

Draft Minutes
Northport Village Corporation Board of Overseers
Special Meeting
January 12, 2023

Overseers, Officers and Staff present: Jeffrey Wilt, Brady Brim-DeForest, Vicky Matthews, Celine Bewsher. (via Zoom): Michael Tirrell, Judy Metcalf, Fred Lincoln; President, Janae Novotny; Village Agent, Bill Paige.

There were no comments by members of the public in attendance.

President Janae N. called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. This meeting was called to consider a recommendation by the Utilities Committee to approve a contract with Water Quality & Compliance Services, Inc. (WQCS) to manage all aspects of the NVC wastewater system and drinking water system beginning January 15, 2023 through January 14, 2024.

Jeffrey W. provided an overview: The Utilities Trustees met on January 10, 2023 to review WQCS' proposed contract. Community members and two Overseers participated in the discussion of the proposed contract. The motion to approve the proposed contract with modifications passed unanimously. Brady B. reviewed the approved revisions with Chuck Applebee, WQCS; WQCS accepted all of the revisions, and we received an updated contract this afternoon. The State must approve the contract before it is effective, and the Board must approve it tonight. He thanked Brady B. for the heavy lifting he did in this effort.

Brady B. reviewed events leading to this recommendation. In December, Dick McElhaney resigned as the Utility Superintendent, effective January 15. Brady B. reached out to Maine Rural Water Association, all municipalities recommended by MRWA and all Waldo County municipalities operating a wastewater system. Belfast's operator, Olivr, generally serves systems with a larger customer base than ours. Few options are available to run a system the size of NVC's. Brady B. contacted 48 contractors; the only two who responded stated that they have no capacity to take on another system. Although Olivr said that we are too small and they are too costly for NVC, Olivr recommended WQCS.

NVC's system is on the smaller end of systems serviced by WQCS, but we are within their scope of service. Chuck Applebee of WQCS surveyed our system with Dick M. and Bill P. WQCS has been in business for 18 years. They have a state licensed lab. Half of their professional team is licensed at Grade 5 for wastewater and Grade 4 for water. WQCS has a deeper bench, its own licensed lab and greater liability insurance than Dick M. provided.

WQCS costs are higher than Dick M.'s. WQCS' rate for licensed operators is \$85/hour; the rate for administrative services is \$30/hour. These rates are for 2023 and the term of the agreement. Services are billed on an actual basis. WQCS anticipates that they may hit the "not to exceed" amount in the contract during the summer.

Judy M. moved and Vicky M. seconded to approve the contract with Water Quality & Compliance Services, Inc. (WQCS) to manage all aspects of the NVC wastewater system

and drinking water system beginning January 15, 2023 through January 14, 2024. Janae N. requested an amendment to the motion to direct the President to sign on NVC/s behalf the contract with WQCS, Inc. and the designated operator form required by the state. Judy M. accepted the amendment.

Michael T. asked whether a 6-month contract was considered, rather than a 12-month. Jeffrey W. replied that we did not want the contract to end during the summer, and a longer contract provides time to consider future options.

The amended motion was approved unanimously.

Public comment: Rachel Rosa, “Kudos to all. Excellent work.”

The meeting was adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Submitted by Janae Novotny, President.

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