

Northport Village Corporation
Utilities Department
October 7, 2005

Minutes

Present: David Crofoot, chairman, Peter Spollett, Jane Strauss and, by telephone, Judy Metcalf and Jim Coughlin. Also present were Dick McElhaney, Superintendent, Dick Brockway and Karen Hoedtke.

Spollett moved that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted. **Voted.**

Superintendent's Report:

Sewer Department:

Monitoring Data: Two license violations during August; BOD-5 average concentrations and BOD-5 average per cent removals were above and below their respective limits. There were no exceptions for TSS and the daily flow average was the low for the year. Flow for August averaged 38,000 gpd compared to 49,000 gpd in July. Rainfall in August totaled 3.42" vs. 3.15" in July. (McElhaney then calculated September's flow which was 25,000 gpd.)

Shore Road Pump Station: The No. 2 pump failed during the middle of September. A new replacement pump has been ordered with delivery and installation anticipated for the end of November at a cost of approximately \$6,600. The cost for the repair of the old pump will be investigated and if it will be half or less than the cost of a new pump, it is the Superintendent's recommendation that it be repaired and held as a spare. In the meantime, it is the Superintendent's belief that the No. 1 pump will run and handle the load effectively. In the event there is heavy accumulation due to the lengthy wait for the new pump, a temporary pump may be available. The other alternative would be to truck the flow until installation is achieved. In his monthly report, McElhaney will advise the DEP of a potential problem.

Smoke Testing: Dirigo Engineering performed the smoke testing during the week of September 25th with the assistance of Bill Paige and two representatives of the Maine Rural Water Association (Janet Abramson and Ron Boivin). The majority of the defects were found in Area 1 and, in particular, in the Merithew Square area. Approximately two dozen defects were recorded with several noted underneath cottages. These defects would not be a source of I & I but the homeowners should be aware of the possible problem of sewer gas. One illegal connection of a roof gutter into the sewer system (an example of Inflow) on Shore Road was located. The resident is believed to be correcting the problem; if no discernible effort is being made, a letter requesting confirmation should be sent next month. Sags in sewer lines, with resultant standing water in the lines, on Upper Maple Street, Oak Street and Cobe Road prevented smoke testing in those areas as well as part of Bluff Road. These roads may require flushing and camera inspection in the spring. The next steps will be flow monitoring at strategic areas in the Village over a 2-month period and camera inspections in the spring. Dirigo's estimate for the smoke testing was \$2,000 - \$4,000; the actual invoice came in as \$3,869.05.

Brockway recommended that Dirigo's proposal for flow monitoring be thoroughly reviewed and further suggested that Dirigo be asked to attend a meeting of the Committee to further evaluate the proposal.

Moore's Septic noted a heavier layer of scum than usual when the tanks were pumped on September 29th. The Department will schedule next spring's decanting a month later to try to alleviate this.

When the engineers design the upgrade to the facility, a suggestion would be to treat the system during August to cut down on the soluble organic concentration. This could be accomplished by chemical additive; or the addition of enzymes (dry bacteria) to treat and settle down to the solids layer.

Water Department:

Operating Date: Water usage averaged 42,590 gpd compared to 43,408 gpd in July and 40,968 gpd for the same period last year. The high day was August 12th at 57,612 gallons. Our agreement with Belfast Water District is for an average of 50,000 gpd; our yearly average is 20,000 –22,000 gpd. Distribution line chlorine residuals averaged .07 ppm Cl₂ vs. .14 ppm last month. The preferred range is between trace and .2 ppm and this is being effectively controlled by Belfast Water District.

Water Rate Increase: The Maine PUC has approved NVC's request to increase the water rates. The new trimesterly rate of \$142 will take effect October 1st for each service connection. This will generate about \$13,800 in new income each year and should stabilize the rates for the foreseeable future.

Water Interruption/Belfast Water District News: The Belfast Water District interrupted service from midnight to 6:00 a.m. on October 4th to install an isolation valve on a water main in the Northport Avenue, Belfast area. The District is seeking funding and Maine Drinking Water Program approval for a third well in the Swanville area. Harry Smith, Superintendent of the District, retired September 30th; Keith Pooler will be the new superintendent.

Through Metcalf, Bill Ferdinand complimented McElhaney on his monthly reports to DEP in which he will acknowledge a problem but will present an action plan to alleviate or correct the problem.

Fall Meter Removal Schedule: Village Agent Paige has removed a few meters and will more actively remove them beginning the week of October 18th.

Brockway reported that Paige is concerned about the independent agents who remove meters without properly draining them. Letters are to be sent to those agents doing work in Bayside concerning this issue. It should be noted that the Bylaws make the customer responsible for any damage to meters caused by improper removal/storage by someone other than an authorized agent of the NVC.

Office Report: The utility bills went out in September on schedule with October 15th the due date. Shut-off notices will be sent out October 20th to 25th.

Preliminary 2006 Budget: As egregious I & I is a prime concern the following questions were raised: how much should be

1. dedicated to I & I testing;
2. earmarked for emergency repairs; and
3. set aside for the design and planning of Phase III.

During further budget discussions, Metcalf moved and Coughlin seconded to instruct the Utilities Superintendent to deposit 1/12 of the water department sinking fund and 1/12 of the reserve account of the sewer department into a dedicated savings account each month.

Voted.

A schedule of payments for the long term debt should be included on the financial reports with descriptive names to easily identify the bonds.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Hoedtke