

Minutes
NVC Utilities Committee
October 16, 2020 at 2:30 p.m.

Present by ZOOM Conference call:
Utilities Committee Members, Casey Brown, David Crofoot (chmn), Mudy Metcalf, Janae Novotny,
Jeffrey Wiltz
Supt. Richard McElhaney, Bill Paige, Nina Richards, Dan Webster

Motion to accept the Minutes of the September 18, 2020 meeting: Moved by Wiltz, 2nd by Metcalf. **Unanimously accepted.**

The Committee extended a welcome to Casey Brown, newly named at large member of the committee.

The **billing recap** was reviewed. A total of \$3885.83 is outstanding for water accounts and \$3388.68 for sewer accounts from fourteen customers. Shut off notices have not been sent since the onset of the COVID crisis. This will once again be allowed as of November 1st but the delay between notification and shut off is six weeks.

Details of **Financial Reports** were not available. This was discussed with Nina Richards who says that reports dating 2 months back will be sent out now in the week of the Utilities Committee meeting.

Superintendent's report (appended to minutes).

On the sewer side, we once again reported exceedances for enterococci testing. Dick says we are now splitting test samples and will send one to New England Labs and the other one directly to IDEXX. We will also start doing an 8:1 dilution to improve the testing. The chlorine residual is now ten times what it had been before we had to start testing for enterococcus. Either this microorganism is very difficult to sterilize with chlorine or there is chemical or colorimetric interference with the IDEXX test. The DEP is aware of these problems.

Testing will be shut down on October 31st and will not be resumed until the new chlorination building comes on line on January 1, 2021.

On the water side, there have been problems with the watermeter at the vault which has been underreporting our usage. Dick McElhaney and Keith Pooler of the Belfast Water District are both aware of the problem and have identified the source; we will make make-up payments for the actual water usage.

Progress report on the new chlorination building. Work was delayed by difficulty getting CMP to come and connect the new power line and then to disconnect the power to the old building. This was resolved today. The temporary chlorination facility has been working for the last week. The old blue treatment plant was removed today. Excavation for the foundation will start Monday, Oct 19, 2020. A first bill from Blaine Casey has been received and will be paid. Both Farley and Sons and Blaine Casey have been notified that they must present bills by the 2nd of each month in order to receive timely payments. Bills will be submitted through Dick McElhaney to Nina Richards for payment.

First review of proposed 2021 budget. Supt. McElhaney's budget preparation was made difficult by a lack of current financial data. The line items were reviewed. While the lines for bookkeeping reflect a 3-way split between Sewer, Water, and General Village, Nina Richard says that the actual work would be more correctly reflected by an allocation of 50% to the Village, 25% to water, and 25% to sewer. We plan to stick with the allocation in thirds this year but will discuss a different allocation of accounting expenses for future years. An extra \$3000 was allocated to line 6140 Incidental Labor to reflect the need and hopes for hiring a person to work with Bill Paige during the meter de-installation, re-installation for seasonal users and with the hope that such a person could also be trained to serve as a back-up for Bill from time to time.

Dick McElhaney will incorporate changes into the draft budget for review at the November meeting.

Next meeting will be on November 13, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Crofoot, Chairman

Attachments:

Superintendent's Report
Billing Recap

October 16, 2020

Utility Department's Report Sewer Department

August 2020 Effluent Monitoring Data

The NVC Wastewater Treatment Plant (WTP) reported two (2) exceedances for enterococci – one for monthly average and one for daily max. There were no other license exceedances.

See performance table below for this month's comparisons, monthly daily averages, daily maximums, 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.**

