

Village of Schuylerville  
Workshop 8/10/2018

PRESENT:

Trustee Brian Drew  
Trustee Jason Young  
Recording Secretary Cory Heyman

ABSENT:

Deputy Mayor Nicole Proctor  
Trustee Robert Petralia

David Miller presented on the New York State Empire Trails project. He indicated the area designated in this project, on a map. Mr. Miller stated that one of the Governor's more significant initiatives, which he announced in 2017, was the concept of linking over 750 miles of trails from New York City to the Canadian border and from Buffalo to Albany. Essentially marrying up all of the existing regional trails, the Champlain and Erie Canalway trails through the Hudson River Valley Greenway group. They are the agency managing the project, the funding is going through that state agency.

The Town of Saratoga received some funding for this project. Originally, the concept was to allocate funding for a portion of the trail south of Schuylerville, but it was decided that the priority for this project should be the core area of the section, particularly as there were already investments made in the visitor's center.

The project spans from the Fish Creek pedestrian bridge just north of the Schuyler House, runs along the towpath trail, up through the post office property and crosses route 29 to the west side of the visitor center. There is currently a crosswalk in this location, but it will need to be relocated, as well as a utility pole that is on that side. It then continues to the west side of the visitor's center, down the slope, following the towpath. The north end of the project would be meeting up with Towpath Road and Saratoga Street.

Some challenges are; the current crosswalk over 29 would need to be moved, we need to drop curbs, there are slopes coming off of 29 creating some grade issues, an a utilities pole will need to be relocated. Also, the state will want to see asphalt in these areas along 29 where there's a steeper grade for better stability.

This core area would be the part that we feel would need to be put out for bid. We are hoping that the state will come up with more money to help finish the southern and northern parts. Also we are hoping that this village and the town would be able to complete some that work in house. Another issue is that a corner of the parking lot on the post office property is actually owned by the Canal Corporation. The post office property is owned by a private individual. Some easement agreement will have to be negotiated between these two to continue the trail through this area. On the Hudson Crossing side, there are some simple pathways that access the various structures and activities. The LA Group would like to combine some of those walkways. Hudson Crossing is reviewing this.

Mayor Carpenter clarified that the Hudson Crossing portion would be a project for the Town of Northumberland and that the Hudson Crossing portion of the project is not the responsibility of the Village of Schuylerville. David Miller confirmed this.

Originally allocated for the project was \$85,000.00 for hard construction. This included the Hudson Crossing project as well. The LA Group had calculated \$148,000.00 for this area, which included \$22,000.00 for the Hudson Crossing portion. \$126,300.00 would be needed for the core area, fully bid out. This would leave a \$63,000 shortfall. The LA Group is hoping that the state will contribute another 67,000.

Mr. Miller felt that the funding could be obtained to complete the project, and was looking for a timeline of early January as the Hudson River Valley Group seems very positive about this project. The Hudson River Valley Group would like to meet the governor's initiative on this trail system project.

The portion estimated at \$67,000.00 would include some furnishings, (benches, signs) which are estimated at \$7,450.00. Mr. Miller stated that these items could be added later. There would be some demolition needed to prepare the area, the section titled, "earthworks," included geo technical fabric, gravel, stone dust, topsoil, seed and some structural fill.

Trustee Young asked what type of signage would be used. Mayor Carpenter informed him that the largest one was approximately an 18 inch circle. Some of the signs would be co-located on existing poles.

Rob and Decker said there were nine signs that needed poles and the other three would go on existing poles.

Brian Myers stated that he was making some adjustments to his current budget as they were going to need to replace a 2006 Jeep estimating sometime in January. He also would like to change from paperwork to tablets for equipment and apparatus checks. These could be incorporated into the current management software used by the firehouse. This will help them with their maintenance records. He questioned the status of the wireless upgrade that had been proposed for the village office, as he would need better wireless signal to implement this new system.

Brian Myers asked about LED light replacements. He would like to pursue that especially in the apparatus bay.

