

# Village of Dolgeville Engineer's Monthly Update

March 2026

## Active Projects

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

- Building on last month's bid review, the Village advanced a formal request to NYS Department of State to reallocate approximately \$117,000 in NY Forward funds from the former Food Basket project to Center Park so the project team can better support completion of the intended park scope.
- The project team continued cost and scope coordination in advance of the DOS discussion, including review of whether NY Forward funds can be used toward the OPRHP match and confirmation that design/construction administration costs also need to remain in the full funding picture.
- Additional internal discussion focused on practical phasing options for the restroom building, including the implications of constructing only part of the restroom scope now versus completing the entire build-out of the building at one time. Saratoga Associates noted that partial construction would require redesign and added code/constructability review.
- Potential near-term cost reductions such as reducing plantings, mulch, and certain site features were also reviewed; however, Saratoga Associates advised these reductions alone would not be sufficient to fund the full project need.
- The Village and Saratoga team is preparing to continue the discussion with DOS before making final recommendations on awards and scope packaging. A meeting is set for this coming Wednesday morning, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM.

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

- This month, Carver, the Village, Barton & Loguidice, and NYSDOT, continued detailed start-of-season coordination regarding outstanding closeout/testing items from prior work and sequencing for 2026 construction. Most of the discussion stemmed from the March 3 meetings at Village Hall.
- Outstanding contract administration items discussed this month included mandrel and deflection testing, post-construction CCTV submittals for multiple reaches, continued AIS/BABA documentation, and the need for the Village/B&L to finalize the list of properties requiring tie-ins in response to prior contractor questions.
- Change order items for North Main Street sewer elevation issues, full-width mill and fill, and the Jablonski water service work were reviewed for partial approval and issuance so the parties can enter the season with clearer documentation.
- Contractor scheduling discussed this month indicates spring mobilization is expected to begin earlier than previously anticipated, with initial work starting the week of March 16 (mobilization to the site) and broader field activity following the week of March 23/30, including separate crews for sewer/water, drainage, and restoration-related work.
- Following coordination with NYSDOT, the Village executed and returned the PERM 36 consultant inspection agreement and PERM 50 highway work permit documents; NYSDOT indicated permit turnaround should be quick once all supporting items are collected.

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

- This month's FEMA/DHSES coordination centered on the amended project funding path and the Village's response to the fixed cost offer option. Barton & Loguidice and DHSES advised that the Village should reject the fixed cost offer rather than lock in a number based on assumptions that no longer match the likely construction

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timeline. DHSES staff were very helpful in walking us (myself and the consultant team, along with the Village) through the process online.

- The recommendation to reject the fixed cost offer was based on the fact that FEMA's amended estimate assumed 2026 construction, while current review timing now makes 2027 construction more likely, with corresponding escalation risk. Under a fixed cost offer, those added costs would not be recoverable.
- Barton & Loguidice is currently preparing an engineering services amendment to cover the design and construction phases of the project.

## **Water Meter Replacement Project – GIGP Grant**

- I received comments on the draft budget for the project and am currently working on developing a final budget for submission to the funding agency.

## **IDA Water Storage Tank Project (Manheim Business Park)**

- Wright-Pierce continued follow-up with NYSDOH regarding the agency review submission originally made in September 2025, noting that the Village and IDA cannot complete final design, bidding, or funding agreements until DOH comments and/or approval are received.
- Current correspondence also noted that the WIIA agreement deadline of September 30, 2026 is becoming a meaningful scheduling constraint, and that the project is likely already beyond the most favorable 2026 bid window unless DOH review moves forward soon.
- Coordination among Wright-Pierce, the IDA, the Village, EFC, and ESD is continuing so the project team is positioned to respond quickly once DOH feedback is received.

## **Water / Sewer Rate Study Support**

- The Village participated in a March 5 kick-off for the Syracuse University Environmental Finance Center rate study cohort program, which is intended to support participating communities with utility rate review and related planning.
- Following the kick-off, the Village transmitted its signed participation agreement. The program schedule provided by EFC includes follow-up training and data-submission milestones later this spring.

## **Additional Comments**

### **Engineering Support**

- With the number and complexity of active and anticipated projects, the Village's engineering workload continues to increase across capital improvements, grant coordination, regulatory compliance, agency communication, procurement support, construction administration, infrastructure planning, and day-to-day public works matters.
- Based on the current and projected workload, I believe there is merit in the Village considering a full-time, in-house engineering position. A dedicated staff engineer would provide greater continuity, availability, and support for project delivery and municipal operations as the Village continues to advance a substantial work program.

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