvements	\$75,703.83

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

Online Audit

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the online audit to pay the June sales tax payment in the amount of \$5,478.00, the 2020 serial bond principal payment in the amount of \$95,000, the 2020 serial bond interest payment in the amount of \$6,684.38 and the May fines and fees payment in the amount of \$2,927.00. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

JPC Audit

Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini made the motion to approve the JPC audit in the amount of \$6,474.00. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

BOARD CONCERNS

Political Signage

Trustee Laurie DeNardo requested a reminder be sent out to Village Residents regarding political signage and the need to remove such signs until closer to the November elections.

Clute Park Seasonal Parking Passes

The Village Board discussed the possibility of offering Schuyler County residents an option to purchase a seasonal parking pass to Clute Park. The Board discussed waiting to implement this program until next year once fees to run the new spray park and facilities are known. No final decisions were made.

[Creation of a Fire District](#)

The Village Board discussed a proposition to allow the Watkins Glen Fire Department to break away from the Village and create their own fire district. The Board members were in favor of looking into it further and requested more information on what these potential changes might look like.

[Marijuana Dispensaries](#)

Mayor Luke Leszyk requested that the Board members get in touch with the local residents to get a feel for how accepting the general public would be to allowing marijuana dispensaries to run businesses here in the Village. Village's will have the discretion to either approve or prohibit the recreational sale of marijuana within their jurisdictions. If the Village of Watkins Glen allows the marijuana dispensaries, the Village will receive some sales tax revenue from the sales. If the Village of Watkins Glen wants to opt-out, it must do so by December 31, 2021.

[Private Investment from Lily Broadcasting/WENY-TV](#)

Lily Broadcasting/WENY-TV has offered to donate \$50,000 to the Clute Park Project in exchange for some time of recognition. The Village Board was in favor of having a plaque placed in the vestibule of the pavilion, as well as magnets with Lily Broadcasting/WENY-TV being placed on the Zamboni.

[Letter of Resignation](#)

The Board accepted the resignation of Cleaner Margaret Wilcox effective July 4, 2021.

[Watkins Glen Chamber Fireworks Assistance](#)

The Board informed the public that with the assistance of Trustee Laurie DeNardo, the Watkins Glen Chamber was able to secure the \$1,500.00 funding for the Fourth of July fireworks display from Cargill, Inc instead of coming out of Village funds.

[Notice of Public Hearing](#)

The Board will hold a public hearing on the proposed extension of the Short-Term Rental Moratorium on July 20, 2021. The extension will be for a three-month period, beginning in August 2021.

[Building Safety Inspector Position](#)

The Village has not received any applications to fill the vacant Building Safety Inspector position. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini made the motion to re-advertise the position as a full-time (40 hours per week), with benefits position. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[Enterprise Fleet Update](#)

Mayor Luke Leszyk updated the Board members with the progress being made with Enterprise Fleet. The Village is looking to start our agreement with Enterprise Fleet with the leasing of six vehicles. The first vehicles are not expected to come in until February 2022, due to issues with supply.

[End of COVID State of Emergency & Outdoor Dining](#)

The Governor has ended the COVID State of Emergency effective June 24, 2021 by not extending Executive Order 202.109. The issue of outdoor dining and the temporary authority for State liquor licensees to extend their licensed premises onto municipal property (ie sidewalks) has not been resolved yet as there is legislation in front of the governor to extend this and it is expected to be approved.

[End of COVID State of Emergency & Utility Service Termination Moratorium](#)

With the ending of the state of emergency, the utility services termination moratorium has been lifted. This will allow the Village of Watkins Glen to enforce the nonpayment of utility charges through service terminations in accordance with our local laws. The only changes to the Village's current policy is that the Village must provide 30 days-notice prior to termination and the protection of being able to provide a self-certified statement of financial

hardship in conjunction with the COVID-19 state of emergency to avoid service termination for 180 days from June 24, 2021. The Village will start service terminations and late fees with the August billing cycle.

[PUBLIC HEARING – Revisited](#)

[CDBG Public Infrastructure Application and Grant Submittal](#)

With no comments from the public, the public hearing on the CDBG grant was closed at 7:30 pm with a motion by Trustee Laurie DeNardo and a second by Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC/Charter Communications Inc](#)

The public hearing on the Spectrum Northeast, LLC/Charter Communications franchise agreement was closed at 7:31 pm with a motion by Trustee Nan Woodworth and a second by Trustee Bob Carson. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini made the motion to approve the following resolution in conjunction with the franchise agreement. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

An application has been duly made to the Board of the Village of Watkins Glen, County of Schuyler, New York, by Spectrum Northeast, LLC, an indirect subsidiary of Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”), a limited liability company organized and existing in good standing under the laws of State of Delaware doing business at 2604 Seneca Avenue, Niagara Falls, NY 14305, for the approval of a renewal agreement for Charter's cable television franchise for ten (10) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission.

