

Village of Schuylerville
Village Workshop Minutes
August 5, 2024

Present;

Mayor Carpenter

Trustee Baker

Trustee Colvin

Trustee LeBaron

Treasurer Heyman

Village Clerk Patterson

Absent;

Trustee Drew

Mr. Anthony Vaccarielli attended the meeting to discuss the possibility of connecting to our sewer main. He proposes to build out 100 to 200 units on land that is north of Lock 5 in the Town of Northumberland. After much discussion, the board stated that we must reach out to our attorney, to ensure that we are not obligated, in any agreement with the Village of Victory to provide service for more units, as adding this many units would bring us to the maximum of capacity for sewage processing. WWTP Operator Sherman was present and answered some questions that Mr. Vaccarelli had concerning capacity at the plant. Sherman stated that there are small sewer processing plants that can be purchased for developments such as the one being proposed. Mr. Vaccarielli asked if the village board could refer him to the water board. Mayor Carpenter stated that the water board was a separate and independent entity, but that he would ask Treasurer Heyman to reach out to the water board chairman to let him know that Mr. Vaccarielli would be contacting him regarding the request for water line extension to the property in Northumberland.

WWTP Operator Sherman was present to give his report. The plant is running well. Sherman went to the Schuyler Yacht Basin to talk with a manager about the issue we are having with grease. He pointed out that there is no other location that feeds to the pump station across from the post office other than the Yacht Basin. Twice this year we have had to pump out the station, at a cost of about \$2,000 per visit. The manager stated that he would look into the matter. It was suggested that this should be a matter to be discussed with the owner of the property, not just a manager. Sherman stated that the flow meters have been installed at the Pearl Street location. Sherman worked with Stored Tech to connect directly to the meter for reading information on flow from the Village of Victory.

Supervisor Decker was present to give the DPW Report. The circus once again left the fields a mess. This is in spite of them signing an agreement that they would leave the fields as they

found them. Supervisor Decker asked if the board could give him a decision on the purchase of a new truck. Decker has not had much success in obtaining a quote for a truck with the body included. Late 2026 to early 2027 is the soonest that we could expect the truck to be delivered if we go to the better priced vehicle at Freightliner. Western Star has trucks available, but these trucks are much more expensive. Mayor Carpenter asked for a number for a Western Star truck. Decker will have this number for this at the next workshop. He also asked what the board would like to do with the Dodge. It is once again not operational. He asked the board if he should attempt to have it repaired or just sell as is. The board agreed that the truck should just be sold as is.

Supervisor Decker reported on some serious flooding at the DPW garage. The floor has sunk further. He asked if the board could work on moving forward with the plan to move the DPW base of operations to a better location.

The recycling trailer left side fender fell off due to rust. He asked if the board would rather see total replacement. He suggested a dump trailer with a top, as this would be a more versatile piece of equipment, as it could be used by those crew members who do not have a CDL. The other option is that we could try to have it repaired by blasting it down to bare metal and welding it. We could also reach out to Greenwich for shared services. Trustee LeBaron stated that he liked the idea of the dump trailer, as it would be more flexible in uses. Decker stated that he estimated the cost for a dump trailer to be around \$14,000.00.

The only shed left at Fort Hardy Park is the one that we use for equipment. Decker proposed that we purchase a shed that would be placed behind the DPW garage. This could be a portable shed that could be moved when the DPW relocates.

Decker spoke to NYS DOT regarding the culverts. They will begin working on Wednesday, They will be bringing in temporary bridge spans to allow for traffic flow while they are working on the culverts. Hopefully the construction will not be during the Turning Point Festival.

The milling machine is on site and the milling will begin at 7 am. Residents have been noticed of the milling and paving on Walnut Beagle and Elm. This will not affect trash pickup.

The playground is in serious need of wood chips under the playground equipment. This needs to be a specialty item. Trustee Colvin stated that he has a source for estimates, and he will call for quotes.

Supervisor Decker would like to see some kind of timecard system that is computerized. This will solve an issue that we have been having where employees sometimes do not fill out their sheet until Monday, which is problematic when they are absent on Monday, as Village Clerk Patterson cannot process their pay without a timesheet. Village Clerk Patterson stated that she will look into the software used by the Basin. This could be a good match, as the software allowed for one person to report several positions within the week, similar to DPW that need to report water, sewer and streets work.

Trustee LeBaron stated that he has gone around the village to see the situation on the grade difference between the sidewalk and the curb on the other streets. He feels that the difference between the sidewalk and the curb on Church with the new curbing is not that much different than the other streets in the village. He stated that creating a raised berm between the

sidewalk and the curb might resolve this situation. Some discussion followed regarding installing ramps from the residents walkways to the road. The grade and distance, however, would not allow for ADA compliance. The Village of Schuylerville will continue to investigate a resolution to this issue.

Treasurer Heyman provided all trustees with a copy of the completed annual financial report. She noted the increase in unassigned fund balance in the general fund. A discussion followed regarding a reserve for equipment to set funds aside for the dump truck, the sweeper and the recycling trailer needed by the DPW. The board also discussed creating a specific reserve for the future relocation of the DP W to a new building.

The sewer fund, however, is down by \$47,086.66. Several factors have contributed to this, but the board will need to review the rates and decide if we need to increase the sewer rates for FYE 2026. We have not changed the rates since.

Barton and Loguidice has informed us that NYSDEC has approved our request to extend the deadline to complete the sewer line relocation. This will allow us time to apply for grants to help pay for this project.

Treasurer Heyman forwarded plans and images of an art project that she received from a group from the Schuylerville School to the board. The group originally intended to have a large mosaic installed at Hudson Crossing Park but lacked funding for the installation. They would like permission to install the ten-foot high three sided mosaic in Fort Hardy Park. They have submitted a small project form to NY Forward to request funds to cover the cost of installation, approximately \$85,000. If the community center is approved, Mayor Carpenter would like to see this placed in front of the entrance. Trustee Colvin asked who would be responsible for any damages or maintenance. The board agreed that this should be brought to the attorney to be agreed upon before any installation at Fort Hardy Park.

Village Clerk Patterson has been working with Saratoga County on their Saratoga County Hazard Mitigation Plan. To summarize, Saratoga is working with FEMA to work proactively as opposed to reactively to prevent local disasters. FEMA can connect municipalities with grant opportunities for projects that they feel qualify as proactive in preventing disasters. Village Clerk Patterson was tasked with determining what hazards the village is prone to and drafting a plan to identify and present possible solutions to these hazards. The main hazard identified for the Village of Schuylerville is flooding. She has identified the highest risk areas as those around the canal. This could be a funding source for canal dredging, improvements to the locks and possibly increasing the size of the culvert that run under route 29. Supervisor Decker identified the retention ponds up by Morgan's Run to be a possible issue, and also recommended that we could bring in an arborist to inspect all trees that are within the village right of way to identify any trees that could cause a hazard in the event of a severe storm.

Trustee LeBaron mentioned the increased frequency of water line breaks due to the fact that the ground has not frozen in the past several years.

Mayor Carpenter mentioned invasive species, and suggested we could apply for funding for a boat wash station.

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