

**Village of Schuylerville and Village of Victory  
Joint Water Board Meeting Minutes  
January 5, 2026**

**Present;**

**Village of Schuylerville Mayor Carpenter**

**Village of Schuylerville Trustee Baker**

**Village of Schuylerville Trustee Michelle Campbell**

**Village of Victory Mayor Cory Helwig**

**Village of Victory Trustee and Water Board Commissioner Leslie Dennison**

**Village of Victory Trustee and Water Board Commissioner Tim Healy**

**Village of Victory Trustee Tammy Mitchell**

**SVBOWM Board Commissioner Ryan Campbell**

**SVBOWM Board Chair Bryan Drew**

**Kathryn Serra Engineer CT Male**

The meeting began with a discussion regarding grants and bonding.

Village of Victory Trustee Mitchell asked why the joint water district was not combining the grant with other grants as a match as opposed to bonding out for the other half. Ms. Serra informed the boards that a project that already has grant money would not likely receive another grant to match a grant already obtained.

Mayor Helwig had questions for Ms. Serra.

1. The original plan from CT Male was for 1.4 million for phase 1A. Ms. Serra stated that the 1.4 would be the higher end cost if DOT requires us to mill and repave the areas affected by the replacement. Ms. Serra noted that this is the type of project that has flexibility to control costs by altering the length of line replaced to fit the budget. Helwig expressed his concerns regarding the lines on Broad that service multiple locations. A discussion followed regarding the responsibilities of each property owner. Ms. Serra noted that the right of way in this area in many cases goes to the front of the buildings on Broad Street and that discussion will need to be held with these business owners during the design phase of the project. Mayor Carpenter stated that he has begun this process. Commissioner Ryan Campbell stated that he feels the project should be incorporated with the lead line replacement requirements, as the lines in that area of Broad are all galvanized. Mayor Helwig cited the North Broad project as a situation where the costs greatly exceeded the original estimate. Ms. Serra stated that this statement regarding cost exceeding the estimate would not apply to this project as the North Broad project was an emergency repair and the engineers were not given sufficient time to thoroughly investigate the affecting factors such as the bedrock that lay under the ground. Also, the location of the line was not ideal. Emergency projects are more expensive than planned construction.
2. Mayor Helwig questioned the item listed as residential inspections for \$60,300. Ms. Serra stated that this was just USDA terminology for construction observation.
3. Mayor Helwig asked for an estimation of the timeline for the engineering portion of the project. C.T. Male cannot start engineering design until the surveyors have completed their part, which she estimated at approximately two months. She did recommend starting after winter, which would put us at about mid-March. Once existing sewer water and

cable lines are located, she will be able to determine where the new water main lines must go. CT Male will work with DOT regarding permissions and feasibility as far as timing goes. The matter of the canal culvert reconstruction was brought up. Ms. Serra determined that this portion of line could be postponed until after the work at the canal crossing is completed, but we would need to determine the schedule of the canal work. Ms. Serra stated that as far as engineering decisions go, she will most likely be quite limited as to the location of the lines as this will be determined by many factors such as sewer lines, cable, highway lane location and materials in the ground such as bedrock or cobble.

4. Mayor Helwig questioned if the findings of the SEQR were as a negative declaration. Serra stated that generally water main replacements were considered a Type II action. As pertains to archaeological studies, there are possibilities in such sensitive areas in Fort Hardy Park, but the water main replacement project will not extend into Fort Hardy Park.

Commissioner Campbell asked if the engineering report would include a study of the materials in the ground on Broad. Serra stated that geoprobes would be performed every 500 feet along the length of the project. She also stated the replacement would most certainly be done with directional drilling due to the location of the project.

Trustee Campbell expressed that she would like to see this move forward as soon as possible to avoid losing the funding.

Ms. Serra asked if the water project bond would impact the water user rates. Mayor Carpenter stated that the cost was already built in to the current rates. Ms. Serra stated that the average cost for public water in NYS, as determined by OSC, was in the range of \$900 a year. Village of Victory Trustee Mitchell stated that, even as she is a taxpayer and a water user, she felt all taxes should be raised.

Some discussion followed regarding the near future mandated lead line replacements and possible funding sources for people in need in the communities. There may be some HUD programs that will support those disadvantaged households that are unable to afford to replace their lines once it becomes mandatory. Mayor Carpenter stated that he would support hiring a company like Flatley Read to come to the village to present to the public on ways to seek financial assistance with their lead line replacements.