



**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 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, Superintendent of Public Works Terry Wilcox, Village Clerk Fred Warrick and Treasurer Angela Ventra. Also present was Superintendent of Parks & Recreation Craig Bond and Sergeant-in-Charge Ethan Mosher. Trustee Nan Woodworth was absent. There were approximately 10 other persons in attendance.

**PUBLIC BE HEARD**

George Winner, attorney for Watkins Glen International addressed the minutes from the 2/7/2023 meeting and some concerns regarding some of the characterizations and assumptions within. They contacted the Town of Dix back on September 2022 to resolve some billing/usage concerns to clarify how the bills they received were determined and how to go forward with paying what is supposed to be paid. Talks are ongoing. Mr. Winner has a meeting with attorney Halpin March 9<sup>th</sup>. They believe some of what the Village stated as due from the Town may be a result of significant usage errors. They hope to get things cleared up for the mutual benefit of the Village, Town and the track. WGI is not contending if they are over/under charged, just not sure how their being charged. They are confused on the structure of the water bill and WGI does not have the same personnel as it did when the 2004 agreement was entered into.

Michael Printup added that WGI was not billed monthly for a while. They were looking in December for September through December 2022 with an email trail asking why the Town was not billing them, then in January five (5) months of a bill showed up. They intended to pay it immediately upon receipt, but pointed out that they were trying to get a meeting since September 2022 and just now got one set March 2023, so it created concern that it took that long to get that far.

Attorney Winner provided an example of a bill from November 2022 – December 2022 for one month and the usage on that bill was over 3 million gallons. Three times what is used during NASCAR and they don't have anyone there. This indicated there's something wrong that they needed to better understand and have resolved.

-----

Kristin VanHorn spoke on the DRI (4<sup>th</sup> Street/LaFayette/Gateways) project bid results. Bids are significantly over budget, but expected since original plan development was done in 2018 and inflation has since contributed. E. 4<sup>th</sup> is the most expensive. When DOT comes to do repairs, the village can go after different options at that time. Recommended that we forego that project to save the other two, which allows the Village about \$840,000 to do LaFayette and the Gateways signage.

-----

Barbara Cook inquired about having a professional arborist consultant in the village to advise and educate on the removal of trees prior to doing so to avoid the unnecessary removal.

-----

David Popovich expressed growing concern of what was described as essentially a junkyard forming behind his property. Asked for guidance on where to go with concerns (i.e. Codes, Planning, Zoning) to handle things before the problem gets bigger.

-----

Stacy Gray, Wet Couch Radio, announced that after broadcasting the Board meetings for 4 years now she will no longer will be doing it, but encourages the Board to begin broadcasting the meetings and offered the Clerk training if needed.

-----

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on February 7, 2023

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the minutes for the Regular Board of Trustees meeting held on February 7, 2023. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

## DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve all Department Head reports. In further discussion, Parks and Recreation Superintendent Craig Bond notified the public that Summer Recreation sign-up is live online at \$100 per child for an 8-week program. Scholarships are available. He also mentioned the Corvette Festival is coming to Watkins on May 20 & 21<sup>st</sup>. It's the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the corvette. All info can be found on SenecaLakeEvents.org. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

## VOTING ITEMS

### Hires

Requests to hire Ernest Randall as Temporary Seasonal Laborer – Feb 27th at \$16/hour, James Dryburgh as Temporary Seasonal Laborer – May 29th at \$17/hour, Robert Spencer as Temporary Seasonal Laborer – April 10th at \$17/hour, Patti Dryburgh as Recreation Attendant (Seasonal) – May 29th at \$17/hour, and Carly Thomas as Recreation Attendant (Seasonal) – April 8th at \$16/hour were tabled.

### Summer Recreation Program Accident Insurance

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve an accident insurance quote for Summer Recreation Program - \$1,285. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

### Penalty & Interest Reversal

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve to have \$44.19 in penalties and interest reversed from 2022 Village taxes for Denis Amisano due to an accounting error. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

### Training

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve for Electric Dept.'s Tom Ballard, Dayne Hughey and Jeff Heichel to attend the 2023 MEUA March Engineering Workshop, 3/9 & 3/10 in Syracuse, NY. Cost is \$80/person, rooms \$159/night, total of \$717. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

### Use of WGFD Building

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the membership applications for use of WGFD Building for Charlie Smith III, March 4th, 12p – 3p, Birthday Party; Ashley Jayne, March 11th, 12p – 5p, Birthday Party; and Jason Fuller, April 29th, 1p – 5p, Baby Shower. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

## RESOLUTIONS

### NEW LOSAP – Firefighter Records Listing

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve the resolution to approve firefighter records listing for 2022.

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Watkins Glen has adopted a Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) for the volunteer firefighters of the Watkins Glen Fire Department; and

**WHEREAS**, the LOSAP program requires that the Village of Watkins Glen Board of Trustees, as Program Sponsor, approve the firefighter records listing on an annual basis;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village of Watkins Glen Board of Trustees has reviewed and approved the attached firefighter records listing of all active members as it pertains to the Service Award Program for calendar year 2022.