He also questioned the status on the wireless upgrade

He also stated that he didn't feel that it was the fire departments responsibility to enforce the burning ordinance they've had issues with hostility when they have done this previously.

He also mentioned the request for a car wash. He felt that this needed water board approval, village board approval and then it was mentioned that there would need to be proof of insurance. He stated he would be glad to accommodate and just wanted to make sure that the proper approvals were in place.

Dan Baker spoke for the water department

He Gave a brief summary of the progress of the Pond and Cemetery Road connection replacements and the Broad and Ranger Road repairs. The main issue at the water board meeting was the 27 gates leak, which was on the owner's property. 27 Gates is the church on the corner of Gates and Burgoyne. Originally, this was part of a larger property including the nunnery, the rectory and another home between the old rectory and the church. The property has since been divided up to private home owners. The waterline that connects the church to the main at one time supplied water to all of the other buildings. The other residences have since connected to

the main on their own lines. This old legacy line developed a leak causing the neighbor on Burgoyne Street to have water issues which ruptured their sewer line and caused sewage to back up into their home. The water service at 27 gates has been shut off as it was determined to be a public health hazard.

The Waterboard determined that this was a private property issue and not the responsibility of the water department. The water remains off.

In public comment at the water board meeting, Wendy Lukas appealed the denial of names with addresses in her FOIL request.

She also inquired about the status on acquiring meters, as she felt the billing system was unfair. Dan Baker stated that he had received a presentation on radio frequency meters and that the estimated cost would be \$700,000 or more. The plan was to have CT Male look into grants to assist in obtaining meters, as he had determined that without funding to install these meters, the utilities bills would only increase for most residents, as they would still be paying for the costs to process the water and would then be paying back the debt to obtain the meters as well.

Wendy Lukas also asked about the reduction in units for the property owned by Jason Young at the yacht basin. Ms. Lukas feels that they should be being charged more. Baker assured her that there had been a full assessment of the property conducted recently. Wendy Lukas stated that she felt the reduction was done before the property was finished. Commissioner Dennison informed her that the June minutes show that the reduction was approved at the June meeting, after the restaurant was open. Wendy Lukas also questioned the Workmen's Compensation line on the budget. Dan Baker reminded her that that was a claim that was awarded during her time on the water board because no water board member went to the hearing. Dan Baker was not on the board at that time. The fact that no one represented the board at this hearing caused Theodore Derby to be awarded the full amount requested. This year's payment to Workman's Compensation insurance was for \$23,901.94, which was entirely due to the Derby claim.

Dan Baker stated that Lussier's would be starting the out of service hydrant replacements sometime this week, weather permitting. He also mentioned the water line break on Pine Street. Baker felt that the job was not properly manned. Billy Lloyd operated the backhoe with only one part-time DPW person watching the hole.

Mayor Carpenter and Mayor Dewey will be meeting to discuss the guidelines that the waterboard would like to set regarding safety in water main break repairs.

Dan Baker stated that he would be garnishing his letter of his resignation in three months' time. He stated that his work schedule was too demanding for the time that the position of chairman of the Waterboard requires.

Charles Sherman gave the waste water treatment plant report. He stated that he needs a generator to facilitate the process of moving the portable pumps in certain situations or to decant when they need to settle digesters. He had quotes for the board. He stated that he felt he was under his budget. Mayor Carpenter demonstrated to him the line that showed that he was over his budget line on the waste water treatment plant contractual of the \$41,000.00, as he is currently at \$16,000. Mayor Carpenter reminded him that we were only 30% through the year. Mayor Carpenter asked Sherman to examine the revenue and expense report to be sure that he stayed within his expense lines. Charles Sherman explained that some of these expense were one offs. Mayor Carpenter asked him to explain to the board members any instances where this might happen, so that they were aware of the expenses being incurred.

Charles Sherman stated that they had had a few wet weather events which caused some issues with the SCATA system, which required him to do some of the work manually.

He mentioned that septage receiving was down for quite a while in August, as there was a pipe that broke. Fortunately, Matt Varner was on site and they were able to get the situation under control.

