

Minutes
NVC Utilities Committee
September 18, 2020

Present on ZOOM:
Utilities Committee Members: Crofoot, Metcalf, Novotny, Wilt
Superintendent McElhaney, Bill Paige
Meeting convened at 2:40 p.m.

Motion to accept the minutes of the August 14 meeting as amended by Chmn. Crofoot by Jeffrey Wilt, seconded by Judy Metcalf. **Motion accepted 4:0 .**

Superintendent's report (see addendum at bottom of page):

There were no license violations for flow, BOD, TSS, or pH. We continue to report exceedances for Fecal coliform and Enterococcus despite ten-times higher concentrations of residual chlorine (now at 28-30 ppm vs. our usual residual chlorine concentrations of 2-3 ppm).

The DEP is aware that we and other primary plants around the state are having problems with coliform and enterococcal violations. It is our opinion that there is a problem with the colorimetric IDEXX Labs testing method. An IDEXX representative was scheduled to meet with Dick McElhaney but failed to keep the appointment. Mr. McElhaney will continue to try to get answers from IDEXX about the accuracy of the test and whether there are alternative testing methods.

There were no issues with the Water Utility.

Removal of seasonal water meters will begin by mid-October and will be complete by November 1st. Bill Paige reports that as many as 40 customers have requested to keep their water on longer. We discussed the logistics of water meter removal. Bill has also been looking for temporary help in water meter removal but has not had luck so far in identifying a helper. The committee was supportive in endorsing Bill's need for assistance. Janae Novotny volunteered to communicate with the Vocational School to see whether it could be arranged for a student to do some of this work as a paid intern.

Sewer treatment building construction. There has been no visible presence of Blane Casey in the Village to date. Dick McElhaney states that they have been slow in submitting materials lists to Dirigo Engineering and there is not yet a construction schedule. The first step is to bring electrical power over to where the temporary treatment building sits and to set up temporary treatment before excavation begins. Dick McElhaney will update the Committee weekly with progress reports.

Recap of Utilities Billing. There are still 27 outstanding balances. The Utilities are prohibited by the State Ordinance of March 16th from sending out shut-off notices. Dick McElhaney will consult with Maine Rural Water about what recourse we may

have. Meanwhile, Bill will Ask Amy to send out a monthly bill to customers with outstanding balances.

Next meeting will be October 16th.

A main object on the agenda will be the 2021 budget. Dick McElhaney was encouraged to communicate directly with the NVC Treasurer, Wendy Huntoon, about Financial Reports he will need to prepare the 2021 budget.

Respectfully submitted,

David D. Crofoot, Chairman.

September 18, 2020

Utility Department’s Report

Sewer Department

July 2020 Effluent Monitoring Data

The NVC Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) reported two (2) exceedances for Fecal Coliform and two (2) exceedances for enterococci. There were no other license exceedances.

See performance table below for this month’s comparisons, averages, geo-means for bacteria, year-to-date highs and lows, permit limits, and year-to-date (YTD) exceedances. Testing frequency is continuous for flow; weekly for TSS, BOD⁵, Settleable Solids, Fecal Coliform and Enterococci (April 15 – October 31); 5 days/week for pH; daily for total residual chlorine (April 15 – October 31); and annually for low level mercury. **TSS and BOD percent removal rates are based on assumed influent concentrations of 290 mg/l.**

Monthly Performance Table

Parameters	July	June	May	YTD Lo	YTD Hi	YTD Ave	2019 Ave	DEP Limit	YTD Exceed-ances
Flow GPD	9581	7040	12913	7040	27243	13260	13917	<63,000	0
Precip Inches	2.13	2.81	3.70	2.13	4.39	3.07	3.76	n/a	0
TSS lbs/day	2.9	1.8	1.0	0.8	2.9	1.4	2.2	<76	0
TSS mg/l	37.8	36.0	13.0	6.7	37.8	18.8	23.4	<145	0
BOD ⁵ lbs/day	13.5	6.8	4.4	2.1	13.5	5.9	5.3	<107	0
BOD ⁵ mg/l	174	128.8	54.6	35.0	174	71.7	62.7	<203	0

