

NVC Utilities Committee
Trustee Meeting
Community Hall and by Zoom link
Friday, September 8, 2023, 1:00 p.m.

Trustees Present: Casey Brown, Jeffrey Wilt, Judy Metcalf, David Crofoot,
Trustees Absent: Brady Brim-Deforest

Staff: Chuck Applebee, Walt Longfellow, Bill Paige

The September meeting of the NVC Utilities Trustees convened at 1:03. Utilities chair, Jeffrey Wilt called the meeting to order.

Community Member Comments:

Rachel Rosa read from prepared remarks (see attached) expressing her continue concerns associated with wastewater billing process and a potential option for on-line bill paying.

Approval of minutes: Judy moved (David seconded) approval of minutes of, August 11, 2023 minutes. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Superintendent Report:

Chuck clarified remarks from last month comments. He did not indent to leave impression that we would meter outgoing discharge. No meter on outgoing sewer discharge.

Trustees discussed:

- Fixed costs are based on 0 discharge.
- Our budget is based on primarily on fixed costs. Generally fixed is a much larger than variable.
- 2024 budget will look at fixed v. variable cost.

Exceedances:

Three exceedances in August –BOD (Biochemical Oxygen Demand) mg/l average, BOD % removal, entero cfu max.

We must report and provide DEP with plan to address exceedances – climate change planning grant, tighten up the system less susceptible to rainwater run-off. Study will look at system defects and prioritize and price. Study will occur in spring 2024.

Large rain continued in August – 3 inches on one day. Continue extremely wet year.

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In August, loaded system (full village) plus heavy rain events.

Reduce I&I (Inflow and Infiltration). Study our system to see where ground water is coming from.

Is I&I badly effecting the functioning of plant or have we reached capacity?

Other:

Purchased a weather station

Walt will provide coverage during Chuck's vacation (week of September 11).

Consumer confidence report must be on website. State has expressed unhappiness

Lead and copper testing for drinking water – in September.

Trustees ask Chuck to send report via e-mail the morning of meetings.

Finance

Confirm people are paying their bills

First draft of budget to be reviewed at October meeting.

Trish and Chuck will review actuals to date for each expense category. In addition, they will review equipment purchases in 2023.

Moratorium

Current moratorium expires in mid-October.

Trustee thoughts:

- We cannot control BOD with the number of users we have, especially in wet year.
- Until we can treat wastewater in July, August, September, without exceedance, we should not allow connections.
- Maximum number of hock-ups is 255, system at approximately 248. Will additional 7 hook-ups have a material impact.

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Trustees will schedule public hearing to discuss moratorium – September 30, 10:00, Community Room, Community Hall plus Zoom.

Other Business:

Judy moved continue process of evaluating method by which we invoice for wastewater treatment—including metering, hybrids, etc. Second—David. The motion was unanimously adopted

Online billing makes sense. Can village do this? Chuck will pose the question.

The next meeting of the Trustees is **October 6, 1:00 p.m.**, Community Hall and on-line

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961508196?pwd=ekpzTlZcml3cnJEZmlHRmlwR3ZSZz09>)

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey Wilt, Chairman

Sept 8, 2023

**Utility Department Monthly Operating Report
Sewer Department**

August 2023 Effluent Monitoring Data

During the August operating period there was one exceedances for entero of >9680, one for BOD percent removal and one for BOD mg/l monthly average. See performance table below for further details of the regulatory monitoring data. For the month August 2023 there was 3 exceedances to report.

See updated Flow, TSS and BOD Trend Charts at the end of this report.

WWTP Monthly Performance Table

Parameters	August	July	June	YTD Low	YTD Hi	YTD Ave	2022 Ave	DEP Limit	YTD Exceed-ances
Flow GPD	23961	27178	18085	13383	27950	20463	20228	63,000	0
Precip inches	8.16						n/a	n/a	0
TSS lbs/min	3	2	1	0.59	2.13	1.22	2.6	<76	0
TSS lbs max	4	5	3	2.6	5	2.53	5.1	report	0
TSS mg/l ave	17	4	2	7.4	15	11	26.1	<145	0
TSS mg/l max	19	16	16	8.9	16	13	37.5	report	0
TSS % removal	94.1	94.8	95.9	84.8	97	96.3	89.7	>50	0
BOD lbs/min	48	27	8	5.4	33.84	21	15.2	<107	0
BOD lbs max	58	92	52	8.2	92	45.8	26.9	report	0
BOD mg/l ave	298	203	175	62.3	203	172	140.1	<203	1
BOD mg/l max	350	260	250	56	380	261	161.6	report	0
BOD % removal	-3	30	42.6	-40.07	49	41.2	51.6	>30	1
pH low	6.6	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.5	>6.0	0
pH high	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.7	6.9	6.9	6.7	<9.0	0
St solids ml/l	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.15	report	0
TRC mg/l max	0.05	.05	.07	0.02	0.8	0.7	.03	<0.3	0
Fecal cfu ave	<4	<4	<4	<4	4	4	9.58	<14	0
Fecal cfu max	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	19.37	<31	0
Entero cfu ave	>19	14	<4	<4	14	5.42	10.8	<8	0
Entero cfu max	>9680	>2420	<4	<4	<2420	349	26.9	<54	2
Hg ng/l ave	n/a	n/a	n/a	na	n/a	n/a	18.28	33.4	0
Hg ng/l max	n/a	n/a	n/a	na	n/a	n/a	7.0	50.1	0