WWTP Monthly Performance Table

Parameters	August	July	June	YTD Lo	YTD Hi	YTD Ave	2019 Ave	DEP Limit	YTD Exceedances
Flow GPD	8865	9581	7040	7040	27243	12711	13917	<63,000	0
Precip inches	2.40	2.13	2.81	2.13	4.39	2.99	3.76	n/a	0
TSS lbs/day	2.6	2.9	1.8	0.8	2.9	1.55	2.2	<76	0
TSS lbs max	3.6	4.0	2.4	1.0	4.0	na	na	report	0
TSS mg/l	35.2	37.8	36.0	6.7	37.8	22.2	23.4	<145	0
TSS mg/l max	46	45	10.0	10.0	46.0	na	na	report	0
BOD lbs/day	9.7	13.5	6.8	2.1	13.5	6.4	5.3	<107	0
BOD lbs max	12.4	17.9	10.0	3.4	24.9	na	na	report	0
BOD mg/l	141.2	174	128.8	35.0	174	71.7	62.7	<203	0
BOD mg/l max	190	200	150	40.0	200	na	na	report	0
TSS % removal	87.9	87.0	87.6	87.0	97.7	92.8	92.2	>50	0
BOD % removal	51.3	40.0	55.6	40.0	87.9	72.2	78.4	>30	0
pH low	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.7	6.6	6.6	>6.0	0
pH high	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.9	<9.0	0
St solids ml/l	0.2	0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.2	na	na	report	0
TRC mg/l	.03	.02	.03	.02	.03	.02	0.02	<0.3	0
Fecal cfu ave	11.89	17.62	<10	<10	17.62	12.80	3.37	<14	1
Fecal cfu max	20	170	<10	<10	170	32.40	6.81	<31	1
Entero cfu ave	32.46	15.85	<10	<10	15.85	17.26	na	<8	3
Entero cfu max	1110	100	10	<10	100	103.54	na	<54	2
Mercury ng/l	na	na	na	na	na	na	20.7	33.4	0

Note: *The last exceedance for flow was 173 months ago (2/2006). The last exceedance for BOD was 71 months ago (9/2014). The record annual average low for flow was 12,017 gpd in 2017.*

September 2020 Snapshot

The NVC WTP will report one exceedance for exceeding the enterococci monthly weekly average of 8.0 cfu/100 ml. The department reported non-detect or <10 cfu/100 ml which is currently the reporting limit of the IDEXX Enterolert test method with the 1:10 dilution that Northeast Labs has currently been advised to use by IDEXX and MEDEP to test for enterococci.

Weekly samples of the NVC's de-chlorinated effluent are being split with NEL and the IDEXX lab in Westbrook (the manufacturer of the Enterolert test method for enterococci) over the next three weeks for them to determine if a lower 1:8 dilution or a reporting limit of 8 cfu/100ml can also be effective in eliminating chemical and/or biological interferences that can produce the false positives the NVC has earlier experienced.

Such interferences have been found to be common with primary effluents discharging into marine waters and/or whose effluents are affected by tidal influences such as the NVC's when the testing labs use less than 1:10 dilutions or undiluted test samples when testing for enterococci. These test dilutions also apply with the IDEXX Colilert-18 test method when testing wastewater samples for fecal coliform.

Attached under separate cover is an updated table listing the year to date testing results and the sample dilutions the lab has used for testing Fecal and Entero.

Flow during the month averaged 5,757 gallons per day. All other compliance parameters were within the regulatory allowable limits. The report for precipitation as measured by the Belfast Water District (BWD) at their Little River Station was 0.87 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.

Drinking Water Department

August 2020 Usage and Water Quality

Purchased water for the month averaged 47,234 gpd compared to 40,211 gpd for the same month in 2019. The weekly free chlorine residual in the drinking water ranged from 0.13 - 0.36 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 and e-coli water sample test results were both negative.

Disconnect Moratorium

The pandemic moratorium on water and sewer disconnect notices has been lifted by the Maine PUC effective November 1, 2020. The Utility Department will resume issuing 30 day disconnect notices for non-payment and interest charges on late payments beginning with the November 15, 2020 billings.

Proposed 2021 Water and Sewer Budgets

The first drafts of the 2021 water and sewer budget were sent to Board members under separate cover.

Status of Utility Bill Collection

Not Available as of 10/14/2020

Utility Billing **Recap**

March Past Due

Water outstanding balances \$ 1,054.56 **
Sewer outstanding balances \$ 1,483.01 **
3 total Customers \$ 2,537.57 **

**Butters lien amount \$1,998.60 is included

July Past Due

Water outstanding balances \$ 2,831.27
Sewer outstanding balances \$ 1,905.67
14 total customers \$ 4,736.94

October 2020

Water outstanding balances \$ 3,885.83 **
Sewer outstanding balances \$ 3,388.68 **
14 total customers \$ 7,274.51 **
(balances as of 10-12-20)

