

Village of Schuylerville  
Monthly Workshop  
August 31, 2020

PRESENT;  
Mayor Carpenter  
Trustee Drew  
Trustee Colvin  
Trustee LeBaron

PRESENT BY ZOOM;  
Deputy Mayor Young

The board opened the meeting with the discussion of the issue of the interpretation of the verbiage in the handbook regarding employee vacation. Mayor Carpenter wanted to ascertain that the board agreed that the way that the handbook reads is an exact reflection of their intentions. He read the section on the handbook which pertains to vacation time for new employees.

Supervisor Decker pointed out that he feels that the allotted vacation time for new hires contradicts the table below it. Trustee Colvin asked if Attorney Klingebiel could review this section and advise the board whether they should change the wording to ensure that the handbook reflects the intention of the board. There was considerable discussion regarding whether the handbook states that the vacation allotments were according to fiscal year or hire date anniversary. A concern was raised regarding probation. If an employee had not yet passed probation, the board felt that the employee had not earned vacation time. It was determined that the handbook should read that the employee must pass probation before they begin to accrue vacation. There was discussion regarding changing the wording to have the vacation accrual begin at the passing of probation with one day per month until the full ten days was reached. Mayor Carpenter asked the board to consider the suggestion made by Deputy Mayor Young and Trustee LeBaron concerning the fact that there is no additional vacation time allotted to employees after ten years. Deputy Mayor Young stated that he feels that this does not give incentive for employees to stay on.

The board also discussed at length the issue that the handbook only prohibits smoking in the buildings and vehicles and not the use of any other tobacco products. Currently there is considerable conflict over the use by one of the DPW of chewing tobacco in the vehicles as well as inside the DPW garage. Trustee LeBaron stated that the state policy is tobacco free, which would cover all tobacco use. Trustee Colvin stated that he thought there was a village law prohibiting all tobacco use on village property. Supervisor Decker cautioned that if the board moved to include village property as opposed to just buildings and vehicles that this would encompass Fort Hardy Park and the parking lot outside of the meeting hall. Mayor Carpenter stated that the board would need to then consider whether they would want to designate smoking areas.

Supervisor Decker gave his report on the other issues including the water line break inside the sewer plant. He stated that he had received a quote from a contractor to replace the concrete drain at the plant for \$675. Mayor Carpenter asked Decker to see if he could get a few more quotes and asked if he could get pricing for the contractor to include in his pricing the installation of a culvert to the drain by the DPW garage which had been discussed at earlier meetings.

Supervisor Decker announced that DPW member Justin Decker was going to be joining the military. He will be going into the United States Marines. His ship date is January 25<sup>th</sup>.

The board discussed the quotes that Supervisor Decker had provided for them for the garbage truck that the board had agreed they would purchase to replace the failing garbage truck that the village currently owns.

Decker stated that the main difference between the two best quotes is the size of the motor. The L9 is the larger motor at approximately \$3,000 more. Decker feels that the larger motor will be less stressed when carrying heavy loads up the hills. He also felt that the larger motor would provide more options in the event that the village should decide in the future that they no longer wish to provide garbage services, this truck could be converted to a dump and plow truck.

The main question raised by the board was that of the warranty. Decker is going to go back to the rep and ask for more detail on the warranty plans.

Mayor Carpenter asked Supervisor Decker if he could move the stop sign on Red's Road from its current location to the corner of route 29.

The letter from Attorney Dixon of the water board was discussed regarding the question that was raised at the last meeting as to whether Edwin Sullivan was truly entitled to free water for life as the water board had previously thought.

Attorney Dixon stated in his letter that the original deed had granted rights to water free of charge to the owner of that property through which the main water line runs (Edwin Sullivan's) as long as the water was being drawn from that source in Easton. It is Attorney Dixon's legal opinion that the water board is no longer obligated to supply Mr. Sullivan with free water, as the source is no longer the reservoir on the property in Easton, but rather the wells in Fort Hardy Park.

A request was submitted to the board for a handicap parking sign in front of 26 Green Street for Denise Drew, who has a handicap permit. It was determined that she should receive this. Mayor Carpenter asked that the resident be informed that the board requests that she move her vehicle during storms to the designated side of the street indicated in the alternate parking rules to avoid the interruption in snow removal that a car left in one spot causes.

Schuyler hose has requested a gathering permit for the event that they will hold this year in place of their usual coin drop. They would like to hold an event on October 10, 2020 in Fort Hardy Park called a cow plop. This is a sort of bingo using live cows who will mark the winning squares with their poop. Mayor Carpenter stated that as long as they follow social distancing protocol he could see no issue with this.

Deputy Mayor Young had reached out to the owner of KO Motorsports regarding the issue of the sidewalk that was removed illegally last fall and replaced with blacktop. The owner asked if he

could paint the blacktop to indicate what areas would be sidewalks as opposed to tearing out and replacing this with traditional poured concrete sidewalks. Mayor Carpenter stated that this would be a matter that the owner of KO Motorsports would have to discuss with the building inspector and gain his approval. It was determined that the agreement must be reached, and the situation mitigated by October 1<sup>st</sup> at the latest.

The board discussed the issue of the coin drop for the legion. Deputy Mayor Young expressed concern regarding safety in relation to COVID-19. Trustee Colvin asked if we could call DOH to find out what the restrictions on this type of event. Mayor Carpenter expressed concerns that even though the Legion members would be wearing masks, the drivers of the vehicles would most likely not be. Deputy Mayor Young expressed further concern that there would be no way to do contact tracing during a coin drop. It was decided that the coin drop should be postponed indefinitely.

Wendy Lukas asked if there was an update on the workman's compensation issue.

Mayor Carpenter read from the e-mail from Dave Meager from Amsure insurance which states,

“With respect to the Saratoga County Self-Insurance Plan, it must be noted that coverage is statutory, so that moving to a different insurer would not improve your coverage. Also, your firefighters are insured through the Plan, so you would need two policies, one for Workers Compensation for Village employees and another for VFBL for your volunteer firefighters. Another factor to consider is that the Village cannot just leave the Plan without cost. If there are claims pending, you are still responsible to the Plan for those claims and any reserves pertaining to them or older claims which may be unsettled awaiting adjudication by the courts. In my experience, I know of no public entity which has left the Self-Insurance Plan.”

Wendy Lukas asked if the board could look into the matter of whether there might be better options than the current policy.

Trustee Colvin made the motion to adjourn, Trustee LeBaron seconded the motion, all in favor meeting adjourned.