**Northport Village Corporation**

**Utilities Committee**

**Minutes of June 10, 2022 meeting**

The meeting convened a t the Community Hall at 2:20 p.m. and by ZOOM link

**Present**: David Crofoot, chairman, Supt. Dick McElhaney, Bill Paige.

**By ZOOM:**

Judy Metcalf, Casey Brown, Jeffrey Witt. Also attending by ZOOM, Steve Kazilionis, Rachel Rosa

**Absent:** Brady Brim-Deforest

**The Minutes of the May 13, 2022 meeting** were approved 4:0.

It was reported that Richard Brockway, former committee member and ongoing technical advisor to the committee had passed away on May 11, 2022. The entire committee and Supt. Dick MeElhaney and Bill Paige expressed their sincere admiration and appreciation of all the work that “Brock” has done for the Utilities Department over many years.

**Superintendant’s Report:**

The report is appended to these minutes.

In April and May, there have been no license variations. One positive test for *Enterococcus* was recorded but at a level too low to cause any license violation. Chlorination is being ramped up as seasonal houses are increasingly occupied.

A general discussion of the functioning of our existing primary treatment plant ensued. Correction of Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) have reduced flow to levels where we should never be at risk of violating license requirements for flow (average monthly flow: 20/000 gal/day; license limit: 63,000 gal/day.). The plant also does an excellent job of precipitating solids while levels of total suspended solids (TSS) remain well below license limits. Concentrations of Biological Oxygen Demand (BOD) have already started their seasonal upswing as more and more houses are occupied. As water is turned on in seasonal houses, a large amount of antifreeze is flushed with attendant high concentrations of BOD. A primary treatment plant cannot remove BOD as effectively as it can settle solids or reduce TSS. The most recent BOD level was 120 mg/L. Our license limit is <203 mg/L. Seasonal highs last year were in the range of 160-175 mg/L. The actual poundage of BOD (average 15 lbs/day in 2021) is well below our limits of 107 lbs/day. The effect of higher concentrations of BOD on the receiving waters is mitigated by the increase of our dilution factor from 4:1 to 480:1 with the new and extended outfall.

Ted Berry company will perform pressure washing of the discharge pipe on June 8.

For the water company, results of testing our water for PFAS substances showed no levels above the minimum detectable levels (2ng/L) for 25 PFAS compounds.

**Moratorium on new connections**: The six-month moratorium will end in September 2022. Our efforts to mitigate rising levels of BOD include an increased frequency of tank pumping. The results of this may not be clear by the expiration date of the moratorium. Depending on plant performance in August after the July tank pumping, it may be necessary to extend the moratorium for another 3-6 months..

Financials: Once again we have no financials available to assess month-to-month income and expense. The Committee members wish to reiterate our need for timely data in managing the utilities, preparing the required PUC audits for the water utility, as well as in preparing the budget for next year.

**Budget discussion:**

Supt. McElhaney presented proposed draft budgets for 2023. He pointed out the difficulty of budgeting for professional services and bookkeeping until those positions are actually filled..

Increased costs for electricity heating and gasoline are anticipated. Costs for chemicals and for sludge wasting will increase further in 2023.

In the water budget, the issue of hydrant rental charges to the NVC were raised. Hydrant rentals are meant to cover the costs of unmetered water use (fire department), hydrant maintenance (winterization) and to repay to the water company the costs of purchasing and installing three new hydrants in the last three years. Once new hydrants are fully paid for, it was questioned whether the base rate for hydrant rental could be lowered. This will be further researched with the PUC.

Crofoot raised the question of why rent is charged to the water utility for the use of the lab building up by the fire pond. This cost of this building was paid for from the
Water Utility budget by the water users. Discontinuing this rent will put more stress on the NVC village budget. The Committee would like the Overseers to examine this question as they make up the 2023 NVC village budget.

**Meeting adjourned** at 4 pm.

**Nest meeting,** Friday, July 8, 2022 at the Community Hall and by ZOOM.