

Bayside still dealing with utility issues

By Toni Mailloux

The Overseers of the Northport Village Corporation, commonly referred to as Bayside, continue to face a series of utility-related problems. Consider:

- Supt. John Fancy, who has been working with the village on water and sewer issues, has resigned and efforts to find a licensed treatment plant operator have not yet been successful and

a replacement will likely be more expensive;

- a check from the town of Northport to pay Sargent and Sargent for work in connection with a water project was returned to the village because there is no money in the town's account;

- the overseers Sunday morning signed a 29-year loan for \$318,000 at 4.75 percent interest for improvements that were made to the water system. That will add \$20,000 to next year's

water budget (in a total current budget of \$115,000) so the village may have to go to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) for a rate hike;

- Bayside had been hoping to cover the cost of improvements and extension of the water system along the Bluff and Shore roads but instead of the projected 40 new customers, only 17 have hooked into the system;

- the report on options for dealing with problems at the

treatment plant has been completed but all the alternatives are in the millions of dollars and Bayside can't afford any of them. The consent agreement with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) calls for design work for a plant to begin in January;

- the new DEP license for the treatment plan has been received

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and increases the allowable discharge to 63,000 gallons per year year-round, which should help decrease violations. However, the new license also includes an extensive testing schedule and the village has already received two violations for August; and

- on the positive side, while water service was shut off to three customers for nonpayment of bills, the utility accounts receivables have been reduced significantly and the village has hired a new office manager, Karen Hoeditke, who appears to be working out well.

"It's essential we get a licensed operator-manager at the treatment plant as soon as possible," David Crofoot, an overseer and chairman of the utility committee told the group.

Fancy, who was present for his last meeting, recommended Bayside start working with the PUC next month if a rate increase is going to be needed.

Crofoot said it's going to be close whether the village can get by without a water rate increase.

In other action at the meeting, the overseers:

- decided to create a road improvement committee to look at road and runoff problems in the village, do some research to figure out what needs to be done to upgrade the roads and then place a special article on the town meeting warrant for next August to see if townspeople want to take action. "It's a chronic, universal problem. We need to study it and have a plan to deal with it. It affects everyone. We spent three years studying for 17 people who wanted water," said overseer Judy Metcalf. Villagers are invited to attend the Oct. 20 over-

seers' meeting to offer their suggestions;

- agreed it's time to take a serious look at the zoning ordinance, which is now five years old;

- voted to get estimates to fix the drainage problem in Lower Bayview Park and to hold a special meeting when the estimates have been received;

- approved placement of a park bench;

- learned the summer police officer has gone and the cruiser is in need of repairs and is currently inoperable. The overseers voted to pay up to \$100 in labor to have it looked at and then towed if necessary;

- heard complaints about this year's lifeguards and the need to repair the light at the end of the dock;

- voted to authorize up to \$200 for plants and shrubs around the three pump stations and to allow the abutters to pick out the plants