

**NVC UTILITIES MEETING
MINUTES
January 8, 2010**

Present: Chairman David Crofoot; Committee Members: Ned Lightner, Judy Metcalf via telephone, Jane Strauss; Superintendent Dick McElhaney; Treasurer Bill Cressey; Office Manager Paul Bartels.

Absent: Denis Wang.

Due to a technology failure on the our part and after several unsuccessful attempts to reconnect Denis Wang who was available via phone, Chairman Crofoot called the meeting to order at 2:45 PM.

Minutes

Judy Metcalf moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting, seconded by Jane Strauss, **Voted – All in Favor.**

Financials

Bill Cressey reviewed and answered questions about the preliminary end of 2009 financial reports. He noted that the Water Department went a little over budget for the year but Sewer was under by about \$1,000. Dr. Crofoot said the water budget is very tight; the increased spending for the Village Agent Assistant involved in seasonal installation/removal of water meters as well as the increased rates payable to the Belfast Water District account for the over run. This emphasizes the need for the Water Department to charge a meter-handling fee for seasonal customers to offset the additional costs and to avoid a rate increase.

Dick McElhaney reported some additional financial news. He said that the utility received \$12,709.56 refund from Maine Municipal Bond Bank. This will be deposited in the reserve account for water.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent McElhaney reported that metering at the vault indicated a 4-5 gallon increase in baseline flow; this excess flow also was being seen in wastewater flows. He suspects there is a leak (such as a running toilet or burst pipe) which is finding its way into the sewer system. He and Bill Paige are taking steps to identify where the problem is.

Sewer Department

November 2009 Effluent Monitoring Data

The NVC was in full compliance of its wastewater discharge license in November. There were no license exceptions.

Flow averaged 18,800 gpd compared to 20,400 gpd in November of 2008 and ranged from a low of 4,900 to a high of 123,700 on the 15th when 3.9 inches of rain fell.

Precipitation this November totaled 5.69 inches compared to 3.98 inches in November of 2008.

TSS and BOD averaged 1.1 lbs/day (7 mg/l) and 1.9 lbs/day (26 mg/l), respectively meeting the 30/30 concentration standards for secondary treatment.

See performance table below for this month's comparisons, averages, year-to-date highs and lows, permit limits, and year-to-date violations.

Performance Table

Parameters	November	October	YTD Lo	YTD Hi	YTD Ave	2008 Ave	DEP Monthly Limit	Violations
Flow GPD	18800	11100	7719	41300	22273	22642	63000	0
Precip Inches	5.69	5.95	1.94	8.02	5.06	5.10	n/a	0
TSS lbs/d	1.1	1.9	.8	6.6	2.37	2.9	76	0
TSS mg/l	7	29	6.0	46.5	19.93	18.5	145	0
BOD lbs/d	1.9	4.8	1.8	13.7	5.91	8.2	107	0
BOD mg/l	26	79	15	95.3	50.39	56.5	203	0
TSS % Rem	98	90	84	98	93.1	94.2	50	0
BOD % Rem	91	73	67.2	95	83.7	80.3	30	0
pH lo	6.7	6.8	6.5	6.8	6.69	6.7	6.0	0
pH Hi	6.9	7.0	6.9	7.0	6.94	6.9	9.0	0
S.S. ml/l	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	Report	0
F Col/100 ml	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	<2	15-ave	0
F Col/100 ml	n/a	n/a	0	0	0	2.0	50-max	0

Note: The last NVC Sewer Dept. violation was in February of 2006 which was for flow. No violation for TSS and/or BOD has occurred since August of 2005.

December 2009 Snapshot

The NVC Sewer Department will again be in full compliance with its discharge license in December. Flow will average around 22,000 gpd. Precipitation (rain, melted snow, etc.) as measured by the BWD at the Little River Station was 4.10 inches.

2003 DEP Consent Agreement Interim Funding Report

The 13th of 13 interim funding reports to the DEP was mailed out on December 30, 2009. The letter report was sent to committee members by e-mail under separate cover.

Inter-company Transfer Funds

The \$10,000 "inter-company transfer" from the general fund to the sewer department for Phase III sewer work has been completed.

Shore Road Pump Station

Replacement of the electric cord to the lead submersible pump requested by the committee in October was completed in December. The final cost of \$4561.61 came in nearly double the original estimate. This was due primarily to the necessity of rebuilding the pump after Stevens Electric & Pump crews discovered a bad seal housing and water in the motor bearings, replacement of a broken slide away, and the maintenance of the check valves which were found to be full of debris.

A diagnosis was also needed to determine why the pumps were short cycling (a rapid on and off of the pumps which can damage the pump and controls). Crews discovered a failure of a main circuit board in the pump station control panel. The estimate to replace the mother board is \$518 when one can be found. However, Stevens Electric recommends the NVC replace the entire control panel with a higher quality new duplex pump control panel for \$2,756 that will be much easier to troubleshoot and whose future repair parts when needed will be more easily available.

After discussion with Bill Paige and Fernie Barton about the age (the panel is original, proprietary, and nearly twenty years old) and history (the panel has had many other issues over the years) of this control panel, the Superintendent recommends the Utility Committee approve the replacement of the existing pump station control panel for \$2756. While immediate repairs to the existing panel will be cheaper, costs over time, when other components of the panel fail, will most likely be more.

**Motion by Metcalf, second by Strauss to approve replacement of the control panel:
Voted unanimously in favor.**

Water Department

November 2009 Usage and Water Quality

Water consumption during November averaged 12,800 gpd compared to 15,300 gpd in October and 13,600 gpd in November of 2008. The average weekly chlorine residual in the drinking water was .06 ppm compared to the recommended level of less than .2 ppm. The monthly coliform test result was negative.

New Business:

Potential availability of funding for Outfall replacement

The Utility Superintendent has received correspondence from the DEP announcing a second round of available federal stimulus money to complete “shovel ready” construction projects. Lew Sirois of the USDA-Rural Development is also looking for projects to complete with offers of 2.75% interest rate and up to 50-75% grant money.

Last spring, the NVC submitted a \$600,000 project to the DEP to replace and extend the existing outfall. This proposal was not considered of high enough priority by the DEP to qualify for available DEP funds. Dirigo Engineering at the request of the Superintendent has re-submitted this project for reconsideration.

The project proposed by McElhaney to replace and extend the outfall pipe includes repairs or replacement of the outermost train of tanks which are not currently in use due to leakage. This would accomplish a portion of the third facet of the work outlined in the Consent Decree. Estimated cost for this project would be in the range of \$600-700,000.

McElhaney also noted that filing applications to DEP and USDA for funding does not commit the NVC to accept the terms and conditions of the funding packages if the terms and conditions are deemed by the NVC as being too unfavorable or unaffordable. McElhaney also noted that it may be possible to co-mingle DEP and USDA funds to maximize the grant to loan ratio if both funds are made available to the NVC.

Judy Metcalf moved to have Dick McElhaney move forward with the bond application– Voted all in favor.

Adjourn

Judy Metcalf moved to adjourn, Jane Strauss seconded at 3:45 PM, **Voted - all in favor.**

After Adjournment

Chairman Crofoot scheduled the next meeting to be February 12, 2010.

Submitted by Paul Bartels