

**Village of Schuylerville  
Village Workshop Minutes  
January 4, 2023**

**Present;**

**Mayor Carpenter  
Trustee Baker  
Trustee LeBaron  
Fire Chief Myers**

**WWTP operator Sherman  
Supervisor Decker  
Village Clerk Patterson  
Treasurer Heyman**

**Absent;**

**Trustee Drew  
Trustee Colvin**

Chief Myers gave his report for the calendar year 2022. There were 159 calls. There were 26 members responding and an average of 8 members per call. They logged 1500 hours of training and 1783 of other activities such as meetings and fundraising.

The 1994 firetruck will be sold. This will probably be done through Gov deals or a similar online auction site. There is also a third-party vendor that takes a commission for selling equipment that Schuyler Hose may use if they feel they are not getting enough for the engine through Gov deals. There will be a need for a newer engine at some point in the immediate future; these are approximately \$500,000 at this point for a used engine of the type that is needed. This would be something slated for the 2025 budget year. Portable radios will need to be upgraded as they are about 10 years old, approximate cost for these will be in the range of \$9,000.

Mayor Carpenter stated that Treasurer Heyman would soon have more time to help with going after grants as the water lead would be transferring to Victory at the end of the month. He also suggested reaching out to Senator Paul Tonko. There are grants out there for firefighting equipment through FEMA that Myers has had success with.

Myers expressed his concern that the membership has dwindled over the years. Volunteers are getting harder to find and there is little incentive for recruitment. This year Schuyler Hose gained 4 new members but lost 2. Myers mentioned that there is new legislation that would give firefighters a 10% break on their property taxes.

Myers updated the board on the progress on Station 2. At this point the attorneys are still working out the details on the lease agreement (99 years at \$1) The increase in the cost of building has raised some concerns for Myers. The most recent quotes for the firehouse at station 2 average out at 2 million dollars. Currently there is approximately 200,000 in a savings account for station 2, which would only be enough to break ground. Myers hopes that Schuyler Hose will be able to get funding to help with this project.

Myers mentioned the recent incident in which a firefighter was injured out in front of the firehouse while directing traffic.

Getting the trucks out is not difficult but backing in upon return to the station requires that traffic be stopped.

Myers would like to see some sort of traffic control device that would only be activated during the time needed to return the engines to the station.

A prior study by DOT determined that a light is not necessary, as it is a school speed limit zone, but Myers would like to see if we can revisit this. He mentioned that there was a letter sent to Carrie Woerner's office.

Supervisor Decker reported on the DPW. He and Trustee LeBaron discussed the recent auction prices on trailers. The lowest price at auction came in at \$19,000.00, so this will be tabled in the hopes that equipment prices will continue to come down. The 2005 International truck had a rust hole in the bottom of it, it has since been replaced. During the last rainstorm there were several issues. The retention ponds were constructed using baffles that are designed to distribute the water runoff. The issue is that the emergency overflow is lower than the pipes that carry the water to the stream that later feeds to the storm drains. Decker feels that this might be due to settling of the ground. The drain grate at Green Street was clogged with debris of all sorts including trash. This was cleared by the crew.

WWTP Plant operator Sherman and Supervisor Decker both approached the board to discuss the recent manhole overflow issue. They shared with the board the location of the manhole that was overflowing. This is fed from Ferry Street south to Burgoyne, then past 9 Broad Street, under broad and under Byron's Supermarket to the sewer plant. Mayor Carpenter stated that he felt that there were two things that needed to be done. One was an immediate remediation of the current overflow issue by rerouting the storm water that is currently feeding into the trouble area. The location of the additional line was discussed at length. That would reduce the amount of flow through the current trouble spot to the buildings that were in the immediate vicinity.

WWTP operator Sherman stated that he has replaced the manhole cover with one that does not have holes. He hopes that this will keep the water flowing towards the pump. The main concern, which will be a longer-term issue to be addressed, is the amount of I and I that is entering the sewer system. Mayor Carpenter asked if it would be possible to revisit metering of the water that comes in from outside of the village. Sherman stated that there needs to be a manhole specifically designed to work with a meter. Mayor Carpenter would like to determine if there is an issue with water coming in from another municipality. If there is an issue, we can report this data to DEC so that correction of the excessive I and I can be enforced.

