

6
3/17/25

Village of Dolgeville Engineer's Monthly Update

March 2025

Active Projects

NY Forward Grant

- Worked with Erica to develop the RFQ and legal advertisement, along with the grant timeline, for the Small Project Fund

Watershed Logging / WTP Sand Filter Production Issues

- Participated in a conference call on March 12, 2025. Updates will be presented at the board meeting.

FEMA / DHSES De-obligation of Funds

- March 7, 2025 Meeting Summary
- Background: After the 2013 flood, the Village was supposed to receive a 25% match from the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery (GOSR). However, the "opt-in" email was only sent to the former DPW Superintendent, who had retired and was unavailable. The Village never saw the message and missed the deadline. Despite ongoing efforts, the funds were never released.
- FEMA Accounting Error: FEMA initially included a \$390k insurance offset in the project worksheet. During reconciliation, FEMA adjusted this down to \$149k, then \$242k, then later made a final correction. These adjustments, combined with DHSES mistakenly issuing 100% reimbursement instead of the standard 75%, resulted in a federal overpayment of \$364,313.25 to the Village.
- What Happens Now:
 - FEMA requires the Village to repay the \$364k overpayment.
 - DHSES will withhold payments on all active FEMA/DHSES projects until this debt is satisfied.
 - Even if the Village pursues the original 25% GOSR match, that effort is separate from the FEMA repayment and will not reduce the \$364k owed.
- Next Steps:
 - The Village will review historical project and financial records.
 - A formal outreach to GOSR will be made to see if the original match funding can be revisited.
 - The Village must develop a plan to repay the \$364k to restore eligibility for future reimbursements.

Fink Creek Storm Drainage System Project - FEMA Project No. 4472DR-NY [130884]

- March 7, 2025 Meeting Summary
- CCTV Results & Culvert Conditions: Barton & Loguidice shared results from recent culvert inspections. The lower sections under the factory and Cakery buildings are in very poor shape—debris, structural damage, bulging walls, and missing stones/mortar were observed. One segment was so unsafe that the inspection crew couldn't fully access it.
- Project History & FEMA Scope: Initially, FEMA supported full culvert replacement after the 2019 flood, but that scope was later reduced to partial replacement and mostly repairs. The recent inspection results strongly support returning to the original full replacement scope.

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- Next Steps:
 - B&L will update the pre-disaster condition assessment to reflect the new inspection findings.
 - The team agreed it's best to present these findings to FEMA, ideally while the current FEMA representative is still assigned—he's been receptive to full replacement in the past.
 - A meeting with FEMA is being planned for late March to present the updated info and discuss path forward.
- Strategic Approach: Instead of diving straight into cost or design, the group agreed to first lay out the condition of the culvert, the risks of piecemeal repairs, and long-term failure potential—letting the evidence speak for itself.
- Potential Rerouting: If replacement is approved, codes may require relocating sections of the culvert to avoid running under buildings.

Main Street Sewer Project

- March 6, 2025 Pre-Construction Meeting Highlights
 - Start Date & Duration: Anticipated start is late April 2025, with a 365-day contract duration (including winter shutdowns). Section B (North Main) must be completed by June 26, 2026.
 - Construction Coordination:
 - Pre-cast items are being ordered; contractor awaiting delivery schedule.
 - Some culvert and stormwater outfall work is dependent on pending NYSDEC permits.
 - Bridge regrading plans by NYSDOT may impact outfall design; further coordination required.
 - Public & Business Access:
 - Staging and detour routes were discussed, especially near Elm Street and the factory.
 - Detours will be coordinated with local officials, school transportation, and emergency services.
 - A public open house is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2025, from 4:00–7:00 PM.
 - Compliance:
 - Project will adhere to Davis-Bacon and NYS prevailing wage requirements.
 - DBE participation goal of 20%.
 - Floodplain permit may be needed for work near the river upstream of the bridge.
 - Communications & Documentation:
 - B&L will provide construction admin support and inspections.
 - Contractor to provide emergency contacts and weekly updates.
 - An online portal will be used for RFIs and submittals.
 - Next Steps:
 - Finalize staging areas and confirm permit timelines.
 - Coordinate with DOT, Herkimer County, and other agencies regarding signage and right-of-way use.
 - Contractor to submit required certifications (AIS, DBE, Buy American, etc.).