

NVC Utilities Committee
Trustee Meeting
Community Hall and by Zoom link
Friday, May 17, 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Jeffrey Wilt, Judy Metcalf, Brady Brim-Deforest, Casey Brown,
David Crofoot

Staff: Bill Paige, Trish Parker, Chuck Applebee

The May meeting of the NVC Utilities Trustees convened at 2:30. Utilities chair, Jeffrey Wilt called the meeting to order.

Community Comments – See attached comments read by Rachel Rosa

Approval of minutes:

Judy moved (David second) approval of minutes of April 19, 2024. minutes.

Superintendent Report:

- **During the April operating period there were no exceedances (see operating report)**
- No comment from PUC on request for rate increase. Could take up to a year. We will adjust budget.
- Water Department Consumer Confidence Report are ready, must be sent by July 1, posted on internet.
- Flow testing on 7 village hydrants, pressure is good. Report to be posted on website.
- We must continue to stress May 1 as the earliest date for water meter installation.

Other Business:

- The trustees will reviewed a draft 2025 budget for the Sewer Department

The next meeting of the Trustees is a **June 21, 2:30 p.m.**, Community Hall and on-line (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961508196?pwd=ekpzTlZcml3cnJEZmlHRmlwR3ZSZz09>)

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey Wilt, Chairman

NVC Utilities Meeting

May 17, 2024

Rachel Rosa

7 Auditorium Park

- How many read the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) guide on Financial Management for Small Community Facilities I sent all of you on March 15?
- The Utility was successful in obtaining a grant for asset inventory to assist in managing the Utility. When will that process begin and expected to be completed. Asset management is critical to the budget process as noted in the RCAP training program and guide. Budgeting for 2025 is beginning today.
- The NVC Utility Committee was able to determine a \$2.75 per 100 cubic ft usage charge for the water system to meet reserve account needs and the PUC requirements for maximum reserves. However, the concept of funding sewer reserves by charging a usage fee for sewer discharge seems to be beyond the scope of consideration by NVC Utilities.
- Once again as I have for over two years I ask the NVC Utilities Committee to fund and conduct a sewer rate review in 2025.
 - There are 70 year round residences in the sewer district, at least 50 more than when the system went on line in 1985. 177 sewer rate payers are seasonal.
 - Pumping the settling tanks, trains, is being done four times a year instead of once or twice. It is necessary to pump the trains in February in order to meet DEP/EPA discharge requirements. Year round residents, larger annual water users, are responsible for the additional burden to the system and costs should be apportioned by usage just as all other Utilities do.
 - Rate review for the sewer system has not been conducted in 38 years.
 - No other sewer utilities I can find assess sewer rates on a fixed rate for all. All other municipalities' sewer rate schedules are based on water usage, not a fixed rate for all users.
 - The annual cost to Bayside rate payers is higher than any other surrounding town when I checked six months ago. For NVC this is not just “these are what it costs, sorry” there are other factors built into the current sewer rate, such as cost overruns to the wastewater building, and loan payback to the water department since the sewer department was essentially bankrupt. We have three more years of payback to the water reserve account at more than \$15,000 per year. That is

not business as usual.

It is time for NVC Utilities to recognize it is time to change the sewer discharge rate structure to a water usage based schedule. I hope my persistence is being heard.

Thank you.