

**Village of Schuylerville
Village Workshop Minutes
November 4, 2024**

Mayor Carpenter

Trustee Drew

Trustee Colvin

Trustee LeBaron

Treasurer Heyman

Village Clerk Porter

WWTP Operator Sherman

DPW Supervisor Decker

Mayor Carpenter opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

A log jam was reported by National Park Service at the pedestrian bridge that crosses Fish Creek between Route 29 and the Schuyler House. Mayor Carpenter stated that he will reach out to the state agencies for funding to address this issue.

Supervisor Decker was present to give his DPW Report. He stated that in trade for the use of the leaf vacuum his crew has been assisting the Victory DPW Supervisor. Decker expressed concern that, as the Town of Saratoga is not going to assist Victory with snow removal, he feels that they will be asking him for help.

The Village of Victory has only one DPW employee, and Supervisor Decker projects that Logan will be asking for help from us. Mayor Carpenter stated that he will reach out to Pat Dewey, Mayor of Victory, to discuss the situation. In the meantime, Supervisor Decker has been recording all assistance to the Village of Victory. Supervisor Decker also pointed out that we do not at this time have an intermunicipal agreement with the Village of Victory. Mayor Carpenter stated that the VOV had, at one time, presented the Village of Schuylerville with a draft intermunicipal agreement, but we did not accept this agreement because they wanted to charge a per hour fee for equipment, which we do not agree with as we feel the residents have already paid, with tax dollars, for these pieces of equipment and that charging a rental fee for equipment is double charging residents. Mayor Carpenter stated that unless there is a snow emergency, the Village of Schuylerville will not be plowing in Victory.

WWTP Operator Sherman was present to give his report. He stated that Fulton County has been complaining about the sludge being too wet. He feels that we can mitigate this situation by building a wall on the sides of the drying beds to box in the end to keep out the rain and snow. He will submit an estimate for the cost to do this. Treasurer Heyman noted that this will ultimately pay off as we will save money on the weight of the sludge we bring there.

Mayor Carpenter stated that we did not receive the grant for the sewer line relocation. In a meeting with DEC, we were informed that the reason we were deemed ineligible for the funding was that Barton and Loguidice did not provide alternative solutions for the problem. The grants are awarded on a point basis, and we failed to meet the criteria for points on that section. We can resubmit in May for the same grant, using the clone option through the CFA portal. If we begin the project after the submission of the grant application, if awarded, we will still be eligible for reimbursement for the amount of the award.

The board reviewed quotes for new security services obtained by Village Clerk Porter. Three quotes were received, one from Mahoney Notify for \$4001 to install at both the village office and the visitors center. Monthly monitoring is \$53.50 and \$33.50. New York Fire and Security \$2,470 for both buildings and a \$1235 annual monitoring for \$359.40 per location for a total of \$59.90 monthly. Center for Security came in lower for the initial installation, but this did not include all of the services offered by the first two companies and the monthly monitoring would total \$76 per month which would negate the lower initial cost. The board determined that New York Fire and Signal was the best deal.

Treasurer Heyman requested permission for 3 NYCOM mini courses offered online as follows; decisions that will withstand a legal challenge, Ethics for ZBA and Planning board proceedings and a course on the impact of parking laws. Each course is only \$25 and both the clerk and the treasurer can watch together. Mayor Carpenter agreed that these are all courses that are much needed at this point in time and that the cost would be well worth it. The board agreed.

Schuylerville schools will be undertaking a large capital improvement project in 2025, primarily the addition of a secondary entrance. They are asking for Lead agency on this project. We will present a resolution to agree to grant lead agency. Mr. Dickinson resides at 157 Broad. He is requesting a handicap sign in front of his house. This will be something that we need to bring to NYS DOT.

Dates for Comprehensive Plan committee meetings and public meetings are as follows:

- Committee Meeting #9: **Thursday, November 21 @ 4pm**

- Public Meeting #2-Presentation of the Plan: **Wednesday, December 4 @ 6pm**
- Committee Meeting #10: **Thursday, January 2 @4pm**
- Village Board Public Hearing: **Monday, January 13**
- Village Board Adoption: **Monday, February 3 or 10**

BriAnne Mulligan has submitted her resume and a request to apply for the open alternate planning board position. Mayor Carpenter stated his support in this matter. All board members were provided with copies of her resume.

Mayor Carpenter stated that he has a serious issue with the statement made by the current water clerk in an email that reads as follows, “I think there is a misunderstanding that I am the secretary for the Water Board for the Capital Project. Just to clarify, this is not part of my job description. Currently, I am assisting the Water Board with their regular monthly meetings. I will not be attending the Capital Project meeting, nor will I be doing the agenda or the minutes. I will continue to assist the Water Board with their regular monthly meetings.”

In order for us to successfully apply and complete this capital project, we need to ensure that we have a water board secretary that will understand that this is indeed part of their job. I would like to recommend that the water board brings the books and lead agency back to the Village of Schuylerville. We have found several issues with the quality of the accounting; for one, the serious error in the 2024-2025 budget, some questionable information that was included in the 2023 AUD and the fact that the water board is still almost a year and a half behind in its legally required reporting to OSC. When you are dealing with a federal loan like this, we will need to be 100% on top of the finances.

Pat Smola asked why the books went back to Victory to begin with. Mayor Carpenter clarified that during the last period of time that the Village of Schuylerville had lead agency (there were no candidates that we could hire through any temp agencies due to the extreme labor shortage at that time) the water board refused to hire directly and stated that the Village of Schuylerville must hire a water clerk directly. The Village of Schuylerville was advised by Attorney Klingebiel that we legally cannot hire for another entity. The Village of Schuylerville then stated that if they insisted that the employee be hired by one of the villages that it would need to be the Village of Victory that should do the hiring.

Trustee Drew made a motion to adjourn, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

