

Schuylerville/Victory Board of Water Management
Joint Village Meeting
February 6, 2023

PRESENT

Leslie Dennison- Village of Victory,
Commissioner
Timothy Healy-Village of Victory,
Commissioner
Mayor Dan Carpenter- Village of
Schuylerville
Trustee Baker- Village of Schuylerville
Mayor Pat Dewey- Village of Victory

Trustee Colvin arrived at 6:20pm

ABSENT

Bryan Drew-Village of Schuylerville,
Chairman
Michael Hughes-Village of Schuylerville,
Commissioner

The Joint Village and water board meeting began at 6pm.

There was discussion whether the funds that were originally earmarked for meters should be used for the SCADA system, which is not a negotiable expend. Trustee Baker pointed out that the water district has an estimated \$485,000 in unassigned fund balance barring any major repairs that will need to be done.

Mayor Dewey asked how we know, from the revenue and expense report, how much of the revenue we will be collecting. Trustee Baker stated that eventually the water district will realize 100% of those revenues, whether it is realized this fiscal year, or relieved to village tax rolls.

Mayor Dewey had previously proposed using nearly all of unassigned fund balance to purchase the SCADA system. Trustee Baker stated that he did not feel it would be prudent or necessary to drain all of the reserve funds for this purchase. He agrees that this is an important piece of equipment. The SCADA system can be revamped in phases. This could be budgeted for over the next several years. CT Male had suggested that the board should hire an engineer for the revamping of the SCADA system, but the board has been advised by the plant operator, Jake Fort, that this is not necessary.

Mayor Dewey asked if the debt that the water district will need to incur to move forward with the master plan could be rolled into the current debt. Trustee Baker stated that the current EFC debt is zero interest as it was an order of consent and that it is most likely that a consolidated debt would be at 4 to 8 %.

The matter of the water line on North Broad was brought up. Mayor Carpenter stated that he had received some information from NYS DOT recently that is disconcerting. NYS DOT states that as the line to these outside users on North Broad runs under a state road, this line must be considered a municipal line. Mayor Carpenter stated that for the amount of money we have spent repairing the lines that service the outside users on North Broad from 2018 to current date, we could have already replaced this line entirely. There was a discussion as to whether it was financially responsible to spend the amount of money necessary to keep supplying the outside users on this line.

Mayor Carpenter brought up a discussion between himself and Mayor Dewey from a few days prior, wherein Mayor Dewey stated that his attorney feels that a bond resolution could be drawn up that would allow the joint water district to have an "exit ramp" included in the resolution. This would allow them to commit to the application for funding with the built-in condition that if the joint water district was unable to win the grants from WIA for 60% and the CDBG for additional funding, that they would be able to be released from their obligation to incur the full amount of the master plan of \$9,000,000.

Mayor Carpenter summarized saying that if the joint district gets the 60% grant for \$5.4 million and is able to obtain another \$1.5 in other grant sources, that still leaves \$2.1 million. Trustee Baker stated that this would be slightly less than a \$108 per year increase. At \$4 to \$4.5 million you are looking at \$210 per year. Trustee Baker asked if we move forward, when are the debt payments due? At the end of the project? Mayor Carpenter stated that he is not 100% certain, but that he thinks with the sewer project, the village had four years before they had to begin payments. Trustee Baker stated that this changes the projection of the rate increases as it will be over more years.

Trustee Baker stated that he would reach out to CT Male to find out if they have come up with a quote for grant writing and project management services for this project as at this point the board has determined that in order to move forward, they will need the quotes from CT Male and they need the attorneys to draft the bond resolutions with the exit ramps.

Trustee Baker stated that as the project would be phased out, the joint water district could apply more than once. If we are denied for phase one, we can apply again over the years as the project continues. Trustee Baker stated that the infrastructure in the village is aging and that this can no longer be ignored.

Jim Parisi, a business owner on Broad Street asked what would be a reason that the grant could be denied. Trustee Baker stated that this could be due to a greater need by other municipalities, shovel readiness and several other factors. CT Male is experienced in grant writing. Construction start date is out roughly two years.

Mayor Carpenter brought up the fact that by 2024 we need to have an inventory of all our lead pipes. From there the state will require the municipalities to replace these lines. As there were several people present that own businesses on Broad Street, Mayor Carpenter mentioned that the third part of the project is Broad Street. There is not clear language at this point as to whether the municipality or the homeowner will be responsible for replacing the lines from the curb stop to the resident's buildings. He noted that Schuylerville has taken this into consideration as pertains to the current sidewalk grant on the west side of Broad and that the village will only be replacing the center panel of sidewalk as the panel nearest the road has the curb stops. This will mean that only one new panel of sidewalk per building will need to be disturbed during the replacement of the lines from the main to the buildings.

Mayor Carpenter stated that there will be more meetings and as we move forward with these meetings regarding funding for these projects, one of the things that is required is that we hold public hearings. These will be joint village and water board meetings. He encouraged all present to attend these as we move forward.

The meeting was adjourned at 7pm.