

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM

FOUNDED 1853



Wastewater Committee Minutes Monday, August 26, 2024, 9:00 AM

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

Absent: Jim Peterman

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

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 June 3, 2024**

Nelson moved, McMurtry seconded to approve June 3, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, all eyes, 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.

On June 11th, a load of Aluminum Sulfate "Alum" was delivered.

Cummins was on-site making repairs to the plant generator, luckily during the process the tech found that the water pump was broken and extremely worn out, on the edge of failure. The new pump was delivered from Green Bay and installed the same day.

June 14 & 15th, helping with the building of the main Fyr-Bal fire and setting up, taking shifts during the Fyr-Bal event.

June 21st, EDMR, long and short, was submitted.

On July 4th, Rasmusson worked the holiday, garbage, flower watering, and bathroom cleaning.

On July 10th, a confined space entry into the W. Basin was made to replace broken diffusers with the assistance of Dan and the maintenance department.

On July 11th, a water lab audit with the Wisconsin of Agriculture, Trade and Customer Protection (DATCP). It was passed with flying colors. Dan deserves a lot of credit for the quality and condition of our lab.

On July 12th, opened the W. Basin for wasting.

On July 17th, submitted EDMR.

July 29th, the water sample bottle vessel check.

August 13th, cleaned Eff sampler and tubing

WW met with the salesman from Advanced Microbial Solutions (AMS). They have had a lot

of success with removing organic sludge from lagoon systems but have yet to try their product in an extended air system such as ours. After several discussions, we decided to conduct an experiment at our facility. We purchased one tote of their sludge-removing bacteria, and they gave us a second tote to try it. There will be several before and after tests conducted including sludge characteristics tests on both sides. This product should either remove or reduce the amount of sludge. It could possibly change the future for a lot of plants. It is a good opportunity to try it with the uncertain future for biosolids. There will be plenty more information to follow.

The months of June and July 2024:

There were 481 in-house bacteria tests completed (913 for the year so far), 509 water tests (946 for the year so far), and 28 clean water tests (33 for the year so far). 29 holding tank pump-outs and 1 septic pump-outs. There were no emergency call-ins.

6. Discussion and recommendation regarding the 2025 Budget:

Rasmusson reported that he **increased** the budget in a few of the accounts.

Property Insurance 610-30-57401-211 – Raised to \$7,500 because it cost \$7,334.00 in 2024.

Phone 610-30-57401-306 -raised \$400 because of slight overages in the last few years. This also includes the internet, and we might look at other options in the future.

Auditing Expense 610-30-57401-377 – raised \$1,500 due to \$1,400 over in 2023 and \$1400 over to date in 2024.

Electricity/Generator Fuel 610-30-57402-303 - raised \$3,000 due to a trend of going up roughly \$3,000 per year for the last several years.

Chemicals Plant 610-30-57402-380 - raised \$500 because of increasing costs and transportation in the last few years.

LP Gas Lift 1 Generator 610-30-57403-304 - raised \$1,000 because of overages in 2023 and 2024.

Rasmusson noted that he **decreased** the budget in one account.

Training/Conferences 610-30-57401-320 - lowered \$4,000. This was raised last year to get Dan's CDL which we will be working on this fall.

The budget stayed the same.

Vehicle Fuel 610-30-57401-310 – left at \$2,500 because the overages over the past couple of years were due to the maintenance department using the WW F-350 for daily garbage collection and flower watering in the summer.

Sludge Expense 610-30-57402-383 – left at \$20,000 because of the uncertain future, Sturgeon Bay is not accepting sludge in the summer of 2025. There is always an option to take the sludge to Green Bay.

The numbers for state income and insurance are just starting to come in so the decision will have to be fluid. Wages and health insurance will also have to be considered by the Village Board.

Rasmusson noted that the committees should also consider raising rates across the board except for the well water test by another 5% - 10% so that we can meet inflation and still

contribute to the replacement fund. Last year we went up 7%. The committee will discuss and consider rates at the next meeting.

McMurtry moved, McCutcheon seconded to approve 2025 Wastewater and Well Water Budgets as submitted, and pass it onto the Village Board, all ayes, and the motion carried.

8. **Visitors' comments:** None
9. **New business for the next meeting:** Rates. The next meeting to be determined.
10. **Adjournment**

McMurtry moved, Jewell seconded to adjourn the meeting, all ayes, and the motion carried.

Recorded by,
Andrea Collak- Clerk/Treasurer

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