

Schuylerville/Victory Board of Water Management
Joint Village Meeting
January 23, 2023

PRESENT

Bryan Drew-Village of Schuylerville,
Chairman

Leslie Dennison- Village of Victory,
Commissioner

Michael Hughes-Village of Schuylerville,
Commissioner

Timothy Healy-Village of Victory,
Commissioner

Mayor Dan Carpenter- Village of
Schuylerville

Trustee Baker- Village of Schuylerville

Mayor Pat Dewey- Village of Victory

Philip Dixon-SVBOWM attorney

Jake Fort-Water Plant Operator

ABSENT

NONE

BOARD ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next regular water board meeting will be on February 27, at the meeting hall in the Village of Victory @ 6 PM. The two villages and the water board will meet on Monday February 6th at 6:00 pm at the Schuylerville Village Hall to discuss further the options that they have for funding and grants to move forward with the master plan.

CT MALE PRESENTS ON THE MASTER PLAN

Katherine Sera, Melanie Krause and Jim Thatcher from CT MALE presented on the master plan and options for how the water board could move forward on the project. Ms. Sera stated that the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the capital projects that are included in the master plan developed by CT Male. In addition to the master plan an engineer's report was drafted to lay out the specifics of the projects included in the plan. She began by stating that for the Schuylerville/Victory water district the price per unit for water is approximately \$528 per year for residents. NYS office of the state comptroller has determined that the 2022 average cost for municipal water per household is over a thousand dollars a year. Our residents pay approximately half that. This will impact decisions by funding agencies when they estimate the impact on residents. Currently, about 1/3 of our water lines are in poor condition. Critical water mains that are over 100 years old are slated, in the master plan, to be replaced within the next ten years. These have been broken down into four projects, each of which, it is estimated, will take about 2 years. She identified the streets that were prioritized. This includes about 17,000 feet of water lines. She also pointed out that there are some areas of the water district that have inadequate water pressure. This is a serious issue when it comes to firefighting. Corrective options are as follows; two booster pump stations, one in Morgan's run and one that would cover Schuyler Heights and Monument Drive. Pressures on Cemetery Road are so low that there will need to be individual booster pumps at each property to mitigate this extreme low-pressure problem. Installation and location of these pumps would need to be discussed. Approximate costs for these pumping stations would be about \$735,000.

Jim Thatcher spoke next. He is the funding expert for CT Male. He stated that as far as the plants themselves, Fort Hardy needs a second UV for disinfection to pass standards for DOH. The estimated cost for this is about \$500,000. The Victory plant needs some maintenance which has been estimated at under \$200,000. There has not been a great deal of investment in the water infrastructure over the years. Mr. Thatcher spoke about possible funding sources. Three main sources are cash reserves, private loans and state loans. State loans can be subsidized which can reduce the costs in a high interest environment. Zero percent are available if you are determined to be a hardship community. Grants must be combined with some funds from other sources and are usually obtained at the end of the project. EFC is a good source for funding. WIA grants match with 60 percent on the drinking water side, but it has become a very competitive grant program. This application has typically been in the fall. SRF (state revolving fund) is the state lending program with a June deadline to be financed for the following fiscal year. They will complete a hardship determination when you get on the list for the following fiscal year. SCADA systems and generic equipment should not be included in the grants but could be included in a loan. Typically, we are looking at summer and fall for grant applications. This is not that far out given the amount of effort, at the time of application. For a WIA grant you must submit a SEQR (type 2) and SHPO needs to sign off if it is an archaeologically sensitive area, just to prove that your water lines are not in a sensitive area. We may need to hire an archaeologist to prepare a 1a or 1b report to show that there has been a review of the area. Bond resolutions will also need to be made to address the financing of the remaining 40 percent. The water district will need to create a financing plan for what they will be committing to this project. If there are enough reserves, then the water district needs to be ready to prove this. The state needs proof of readiness to begin the project immediately. A survey may not be necessary, as the 2020 census designated us as over 51% low income. Mains that are located within certain neighborhoods may be more eligible if they service low-income areas further down the line. CDBG applications should not be started until after we are a couple of years into the project. Proof of non CDBG funding will be needed. Phasing is key; a Fort Edward project combined sewer and storm water management with the water project, which made it more attractive when they applied for funding and grants, as while the ground was already opened up, the municipalities were able to address other issues than just water. Ms. Sera stated that we need to be sure that we do not miss the deadlines in April. After much discussion, it was determined that it might be advantageous to apply for all 9 million, phasing out the plan as it is in the master plan. Ms. Sera agreed that this could be a very good strategy. She also stated that the firm could draw up estimates for the cost to complete a WIA application. It was determined that there should be another meeting on Monday February 6th at 6 o'clock. At this meeting the water board and both villages will examine current fund balance and make decisions for moving forward with the water master plan.

MINUTES:

The minutes were presented from the October 17, 2022 meeting. Commissioner Dennison made a motion to approve, Chairman Drew seconded the motion all in favor, minutes approved. The minutes for the December meeting were not yet available.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Only bank recs for operating accounts were available for the meeting as they were prepared previously, and Treasurer Heyman was not in the office on Monday due to bad weather.

Operating Account \$ 156,017.20

JCF PLANT OPERATIONS:

Chairman Drew read from the JCF water operating report.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Resolution to remove \$660 from water bill account #52-02006290 Daniel Obadashian at 19 broad street for an over charge of units. Commissioner Dennison made the motion and Chairman Drew seconded the motion all in favor, adjustment granted.

Resolution to transfer funds was presented to the board as follows; a transfer should be made from J8310.100 Home and Community Services Contractual \$2050.00 to J.8310.100, Home and Community Services Personal \$2,000.00 and J.1380.400 Fiscal Agent Fees in the amount of \$50.00. Commissioner Dennison made the motion to approve the transfer, Chairman Drew seconded the motion, all in favor, transfer approved.

An invoice was presented from the Village of Victory for reimbursement for the payment of the EFC water debt in the amount of \$21,276.24. Commissioner Dennison made the motion to approve the payment of the invoice, Commissioner Healy seconded the motion, all in favor, invoice approved.

A 2023 to 2024 budget meeting was set up for February 8th at 6 pm at the village of victory meeting hall.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

none

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None.

AUDIT AND APPROVAL OF CLAIMS:

Abstract #8 was presented for approval in the amount of \$123,311.44. Commissioner Healy made the motion to approve the abstract, Chairman Drew seconded the motion all in favor abstract approved.

ADJOURNEMENT:

Commissioner Dennison made the motion to adjourn, Chairman Drew seconded the motion, all in favor meeting adjourned.