

Village of Schuylerville
October 2, 2023
Village Board Workshop Minutes

Present;

Trustee Baker
Trustee Colvin
Trustee LeBaron

Village Clerk Patterson
Treasurer Heyman

Mayor Carpenter arrived at 7:55 pm

Absent;

Trustee Drew

Dave Meager presented on the 2024 Insurance Policy. The policy premium has gone up 4 %. Trustee Baker questioned the value listed for the visitor's center at \$232,000.00. Trustee Baker pointed out the building is basically a 500 square foot shack. He asked Meager if the valuation is for fair market value. Meager stated that it is for replacement. Baker noted that our plans are to tear it down eventually as we have a new visitors center and it will be in the way when we try to implement our master plan to redesign the park. Baker felt that a valuation of \$120,000 would be more appropriate. Contents for this building were listed at \$10,000.00. Heyman pointed out that the only item that could be called contents in the building at this point is the Wi-Fi transmitter.. Trustee Baker requested that the contents value should drop from \$10,000 to \$2,500

Trustee Baker also pointed out that the stage that was valued at \$11,034.00 is no longer in existence and should be removed from the policy.

Trustee Colvin suggested that Supervisor Decker should examine the equipment portion of the policy to ensure that the items listed for equipment are current and accurately valued.

There was a discussion regarding cyber insurance and the quote from Stored Tech to implement the two-step authentication required for this insurance. Trustee Baker stated that he felt that we are not a high-risk entity and that most hacks were done through links that came in through an email. Trustee Baker asked if Heyman could get a renewed quote for the two step authentication, as he does feel this is an important feature.

Village Clerk Patterson would like to look into changing health insurance brokers as she does not feel we are getting the services that we need. At NYCOM, Village Clerk Patterson met with a health insurance company, Taylor, Friar and Coon. This company specializes in municipal services such as mandatory training for employees, help with updating handbooks and labor law updates. Trustee Baker asked if she had communicated her dissatisfaction with the current company. Trustee Baker also asked if we know any other municipalities that use this broker. Helene stated that the Town of Queensbury uses this broker.

Beth Woodard, president of Friends of Fort Hardy Park and Meghan Potter, member, attended the meeting. They would like to know what steps would need to be taken to move the dog park portion of the Fort Hardy Master Plan, Phase 7 and 8, to phase one to make the dog park a

priority. There was extensive discussion regarding the necessary permitting and state entities that may need to be involved. Treasurer Heyman stated that she would reach out to the LA Group to see if they completed any of this preliminary work during the drafting of the master plan. Trustee Baker suggested that the Fort Hardy Group should reach out to Attorney Klingebiel for advice, as he represents many different municipalities throughout the area and may have insight and experience that we do not have. Village Clerk Patterson asked if they could have some specific and bullet pointed questions prepared for the attorney to review and that these could then be brought to the next meeting. Also, Trustee Baker stated that to move the dog park to phase one would require a vote by the board to approve the change in the previously approved master plan. Trustee Baker asked Heyman to reach out to the water operator to find out if he has had experience in this matter before where a dog park is located in close proximity to a water source.

Discussion of a letter received from SVBOWM regarding recent alleged reductions in participation of the DPW of work on water lines. Trustee Baker asked if any of these issues have been brought to the board by Trustee Drew, water chairman. The board has not heard of any of the issues mentioned in the letter from the water board. The letter states that, "Over the last several years there has been a shift from village public works crews handling some of the distribution duties to hiring an outside contractor to perform those duties. This procedure has greatly impacted on the water budget." Mayor Carpenter stated that Heyman provided a chart showing the hours worked by the DPW for water and proving that the hours worked on water services has not only not decreased, but has increased tremendously.

Below is information regarding the stark contrast in DPW performance between the first quarters of 2022 and 2023:

- First Quarter 2022: - Total regular hours worked: 121- Overtime hours worked: 22

- First Quarter 2023: - Total regular hours worked: 258.5 - Overtime hours worked: 67.5

These figures clearly illustrate a significant surge of 113% in regular hours worked and an alarming 206% increase in overtime within the comparative quarters. Trustee LeBaron expressed that he feels that there needs to be an official chain of communication between the waterboard and the state entities. Trustee Baker feels that the sending back and forth of letters is not an effective way to address these issues and that the boards need to have a joint meeting with both villages and the water board.

Heyman updated the board on the sewer line relocation engineering timeline. As per the surveyor hired by Barton and Loguidice, the topo is almost done (they just need to fill in the upper parking area on Broad Street), the boundary research is just waiting for NYS canal Corp mapping, and utility locates are pending. The Surveyor hopes to finish the fieldwork next week and then in a few days he will be able to wrap up the mapping.

The curbing RFB was presented for approval by the board before the release on Tuesday the 3rd. There were no questions or issues.

Treasurer Heyman, at the mayor's request, reached out to the engineer that the Town of Saratoga uses for engineering services to address the issue with the retention pond wall that was brought

to our attention by Blue Neils. His Name is Ken Martin, and he will be looking into the issue before the end of the month.

The board reviewed the proposed changes to the alternate parking law. It was decided that the entire length of Broad should have no parking from midnight to six AM as well as the portion of Ferry Street that is east of Broad (route 29) from December 1 to March 31.

Treasurer Heyman informed the board that she had received a letter from Spectrum stating that due to a law enacted regarding franchise fees, as they pay franchise fees to the village, they no longer need to pay property tax. Attorney Klingebiel has reviewed this correspondence and confirmed that they are correct. Heyman had to remove the parcel from the tax roll in the amount of \$516.81. Heyman will investigate to see if she can have the spectrum parcel removed from the tax roll to avoid losing this from the levy next year.

There will need to be a transfer of funds to the expenditure line for retirement in both the sewer and the general fund lines as retirement has gone up. A resolution to transfer funds will be presented at the regular meeting.

There will need to be a budget amendment to increase the expenditure line for sewer work some by DPW and to increase the corresponding revenue line. This resolution will be presented at the regular meeting.

Heyman has reached out to the contact at the govdeals, the equipment auctioning company, to put the dodge up for sale. He has not responded so Heyman has reached out to the company.

The Garden Club has submitted their annual request for funds to recoup monies spent in the beautification of the village.

Mayor Carpenter announced that the New York Forward grant has been submitted through the CFA portal. He asked if any of the board members see Todd Shimkus, that they thank him for the work that he has done on the grant application. He has done many hours of work for free for the village to get this application done. Mayor Carpenter also mentioned that the Village of Schuylerville decided not to pursue the joint application with Village of Victory for the DRI grant, wherein the renovation of the Victory Mill would be included. This is because whereas the funds granted to the owner of the project were for the restoration of a listed national historic property, the firm has since decided that they will be demolishing the building and putting up a new structure. The concern that we have is that with such a drastic change in the nature of the project, there could be issues with the matching funds that were to be used against the DRI funds.

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