

NEWFIELDS VILLAGE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes from 08/07/2023
Approved September 5, 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 August 7, 2023 at the Water & Sewer District Office, 75 Main Street.

Present: Commissioners Ray Buxton, Catherine Nelson-Smith, George Drinkwater, and Treasurer Wendy Chase.

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of July 6, 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. 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. Ray informed the Commissioners that Hutchinson Sealing had a major leak. Josh contacted Scott Buxton. Scott found the leak and turned the water off at 2:00 am. The leak was repaired.
- 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:** The pre-application has been submitted. Paula said Josh will have to start testing for Pfas at the treatment plant in the influent, effluent and sludge. The sludge has been in the lagoons for over 40 years. HTA estimates it will cost \$1.6 M to remove the sludge. Paula said the Commissioners should start thinking about appropriating the money in 2025. Newfields is #32 on the list to borrow 1.5 million to remove the sludge. **In Process.**

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 permit states that the testing of Pfas in the influent, effluent and sludge will take effect the first or third calendar quarter following six months after EPA notifies the permittee

that EPA lab validation method is available. Paula suggested to Josh that he should wait to be notified from EPA. Paula we did the 1st part of the CMOM requirement was sending the letter to let them know what we are doing for management of the sewer system. The 2nd requirement is due January 1st 2024. John Jackman will start pulling all the info together to make that deadline. **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 WWTS'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:** Request for Proposals for stormwater project should be going out soon from the Town.

4. Water Projects

- a) The Water project for PFAS treatment of water will have to be budgeted in 2024.

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 said we received quotes from Laviolette, Wright Pierce and A & D Instruments. Laviolette left out the excel report so they included it and updated their quote coming in \$8,000 more than the original quote of \$23,000. We awarded A & D Instruments because they came in at \$26,000. They are coming in the third week in August to get the panel started. Josh reached out to Laviolette about the water treatment plant and they are working on it right now. 2. Chemical Feed Upgrade – Was not budgeted to do this year. WE will have to budget \$40,000 in next year's budget to complete the upgrade.

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:**
- 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. New Items

1. Cathy said that there has been a car driving around the treatment plant after hours and suggested keeping the gate closed. Wendy will ask Josh to close the gate each day.
2. Paula will be checking the grease trap at the Country Store at some point.
3. Barry Miller plans to be at the well site the week of September 14th to work on the test well.
4. Ray spoke to representatives of the Society for Protection of Forest. He confirmed that when working on the test well that we will not be drilling on their property.
5. Ray said the dam inspection was last week.

The Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. Due to the Labor Day holiday, the next regular meeting will be on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, at 7:00 PM at 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.