

NEWFIELDS VILLAGE WATER & SEWER DISTRICT

Meeting Minutes from 05/06/2024
Approved June 3, 2024

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 Monday May 6, 2024 at the Water & Sewer District Office, 75 Main Street.

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

A. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of April 2, 2024 were unanimously approved.

B. NH DES Lead and Copper Rule

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Lead Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR) is a federal rule requiring all community (C) and non-transient non-community (NTNC) water systems to develop a service line inventory and replacement plan as needed, and submit to the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). The inventory includes both utility and customer-owned portions of the service line. Along with the inventory, a proposed replacement plan for any lead, galvanized requiring replacement (GRR) or unknown service line material must be submitted. The District has to do a complete inventory of all water services by October 16, 2024. **Update:** Paula said we received an email from NH DES requesting clarification on items HTA submitted. DES needs physical address of each rate payer. Wendy will prepare that. The assessor's records were used to determine the houses that were built after 1989. They also need to know what chemicals we use for corrosion control treatment. Ray explained that the District owns the waterline to the curb stop and customer owns from there to the house. Paula will send that information to NH DES for clarification. Paula said that we have to notify the customers that have lead services. Wendy can add something on the bill and keep a list posted here and at the town hall. Paula will give Wendy the correct wording for it.

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. **Update:** Josh said it's been scheduled to get done.
- b) Leak Log: **Update:** Ray said the hydrant at the school that had leaked is not back in services but it has been repaired.
- c) Emergency Plan: Reviewed annually and updated every 6 years. **The next review is due March 2027.**

2. Sludge Removal. Background: Remove sludge from Lagoons along with piping and old aeration system and replace existing aeration system with a permanent solution. **Update:** Paula said HTA is trying to get in touch with the Newport NH operator who is drying sludge using the GO tubes. HTA has come up with two ways to dispose of sludge at the Plant. One is to hire a company that does sludge dewatering, which is getting costly because disposal sites are becoming more limited. Turnkey may not be accepting it in the future but Paula thinks they will take Newfields sludge because we are a NH town. Paula said that HTA proposes to put together an application to get back on the list and renew the

application that we had, costs involved are removing the sludge and one way is to hire a company to come in and dry it out and another would be to have the District do a lot of the work. Josh said you have to dredge the lagoons. Paula said that's not possible because there is concrete blocks and pipes in there. We would have to remove whatever is down there and then remove the sludge and dry it out and disposal cost. The project estimated to be \$1.6M. This is the Clean Water SRF. Paula said we need to come up with a simpler way regarding aeration. Josh and Paula will try to come up with some kind of game plan to present to the Commissioners. **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 became 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:** No update. We are meeting the permit.
- 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:** The permit is starting up this month (April). **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:** HTA is waiting to hear from Bill Meserve. Ray said Bill sent out letters explaining what they are proposes, such as rain gardens and changing Summer Street. That won't begin until 2025. HTA is waiting to see if they won the bid for the design work. **In Process.**

4. Wastewater Projects

- a) **Chemical Feed Upgrade** – **Update:** Josh will line up the electrician to begin work on installing the full meter next week. Paula would like to be updated so they can put everything together to get reimbursed for it by the grant.

b)

5. Water Projects

- a) The District approved a \$50,000 Warrant Article for Barrie Miller to drill test well at the 1 & 3 well site. There was so little water that they were unable to collect a water sample to bring to the lab. There is approximately \$25,000 that was not spent out of that account. Because it was a Warrant Article voted on for a specific project, the money cannot be used for a different project. Barrie sent invoice to HTA and it was estimated at \$15,000, but came in at \$10,000. We cannot use the extra money for anything else because it was a Warrant Article specifically for the project. **Update:** Paula said that they will put all the paperwork together and Ray signed the document. She will submit everything to NH DES for reimbursement of \$48,000 within a month or so. Paula will make a copy for our files. Test well at well six site – HTA put together a plan. They need to determine where to dig a shallow well. The State requires a sanitary protective radius around the well and this District has to have control of it by owning it through an easement. Ray said that the lots in question have easements on their property. We can get the easement information from the Town Clerk's Office, it will be listed on the original subdivision plan as well as the property deeds. Paula gave the Commissioners information on pfas. Paula will send a copy electronically to Wendy and she can forward it to the Commissioners. HTA put a spreadsheet together for DES to show how the District is tracking each well. She said we have to get a better description on the wells. Josh said they sampled each well twice that's why there are two samples. Paula said they will test after the blend is done to determine if we meet the pfas limits. Ray thought he read somewhere that we can't blend when it comes to pfas.
- b) IPP Program – Update: Josh said the Winery on River Road has to be inspected and we probably have to give them a permit. They have been making wine for a while now. We need to make sure they are not producing over the limit. Paula will forward to them an application to fill out. She will send a copy to Ray first to look at.

D. New Items

1. Josh said the effluent meter at the wastewater plant is going to fail. He received a quote of \$14,000. He said that they are operating at a level just above where he wants to be. He said that we will wait until April. He has the meter and it is in storage. **Update:** Josh said that will be done next week. He said it's crucial to the chemical feed.
2. The Commissioners were in receipt of Leigh Willett's resignation at District Clerk. **Update:** Betsy Coes will accept the position for District Clerk if appointed by the Commissioners.
3. Josh said we should think about budgeting to have the second pump replaced on Swamscott Street. Update: The pump for Swamscott replacement quote is \$13,000 so the budgeted amount approved for \$20,000 will cover it and installation. Josh received a quote for a pump replacement for Otis Road and that was \$6,000. For next year's budget. Update: Josh will order the pump, it will take a couple weeks to come in
4. Wet wells pumped out. **Update:** Josh is using a company out of Stratham and has been placed in their schedule to have them pumped out.

5. Chemical Room Heater: Sullivan Electric came and unwired it. This will be an ongoing project over the year.
In Process.

6. Ray said we received a letter from the Dam Bureau stating that we are satisfactorily meeting our requirements. We have to change the operator's name, get rid of the weeds and mow around the fence.

7. Lead & Copper – Josh said we have to do the 10 samplings.

8. CCR Report – Josh said it is ready. Ray will sign it and then we can mail it out to the public. He did send it to the State. Wendy will produce a set of labels.

The Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 PM. The next meeting is Monday, June 3, 2024 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.