NVC Utilities Committee Meeting

October 8, 2021

Community Hall

2:30 pm (masks and/or social distancing)

Also via Zoom Connection

**Present:** Chairman David Crofoot, Jeffrey Wilt, Judy Metcalf. Supt. Dick McElhaney, Bill Paige, Brady Brim-DeForest (by ZOOM), Steve Kazilionis

**Absent:** Casey Brown

MINUTES: The Minutes of the September meeting were approved unanimously.

FINANCIALS: The Financial Reports for Water and Sewer through the end of August were reviewed. It was noted that $7290 out of the $10250 budgeted for sludge removal had already been spent and that Moore Septic did the end-of-season pump out today which will add another $4000 of expenditure to this line, which will take it well over budget. Expenditure for chemicals for year-round testing are higher than in previous years but within the anticipations of the budget. Trustees found it hard to compare the financial P&L reports to the budget since line item names and numbers did not always correspond.

There is a need to know how much money is available in the wastewater reserve account. $11000 in retainage is still owed for construction of the treatment plant. If the sewer department is in the red at the end of the year, we need to know whether there is anything left in the reserve account to pay for it.

BILLING RECAP: As of 10/4/2021, Outstanding balances for Water were $3227 and for sewer $1491.33. 78 accounts with balances totaling $1975 will not have their water turned on until balances are paid.

SUPERINTENDANT’S REPORT:

Wastewater: In August, six license exceedances were reported to the DEP for positive coliform max and average, for positive enterococci max and average, and for BOD mg/L and BOD % removal. The DEP has been helpful in helping to assess what may be causing exceedances that have never before occurred. Chlorine residual concentration has been increased from 2-3 ppm up to >50 ppm and despite this, bacterial tests have been positive. One of the four tests in September was also positive.

The intense usage of the village this summer with all cottages occupied and most of the beds in them filled has led to inflow that may have overwhelmed our system’s ability to deal with it. Only one of three trains of tanks is used in the winter months and two trains in the summer months, but it will be necessary to increase the frequency of sludge removal. The DEP inspected the system and the practices of our employee in sampling and testing and they found no systematic errors.

Discussion also concerned whether the system is approaching its workable capacity, particularly with the heavy occupancy this summer, and whether there may be a need to declare a moratorium on further connections or to strictly limit any new connections to the eight remaining lots of record. This will be further discussed in November when more complete information is available about this summer’s usage and test results.

Moore Septic pumped the tanks today at the end of the summer season. The chlorine contact chamber was also power washed last week.

 Water: A new state mandate (LD 129) for testing potable water for polyfluoroalkyl substances will cost a minimum of $600/year for testing. Our water is tested upstream by the Belfast Water District from whom we buy water and if their tests are high, remediation would be up to them.

Interlocal Water Agreement: This agreement between the Village and the Belfast Water District is renewed every five years. The new agreement has increased the amount of water we are allowed to purchase to 60,000 gallons per day (maximal use this year was 47000 gal/day) and it recognizes that the Village now provides water not only for domestic consumption but also for fire suppression. Metcalf noted that this agreement will be presented to the Overseers for their approval and signatures.

BUILDING PERMIT FOR WASTEWATER TREATMENT BUILDING: Janae Novotny attended the September meeting of the Northport Planning Board and used Dick Brockway’s model to illustrate our proposal to build a small porch extension around the northwest corner of the building and the generator to allow for safety during servicing of the general. We have requested an increase of 27 square feet of ground coverage and the request was supported by the safety concerns expressed by Dick McElhaney. The Planning Board still wants an updated floor plan before approving this building permit for a railed porch. This will be provided at their November meeting.

2021 BUDGET:

Dick McElhaney presented the first draft of the budgets for water and sewer. There were no great surprises in the water budget. The sewer budget reflects increased charges for sludge pumping and for chemicals for year-round treatment of almost $18,000. This leads to a projection of at least a $10,000 deficit with nothing left over to rebuild the contingency fund unless further revenue is raised.

In discussion, the sewer rate was raised this year from $183/trimester ($549 annually) to $238/trimester ($714/year) in anticipation of increased costs due to year-round testing. It is estimated that the 2021 budget will require a further increase in sewer rates of at least $17/trimester ($51/year). This will be further discussed as the budget is finalized.

Treasurer Wendy Huntoon and Dick McElhaney will meet with Nina Richard to try to harmonize the line items that appear in the budget with those that are reflected in our profit/loss financial information.

The meeting adjourned at 4 pm.

Next meeting will be on Friday, November 12th at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

David Crofoot, Chairman

Addenda: