

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM

FOUNDED 1853



Wastewater Committee Minutes Monday, November 11, 2024, 9:00 AM

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

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 October 7, 2024**

Nelson moved, McCutcheon seconded to approve October 7, 2024, meeting minutes as presented, all ayes, and the motion carried.

4. **Visitors' comments:** None

5. **Ephraim Plant Manager Report:**

Rasmusson reviewed the WW, WWT, and SS OIC reports as included in the agenda packet. Wastewater duties were completed according to schedule.

On October 9th, sent out an ammonia sample.

October 10th, decant thickener tank.

On October 11th, EDMR was submitted to WI DNR.

October 15th sent out 6 loads of sludge.

On October 21st, transferred sludge and pumped out of the contact chamber.

On October 22nd, signed N Shore Rd winter SOP agreement with Kristine Diekman, and had a load of Alum delivered.

On October 24th, Rasmusson and Oakley attended the WWOA annual conference in Appleton.

The months of October 2024:

There were 92 in-house bacteria tests completed (1,230 for the year so far), 99 water tests (1,306 for the year so far), and 7 clean water tests (76 for the year so far). 5 holding tank pump-outs and 22 septic pump-outs. There were no emergency call-ins.

6. **Discussion and recommendation regarding REU status assignment to property 121-01-24312723J1 at 9868 Hidden Spring Rd**

Rasmusson noted that Deputy Clerk, Kim Roberts during the Short-Term Rental (STR) renewal process found that the owners of 9868 Hidden Spring have added an additional rental dwelling to their licensed STR property. The movement (repositioning on the property) of the dwelling was approved by the BOA in September of 2023. The cottage has a full bathroom and full kitchen hence it is connected to the sewer system. Currently, the property has a 1.0 REU. With the addition of the cottage, they should be assigned 1.5 REU as in some cases in the past. The cottage was previously used for storage but is now available for rental.

Committee members commended Roberts for her work on finding the errors in the system and passing it along to the committee for corrections.

Jewell moved, McCutcheon seconded to approve REU changes for Parcel#: 121-01-24312723J1/ 9868 Hidden Spring Rd from 1.0 REU to 1.5 REU, as presented, and pass it onto the Village Board, all ayes and motion carried.

7. Discussion and recommendation regarding purchasing a Hach DR3900 Spectrophotometer and equipment:

Rasmusson reported this item is associated with the business for the next meeting from the previous meeting.

With the proposed spectrophotometer the WW Plant could expand the lab services and testing to accept Nitrate and Ammonia samples and expedite the Phosphorous testing from two days to a couple hours.

The current spectrophotometer equipment, which would cost \$4,000 to \$5,000 to replace, is used only for phosphorous testing. With the current Po4 method, we digest the samples with our autoclave, which is a \$7,000 piece of equipment on its own. With the new method, there is no need for an autoclave. The current spectrophotometer equipment can be sold on Wisconsin Surplus.

Rasmusson suggested taking the cost of the spectrophotometer itself out of the replacement fund and letting the profits from the water testing lab pay for the rest or all of it. The lab will need to be recertified for the new parameters with the DNR. The recertification fee is \$885. The Village would also need to purchase blind standards from WSLH to prove the proficiencies before we can test the new parameters for hire.

Rasmusson presented the committee with a pricing quotation from Hach Company. The total quote is \$13,145.65. Rasmusson noted that lead testing for \$625.00 is listed in the quote but that would be taken off. Lead testing for this machine is not approved in Wisconsin.

McCutcheon moved, Jewell seconded to approve the purchase of a Hach DR3900 Spectrophotometer and equipment not to exceed \$12,500, and pass it onto the Village Board, all ayes, and the motion carried.

8. Visitors' comments:

9. New business for the next meeting: Quotes for different projects. The next meeting is December 2, 2024.

10. Adjournment

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