WWTP operator Sherman brought it to the attention of the board that there was a significant electrical issue that shut down the SCATA system. One trash pump is all we currently have for backup. This pump has a capacity of 300 gallons a minute. With over 700 gallons per minute coming in it is woefully inadequate. Sherman feels that a bigger trash pump in addition to the one that is at the plant should be purchased to supplement what we have. Trustee Baker asked him to price out the pump. Sherman feels that there should be a bypass for emergency situation. He says that in Glens Falls, in overflow situations, they bypass, and the flow goes through a screen to the river. This requires the municipality to alert any municipalities that are downstream of the overflow. Mayor Carpenter feels that this should be something that is a rare occurrence.

Gary Wilder has assessed the situation and states that two new wires will need to be pulled through the existing conduit that already has ten wires in it. The conduit stretches for a long distance and has several turns. Temporarily, they are running the system without the backup switch until these wires can be replaced.

Sherman has communicated with NY Rural water and will move forward with attempting to identify the I and I with cameras and smoke testing.

Trustee Baker asked if Supervisor Decker and WWTP operator Sherman could have an action plan together for the rerouting of the sewer line by March for the board's review. Trustee LeBaron expressed his frustration that the village had previously invested large amount of money in engineering costs to find the sources of the I and I and that there were still so many problems. He feels that we should be reaching out to the county for help. Mayor Carpenter agreed that this was an excellent idea.

The ongoing breakdown of communication from the planning board and the lack of minutes provided for meetings that were held was discussed. Treasurer Heyman expressed concern that now we have adopted zoning, but if step one, review by the planning board, is not happening, we will never get to step two, which would be ZBA review. Mayor Carpenter announced that Planning Board Chair Bob Foster was stepping down. He stated that we need to get an announcement out there that we need to fill these positions. Village Clerk Patterson asked if we would be addressing the situation with the planning board secretary as well. Mayor Carpenter stated that at this point he will need to discuss this with the planning board members. Trustee Baker suggested that it might be better to wait until the new chair is in place and give them a chance to set the standards for the minutes. Minutes should be provided no later than two weeks after the meeting. Village Clerk Patterson stated that even if there is an initial meeting just to organize the planning board, that there will need to be some form of notes drafted to record the proceedings. Treasurer Heyman stated that if the meeting could be recorded on a phone and saved to the google drive, she would be willing to draft up minutes for them. Trustee Baker stated that his wife may possibly be interested in filling one of the positions.

Treasurer Heyman brought it to the attention of the board that the water was still on schedule to transfer the lead agency role to the Victory office at the end of this month. At this point, no water clerk has been hired. She mentioned that the quote for training in KVS (finance and billing software used by the water department) for the new water clerk was declined by the Victory members of the water board. Trustee Baker stated that they will have to figure this out for themselves. Mayor Carpenter stated that he will not send Treasurer Heyman up to the Victory office to train the new water clerk and that the only thing we are required to do is to deliver the books to the Victory office in good standing. Trustee Baker suggested that we should ask the Victory Clerk to sign off on the books acknowledging that they arrived in good order and stated that he will be requesting reports from the water board on the finances on a monthly basis. He will be relying on Chairman Drew and Commissioner Hughes to provide these to us.

The renewal of the Greenwich contract for fire services was reviewed by the board. The contract was for \$19, 576.00 in two equal payments. None of the board had any issue with the renewal of this contract.

The board reviewed the request for reimbursement from Leszczynski. Trustee Baker asked if the work has been completed. He was informed that this was done.

Trustee Colvin has also submitted a request for reimbursement for the materials used in the replacement of the sidewalk in front of his house as a result of the water line repair. This will be presented at the next meeting.

The budget meeting dates were determined as follows;

- Budget meeting one; January 30 at 6:30
- Budget meeting two February 13 at 6:30
- Filing of tentative budget with clerk/treasurer followed by monthly workshop meeting February 27<sup>th</sup> 6 pm
- Clerk/treasurer presents tentative budget to board followed by regular meeting March 8<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm
- Clerk/treasurer will advertise public hearing for tentative budget by March 22nd
- Tentative budget public hearing followed by workshop April 3<sup>rd</sup> 6 pm
- Adoption of the 2024 budget followed by the regular meeting April 12<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm

Village Clerk Patterson announced that she will be presenting a resolution at the next regular meeting to abolish registration day in the village and a resolution to approve the appointment of the inspectors for the upcoming election. We still need to find an alternate. She also has a voting machine custodian lined up. She has requested only one voting machine.

Mayor Carpenter made the motion to adjourn, Trustee Baker seconded the motion, all in favor meeting adjourned.