

**NVC Utilities Committee
Trustee Meeting
Community Hall and by Zoom link
Friday, September 26, 2025, 3:30 P.M.**

Trustees Present: Chairman Jeffrey Wilt, Diana Eastty, Fred Lincoln Overseer and David Crofoot Member Emeritus.

Trustees Via Zoom: Casey Brown

Staff: Bill Paige, Trish Parker, Superintendent Chuck Applebee

Other: Wendy Huntoon Treasurer, Becky Gatcomb Finance Manager, Rachel Rosa, Dan Webster, via zoom,

The September 2025 meeting of the NVC Utilities Trustees convened at 3:30 p.m., Utilities chair, Jeffrey Wilt called the meeting to order.

Community Comments:

None

FINANCIAL REVIEW/BUDGET REVIEW

Treasurer, Wendy Huntoon introduced the Finance Director, Becky Gatcomb. She explained the plans for future anticipation as to how budgeting will work.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the August 15th, 2025 Utilities Committee meeting minutes by Fred Lincoln and seconded by Diana second. Motion was Approved

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Moore's Septage pumped first 2 tanks on each train April 4 th 2025**
- 2. Moore's also pumped all tanks on June 27, 2025.**
- 3. Subject to change we have scheduled Oct. 3. as the last scheduled pump out.**
- 4. A new flow recorder was installed, calibrated and recording on April 4, 2025.**
- 5. All permit required public education is complete as of July 12.**
- 6. The Operations & Maintenance Plans update continues.**
- 7. Awaiting Tving report from Dirigo Engineering.**
- 8. On August 20th , NVC received a CIL from the Maine Dept. of Environmental Protection attached. We are looking to train and schedule conductivity testing with Fernie over the next few months, at times when high tide may impact the water levels in the outfall pipe. This will help determine if high bacteria levels are related to extreme tide events.**

There was a Compliance Initiative letter from DEP. That was explained and discussed. There is a plan to respond to this letter by Water Quality & Compliance Services.

**A motion was made to apply to the PUC and send a letter to the customers for a yearly 1.5% rate increase for water by Fred Lincoln and seconded by Casey Brown.
Approved.**

Bill added in the Superintendents report that we now have 6 new customers for Water at this time. This adds more revenue to Water.

4. SEWER APPLICATION REVIEW FOR APPROVAL

Bill presented a Sewer application for Nancy P Schohammer Trust. This is an ADU and was approved by Northport CEO, Toupee Rouney. A motion was made to approve this by Diana Eastty and seconded by Fred Lincoln. Approved.

5. SEWER RATE REVIEW UPDATES

Get the data to RCAP for recommendations

6. FINANCIAL REVIEW

Specific expense questions were asked and answered.

7. BEGIN 2026 BUDGET

Tabled until next month

8. OTHER BUSINESS

None

9. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Rachel Rosa read her written comments that are added to the minutes.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55PM

Rachel Rosa
7 Auditorium Park
September 26, 2025

- Welcome to Diana Easty as newest member of the NVC Utilities Committee. Diana is the fourth new member appointed to the Committee in 9 months. I suggest this rate of turnover is disruptive to the ongoing work of the Utilities Committee and I am hopeful that the Committee will have more consistency going forward.
- I am looking forward to hearing from Chuck regarding the water usage data I have requested for sewer rate payers for 2022 and 2023, as noted at the July and August meetings. This information is critical in determining how the 9 percent variable rate portion of the budget is charged by water usage and will inform the 2026 budget discussion.
- By November there will be approximately 178 water meters on a shelf for 7 months. This is more than half of all water customers. It is clear that this is a golden opportunity to switch out to a remote meter system. This timeline should provide sufficient opportunity for the change out and for staff to learn the new system. If new meters aren't purchased within the 2025 fiscal year it will be another year before this opportunity is available. This will mean more cost to NVC Utilities for replacing meters, replacing failing water meters, lost revenue for the Utility due to inaccurate meters and an unnecessary drain on staff time. The 2024 Annual audit shows the water reserve account is \$230,435 with \$66,261 owed by the sewer utility to the water reserve account through 2028.

* PUC regulations 65-407, chapter 62, 3.F. states "Meter repairs and replacements necessitated by ordinary wear will be paid for by the water company."