

**Ballston Spa
Comprehensive Master Plan Steering Committee
April 7, 2022**

Present in Person: Scott Burlingame, Bob Bush, Jr. John Cromie, Mat Ercoline, Karen Martell, Peter Martin, Ellen Mottola, Jackie Pelliccia, Marilyn Stephenson, and Jon Taisey

Present by Zoom: Carrie Chapman, Monique Cohen, Josh Frederick, John Hearn, and Jared Iacolucci

Excused: Nafeesa Koslik

Observers in Person: Frank Rossi, Jr.

Observers by Zoom: Paul Farnum, Amy Fitzgerald (Behan Assocs. for introduction only), Jeff Gawrys, Liz Kormos, Gina Marozzi, Bernadette VanDeinse-Perez

Meeting was called to order by Chair Karen Martell. Minutes of the last meeting were reviewed. Jackie Pelliccia moved to approve them as presented, Ellen Mottola seconded; passed.

Karen introduced Amy Fitzgerald, Senior Planner at Behan Assocs., who will be working with the steering committee. Amy noted she will be joining the committee during its second meetings, for six sessions. Her first task will be arranging for public input sessions, which she will present at the next meeting. It was requested that portion of the process be held off until the fall, after the scheduled meetings have been completed. Public outreach has been scheduled for the fall, not the summer. We will begin to discuss it in August. Karen thanked Amy for joining us and that we look forward to working with her at our next meeting. Amy indicated she will be reading our past minutes in preparation.

Karen turned the meeting over to Marilyn Stephenson and Mat Ercoline, who are handling this month's topic of Village utility infrastructure, specifically, water, sewer, electricity, electronic information systems, and how communications are carried out by the village.

Mat noted this session will be devoted to using a power point to lay out information of the subjects so the committee will have the information to discuss and come up with recommendations at the

next meeting. [It will be useful for the power point to be read with these minutes.]

WATER

The village draws its water from five wells in the Town of Milton which reach down to a saturated layer in glacial till from the Pleistocene era. 2.57 million gallons are available to pump per day. The water goes to a pump station where it is treated with chlorine gas, fluoride and, a compound to get rid of iron. It is tested for levels of chlorine and fluoride and for e-coli. The village extracts 283 million gallons of water a year from the wells of which 26.1% is unbilled. Some of the unbilled water is due to hydrant flushing and municipal uses like the swimming pool. Some of it may result from inaccuracies in records. Some is from leakage in the system. There has been no comparison of this percentage with other municipalities. There have been no negative water quality or purity issues identified with our water supply.

A wellfield safe evaluation report and water system feasibility study are underway. They will estimate the amount of water which can be drawn from the wells and improvements which can increase the efficiency of the wells and pumping and storage system and position the village for future grants. The cost of such improvements will be more than the village can pay from water fees.

There are no digital maps of the water system. New meters, laterals, shut offs, and the like are maintained for each property on an index card system. DPW has a written plan for infrastructure improvements. It started out as a "wish list" but had been developed into a planning document for DPW. Emergency and contingency plans have not been formalized, although past practices have filled the gap. Several levels of sophistication in meters are in homes. About 18% of residents do not read their own meters, and DPW does not have the staff to read meters. It would cost about 2M\$ for the village to install meters that would not have to be read. Some commercial development may be harmful to the water system's ability to accommodate other development. Those uses may need to be identified and inhibited by the zoning law. Improving the efficiency of pumping facilities is an option.

SEWER

The sewer system in the village is composed primarily of clay tile lines, which can be invaded by tree roots. Past studies have indicated storm water infiltration was not great enough to need addressing under a county consent decree in 1996.

Beginning about 5-6 years ago the county and village have been coordinating their efforts. New hook ups and repairs go through village and county permit procedures, which can be confusing to property owners. A past effort to streamline the process faltered.

There is a plan being developed to replace or reline sewer pipes in the village which can be executed over a five-year period. Unless snakes can be run through clay lines, there is no way to trace above ground where non-metallic laterals run, which can be problematic for homeowners. Many needed sewer improvements are contained in DPW's Capital improvement list, which is available on the village web site. The list is a basis for serious decision making to gauge its completeness, establish priorities and timelines, and procure funding.

ELECTRIC GRID

Electric usage in New York is expected to decrease over the next ten years as usage becomes more efficient and population decreases. However, for the next thirty years after that, as electricity replaces fossil fuels, the demand is going to significantly increase. Because fossil fuels are now used for most heating systems, New York's peak electric usage will shift from summer to winter.

A positive effect of added electrical power having been fed to Global Foundries is that a major part of the village shares the same line, which duplicates an earlier line. As a result, when power goes out, it does so for milliseconds.

Streetlights in the village have been transferred to LED lights. The village owns eleven decorative streetlights on Front Street. As businesses expand down Washington Street and the CBD is expanded, a decision needs to be made if the decorative lights will be installed there also.

Power demands of car charging stations will require major upgrades of delivery systems. It may be important to identify locations for charging stations. At present, much of their installation will be paid for by National Grid. The village has to be in a position to obtain the augmented distribution system to handle increased future demand. An option for a community to invest in producing its own power through solar exists; it hasn't proven to be cost effective yet. While there is an emergency plan

for power loss within DPW, there appears to be no overall plan for the village.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

There seems to be nobody who has overall knowledge of the village's IT systems. People are assigned various tasks, and the village contracts with providers. Many village functions can be improved with available technology. In the short term, the village can position itself to take advantage of IT benefits. It will not take much for security to be upgraded to handle data losses or harmful intrusions. The village can copy business protocols to identify fishing and malware. Insurance companies that insure for loss through the internet have requirements the village must follow.

INFORMATION DELIVERY SYSTEMS

Currently the village uses the USPS for delivery of taxes and water bills and uses those opportunities to deliver information to citizens. Village meetings are public and have a wider viewership through Zoom. Legal notices are in the Gazette and sometimes on the website. Press releases are at the direction of the mayor and sent by the Village Clerk. No one is assigned to take photos when opportunities present themselves. Code violations and DPW notices are generally done through posting notices on individual properties. The village website has been redesigned. Keeping it current is a challenge. The mayor can send out email blasts. About 80-100 residents have signed up for them. Social media presence is somewhat hit or miss. Emergency communications from and into the village have not been developed to assure communications will go to where needed, short of plugging into the county's reverse 911.

At the end of the presentation Karen announced the Village Board appointed Bob Bush, Jr., Peter Martin, and Steve Springer as alternates to the Comp Plan Committee with the proviso that the Committee could accept them as full members. It was observed that the committee is a fact-finding body whose end product is to offer recommendations, and more ideas and perspectives which can be added to the mix the better. John Cromie moved, and Jon Taisey seconded that Bob Bush, Jr., Peter Martin, and Steve Springer be full members of the committee; passed. Meeting was adjourned.