**Village of Schuylerville**

**October 04, 2021**

**Village Workshop minutes**

**Present**

Trustee Colvin

Trustee LeBaron

**Present Via Zoom**

Mayor Carpenter Village of Canton, New York

Trustee Baker 50 Green Street Schuylerville

**Absent**

Trustee Drew

Mayor Carpenter opened the meeting with the pledge of allegiance.

Kate Seifert and Melissa Marks Presented via Zoom on Nelnet renewable energy community solar program. Mayor Carpenter noted that the village currently participates in a program called Nexamp, but that at the time the village signed up with Nexamp, on demand (higher energy use) consumers were not eligible to join in the program, due to restrictions imposed by the energy companies. Larger accounts, such as the waste water treatment plant account, will need to sign up with an anchor agreement would need to sign a 20-year contract to participate, whereas smaller accounts can opt out of the program with just a written notice. The anchor agreement is that which can consume up to about 40 percent of a solar farm this is typically a 20-year term. This comes with a guaranteed 10 percent savings

DPW report

Supervisor Decker was present. He gave the update on the leaf vacuum situation. The machine is older, and they are having issues finding parts for it. Internal parts are the same as the newer models, but the external parts have all changed since the production of this particular machine.

Mayor Carpenter asked Heyman to advise the public as to the issues that the DPW is having with the equipment, and to ask that residents keep leaves separate from other debris. Mayor Carpenter asked that a note could go in the next mailing that leaves must be bagged or put into containers after November 15th. There was some discussion regarding the need for a new skid steer. This piece of equipment would be something that could be used by both the waste water treatment plant and the DPW. Currently the skid steer at the plant is not usable for snow removal outside the fence, as it is no longer road worthy. Mayor Carpenter clarified with Treasurer Heyman that the funds to purchase this piece of equipment could come from both the sewer and the general, as it would be used by both. Heyman stated that she had confirmed this with one of the auditors that was presenting at the NYCOM training that she had attended in September.

Supervisor Decker mentioned that the employee that had been away on military leave was back. Mayor Carpenter asked Rob to find out when the employee would be returning to work. Supervisor Decker stated that he was just waiting to receive his orders.

There was some discussion regarding trash (a couch) that has been left out by the road at 8 Burgoyne street. Mayor Carpenter asked Heyman to send out a letter to the owner to either make arrangements to pay for our DPW to remove the couch or arrange to have it removed himself.

Waste water treatment plant report

Operator Sherman asked Supervisor Decker if he had any experience in dye testing of the storm and sewer systems.

Sherman stated that he had received a call from DEC regarding a sewer manhole that was running over with water. The man hole cover in question was on the southern end of the village, travelling down Burgoyne street, going across Broad at the end of a drive located near the electrical plant. Sherman was at this point, informed by the resident that reported it, that this has been a recurring problem. He feels that there is some significant I and I occurring somewhere on Burgoyne, west of the manhole in question. He plans to work with Supervisor Decker during the next large rainstorm to see if they can find out, using dye tests, where the water is coming from. Sherman stated that there are also field agents in the local governing agencies who will come out with a camera to assist with finding these I and I issues. The camera is about $200 a day to rent. Trustee Baker asked about Rural Water. He thought that Rural Water had assisted the water district with some issues that they were having with flooding at the cemetery in Victory that the park agency was convinced was a leak in the water distribution system. Rural water was able to help them to determine that this was not where the water was coming from. Trustee Baker thought that this was a free service that this organization offered to municipalities.

Hydrant flushing was also brought up and Treasurer Heyman stated that she would find out when this was scheduled to occur in Victory, as Schuylerville follows immediately after (we are downhill from Victory)

Review of change of policy from debit to credit

Heyman had emailed out the revised policy to the board for review. The change was basically just to change all instances of the word debit to credit. The only other change was that one of the points stated that the account would not be linked to any other accounts, which was no longer applicable, as this would not be a bank account.

Fund balance policy.

Treasurer Heyman stated that among the courses she attended at NYCOM, were capital assets planning, long term financial planning and developing a fund balance policy. OSC does have a recommended percentage of the total budgeted expends that they like to see as a maintained fund balance. The long term financial plan will show how the next several years will project, They want to see that you are not just hanging on to that money just to have it, they want to see that you have a plan for that money. For example, we are working on the Fort Hardy Master Plan, and intend to make some major improvements to the park, we are working to move forward with cleaning up the canal, both of these projects will require significant funding in addition to grants to accomplish. The SAM Gran t will require some contribution on our part.

Trustee Baker asked if at NYCOM there was a percentage, lower mark is at 15% higher is at 20.yman stated that they never like to actually give a number. For example some municipalities have budgets in the 8 figure range, where 15% could be totally appropriate, whereas 15% of a 1

2 million dollar budget only gives us roughly a little over 200,000. Trustee Baker also mentioned the reserves that the village currently holds, equipment and repairs and Heyman agreed that these were helpful in maintaining funds for unanticipated expenses that may occur.

Mayor Carpenter asked if any board members had received feedback on the proposed amendments to the sidewalk law. There will be a public hearing at 6:30 on Wednesday the 13th prior to the regular village meeting.

Heyman stated that the gutter installation was scheduled for October 13th, providing that the company is able to get the materials for the job.

Mayor Carpenter announced that the Fort Hardy Master Plan Committee would be meeting on Wednesday at the village hall. On October 20th, at 6:30 to 8pm they will be holding a public meeting at which residents are encouraged to express any hopes or concerns regarding the Master Plan for the park. The LA Group has developed a list of, “stakeholders” persons who might have ideas for the development of the park, to whom they have sent out surveys. This is basically a questionnaire to bring these persons or entities into the planning process (eg the baseball association, rowing group, ecumenical ect) The meeting will present these ideas that were gathered in the questionnaire and allow for public opinion on these as well as a venue for reidents to present their own wishes for the park.

Mayor Carpenter stated that he will be reaching out to Attorney Klingebiel on the alternate parking revisions as well as the idea of possibly franchising the garbage removal.

Mayor Carpenter mentioned that he did submit the application for aid from the county for 40000 in aid in the canal cleanup. Supervisor Wood thougt that we would hear back by the end of the month, Mayor Carpenter stated that Wood was optimistic. Trustee Colvin announced that Friday was fire safety day. He also asked if the Village of Schuylerville would be interested in joining in with Schuyler Hose to purchase a digital sign. Mayor Carpenter asked if Trustee Colvin would set up a meeting between himself and Chief Myers to discuss the design of the area in front of the building to insure that it would be cohesive with the plans to install the sign. Treasurer Heyman asked if the board would like her to reach out to local concrete companies to address the issues that the building is having with erosion and how we can correct this. Mayor Carpenter stated that he felt this was a village maintenance issue and that she should go ahead and get some quotes to repair this.