

Village of Schuylerville
January 6, 2025
Village Board Workshop Minutes

Present;

Mayor Carpenter
Trustee Baker
Trustee Colvin
Trustee LeBaron on phone

Absent
Trustee Drew

Documentation proving the handicap status of the resident at 71 Pearl Street to confirm approval of the handicap sign was presented and the sign was approved. Louis Maggiore, owner of 157 Broad Street, has requested a handicap sign for his tenant. The Village of Schuylerville is looking for proof that the tenant is handicapped. Once the tenant has presented their handicap tag, the request will be forwarded to NYS DOT for approval.

Treasurer Heyman recommended investigating the viability of extending out the sewer bond extension to lessen the large bond payment of \$351,900 per year. Treasurer Heyman will inquire with EFC to find out if the bond could be extended.

The current unreserved fund balance is \$716,998.38. Our fund balance policy is 33% of total revenues. The board would like to create a reserve that could be used for repairs to municipal buildings or construction of the planned DPW garage. Mayor Carpenter suggested a “type” capital reserve. This will not need a public hearing to form, but one will be needed to spend it.

Megin Potter, President of the Friends of Fort Hardy presented some questions and proposed projects for Fort Hardy Park. One proposal was for a digital sign that would advertise events in the park. Some discussion followed regarding restrictions by NYSDOT on digital signs along the state highway. The board cautioned that any signage on Route 29 would need approval by the state. Providing that the sign is out of the right-of-way, a digital sign can be installed anywhere in the park. The committee would like to add some landscaping to the gazebo area. After much discussion, it was determined that the installations should be as maintenance free as possible. It was also suggested that the people donating the landscaping should include in the planning process, funding for maintenance in perpetuity. The planner will need to consider any regulations imposed by the EPA to ensure that there will be no impact on the river. Also, there are some restrictions on how deep we can dig, as the area is archaeologically sensitive. There was a discussion regarding some people who had expressed interest in memorial benches in that area. Ms. Potter also asked if it would be possible to get the underbrush and lower branches cleared next to the river board walk so that the river would be visible from the path. The board did not feel this would be an issue. Supervisor Decker stated that this would be good for the health of the trees. There was discussion regarding the fencing that will need to be installed at the dog park. Ms. Potter will bring these questions to her committee and return to the board with solutions.

WWTP Operator Sherman was present to give his report. All is running well at the plant. He mentioned that there will be new, more stringent testing requirements from DEC that will be due by January 15th. This testing is in regard to the ratio of biosolids relevant to water content. This will be an indicator to determine if there is excessive I and I.

Supervisor Decker cautioned the board that they will need to consider increasing the DPW workers wages by at least 10%, as the village of Greenwich has increased their workers' pay. There was discussion regarding the water and CDL license statuses of the crew. It was determined that they should be encouraged to obtain these licenses with pay raises as incentives.

Trustee LeBaron asked Supervisor Decker what the status was on the tree that is lodged in the pilings of the pedestrian bridge by the Schuyler House. Supervisor Decker stated that there will need to be permission granted to go onto the federal land with a mini excavator or a loader, as there is no access from our side. We will need to communicate with Brookfield to have the water level lowered at the dam and then we will have to fit up the crew with PFD, which we are hoping to borrow from the fire department. This job will be scheduled for spring, as the water temperature at this point would be too dangerous.

The board discussed budget matters such as the replacement of two of the trucks as well as the small tractor. Treasurer Heyman has already prepared the budget google sheets and placed them on the drive. Trustee Baker asked Heyman to send invites to all members of the board.

Heyman recommended budgeting for an audit. She feels that the last audit produced good information and guidance. Also, this shows good fiscal responsibility on the part of the board to bring in a third party to ensure all is well with the accounts.

Treasurer Heyman suggested that the board look to find out if we should be harvesting the timber on the Easton property. The last time the property was harvested was in 2020. Trustee Baker asked her to reach out to see if it was time to do this again.

A budget transfer will be needed for Clerk Personnel, due to the sick time payout for former Village Clerk Patterson. Heyman will send out a draft transfer resolution. Also, Treasurer Heyman recommended some online courses for Village Clerk Porter with OSC that she felt would be extremely helpful. The courses are \$85 per session. The board unanimously agreed that she should sign up for these.

The following resolutions presented for review;

Form type resolution capital project 150,000

Amend buildings

Amend garage contractual

Amend Storm Sewers Personnel

Amend water contractual (invoice for public notice)

Election inspectors

Abolish village registration day

Mayor Carpenter informed the board that he has invited some members and stakeholders of the community to form a parking lot committee to evaluate the parking situation on Broad Street and come up with some ideas to resolve the issues that we are experiencing. He stated that Dave Roberts, Shelly Squires and Pat Smola have expressed interest in being on this committee.

Mayor Carpenter stated that he will join as well as a liaison member only to convey any suggestions by the committee to the village board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.