

NEWFIELDS VILLAGE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes from 06/05/2023

Approved July 6, 2023

Distribution:

Ray Buxton Jr.
Cathy Nelson-Smith
George Drinkwater
Paula Boyle
Josh Scotton
Wendy Chase

Opening:

The regular meeting of the Newfields Village Water & Sewer District was called to order at 7:00 pm on June 5, 2023 at the Water & Sewer District Office, 75 Main Street.

Present: Commissioners Ray Buxton, Catherine Nelson-Smith, George Drinkwater, Systems Operator Josh Scotton, Engineer Paula Boyle and Treasurer Wendy Chase.

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of May 1, 2023 were unanimously approved.

C. Open Issues

1. Conservation Plan.

- a) Calibrating the Source Meters: Due every 3 years. Next calibration deadline is due by the end of year 2024. This is not part of Peter's contract. We may want to add to the job description – coordinate the calibration of the source meters.
- b) Leak Log: Paula said that they applied for a leak log grant and Newfields is on the list but they continue to shift the grant recipients on the list. The grant list will be out next month. Update: Neither Ray, Paula nor Josh has heard from NH DES regarding the leak detention survey. We should receive the grant this summer. They discussed applying for another grant next year to do leak detention in another area of town. It was decided that the District will not apply for next year's grant.
- c) Emergency Plan: Reviewed annually and updated every 6 years. **The next review is due March 2027.**

2. Sludge Removal. Remove sludge from Lagoons along with piping and old aeration system and replace existing aeration system with a permanent solution. **Update:** Paula said pre-applications for the clean water SRF were due June 1st. HTA reviewed calculations done by Joe Ducharme figuring how much sludge was in the lagoons and looked at costs to remove sludge that may have some *PFAS in and it's expensive. HTA estimates it will be \$1.6 M to remove the sludge (that figure includes engineering and contingency). The Commissioners should consider appropriating that money in 2025. Paula put in an application to hold a spot for funding and gave us a copy for our file. Discussion ensued about the best way to get rid of sludge and that is to burn it at 1,500 degrees. Josh mentioned that it is legal to put sludge in tubes on the property and leave it in there indefinitely to dry it out as long as the water drains back into the lagoon.

3. National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permits.

- a) Small Wastewater Treatment Facility General Permit (WWTFGP) (Village District purview)– **Background:** was issued September 28, 2021 and will become effective December 1, 2021. The Small WWTF General Permit is designed to authorize discharges of wastewater from publicly owned treatment works and other treatment works that treat domestic sewage.

The permit establishes effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, reporting requirements and standard conditions for facilities that discharge to fresh and marine waters in MA and NH. We have a small wastewater treatment facility permit in place for the wastewater system. **Update:** The District received a letter from NH EPA regarding small permit, the modifications to the permit will go into effect June 1, 2023, however; NH EPA has 2 months where they may issue our letter of authorization. We gave Paula a copy of the letter. **In Process.**

- b) **Great Bay Total Nitrogen General Permit (GBTNGP) (Village District Purview)** – **Background:** The GBTNGP was issued for 13 eligible wastewater treatment facilities that discharge treated wastewater containing nitrogen within the Great Bay watershed in NH. It was issued on November 24, 2020 and became effective February 1, 2021. The permit establishes total nitrogen effluent limitations, monitoring requirements, reporting requirements and standard conditions for the 13 WWTFs. The discharge of all pollutants other than nitrogen from these WWTFs will continue to be authorized by each WWTF's respective individual NPDES permit. Rather than address this permitting task on a permit-by-permit basis, EPA instead fashioned a general permit designed to comprehensively regulate nitrogen loading from 13 WWTFs in NH on a gross, watershed-wide scale, incorporating an innovative and adaptive approach to achieving water quality standards in the Great Bay estuary through a combination of mandatory load limits at the WWTFs and voluntary nonpoint source nitrogen reductions. **Update:** Josh confirmed with Paula that he is okay with the calculations Peter came up with of using the rolling average to make sure we meet the 16 lbs. per day nitrogen levels. He said it is important to have accurate flow data. The data will come from the SCADA system so the data cannot be manipulated in any way. Josh hasn't done his first report to NH DES yet. **In Process.**
- c) **Stormwater Asset Management MS4 (Town's Purview)** – **Background:** Stormwater Asset Management ties into the NH Small MS4 General Permit; both under the town's purview. Ray is the liaison as District Commissioner. **Update:** Bill Meserve had a meeting and looked at the Library and Water Dept. Office property as locations for possible raingardens.

4. Water Projects

- a) The Water project for PFAS treatment of water we will have to budget for in 2024. Paula gave us a copy of the application for our file.

5. Wastewater Projects

- a) HTA put together two pre-applications for two projects at the wastewater treatment plant to get grant money. 1. SCADA system - Josh received a quote of \$23,000 from Laviolette. We want the SCADA program to calculate all the data. Everyone uses this computer program. Josh suggested getting the VTSCADA. We are going to put the money up front then hopefully get grant money for reimbursement. Paula put in for \$25,000.00. . The Commissioners told Josh to let Laviolette know to start implementing the new SCADA system and the laptop Josh wanted to order will be included in the SCADA system price. 2. Chemical Feed Upgrade - HTA included fees for engineering totaling \$40,000 for the project. Paula said the Commissioners talked about taking the money out of the cell tower account. It was determined that the project is not in the 2023 budget, so we would have to wait until next year to do the upgrade. We could hold an emergency meeting if we need to do it this year. We cannot go over the bottom line in the budget. Paula said that the Asset Management Plan leans toward creating a capital reserve

fund so that there is money to spend on these types of projects.

6. Water Treatment & Supply Study.

- a) **Sustainability Plan: Background:** We received a grant for \$48,000 to look at alternates for a 20 year water sustainability plan. **Update:** The Commissioners agreed to keep the lines of communication open with Newmarket. Paula said that Dave Edson is coming here July 11th to look at well sites 1 & 3. Ray and George will meet with him at the site to see where they want to drill 2 more wells to see how much water is there. Barrie Miller will give a proposal to drill the test wells.
- b) **IPP:** Paula reported on Hutchinson Sealing IPP inspection. They want a rebate on the sewer because they feel a large amount of water gets evaporated in the cooling tower and they don't feel like they should be charged for sewer on the amount of water that goes through the meter because most of it gets evaporated. Paula said the Commissioners will look at a proposal if they submit one. Paula said that they reported a large increase in nitrogen on their last report due June 1st. The nitrogen is higher than it has been in the last 6 months and oil and grease also increased. Paula implored them to look and see if it was an analytical error. Paula said that they have a process that cools plastic in water and that may contribute to *PFAS.
- c) Josh will do the CCR. He will have it done and submit it to Ray within 5 days of when it gets mailed out. Josh filled a dumpster of old files from the treatment plant and the dumpster is now gone.

C. New Items

1. Ray received another offer from a company to purchase the cell tower. The Commissioners are not interested at this time.
2. Paula submitted all the information to NH DES on the sewer use ordinance.
3. Paula said that she could print out areas of town and show all the services. They can't generate one large plan. They will have to do it street by street.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:00 PM. The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, July 7, 2023, (due to the July 4th holiday) at 7:00 PM in the Newfields Water & Sewer District Office, 75 Main Street.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase,
Treasurer

*PFAS - Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are chemicals that resist grease, oil, water, and heat. They were first used in the 1940's and are now in hundreds of products including stain- and water-resistant fabrics and carpeting, cleaning products, paints, and fire-fighting foams.