

Northport Village Corporation
Utilities Committee Meeting
November 12, 2021
Community Hall with ZOOM link
2:30 p.m.

The meeting could not officially convene until 2:55 pm when two committee members joined by ZOOM to give a quorum.

Present: Committee members David Crofoot and Jeffrey Wilt, by ZOOM, Brady Brim-deForest and Casey Brown; Supt. Dick McElhaney, Bill Paige, Janae Novotny, Steve Kazilionis (by Zoom).

Absent: Judy Metcalf.

The **Utility Billing Recap** was reviewed. There are outstanding balances of \$3051.64 for Water and \$1491.33 for sewer. 84 customers have Turn-on balances totaling \$2100.

Superintendent's report: License exceedances for E-coli and Enterococcus in September were reviewed. There were no exceedances in October. Supt. McElhaney discussed his communications with the DEP on this, with emphasis on the fact that we have been asked to perform our bacterial sampling on specimens diluted 8:1. This dilution means that any positive result is mathematically multiplied by 8 and may result in an exceedance. The DEP originally proposed dilution because of suspected seawater infiltration but salinity tests have shown that this is not a factor. Dick McElhaney hopes that the DEP will allow us to perform our testing on undiluted samples at some point in the future.

Review of Financials:

Water revenue stands at 74% of budget with the income from the November billing not yet included. Other than increased postage costs due to additional mailings, there were no great surprises. Proper splitting of expenses between Sewer, Water, and General government continues to be problematic.

Sewer revenue also stands at 76.7 of budget with the November billing income not yet included. Several questionable lines must be discussed with the Treasurer and the accountant, particularly line 6190 for Legal and Professional Services with a >\$25,000 overage. Line 6335 for Sludge removal is well over budget due to increased frequency of tank pumping and increased cost. This will be even more pronounced in 2022. Propane expenses were misallocated to line 6402 along with fuel costs. Only the sewer dept uses propane and this should be allocated to line 6404.

Proposed 2022 budgets:

Water budget: Slight increase in revenue due to two new customers. Line 6037 reflects a \$3000 increase due to the hiring of Shiloh Field as office assistant. Line 6082 reflects a 3% pay increase for Bill Paige. Line 6500 shows a \$600 increase due to newly mandated testing for PFAS. Line 6350 reflects a \$10,000 one-time increase for purchase and installation of two new fire hydrants at the ends of the water lines on Shore Road and Bluff Road. The overall budget still anticipates \$18,000 for contingencies or reserves.

Motion by Crofoot, 2nd Brim-Deforest: To accept the proposed 2022 water budget and forward it to the Overseers for approval. **Vote 4:0 in favor.**

Sewer Budget: Slight increase in revenue due to 2 new customers (244→246). Line 6037 reflects \$3000 for the Office Assistant. Line 6015 decreased by \$4300 for casual labor (which applies only to water, not to sewer). Line 6401-electricity cost, Line 6500-effluent testing, and Line 6350-supplies/chemicals increased by \$600, \$950, and \$5000 respectively reflecting costs related to year-round treatment. (Year-round treatment only started in April 2021 when the new plant went on-line.) Line 6335 shows a major increase due to increased frequency of tank pumping and increased costs from Moore Septic. In the Draft Budget, this line was \$23000 compared to a 2021 budget line of \$10250, but Dick McElhaney indicated that this line needed even further increase to \$27,000.

The combination of these increased costs anticipates a >\$12000 deficit.

The Committee discussed the **urgent need for a sewer rate increase**. With only 240 customers, the bare minimum increase needed to cover a \$12392 deficit is \$52 per year or \$17.50 per trimesterly billing. This will still result in only a break-even budget with no funds available for contingencies or reserves. The Sewer Reserve Fund was largely expended in the construction of the new Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Discussion considered a \$52/year rate hike, a \$100/year rate hike, or something in between.

The Committee is aware that this rate hike will cause hardship for many. There had already been a rate hike in March of 2021 from \$183 to \$238 per trimester (\$714/year) in anticipation of increased costs of treatment. Nevertheless, the Sewer Utility must meet its fixed costs.

Motion: by Brim-deForest, 2nd by Crofoot: To recommend a Sewer rate hike of \$75/year or \$25 per trimesterly billing (\$789/year, \$283/trimester. **Voted 4:0 in favor.**

Motion: by Crofoot, 2nd by Wilt: To approve the proposed 2022 Sewer Budget after amendment to line 6335 sludge removal and to line 4510 to reflect a \$75/year rate increase. **Voted: 4:0 in favor.**

Supt. McElhaney will prepare an amended 2022 Budget proposal to present to the Overseers at their November 14, 2021 meeting.

