



Northport Village Corporation
813 Shore Rd
Northport, Me 04849

February 2023

Dear Wastewater Customers –

We write today first to thank you for your patronage and support of Northport Village Corporation's wastewater system. You will notice a rate increase reflected in your March 2023 invoice. The new rate for wastewater service is \$360 per trimester (\$1,080 per year).

This rate is a substantial increase over the 2022 rate, which was higher than the 2021 rate. These increases reflect the cost associated with year-round wastewater treatment and reflect increased costs of staffing over 12 months, added chemical expense, increased fees for book-keeping and auditing as well as the addition of servicing short-term debt for the new treatment plant and critical equipment replacement. We also continue to feel the impact of inflation--especially in the cost of chemicals and electricity.

As Utility Trustees, and Overseers, we are aware of the financial burden increased rates place on the households we serve. Please know, we have done all we can to budget in a responsible fashion. The difficult reality is that wastewater treatment is expensive, especially for a system with such a small user base. With that said, our rates are in line with other systems of our size. While this may be little comfort to those struggling to make ends meet, it does reflect the situation faced by all systems experiencing the escalating cost associated with year-round treatment. This is part of the cost we bear to protect the bay we all love and enjoy.

In addition to increased cost of treatment, the wastewater department must begin the long process of rebuilding reserves that were completely depleted by the construction costs of the new treatment plant. The USDA, which issued our bonds, and good business practices both require increased reserves.

As much as we would like to assure you that rate increases are behind us, we cannot. Experts with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection tell us to plan for more increases in the future and recommend, at a minimum, a five-percent annual increase once we stabilize the department's finances. We can, however, assure you that we are committed to being good stewards of your trust and the department's resources.

Thank you!

Northport Village Corporation Utility Trustees

Casey Brown (Trustee)
Brady Brim-DeForest (Trustee & Overseer)
David Crofoot (Trustee)
Judy Metcalf (Trustee & Overseer)
Jeffrey Wilt (Chairman, Trustee & Overseer)