



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2024

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The public session of the meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Mayor Laurie DeNardo. Present were Mayor Laurie DeNardo, Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock, Trustee Bob Carson, Trustee Margaret Schimizzi, Trustee Stephen Klemann, and Clerk Fred Warrick. Also in attendance was Officer Aaron Jumper and Water Supervisor Meghan Fox. There was no other person in attendance.

### PUBLIC BE HEARD

None

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### Minutes for the regular meeting held on November 5, 2024

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock motioned to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on November 5, 2024. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. Trustee Margaret Schimizzi abstained due to her absence from the November 5<sup>th</sup> board meeting. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi 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

#### McCrossin Change Order #11

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi made the motion to approve McCrossin's Change Order #11 for filter inlet valve positioners at a cost of \$33,489.44. Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### Atlantic Underwater Services – Village Water Tank Inspection

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to approve the estimate from Atlantic Underwater Services, Inc. to inspect the village water tank at a cost of \$1,800. Trustee Stephen Klemann seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### Water Dept. RAW Generator

Trustee Stephen Klemann made a motion to approve the estimate from Cummins Sales & Service for the water department's raw generator to be repaired at a cost of \$1,940.56. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### Resolution - Seneca Lake Scenic Byway

Trustee Bob Carson made a motion to approve the resolution in support of the expansion of the Seneca Lake Scenic Byway.

**WHEREAS**, the Seneca Lake Scenic Byway is a 19-mile corridor along the southeast border of Seneca Lake that follows New York State Route 414 from Clute Park in Watkins Glen to Lodi Point State Marine Park in Lodi; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization is small team made up solely of volunteers who are seeking municipalities to offer their support for the expansion of the byway.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen offer their support for the expansion of the Seneca Lake Scenic Byway from the east side of Seneca Lake through the Village of Watkins Glen, including the State Park, and up the west side of Seneca Lake.

Trustee Stephen Klemann seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All opposed. Motion denied.

#### **Resolution In Support of Continued & Increased State Aid**

Trustee Stephen Klemann made a motion to approve a resolution in support of continued and increased state aid for local governments.

**Whereas**, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

**Whereas**, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

**Whereas**, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

**Whereas**, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

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

**Whereas**, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

**Whereas**, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents;

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the Village of Watkins Glen calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and

**Be it further resolved**, that the Village of Watkins Glen urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

*A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, Assemblymember Philip A. Palmesano and the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM).*

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

### Surplus of Community Center Sporting Equipment

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to approve the surplus of 22 badminton rackets, 14 lacrosse sticks, and 14 tennis rackets. Trustee Margaret Schimizzi seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

### AUDIT

#### General Audit

Trustee Bob Carson made a motion to approve the general audit dated November 1, 2024 in the following amounts:

General	\$25,859.41	Sewer	\$4,166.05
Electric	\$152,518.49	Water	\$6,080.20
Joint Activity (CVWRF)	\$26,307.50	Water Improvements	\$1,348.50

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

### BOARD CONCERNS

#### Light Poles - Decorating

Village light poles down Franklin St. will be dressed in garland and Christmas lights on Saturday morning, 11/23, at 7:00 a.m. Anyone wishing to help is welcome.

#### Employee Luncheon

Employees are invited to an employee luncheon on December 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30p at the event center. Employee of the Year will also be recognized.

#### Public Hearing – Planning Board – Waterside on Seneca

During the planning board meeting on 11/20, there will be a public hearing for the site review of the Waterside on Seneca housing development.

### EXECUTIVE

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi made a motion to move to an executive session for a legal matter. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried

### ADJOURN

With no further business to come before the Board, Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to adjourn at 6:15 p.m. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Fred Warrick  
Clerk