TSS% Removal	87.0	87.6	95.5	87.0	97.7	93.5	92.2	>50	0
BOD ⁵ Removal	40.0	55.6	81.2	40.0	87.9	75.2	78.4	>30	0
pH lo	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.6	>6.0	0
pH Hi	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.9	<9.0	0
S.S. ml/l	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.1	Report	0
TRC mg/l	.02	.03	.03	.02	.03	.024	0.02	<0.3	0
Fecal Coliform	17.62	<10	<10	<10	17.62	13.27	3.37	<14-ave	1
Fecal Coliform	170	<10	<10	<10	170	41.2	6.81	<31-max	1
Enterococci	15.85	<10	na	<10	15.85	12.59	na	<8-ave	2
Enterococci	100	10	na	10	100	31.62	na	<54-max	1
Mercury ng/l	na	na	na	na	na	na	20.7	33.4	0

Note: The last exceedance for flow was **171 months ago (2/2006)**. The last exceedance for BOD was **69 months ago (9/2014)**. The record annual average low for flow was 12,017 gpd in 2017.

August 2020 Snapshot

The NVC WTP will report two exceedances for enterococci.

Flow during the month averaged 8,865 gallons per day or nearly half normal flows for a July. The report for precipitation as measured by the Belfast Water District (BWD) at their Little River Station was 2.40 inches.

Administrative Order on Consent Timeline Update

1. By ~~June 30, 2019~~, complete preliminary engineering study to present new physical plant options. **Completed by Dirigo Engineering on April 12, 2019 – “Disinfection & Dechlorination Options Review”.**
2. By ~~August 31, 2019~~, complete preliminary resource assessment/planning to identify potential new locations for a new physical plant. **Completed. Location options identified by Dirigo Engineering on April 12, 2019 – “Disinfection & Dechlorination Options Review”.**
3. By ~~(or before) October 31, 2019~~, select location and finalize preliminary design to support the NVC effort to secure funding for the new physical plant (select location by Labor Day 2019). **Completed – “Preliminary Design Plans for the Chlorination Building”**
4. By ~~(or before) September 30, 2020~~ complete final design and resource assessment/planning to support land use permitting and formation of construction contract documents for the new physical plant. **Completed by Dirigo Engineering on April 6, 2019 – “Project Drawings for the New Chlorination Building”**
5. By ~~(or before) September 30, 2020~~, secure approval of funding from the residents of NVC ~~(at their August 2019 or 2020 Annual Meeting)~~ for financing the new physical plant. **Completed by Board of Trustees on July 3, 2020**

6. By **(or before)** December 31, 2020, complete construction of new physical plant.

The NVC must submit semi-annual progress reports summarizing its compliance with the provisions of this Consent Order on or before June 1st and December 1st of each year. Furthermore, whereas, the Consent Order requires a specific action to be performed within a certain time frame, NVC shall in addition submit a written notice of compliance or non-compliance within 14 days of each deadline. The first of two progress reports for 2020 was submitted to EPA/MEDEP on June 1, 2020. The NVC asked the EPA/DEP to consider extending the deadline one year to complete the construction of the chlorination building in the event the current year end deadline could not be met.

Sent via email, the EPA and MEDEP, in a letter submitted to the NVC Superintendent on July 28, 2020, agreed to extend the Order deadline to construct the new building to January 1, 2022 if necessary while at the same time opining that the NVC “should make every effort to comply with the original schedule in the ORDER” of December 31, 2020. Copy of this letter is attached.

Drinking Water Department

July 2020 Usage and Water Quality

Due to the drought, heat and extra garden and lawn watering, purchased water for the month was up remarkably year over year averaging 45,554 gpd compared to 40,679 gpd for the same month in 2019. The weekly free chlorine residual in the drinking water ranged from 0.19 - 0.28 ppm/Cl² compared to the recommended goal of >.20 to <1.0 ppm/Cl². The EPA maximum concentration level (MCL) not to be exceeded for chlorine residual is 4.0 ppm. The monthly total coliform and e-coli water sample test results were both negative.

Annual Disinfection By-Product Water Test Sample Results

Water samples collected from the water distribution system were grabbed on August 21, 2020 and delivered to the state HETL lab in Augusta for disinfection by-product testing. The water test result for Total Trihalomethanes was 11.1 parts per billion (ppb) versus the EPA maximum concentration allowed of 80 ppb. For Total Haloacetic Acids, the water test result was 1.2 ppb versus an allowed amount of 60 ppb.

Status of Utility Bill Collection

Not Available as of 9/16/2020