



## REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 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, Code Enforcement Officer Dennis Tremblay, Water Supervisor Meghan Fox, Streets Supervisor Ken Barber, and Superintendent of Village Parks & Recreation Stacey Parrish. There was no other person in attendance.

### PUBLIC BE HEARD

Jim Sacptura read a letter to the board written by Rapheal “Junior” Specchio regarding an issue he is having with a tenant.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### Minutes for the regular meeting held on December 3, 2024

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock motioned to approve the minutes from the regular board meeting held on December 3, 2024. Trustee Margaret Schimizzi seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All others were in favor. Motion carried.

### DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock 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

#### New Hire

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi made the motion to approve the hire of Kaylin Smith as a seasonal laborer for skating at \$16/hr starting 12/10/2024. Trustee Bob Carson seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### Agreement for Professional Services – Larson Design Group

Trustee Bob Carson made a motion to approve the agreement between the Village and Larson Design Group for professional services under the Village of Watkins Glen Comprehensive Plan project in the amount of \$60,000. Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

#### Resolution – Electric Cost-of-Service Study

Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock made a motion to approve a resolution requesting an electric cost-of-service study by the New York Power Authority.

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen (“Village”) Electric Department is an Electrical Enterprise Fund (“Electric Fund”); and

WHEREAS, the Electric Fund is a separate accounting fund created by the Village to manage the financial operations of its electric utility service, where revenue generated from selling electricity to customers primarily covers the costs of operating and maintaining the power grid; and

WHEREAS, a Cost-of-Service study is an analysis conducted to determine the appropriate cost of electricity for different customer classes (residential, commercial, industrial) by calculating the costs associated

with providing service to each group, ensuring the utility can recover its operational expenses while also generating a reasonable profit, and then designing a rate structure that allocates those costs across all customers based on their usage patterns; and

WHEREAS, according to most regulatory practices, an electric rate study should be conducted every 3-5 years; and

WHEREAS, the Village's last rate study was completed in 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen hereby request another Cost-of-Service study be performed by the New York Power Authority to determine the appropriate cost of electricity for different customer classes (residential, commercial, industrial).

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

#### **Resolution – Government Efficiency Grant Application**

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi made a motion to approve a resolution supporting a New York State (NYS) Department of State (DOS) Local Government Efficiency Grant Application to study the feasibility of fire and emergency service regionalization between the Village of Burdett, Village of Montour Falls, Village of Odessa, and Village of Watkins Glen.

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of State has available funds for the 2025-26 Local Government Efficiency Grant Program, and

WHEREAS, this grant program can assist the Village of Watkins Glen in identifying opportunities to cooperate with other local governments in the area to reduce the cost of providing services, and

WHEREAS, the cost to provide fire and emergency service is a large share of all municipal and county budgets and property tax levies, and

WHEREAS, at a time when the cost to provide fire and emergency service is growing rapidly and local budgets are tightly constrained, it is increasingly difficult to provide fire and emergency services at a cost that can be supported by local budgets, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Watkins Glen and its Local Fire Department would benefit from reducing the cost of adequately providing fire and emergency service, and

WHEREAS, a study to evaluate the four-village fire and emergency service and identify areas where regionalization, intermunicipal cooperation, shared services, or redistributions of responsibilities could result in a more efficient system of providing quality fire and emergency service and lower costs, and

WHEREAS, Village of Watkins Glen, on behalf of its citizens, supports this effort and grant application for approximately \$80,000, with a required local cash match of 50% that shall be allocated among the participating municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That Village of Watkins Glen supports the Grant Application to Study the Feasibility of Fire and Emergency Service Regionalization between the Village of Burdett, Village of Montour Falls, Village of Odessa, and Village of Watkins Glen.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, further, That the Village of Watkins Glen agrees, if awarded, to participate and assist in all phases of the Study to identify the Feasibility of Fire and Emergency Service Regionalization between the Village of Burdett, Village of Montour Falls, Village of Odessa, and Village of Watkins Glen.

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

Sewer Credit

Trustee Bob Carson made a motion to approve a sewer credit request for 807 N. Franklin Street in the amount of \$1,341. Trustee Stephen Klemann seconded the motion. In further discussion, the board agreed to approve the credit pending inspection and confirmation by the Water Dept. 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	\$98,245.38	Sewer	\$5,600.53
Electric	\$163,818.11	Water	\$12,752.22
Joint Activity (CVWRF)	\$237,559.83	Clute Park Pump Station	\$6,748.50
Accessible Playground	\$12,679.81		

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

BOARD CONCERNS

Holiday Luncheon

Employee luncheon and recognition is Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 12:30p at the Event Center.

NYSERDA

Trustees Margaret Schimizzi and Stephen Klemann went over details of their meeting with NYSERDA.

EXECUTIVE

Trustee Margaret Schimizzi made a motion to move to an executive session for Personnel – Employee Discipline. Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock 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, Trustee Bob Carson made a motion to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Deputy Mayor Peter G. Cherock seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Fred Warrick  
Clerk