From Rachel Rossa:

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Credits

September 8, 2023
Rachel Rosa, 7 Auditorium Park

At last months NVC Utilities meeting the Superintendent, Chuck, made a statement that sounded like a residential sewer discharge would have to be metered in order to include water usage as part of the rate formula. This is not accurate and not what Chuck intended to say. He will be clarifying that statement in his report later in this meeting.

I had hoped when I started this project in December of 2021 that the NVC Utilities Committee would at least consider sewer rate reform. Last month and 20 months later I believe I saw a tiny bit of progress in advancing a sewer rate review for the first time in 37 years. I am not yet certain that any effort will be made to provide NVC rate payers with an equitable sewer rate structure. It is simply logical that it costs more to treat 5,000 cubic feet of wastewater than 1,000 cubic feet.

I am requesting on this month's agenda under Other Business the NVC Utilities Committee approve a motion to conduct a sewer rate review.

I understand that the NVC Utilities Committee has no compelling reason to go forward since I am the only person standing up to make this request. It is my absolute last option to contact ratepayers, to provide them with the facts and ask them to come forward in support of a rate review. I suggest the NVC Utilities Committee lead this endeavor. It would be best for the Committee and the Village if that were the next step.

I heard at one meeting that the Utility doesn't have the manpower to chase which residence is occupied year to year as a reason for applying the flat fixed rate approach to rates. While easy, there is no room in the budget for lost income due to cottages not turning on water and not getting billed year to year. A review of the Average Usage Report shows that 8 residences on the sewer system did not have water usage in 2021 but did in 2019 and 2020, as determined by street address not name. In 2023 rate terms that means a loss of income to the Utility of \$8,640. The budget is insufficient to cover costs the day it becomes final. CUSI reports provide information to help with accounting for and managing variations in residential usage.

The CUSI Utility billing software that the Village leases provides many services and reports that the Utilities Committee could take advantage of. I don't know if you are aware of a few of them.

- Free web based platform to train new employees. (Amy is currently the only one who can use the system).
- Rate Structure Management
- Usage Data Analysis
- Check Scanning

I have attached the North Haven Maine Utilities rate structure as posted on the towns' website (transparency). They have 181 sewer connections, 69 are seasonal. I have also attached the North Haven Utilities response to questions including how they calculate their rates, so you can see that rates are water usage and formula driven; Not just budget and the number of connections.

In addition I have spoken with Cathy Robinson, Rate Analyst at the Maine Rural Water Association. She indicates there may be grant funding available to assist with a sewer rate review.

From: NH Administrative Assistant
Sent: Monday, August 21, 2023 8:06 AM
To: Rachel Rosa
Subject: RE: 10/4/22 FOAA Re North Haven Wastewater Costs

Hello Rachel,

Janice retired in November and I am her replacement. I have not been in the role long so I will try to answer your questions to the best of my ability.

1. How do you calculate how much to charge users who exceed the minimums?

1. Water:

1. Quarterly customers using more than 1200 are billed \$6.96 per 100 cubic ft.
Seasonal customers using more than 2400 are billed for excess usage in November.

2. Formula for calculation:

1. Quarterly: Excess Usage X \$6.96 = _____ + \$97.55 = Total
2. Seasonal: Excess Usage - Allowance (based on meter size) = _____

X \$6.96 = Total

2. Sewer:

1. Quarterly customers using more than 1200 are billed \$12 per 100 cubic ft.

Seasonal customers using more than 2400 are billed for excess usage in

November.

2. Formula for calculation:

1. Quarterly: Excess Usage X 12 = _____ + \$218.50 = Total
2. Seasonal: Excess Usage - Allowance (based on meter size) = _____

_____ X 12 = Total

2. Did you find any state or local agencies to help with this?

1. In 2015, the Town of North Haven used S.R. Bolosky Consulting; however she has since

retired.

2. Janice recommends using Maine Rural Water Association and believes the contact is

Cathy Robinson. You will be able to find more information on their website.

3. Why does North Haven have a water usage component included in the sewer rate?

1. Sewer rates are based on water usage.

4. Does the town of North Haven make any contribution to the budget of the sewer utility or is it funded entirely by users of the system?

1. The Town does not make any contributions. We do receive payment for Fire Protection from the Town.

Please let me know if you have any other questions. I do hope I was able to answer some of your questions.

Best,