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

#### Fair Housing Plan and Officer

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the resolution adopting a Village of Watkins Glen Fair Housing Plan and Designating a Fair Housing Officer.

**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 Fair Housing; 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 the Village Clerk of the Village of Watkins Glen, shall be designated as the Fair Housing Officer for the Village of Watkins Glen; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the position of Fair Housing Officer shall be renewed annually.

**RESOLVED**, that the Village 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.

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

### Use of State Highway – Grand Prix

Trustee Bob Carson made the motion to approve the resolution to support Watkins Glen Promotion’s application for use of state highway/NYS DOT property for the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival.

**WHEREAS**, Watkins Glen Promotions is in the process of submitting an application for use of State Highway/NYS DOT Property for the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival to be held on Friday, September 8, 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, Watkins Glen Promotions needs to provide written proof from the Village of Watkins Glen, through which the event passes, stating that there is no objection to the event taking place, and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Clerk is listed as the contact person for any questions or concerns for this resolution.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen have no objections to the Watkins Glen Grand Prix Festival taking place as requested.

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

### Use of State Highway – Corvette Festival

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the resolution to support the Parks & Recreation Department’s application for use of state highway/NYS DOT property for the Watkins Glen Corvette Festival.

**WHEREAS**, The Parks and Recreation Department of the Village of Watkins Glen has been working in collaboration with the International Motor Racing Research Center, Schuyler County Historical Society, the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce, and Watkins Glen International to bring about the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the corvette, and

**WHEREAS**, The Parks and Recreation Department of the Village of Watkins Glen is in the process of submitting an application for use of State Highway/NYS DOT Property for the Watkins Glen Corvette Festival to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023, and Sunday, May 21, 2023, and

**WHEREAS**, the Parks and Recreation Department of the Village of Watkins Glen needs to provide written proof from the Village of Watkins Glen, through which the event passes, stating that there is no objection to the event taking place, and

**WHEREAS**, the Village Clerk is listed as the contact person for any questions or concerns for this resolution.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen have no objections to the Watkins Glen Corvette Festival taking place as requested.

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

### Water Systems Project - Determination of No Significant Adverse Environmental Impacts

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the resolution making a determination of no significant adverse environmental impacts associated with the proposed Village of Watkins Glen water system improvements project.

**WHEREAS**, The Village of Watkins Glen Board recognizes the proposed Clute Park Road Reconstruction Project located in the Village of Watkins Glen, New York (the proposed “Action”) as an Unlisted Action under the provisions of 6NYCRR Part 617; and

**WHEREAS**, The Village of Watkins Glen Board recognizes the need to act as Lead Agency for the purposes of conducting a review of the Action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”); and

**WHEREAS**, an Environmental Assessment Form (Parts 1, 2, and 3) (“EAF”) submitted to and reviewed by the Village of Watkins Glen Board identified Involved and Interested Agencies under SEQRA; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to 6NYCRR Part 617.6, the Village of Watkins Glen’s engineering consultant, Larson Design Group, forwarded the EAF and supplemental information to the Involved and Interested Agencies on January 6, 2023, advising the agencies of the Village Board’s intention to serve as Lead Agency for review of the proposed Action; and

**WHEREAS**, no Agency has objected to the designation of the Village of Watkins Glen Board as the Lead Agency for this Action; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Watkins Glen Board has now received and reviewed Parts 1, 2, and 3 of the EAF for the proposed action and all supporting documentation appended thereto; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Watkins Glen has thoroughly analyzed the identified areas of environmental concern to determine whether the proposed Action may have a significant effect upon the environment; and

**WHEREAS**, the Village of Watkins Glen has reviewed the criteria for determining significance specified in 6NYCRR Part 617.7 and has therefore recommended that a Notice of Determination of No Significant Impact (“DONSI”) be adopted; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Village of Watkins Glen Board, as the designated Lead Agency for the environmental review of the proposed Action, after consideration of the full SEQR record does hereby adopt this Notice of DONSI for the proposed Action; and be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Deputy Mayor of the Village of Watkins Glen is hereby authorized and empowered to complete and sign the EAF for the proposed Action in accordance with the intent of this Resolution.

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

**AUDIT**  
**General Audit**

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the general audit dated February 17, 2023 in the following amounts:

General	\$46,001.77	Sewer	\$105,466.50
Electric	\$219,436.86	Water	\$6,405.13
Joint Activity (CVWRF)	\$18,609.73	Project Seneca (Capital)	\$976.80
Water Improvements	\$1,485.20		

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

**BOARD CONCERNS**  
**ZBA Resignation**

David Hertel announced his resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective 3/31/2023.

**Change of Occupant Information Form**

Discussion on this form tabled due to the absence of Code Enforcement Officer Scot Cole.

**Board Meeting – Election Day**

The Board meeting originally scheduled for March 21, 2023 will be moved to March 20, 2023 due to March 21<sup>st</sup> being election day.

**Fireworks 2023**

Fireworks in the Village celebrating Independence Day will be held on July 2<sup>nd</sup> and will launch from a barge instead by on land this year.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Laurie DeNardo motioned to enter an executive session for a legal matter at 6:54 a.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 7:05 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