The franchise renewal agreement would bring the franchise into conformity with certain provisions of the Federal Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984, as amended, and certain court rulings.

A public hearing was held in the Village of Watkins Glen, New York on July 6, 2021 at 6 P.M. and notice of the hearing was published in the Watkins Review and Express on June 23, 2021.

WHEREAS, the Board of the Village of Watkins Glen finds that:

1. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has substantially complied with the material terms and conditions of its existing franchise and with applicable law; and
2. Spectrum Northeast, LLC has the financial, legal and technical ability to provide these services, facilities and equipment as set forth in its proposal attached; and
3. Spectrum Northeast, LLC can reasonably meet the future cable-related community needs and interests, taking into account the cost of meeting such needs and interests.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Village of Watkins Glen hereby grants the cable television franchise of Spectrum Northeast, LLC and the Village of Watkins Glen for ten (10) years commencing with the date of approval by the Public Service Commission and expiring ten (10) years hence.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Village of Watkins Glen hereby confirms acceptance of this franchise renewal agreement.

PROJECTS

Water System Improvement Update – Larson Design Group

Larson Design Group provided an update to the Board with their progress with the design, permitting and approvals. They are currently working on the NEPA review that is required for our CDBG funding and have scheduled geotechnical borings for September.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to exit public session and enter into executive session at 7:35 pm for Town of Reading Water District Agreements, a Water Department personnel matter and a pending litigation matter – code violation. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION & RE-ENTER PUBLIC SESSION

Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini made the motion to exit executive session and re-enter public session at 8:24 pm. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

VOTING ITEMS – Part 3

CDBG Grant Designation of Officers

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the following resolution designating officers for the CDBG grant. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen is a recipient of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding through the United States Department of Homes and Community Renewal, administered by the New York State Governor’s Office for Small Cities; and

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations governing the Community Development Block Program require that the Village of Watkins Glen is responsible for taking specific actions to affirmatively further fair housing (AFFH) practices in the Village of Watkins Glen; and

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations governing the Community Development Block Program require that the Village of Watkins Glen be responsible for ensuring compliance with Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968, as amended, including the appointment of a Section 3 Officer to oversee compliance; and

WHEREAS, the rules and regulations governing the Community Development Block Program require that the Village of Watkins Glen to be responsible for ensuring compliance with Davis Bacon and Related Labor Standards Acts including the appointment of a Labor Standards Officer to review and/or oversee compliance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the policy of the Village of Watkins Glen to implement programs to ensure equal opportunity in housing for all persons regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap or disability, or familial status or national origin, and that discrimination in the sale, rental, leasing, financing of housing to be used for construction of housing, or in the provision of brokerage services, because of race, color, religion, ancestry, sex, national origin, handicap or disability, is prohibited by Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968

(Federal Housing Law); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Watkins Glen will undertake the following AFFH actions within one (1) year of the award of CDBG funds:

1. Display fair housing posters and distribute fair housing materials prepared by New York State, the municipality, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), or fair housing organizations to community residents, landlords, real estate professional and lenders;
2. Hold an annual public meeting to address fair housing issues and obtain community input;
3. Elected officials, municipality staff in charge of planning, zoning, building, housing, community and economic development, and their third-party consultants attend and online fair housing training seminar; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Lonnie Childs, Village Clerk for the Village of Watkins Glen, shall be designated as the Fair Housing Officer for the Village of Watkins Glen for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Terry Wilcox, Superintendent of Public Works for the Village of Watkins Glen, shall be designated as the Section 3 Officer for the Village of Watkins Glen for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Larson Design Group shall be designated as the Labor Standards Officer for the Village of Watkins Glen for the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these positions of Fair Housing Officer, Section 3 Officer and Labor Standards Officer shall be renewed annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village of Watkins Glen Board may, on its own initiative or on petition, amend, supplement, or repeal the provisions of this resolution in conformity with applicable rules and regulations and in their interpretation and application, the provisions of this resolution shall be held to be minimum requirements, adopted for the promotion of the public health, morals, safety, or the general welfare. Whenever the requirements of this resolution are at variance with the requirements of any other lawfully adopted rules, regulations, or ordinances, the most restrictive, or that imposing the highest standards, shall govern; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADJOURN

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

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Rhonda E Slater
Treasurer