



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2024

### 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 Margaret Schimizzi, Superintendent of Public Works Terry Wilcox, Clerk Fred Warrick. Also, in attendance was Sergeant Aaron Jumper. There were approximately two others in attendance. Absent was Trustee Bob Carson.

### PRESENTATIONS

Travis Ewen, Senior Associate/Landscape Architect for Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. presented the latest design updates for the accessible playground project in Clute Park.

### PUBLIC BE HEARD

None

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### Minutes for the Regular Meeting held on February 6, 2024

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock motioned to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on February 6, 2024. Trustee Margaret Schimizzi seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve all Department Head reports. Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### VOTING ITEMS

#### Resolution – Padua Ridge

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi made a motion to approve a resolution opposing the Padua Ridge gravel pit expansion.

**WHEREAS**, it has been reported in the New York State Environmental News Bulletin on January 3, 2024 and elsewhere that Padua Gravel (“applicant”) is proposing a 60-acre expansion to their gravel quarry operations, located in the Town of Dix, County of Schuyler, State of New York, adjacent to the Village of Watkins Glen,

**WHEREAS**, according to records of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the applicant applies for approval to expand a 15-acre quarry operation by 60 + acres, for a total of 75 acres to be mined by permit for the next 20 years,

**WHEREAS**, the present application is carried over from an initial application from the years 2007-2008,

**WHEREAS**, at that time the DEC suspended decision on the above application,

**WHEREAS**, to reactivate the pending application, the applicant submitted a DEIS to the DEC on May 13, 2019, which was deemed insufficient by the DEC, requiring a revised DEIS that was submitted on August 9, 2022.

**WHEREAS**, Village of Watkins Glen received no prior notice of these action by the DEC,

**WHEREAS**, Village of Watkins Glen received notice of the January 3, 2024 publication of the DEIS in the DEC Environmental News Bulletin on behalf of the applicant, that has been declared sufficient by the DEC,

**WHEREAS**, the DEC has declared a comment period with a deadline of February 28, 2024,

**WHEREAS**, this is an insufficient amount of time for the Village of Watkins Glen, the Town of Dix, and Schuyler County to respond to the effects the proposed project will have,

**WHEREAS**, the Village does not believe the public need and benefit outweighs the environmental impact of the project which will impact noise, traffic, erosion, dust, aesthetics, quality of living, tourism and hydrological characteristics of the site,

**WHEREAS**, the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Watkins Glen objects to the DEC activating an application dormant for 16 years without requiring a new initial review,

**WHEREAS**, Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Watkins Glen the objects to the DEC's failure to notify our county of the proposed action,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed time period is insufficient to review the 784 pages of documents that are on file with the DEC to ensure potential adverse impacts are being sufficiently mitigated, and to hire the required experts to review the record,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Watkins Glen notes its opposition to the current application to address these and other legitimate areas of concern prior to any decision on the project, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the applicant be required to submit a revised application to address these and other legitimate areas of concern prior to any decision on the project, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the DEC reopen and allow an additional period of public comment on the application to address these and other legitimate areas of concern prior to any decision on the project, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the DEC conduct a full, fair and exhaustive environmental review of the project, to address any legitimate areas of concern prior to any decision on the project, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Village Board of Trustees for the Village of Watkins Glen requests that no approvals be granted for this project pending satisfactory completion of the above, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Village of Watkins Glen shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the following: Governor Kathy Hochul, DEC Commissioner Basil Seggos, New York State DEC Region 8, New York State Historic Preservation Office, Environmental Protection Agency Office; Office of the Erie Canal Corporation; Senator Tom O'Mara, Assemblyman Phil Palmesano, and such other and further officials as might be deemed appropriate and proper.

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

#### [Resolution – Aid & Incentives for Municipalities \(AIM\)](#)

Trustee Nan Woodworth made a motion to approve a resolution calling for an increase in Aid & Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding.

**WHEREAS**, the Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) program plays a critical role in funding essential municipal services for cities and villages across New York State; and

**WHEREAS**, city and village officials share the same priorities as our state leaders which is to make New York safer and more affordable; and

**WHEREAS**, New York's local governments, who are on the frontlines of controlling property tax affordability and ensuring public safety, are integral to achieving those goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the State has not increased AIM funding in 15 years and according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, inflation has increased by nearly 45% during that same period; and

**WHEREAS**, this neglect from the State has led to rising municipal tax burdens and harmful disinvestment in essential municipal services and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the services their residents need; and

**WHEREAS**, the challenges of rising inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid, only accentuate the need for an increase in AIM funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Governor’s 2024-25 Executive Budget proposes to keep AIM funding flat; and

**WHEREAS**, an increase in AIM funding would reduce the local tax burden and help revitalize communities across New York;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen urges Governor Hochul to work with the leaders of the Senate and Assembly and increase AIM funding in the 2024-25 adopted State Budget.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk of the Village of Watkins Glen shall transmit a certified copy of this resolution to the following: Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, the New York State Conference of Mayors, and such other and further officials as might be deemed appropriate and proper.

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### [WGPD Policy for Hiring Standards](#)

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to approve the WGPD Policy for Hiring Standards. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### [WGPD Ride Along Policy](#)

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi made a motion to approve the WGPD Ride Along Policy. Trustee Nan Woodworth 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 February 16, 2024 in the following amounts:

General	\$168,606.95	Sewer	\$1,759.85
Electric	\$25,005.81	Water	\$29,514.87
Joint Activity (CVWRF)	\$16,843.32	DRI	\$7,656.07
Water Improvements	\$3,462.40		

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

#### [BOARD CONCERNS](#)

##### [Manager’s Meeting](#)

Mayor Laurie DeNardo notified the members that she would not be able to attend the meeting. Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock will attend in her absence.

### [Schuyler County Historical Society](#)

The Schuyler County Historical Society will hold a Murder Mystery for the eclipse event on April 8, 2024 from 8a – 6p at the Seneca Lakes Event Center. This event is in partnership with the Village of Watkins Glen and the Watkins Glen Area Chamber of Commerce.

### [March Board of Trustees Meetings](#)

Due to the election, the regular Board of Trustees meeting scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> has been moved to March 26<sup>th</sup>.

### [Padua Ridge – Diversion Ditch](#)

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock questioned if the Padua diversion ditch is the Village's responsibility. Superintendent of Public Works Terry Wilcox stated that the Village does not have the equipment for that type of work and that the Village usually works in conjunction with whatever authority would head such a project.

### [Resident Concern](#)

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock asked about any complaints regarding the roasting of coffee on Decatur Street stating that he has had some neighbor complaints. Mayor Laurie DeNardo stated that there is nothing in the Village zoning regarding smells. The Clerk to check with Code Enforcement on any ventilation requirements.

### [Roller Skating & Helmets](#)

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock inquired on if the Village should mandate helmets to be worn by children at the roller-skating rink. The consensus was that is a parent decision and the Village requires waivers. He also inquired about tightening the rollers for smaller children to prevent falling.

### [SRO Agreement](#)

Mayor Laurie DeNardo asked that the SRO Agreement by the WGPD be followed up on and if there are any Civil Service concerns to address in that agreement.

### [EXECUTIVE](#)

None

### [ADJOURN](#)

With no further business to come before the Board, Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock motioned to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Trustee Margaret seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Fred Warrick  
Village Clerk