Building Permit: The Northport Planning Board did not meet in November. The NVC's proposal for building modifications has been resubmitted according to their recommendations and will be considered at their December meeting on 12/14.

Meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

David D. Crofoot, Chairman

November 11, 2021

Utility Department Monthly Operating Report

Sewer Department

September 2021 Effluent Monitoring Data

During the month there were two (2) minor exceedances for fecal coliform and one (1) minor exceedance for enterococci reported to EPA/DEP. See performance table for further details and highlighted below in yellow.

For the October operating period there will be no exceedances to report.

WTP Monthly Performance Table

| Parameters | September | August | July | YTD Lo | YTD Hi | YTD Ave | 2020 Ave | DEP Limit | YTD Exceedances |
|----------------|--------------|--------|-------|--------|--------|--------------|----------|-------------------|-----------------|
| Flow GPD | 24162 | 19780 | 31967 | 5643 | 31967 | 18416 | 12718 | <63,000 | 0 |
| Precip inches | 8.64 | 3.18 | 10.10 | 1.58 | 10.10 | 4.00 | 3.17 | n/a | 0 |
| TSS lbs/day | 2.9 | 6.1 | 7.6 | 0.9 | 7.6 | 2.94 | 1.6 | <76 | 0 |
| TSS lbs max | 3.8 | 9.8 | 11.4 | 1.7 | 11.4 | 5.6 | na | report | 0 |
| TSS mg/l ave | 21 | 39.6 | 38.8 | 16.5 | 44.3 | 30.2 | 23.2 | <145 | 0 |
| TSS mg/l max | 29 | 54 | 62 | 26 | 64 | 43.8 | na | report | 0 |
| TSS % removal | 92.9 | 86.3 | 78.6 | 80.0 | 94.3 | 87.8 | 92.7 | >50 | 0 |
| BOD lbs/day | 16.7 | 37.6 | 23.2 | 2.8 | 37.6 | 13.2 | 6.3 | <107 | 1 |
| BOD lbs max | 23.9 | 73.8 | 34.1 | 6.1 | 73.8 | 24.5 | na | report | 0 |
| BOD mg/l ave | 111 | 244 | 114.6 | 37.2 | 244 | 136.8 | 81.1 | <203 | 0 |
| BOD mg/l max | 150 | 400 | 170 | 51 | 400 | 151 | na | report | 0 |
| BOD % removal | 62 | -37.9 | 41.4 | -37.9 | 87.2 | 52.8 | 69.7 | >30 | 1 |
| pH low | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.5 | 6.6 | >6.0 | 0 |
| pH high | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.7 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.9 | <9.0 | 0 |
| St solids ml/l | 0.3 | 0.35 | 0.2 | 0.1 | 0.35 | 0.17 | 0.13 | report | 0 |
| TRC mg/l max | 0.03 | 0.03 | 0.02 | 0.02 | 0.03 | .03 | .02 | <0.3 | 0 |
| Fecal cfu ave | 17.13 | 21.37 | <8 | <8 | 21.37 | 10.7 | 11.34 | <14 | 2 |
| Fecal cfu max | 168 | 1088 | <8 | <8 | 1088 | 30.13 | 20.24 | <31 | 2 |
| Entero cfu ave | 9.51 | 29.8 | <8 | <8 | 29.8 | 11.33 | 12.23 | <8 | 3 |
| Entero cfu max | 16 | 3280 | 8 | <8 | 3280 | 32.99 | 40.65 | <54 | 1 |
| Hg ng/l ave | na | na | na | na | na | na | 14.4 | 33.4 | 0 |
| Hg ng/l max | na | na | na | na | na | na | 14.4 | 50.1 | 0 |
| | | | | | | | | | |

Note: The last exceedance for flow was 184 months ago (2/2006). The last exceedance for BOD was (8/2021). The last exceedance for fecal coliform was (9/2021). The last exceedance for enterococci was (9/2021). The record annual average low for flow was 12,017 gpd in 2017.

Drinking Water Department

September 2021 Production and Water Quality.

Purchased water for the month averaged 29,400 gpd compared to 35,070 gpd for the same month in 2020. The weekly free chlorine residual in the drinking water ranged from 0.09 - 0.17 ppm/Cl² compared to the recommended goal of >.20 to <1.0 ppm/Cl². The EPA maximum concentration level (MCL) not to be exceeded for chlorine residual is 4.0 ppm. The monthly total and e-coli water sample test results were both negative.

Proposed 2022 Water and Sewer Budgets – Second Draft

The proposed 2022 budgets were submitted to the Trustees under separate cover.