

Village of Dolgeville Engineer's Monthly Update

February 2026

Active Projects

Center Park Rehabilitation – EPF Parks Grant #EPF-182340 & NY Forward

- Met with the project team to walk through bid results against the construction budget and confirm what remains to complete the splash pad and restroom scope tied to grant requirements.
- Confirmed the apparent low bidders for General Construction and Electrical; began detailed bid package checks with the Village and Saratoga Associates (bid math, required forms, and MWBE/utilization documentation) so any award recommendation is clean and well-supported.
- With no bids received for Mechanical and Plumbing, I worked with Erica Fahd and Saratoga Associates advanced a rebid path and parallel pricing plan (obtaining quotes for the work from the apparent low bidders) to get full project costs in hand for discussion and planning while keeping procurement moving.
- Mechanical and HVAC contracts will be re-bid immediately. I am working with the Village and Saratoga Associates to set the schedule to be included in the Invitation to Bidders.

NYSDOT Quarterly Coordination Meeting – January 20, 2026

1. Beaver Creek Culvert (NYSDOT)

- Noted project status as substantially complete from NYSDOT's perspective.
- Discussed a sinkhole concern at the inlet area located on/near private property and the need to clarify responsibilities and next steps for stabilization/repair.
- Village requested continued coordination so any follow-on work can be addressed without disrupting nearby facilities and access.

2. Route 29 Bridge Replacement (NYSDOT)

- NYSDOT advised they are finalizing work zone and maintenance-of-traffic concepts.
- Discussed the current sequencing concept: letting in January 2027 with a spring award; early-stage field activities (e.g., abutment/utility/road work) anticipated to begin in 2027, with additional work continuing into subsequent seasons.
- Discussed the importance of aligning Village utility planning and property coordination early, including expectations for access, temporary impacts, and communication protocols.

3. Route 167 / Main Street Paving (NYSDOT)

- NYSDOT discussed a longer-range paving sequence, including segment limits and anticipated timing so the Village can align local planning around the sewer project and future street restoration.
- Village raised existing roadway condition concerns on remaining Main Street areas and requested continued coordination on how future DOT work and Village restorations can complement each other.
- NYSDOT noted internal coordination is ongoing and acknowledged mutual benefit in aligning pavement strategy with the Village's capital work.
- NYSDOT discussed their support for a Village text-message alert system to improve construction communications with residents and businesses.

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Main Street Sewer Replacement Project (Construction Progress / Contract Administration)

- Attended the February 3 Construction Progress Meeting No. 14 with the contractor, Village, and NYSDOT participation to confirm construction-season expectations, communication lines, and documentation priorities.
- Reconfirmed the need for timely submittals and close-out testing documentation (including CCTV and other acceptance testing) to support payment recommendations and avoid end-of-season reconciliation in the future.
- Reviewed the contractor's proposed 2026 schedule framework and reiterated that sequencing must protect critical milestone dates (including the North Main Street completion window tied to funding deadlines).
- Reiterated field expectations for bypass pumping when working on active sewer, and emphasized that methods must follow the approved plan to reduce operational risk and avoid avoidable rework.
- Reemphasized trench backfill and compaction requirements (including lift thickness and full-depth compaction documentation) so restoration quantities remain defensible and consistent with the contract.
- Confirmed the need for daily quantity tracking and field agreement between contractor and inspector so monthly pay applications can be reconciled quickly and accurately.
- Discussed pay-application processing approach: known deficient CCTV items must be corrected and/or removed from pay requests prior to recommendation, so non-defective work can proceed through payment without holding unrelated progress.
- Coordinated near-term planning for post-cleaning CCTV and acceptance testing in early March where feasible; discussed Village assistance with manhole access as needed (with reasonable advance notice).
- Noted coordination items requiring NYSDOT follow-up/clarification, including roof drain connection ownership/interface and expectations for any reconstructions or removals in the DOT corridor.

Water Meter Replacement Project – GIGP Grant

- Continued coordination on budget, schedule, and procurement approach, with next steps remaining dependent on agency guidance on eligibility and compliance items.
- Completed the draft budget for the project and distributed to the Village and project team for review.

IDA Water Storage Tank Project (Manheim Business Park)

- Herkimer County IDA and their consultant, Wright-Pierce, has continued follow-up with NYSDOH on status of the ongoing review so the project team can respond promptly to comments and maintain readiness to advance toward bidding. No final response has been received from NYSDOH.
- Maintained coordination among the Village, IDA, and project partners to keep funding and implementation sequencing aligned pending DOH feedback.

Watershed Protection / Potential Acquisition

- Met with DEC forestry/acquisition staff for an initial working discussion on potential watershed land acquisition, including the expected survey, appraisal, and Attorney General title review steps and a multi-year timeline.
- Identified near-term document needs (parcel maps, deeds, existing paper maps) and assigned scanning/digitizing tasks to support DEC due diligence review.
- Discussed access and operations considerations (reservoir access needs, road/shared use concepts, and long-term management expectations) to preserve Village optionality as discussions continue.
- Noted the need to continue evaluating nuisance beaver management options within any future agreement structure as the acquisition framework develops.
- Planned a spring site walk to support boundary identification and survey scoping once conditions allow.

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WWTP – Digester Plugging / Pump & Grinder Emergency Planning

- Coordinated on digester plugging conditions and short-term risk management, with agreement to prioritize pump/grinder solutions first while keeping longer-term digester upgrades on a separate planning track.
- Advanced rapid procurement planning with Amy Mowers for a grinder/pump solution (purchase and/or rental options), including vendor outreach for pricing, lead times, and installation scope to support timely Board decision.
- Reconfirmed the plan to use qualified contractors for critical alignment/installation work to reduce operational risk and protect Village liability exposure.
- Procurement has already been completed via board resolution to keep this important project on track.

Water System Support – Leak Response

- Assisted Village of Dolgeville staff, along with City of Little Falls personnel, in locating a severe water system leak on January 29, focusing on rapid isolation and pinpointing to reduce water loss and limit service impacts. Leak was ultimately located over night by staff from Rural Water.
- As a note, this incident is a practical reminder of the value of redundancy planning (including the industrial park water storage tank concept) and of keeping correlators active in the system so emergent leaks can be located quickly.
