

Village of Schuylerville
April 1, 2024
Village Board Workshop Minutes

Present;

Mayor Carpenter

Trustee Baker

Trustee LeBaron

Village Clerk Patterson

Treasurer Heyman

Supervisor Decker

WWTP Operator Sherman

Absent;

Trustee Drew

Trustee Colvin

6:30 PM Public Hearing on the 2025 Fiscal Year End Tentative Budget.

The public hearing on the tentative budget opened at 6:30 pm. No members of the public were in attendance. Trustee Baker made a motion to close the public hearing at 6:36 and begin the regular workshop meeting, Trustee LeBaron seconded the motion, all in favor, public hearing closed.

6:36 Mayor Carpenter opened the monthly village workshop.

Supervisor Decker stated that he brought an arborist in to assess the trees on Church Street. Four trees were determined to be emergency removals. The estimated cost is \$5,000.00. Currently there is \$4,390 in that expenditure line. Treasurer Heyman stated that there is a surplus of funds in the sidewalk line, and that she felt that would be the logical transfer. Mayor Carpenter noted at this time that the visitors center is willing to pay our DPW to remove some large trees from the park.

Supervisor Decker stated that, with the resignation of Aaron Brady, they have lost most of the mechanical tools that they had at the shop. He estimated the cost to be from \$3,000 to \$4000 to fully stock up on tools for the shop.

Supervisor Decker also stated that he has been reaching out to local dealers for pricing on a new truck. The best price to date for the type of truck that we will need is \$276,000.00. The time frame would be between 18 months and 2 years. He will continue to shop for a better price but cautioned waiting too long to order, as it will be an eighteen month to a two-year build and the International that this vehicle will replace is over 20 years old. Supervisor Decker found a good price on a new mower. It is a Cub Cadet leftover from the previous year's models and is \$10,946.999 for a zero-turn mower. This is approximately \$2,000 cheaper than anything else he has seen. He felt we should move quickly.

Decker informed the board that during the last major storm, in addition to some mechanical issues with the trucks, a plow edge caught a manhole and ripped it from the ground. This will need to be reset and the pavement replaced after cutting in.

There was discussion regarding the culvert at the end of Walnut Lane where it intersects with Burgoyne Street. This will require coordination with Saratoga County.

Trustee LeBaron asked if the generator left behind by First Light could be obtained for use by our DPW.

Treasurer Heyman was tasked to ask Attorney Klingebiel to find out if they would be willing to let us have it.

Trustee LeBaron asked if the bathhouse could be opened for the OSAA in April. There would need to be a transfer of funds to increase the personnel line.

Planning board secretary Patterson brought to the board new forms and fee schedules recommended by the Schuylerville Planning board. Mayor Carpenter stated that Attorney Klingebiel would be reviewing these and that if he had no issue with these forms, a date would be set for a public hearing to adopt the new forms and fee schedules.

Two Gathering permits were brought to the board for review. One of them was for the annual OSAA parade on April 27th and the other was for the annual Shriner's Circus on August 1. There was a discussion regarding the damage to the ball fields last year by the circus, from trucks and animals. Supervisor Decker stated that it took a load of topsoil and two workers for four hours to repair the damage to the field last year. The bigger issue this year would be that the circus is the weekend before the Turning Point Festival Village Clerk Patterson relayed these concerns to the representative of the Shriners. His response was that the insurance would cover any damage. Mayor Carpenter has drafted a letter to the Shriners Circus from the Village of Schuylerville relaying the expectations that the field should be left in the same condition as it was on their arrival.

There was only one bid that was received for the Church Street Curbing Bid. The total bid was \$55,000. The material costs were estimated at \$21,000.00 Supervisor Decker suggested that we could purchase the materials at the municipal rate, which should result in significant savings. Trustee Baker made the motion to accept the bid, Trustee LeBaron seconded the motion, all in favor, bid accepted. Treasurer Heyman was asked to reach out to the contractor and find out if we can incorporate purchasing the materials ourselves to reduce the cost of the bid.

WWTP Operator Sherman was present to give his report. He relayed the same issues that he has been having at the Victory pump station since we took over the maintenance of the pump station. Sherman stated that if the pumps in the station were replaced with grinder pumps, this could alleviate much of the clogging and reduce the maintenance. Treasurer Heyman noted that there are funds available in the WWTP equipment line. The board approved the purchase of the grinder pump.

Mayor Carpenter brought up the subject of the handicapped space that the Village of Schuylerville installed at the trail head behind the visitor's center. Due to conflicting information from different state entities, the spot we installed is not in the right place. Mayor Carpenter suggested that rather than taking up the current spot, we could pour an additional one to provide two spaces for handicapped parking. Mayor Carpenter has asked Supervisor Decker, while we are paving, to use the material to add another handicap space and a walkway between them.

Mayor Carpenter gave a brief summary of the meeting on Friday hosted by Carrie Woerner, with DOT regarding the collapsed culverts under route 29. In the spring of 2023, the Village of Schuylerville asked DOT if it would be possible to install a box culvert, rather than replacing the existing culverts, to allow for small watercraft to pass through. At the time, DOT stated that they did not have the funds to commit to this scale of construction. The replacement of the existing culvert is estimated at approximately \$600,000.00. and to install a box culvert would at minimum double that cost. Mayor Carpenter informed the DOT representative that since this time, the Village of Schuylerville has been awarded the NY Forward Grant, with the box culvert being one of the projects that was put forward in the application. Mayor Carpenter asked if the timeline would be an issue, as projects would not be awarded for at least a year and was told that it would not be a problem and that DOT could do a "band-aid" repair if needed in the meantime. Mayor Carpenter also mentioned several other sources of funding that he thought might apply towards this project, including one recently released by DEC for aquatic connectivity and flood mitigation. Robert Rice from DOT informed Mayor Carpenter that DOT will be one of the state entities that are essential in determining awards for these funds and that he would be willing to provide a letter of support for any other efforts on the part of the village to seek funding for this project. Dave Roberts

was at this meeting and asked if a walkway could be incorporated into the plan to provide access for pedestrians and cyclists on the north side of Ferry Street over the canal. There was also a discussion regarding a possible MOU to share the parcel of land owned by NYS at the southern end of the village for a desperately needed new DPW Garage.

The Climate Smart committee has asked the Village of Schuylerville to sign a resolution to commit to benchmarking. This resolution states that the village board of trustees desires to use building energy benchmarking, a process of measuring a buildings energy use, tracking that use over time and comparing performance to similar buildings to promote the public health safety and welfare by making available good actionable information on municipal building energy use to help identify opportunities to cut costs and reduce pollution in the Village of Schuylerville. There were no issues with this resolution.

Treasurer Heyman informed the board that the village will be suing Chris Moore of 14 Chestnut Street for nonpayment of his sewer bill. He is an outside user and therefore his sewer bill cannot be levied on to his taxes.

The Empire Trail Town committee has met several times and will be working with Parks and Trails to assess the trails.

The Comprehensive Plan Committee has met twice, completed summary of past planning initiatives and a flyer has been sent out with the sewer billing.

Recording Secretary,

Cory Heyman