

# VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM

FOUNDED 1853



## Wastewater Committee Minutes Monday, March 4, 2024, 9:00 AM

**Present:** Karen McMurtry- Chair, Michael McCutcheon, Bruce Nelson, Dennis Jewell

**Absent:** Jim Peterman

**Staff:** Brad Rasmusson – Wastewater Manager/Operator in Charge, Andrea Collak- Clerk/Treasurer, Daniel Oakley – Wastewater Operator

1. **Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair - McMurtry and a quorum was present for this meeting.
2. **Changes in Agenda:** None
3. **Previous minutes – Minutes from December 13, 2023**

**Nelson moved, McCutcheon seconded to approve December 13, 2023, meeting minutes as presented, all ayes, and the motion carried.**

4. **Visitors' comments:** None
5. **Ephraim Wastewater Operator in Charge Report:** Rasmusson reviewed the WW, WWT, and SS OIC reports as included in the agenda packet. Wastewater duties were completed according to schedule.

Oakley set up and passed WSLH blind proficiency testing for BOD, TSS, and Po4.

On the first day of the bitter cold in January, the lab furnace went out. Two days later Eagle Mechanical installed a new furnace for \$3,700.00 that came out of replacement fund.

Lee's Contracting was on-site three different times switching tanks and flows. They installed new SS brackets on the influent pipes in all three tanks. They also installed air bypass valves and a new skimmer bucket.

Oakley, MacDonald, Bastian, and Rasmusson have completed proficiency testing for the Water Lab 2024.

Rasmusson updated the pumper truck emergency spill plan.

Rasmusson repaired the compression fitting on top of the compressor as the main airline blew off the top of the compressor for the air brakes on the pumper truck while coming back from a hauler tank pump out.

Rasmusson made a drainpipe for the garage furnace to prevent the bucket from overflowing.

Being that there is no need to do arsenic testing this year, we are saving roughly \$200/month. The Village sent the ammonia test to Northern Services.

Septic Maintenance jetted the drain line. Wastewater purchased a small jetter that would hook onto our pressure washer to take care of it next time.

Sabel inspected the west clarifier damaged when the grease line detached from the wall and got caught on the flights causing damage to 10 out of 16 flights. They are currently getting pricing for the repairs.

At the end of January 2024, Rasmusson attended the WLWCA Conference in Wisconsin Dells for continuing education. Rasmusson took some important classes and made many contacts.

Great Lakes TV & Seal cleaned lift stations and holding tank last week.

Totals for 2023:

There were 1006 in-house bacteria tests completed, 30 water tests, and 0 clean water tests. 58 holding tank pump-outs and 35 septic pump-outs.

The month of January & February 2024:

There were 60 in-house bacteria tests completed, 60 water tests, and 0 clean water tests. 4 holding tank pump-outs and 1 septic pump-outs/problems. There were no emergency call-ins.

**6. Discussion of pumper truck replacement:**

Rasmusson presented the committee with Ephraim's pumper truck revenue by billing and year.

Rasmusson reported that the current pumper truck is 1988 year and has a 2,000-gallon capacity. It has extremely low mileage on it, but it is the age and rust that will take the current truck out of service. The truck is due for a DOT inspection in a couple of weeks.

There are a couple of different capacity options for pumper trucks.

Rasmusson said that one of the presented trucks (\$168,053.07) they have in stock does not require a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) because it is under 26,000 pounds. The capacity of the proposed truck is 1,850 gallons which is only 150 gallons less than the current truck. Rasmusson will have to confirm whether the 26,000-poundage capacity will include every hose, equipment, and being full of water.

Rasmusson noted that the CDL process got much more complicated. The schooling takes about a week and costs approximately \$5,000.00 not including wages, meals, and accommodation. Even though the first option does not require CDL, employees will still have to have tanker endorsements. Rasmusson and MacDonald have those on their CDL licenses. The rest of the wastewater and maintenance employees could get it on a regular Class D driver's license.

The next truck would be a CDL truck (\$170,510.19) they also have in stock with a capacity of 2,500 gallons. It would be a direct replacement for the current truck.

If the Village decides to clean the storm sewers, lift stations, and possibly haul their own sludge, The Village should get the CDL truck (quote not provided) with the door at the back and a capacity of 4,200 to 5,000 gallons. It is a large truck that would not fit on some of the driveways on Northshore Road. Great Lakes TV & Seal has a similar truck.

There is also an option for a smaller tank for \$17,000.00 like the ones used for porta-potty trucks that could go at the back of the one we currently have that can hold 300 gallons of wastewater and 100 gallons of freshwater.

Rasmusson noted that having a pumper truck is an awesome tool to have not only for holding tanks and septic tanks for Ephraim residents but also for any failure at the lift station to pump out the water if needed before calling someone else for help. Each lift station holds around 1,150 gallons of water. Rasmusson was wondering whether the Village would like to continue the service to the Village residents and dig more into one of the proposed trucks.

Jewell noted that it seems like the truck is needed. The one that does not require a CDL license looks like one to pursue.

Nelson asked whether there are municipalities that are upgrading so the Village can purchase the one they currently have. There are no municipalities that are upgrading their pumper trucks.

Rasmusson sent an e-mail to the auditor to see where currently stand with the replacement fund. DNR requires the Village to have \$265,000.00 remaining in replacement fund in case of emergency. There should be over \$500,000.00 in our replacement fund.

Rasmusson will gather more information regarding the truck option with no CDL requirements and financing of the truck.

7. **Visitors' comments:** None
8. **New business for the next meeting:** More information on pumper trucks. The next meeting is Monday, April 1st, 2024, at 9:00 AM.
9. **Adjournment**

<b>McMurtry moved, Jewell seconded to adjourn the meeting, all ayes, and the motion carried.</b>
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Recorded by,  
Andrea Collak- Clerk/Treasurer