



REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF WATKINS GLEN HELD TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The public session of the meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Mayor Luke Leszyk. Present were Mayor Luke Leszyk, Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini, Trustee Anthony Fraboni, Trustee Nan Woodworth, Trustee Laurie DeNardo, Superintendent Terry Wilcox, Sergeant Brandon Matthews, Village Clerk Lonnie Childs, and Treasurer Rhonda Slater. Also present were Park Manager Michelle Hyde and Electric Supervisor Minard LaFever. The meeting was held via ZOOM online video conferencing in compliance with COVID-19 Executive Order 202.1. There were four other persons in attendance.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing on the proposed Local Law to Override the tax levy limit was opened at 6:02 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.

Kathy Fragola inquired on whether the Board was currently expecting to go over the tax cap. Mayor Luke Leszyk commented that the Village Board was looking to adopt the local law as a safety net in case the need did arise. Wayne Weber asked about a cap or limit for going over if the law was adopted. The local law does not place an amount on how high they can adopt a tax levy, nor was an amount being proposed. The Board commented that this law has been adopted every year for the past several years, but the Village has only gone over the tax cap once in the recent past. The adoption of the law is more of a safeguard and not the norm. The public hearing was left open as the Board moved on with the meeting.

PUBLIC BE HEARD

There were no public concerns expressed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes for Regular Meeting April 7, 2020

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to approve the minutes for the Zoom Online Video Conferencing Board of Trustees meeting held on April 7, 2020. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Trustee Anthony Fraboni made the motion to approve the Department Heads' reports as presented. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

VOTING ITEMS

Amend Municipal Solutions Contract – Catherine Valley Water Reclamation Facility

Trustee Anthony Fraboni made the motion to approve the amendment to the Municipal Solutions Contract for the construction of the new wastewater treatment facility, pending approval by the Joint Project Committee, with an increased cost of \$24,000. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Clute Park Campground – refund of Twenty-Five Dollar Cancellation Fee

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the refund of the \$25 cancellation fee up until the lifting of the NYS Pause program, at which time the cancellation fee will resume. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Police Department New Hires

Madison Sharp

Trustee Nan Woodworth made the motion to hire Madison Sharp as a new permanent full-time police officer for the Watkins Glen Police Department starting April 27, 2020 at a rate of \$19.70/hr. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Bradley Bates

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to hire Bradley Bates as a part-time police officer for the Watkins Glen Police Department starting April 27, 2020 at a rate of \$18.00/hr. Deputy Mayor Louis Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Waterfront Festival Banner Refund

Trustee Anthony Fraboni made the motion to approve the refund of the \$200.00 banner installation fee for Watkins Glen Promotions for the cancellation of their Waterfront Festival due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 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 & Online Audit

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to approve the regular audit for April 21, 2020, along with the online public serial bond payment totaling \$6,647.56, in the following amounts:

General	\$37,813.02	Sewer	\$9,042.72
Electric	\$114,319.29	Water	\$6,342.94
Project Seneca	\$652,416.54	DRI Projects	\$66,416.89
LWRP #1	\$20,490.00	LWRP #2	\$55,349.90

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

JPC Audit

Trustee Anthony Fraboni made the motion to approve the JPC audit in the amount of \$1,435,098.45. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion to approve and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

BOARD CONCERNS

Dumpster Day

The Village Board discussed the upcoming Dumpster Day event scheduled to be held on May 9, 2020. The consensus of the Board is that the Village will still be able to host the event while maintaining the social distancing requirements laid out by the State. There is no need to cancel or reschedule.

Village Recycling Program

The Board discussed the quote from Cardinal Disposal to continue the bi-monthly curbside recycle pickup program for fiscal year 2020-2021 at a cost of \$4,000/month. This would be an annual increase of \$12,000 from our current contract. There were no other companies willing to provide a quote for services. Discussion followed as to whether to keep the program or cut it from the budget, which would require residents to take their recycling to a

designated drop-off center. The Board requested a second quote from Cardinal for once a month pickup to see if there would be any cost savings. The matter was tabled.

[Personnel Resignations](#)

The Board accepted resignations from Full-time Temporary Police Officer Jacob Cardinale effective May 1, 2020 and Full-time Electric Lineman Trainee Clark Kendall effective April 17, 2020.

[Electric Bucket Truck Purchase](#)

Electric Supervisor Minard LaFever provided the Village Board with seven different quotes for a bucket truck. Their current truck is a 2007 F-550 Model LT 38' bucket truck that is starting to have mechanical issues and is currently in the shop for repairs. The vehicle he is looking to purchase is a 2020 F-550 Ford LT 40' bucket truck with a purchase price of \$103,759.00. Discussion followed. It was determined that there is money in their budget to purchase the vehicle without having to finance. Trustee Anthony Fraboni made the motion to purchase the vehicle. Trustee Laurie DeNardo seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

[Possible Bond Refinancing](#)

Mayor Luke Leszyk informed the Board that he had reached out to Municipal Solutions to inquire about possible bond refinancing to help save our taxpayers money. The Village currently has a \$1,618,457 bond from 2011 that was taken out to finance the Village Municipal Building improvements and to purchase a fire truck. It is possible that the Village could refinance the current balance of \$940,000 to produce significant cost savings to the Village. More information will follow.

[New York State Pause Executive Order – Complaint Process](#)

Mayor Luke Leszyk spoke to the Village Board and those in attendance about the NYS Pause program and the fact that complaints will filter through Schuyler County Emergency Management Department first and then be distributed to the appropriate party to handle the complaint. He further noted that the process is delayed and that complaints are not received by the County until 24 hours later so complaining about an event that is taking place in the present, but not reported until the next day will not be able to be addressed in a timely manner.

[Watkins Glen Housing Authority – Re-organizational Meeting](#)

Trustee Nan Woodworth then discussed the term expiration of Patty Schimizzi. The Board will put it on the agenda for the next meeting to have her re-appointed.

PUBLIC HEARING

The public hearing on the proposed Local Law to Override the tax levy limit was closed at 7:01 pm with a motion by Trustee Nan Woodworth and a second by Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to adopt the following local law. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded the motion. The Board then voted on the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

A local law to override the tax levy limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c for fiscal year 2020-21.

Section 1. Legislative Intent

It is the intent of this local law to allow the Village of Watkins Glen to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2020 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the "tax levy limit" as defined by General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 2. Authority

This local law is adopted pursuant to subdivision 5 of General Municipal Law §3-c, which expressly authorizes a local government's governing body to override the property tax cap for the coming fiscal year by the adoption of a local law approved by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of said governing body.

Section 3. Tax Levy Limit Override

The Board of Trustees of the Village of Watkins Glen, County of Schuyler, is hereby authorized to adopt a budget for the fiscal year commencing June 1, 2020 that requires a real property tax levy in excess of the amount otherwise prescribed in General Municipal Law §3-c.

Section 4. Severability

If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.

Section 5. Effective Date

This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Trustee Laurie DeNardo made the motion to exit public session and enter executive session at 7:01 pm for a Sewer Department personnel matter. Trustee Nan Woodworth seconded 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 7:41 pm. Deputy Mayor Louie Perazzini seconded the motion and all were in favor. Motion Carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectively Submitted,

Rhonda E Slater