Some discussion followed as to whether it was actually worth running the septage receiving aspect of the plant.

Rob Decker spoke for the DPW report. He mentioned that Ryan Campbell was now technically full-time.

He asked where we stand on getting direct deposit for payroll.

He mentioned that there had not been a lot of extra projects completed this summer as he had been short-staffed throughout most of the spring and summer. This was mostly due to the fact that Hugh Bruce was retiring and had been taking sick days. He also mentioned that the DPW generally took their vacations during the summer, as they needed to be available in the winter months. Rob Decker stated that they had only been a full crew, meaning five workers, for three weeks of the summer.

Rob Decker also made mention of the issue of the Pine Street leak and what he felt to be inadequate staffing for the job.

Rob revisited the subject of the plow, for which he had quotes for at around \$3100.

Rob Decker also stated that he felt that there should be an emergency water plan, and that there should be provisions for the possibility of a snowstorm and a water leak happening at the same time. He feels there should be a contractor on retainer for such situations

Mayor Carpenter mentioned that they had interviewed two candidates for the DPW position.

Both were very skilled, and both were offered the position, but only one accepted the job.

Trustee Young questioned why this person was being brought in at a higher rate than Ray Carr, as he felt that Ray possessed the same skills as the new hire. Rob Decker stated there was a difference between someone who could use the backhoe and a machine operator. Trustee Young felt that it was unfair to bring in a person who would start at a higher level. Mayor Carpenter reiterated that this had been discussed at budget time but that the board had not been able to come to a decision.

Trustee Young asked about the certification for water operator courses for the DPW. He also asked if they were compensated in their wages for water work. Mayor Carpenter stated that this was part of their job duties and that they were aware of this when they applied and when they were hired for the job

Brian Drew updated the board on the Pearl Street and Spring Street sidewalk project. He said he met with Drew Alberti from Flatly Read and Arthur Theiverge. They had been advised by a resident that they needed to increase the width of the sidewalks from four to five feet wide as per the requirements of the ADA. Mayor Carpenter asked the attorney to confirm this. This would mean an increase in the price of the bid.

Trustee Young expressed concern that they may not be able to get it done in time, as the deadline was November 1<sup>st</sup>. Trustee Young asked if it was confirmed that the ADA requirement was 5 feet. Trustee Drew assured him that this would be confirmed before they poured.

Trustee Young mentioned that he'd heard from a resident that the minutes were not posted from the previous meeting and neither was the AUD. Treasurer Heyman said that previously her policy was to wait until they were approved at a board meeting but agreed to post them as soon as she finished them if that's what they wanted.

Mayor Carpenter announced that it had come to his attention that Trustee Proctor would be submitting her resignation. Proctor would specify when she would be resigning and would notify

the mayor of what the timetable would be. Mayor Carpenter stated that he would inform the board of the timeline. He stated that he would be advertising for the Trustee position, conducting interviews and that whomever was chosen would fill that position until the next election. Trustee Young asked if she would be able to vote on any issues during that time Mayor Carpenter stated that she would.

Mayor Carpenter stated that the trustees had been provided with copies of the AUD. He stated that if they had any questions they could come in to the office and Treasurer Heyman would answer any questions they had. He tasked Treasurer Heyman with posting the AUD on the website and said that Heyman would be available for any questions from the public as well.

Mayor Carpenter announced that he would be advertising for the village clerk position, as Rose Decker will be retiring as of October 26<sup>th</sup>. He would be conducting interviews, and noted that trustees could attend the interviews but not all at once as it would constitute a quorum.

Trustee Young asked about the repairs to Morgan's Run. Mayor Carpenter said it was slated for next year with the second half of the chips money being awarded. Trustee Young asked if there was a possibility to widen the road, as a fire truck could not negotiate the road at this point. Mayor Carpenter felt that the fund balance currently would allow the village to designate funds for this project in addition to the chips money that we anticipated receiving in the next fiscal year.

Mayor Carpenter made the motion to adjourn, Trustee Drew seconded, all in favor, meeting adjourned.

Recording Secretary,

*Cory Heyman*