

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM

FOUNDED 1853



Wastewater Committee Minutes Monday, October 7, 2024, 9:00 AM

Present: Karen McMurtry- Chair, Michael McCutcheon, Dennis Jewell, Bruce Nelson, 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 August 26, 2024**

Nelson moved, Jewell seconded to approve August 26, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, all ayes, and the motion carried.

4. **Visitors' comments:** None
5. **Discussion and recommendation for the ITA/PERF submittal for possible projects in 2026**
Rasmusson noted that with the Facility Plan Amendment, the committee needs to decide if we are going to divide the project into two phases which seems to be the way that the Village would get the most principal forgiveness on a Clean Water Fund loan from the DNR.

Phase one would be the lift stations and collection system.

Phase two would be treatment plant facility upgrades.

The committee also needs to decide that if the Village intends on doing work in 2026, it is recommended to the Village Board that McMahon Associates, Inc. submit the ITA/PERF “Intent to Apply / Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula” to the DNR by 10-31-2024 for possible clean water funding in 2026.

Tony Kappell from McMahon Associates, Inc. explained in the report that this project is needed to extend the services life of the collection systems and treatment facility, address current needs associated with the existing facilities, improve operator safety, operability, and maintainability, and to ensure compliance with permit effluent limits.

Jewell moved, McCutcheon seconded to approve dividing the Facility Plan Amendment project into two phases; and that the McMahon Associates, Inc. is to submit the ITA/PERF (Intent to Apply/Priority Evaluation and Ranking Formula) to the DNR by 10-31-2024 for possible Clean Water Funding in 2026, and pass it onto the Village Board, all ayes and the motion carried.

6. **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 August 25th, the last effluent pump#1 broke down.

August 29th, Vacuum, Pump & Compressor on-site to swap out effluent pump 1 with the new spare we had on hand. A new spare was ordered.

On September 3rd, a new decant line for West Basin was plumbed, and an electric hoist was installed.

September 4th, Northern Electric on-site to replace electrical contactor for effluent pump 1 which also went out at the time of the pump failure.

On September 11th, shipped out the ammonia test.

On September 18th, a new water media was certified.

On September 25th, repaired the water hammer dampener on the East HT Pump.

On September 27th, transferred West Basin to Digester.

On September 30th, the decant digester.

On October 1st, 5 loads of sludge were sent to Sturgeon Bay.

WW has been working with Advanced Microbial Solutions (AMS) on introducing their sludge-eating microbes into our extended air digester. They have had a lot of success with removing organic sludge from ponds and lagoon systems but have never tried their product in an extended air system such as ours. WW has been conducting solids tests bi-weekly since we started in August. Rasmusson reported that unfortunately, they did not see the results that they did in anaerobic systems. Our organic solids only dropped 1.49% from the start which is not worth the cost of the product. We purchased one tote of their sludge-removing bacteria, and they gave us a second tote to try it. Rasmusson asked for a refund. They asked if the WW would try conducting another study and sent us two more totes free of charge. We can try the study in the winter with a lower suspended solids count and better mixing.

The months of August 25-October 2, 2024:

There were 259 in-house bacteria tests completed (1,205 for the year so far), 223 water tests (1,136 for the year so far), and 36 clean water tests (69 for the year so far). 11 holding tank pump-outs and 7 septic pump-outs. There were no emergency call-ins.

7. Discussion and recommendation of the 2025 Rates and Changes:

Rasmusson reported that he did not see the reason to change the expenditure or change amounts for well water testing. They received pricing for 2025 testing supplies and the WW department will make roughly \$11.40 per bacteria test.

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 with upcoming projects. Rasmusson noted that the rates went up 7% last year.

Rasmusson presented the committee with the rate comparison chart. Rasmusson noted that he was talking to Wastewater representatives from Sister Bay, Fish Creek, Baileys Harbor, and Egg Harbor.

After a short discussion, the committee members agreed to increase the **Hauler Septic per 1000 Gal** from \$127.00 to \$150.00. **Water Test** will stay the same at \$30.00. The committee members agreed with a 7% increase in all the other wastewater revenue accounts.

McMurtry moved, McCutcheon seconded to approve 2025 Wastewater Rates and Changes as presented, and pass it onto the Village Board, all ayes, and the motion carried.

8. **Visitors' comments:** McCutcheon noted that it would be beneficial to provide any new Wastewater Committee member with a Facility Plan Amendment document for educational purposes.
9. **New business for the next meeting:** Testing for LED/Arsenic and Nitrite. The next meeting is November 4, 2024.
10. **Adjournment**

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

Recorded by,
Andrea Collak- Clerk/Treasurer