

**TRI-TOWN JOINT REVIEW COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 28, 2020  
8:00 AM – 9:30 AM

**Wastewater Treatment Facility  
Conference Room – Admin Building**

In attendance: Dennis Lutz, Aaron Martin, Bruce Hoar, Jeff Carr, Jim Jutras, Sarah Macy, ~~George Tyler~~, Evan Teich, ~~Gregory Duggan~~

**Minutes:** The minutes of the December 12, 2018 meeting were approved unanimously on a motion by Bruce Hoar, second by Dennis Lutz.

**FYE 2021 Budget and Capital Plan:** A general budget overview was provided. Expenses are up 5.48% yet the rate increase is buffered to 1.62% (\$3.205/1,000 gallons). Baseline flows have been increased from past years. We have been getting more typical weather patterns so the base flow assumptions were slightly increased to reflect this trend. Land application is our lower cost sludge management option. More than half of our sludge is recycled to the land. Sludge management costs are holding the budget line but could be subject to increased pressure should PFAS sampling results change the program direction. More pressure if the Legislature passes current proposed bill to functionally prohibit land application of Class B biosolids. Included in this bill is a requirement for municipal wastewater facilities to accept septage banned from land application. Testimony will be provided by the facility if this proposed bill gains traction. Vermont Phosphorus innovation funding was discussed. (See below).

A motion to submit the budget (as presented) to the Trustees was made by Dennis Lutz, second by Bruce Hoar. Unanimously approved.

**FYE 2019 Financial Reconciliation:** The reconciliation was presented. Budgetary surplus or “Rate Stabilization Fund” management is up to the individual community to determine how much money, if any, are kept in this fund. Discussion centered on the amount and benefits of retaining some surplus. This rate stabilization fund balance level may be presented to the respective boards for discussion at the same time any potential amendment to the Tri Town agreement to address high strength waste is presented. The timing or whether to include the rate stabilization fund discussion to the governing bodies is the prerogative of each community.

**Land Application:** The Land Application permit has been transferred from Casella to the Village. Operations under the permit have been going well. The farm agronomist is directly involved and has been very beneficial to the project success. The state recently mandated PFAS testing (Per and Poly-fluoroalkyl substances) for soil and groundwater samples with reporting due to the state by March 1, 2020. Results are still in the lab. TriTown will be updated when the results are available. Costs for this sampling mandate exceed \$16,000 and are will be paid through the FY 2020 budget. State sponsored PFAS sampling of influent, effluent and processed biosolids showed PFAS as expected and below regulatory standards.

**NPDES Discharge permit renewal:** Our permit renewal is expected to occur during the fall of 2020. Permit appeals are resolved and a revised permit is expected without challenge. Each town is a co-permittee and will be required to update their respective sewage spill prevention plans within 30 days of the permit renewal date. Extensions to this requirement are possible.

**Vermont Phosphorus Innovation Challenge PePhlo:** The proposed capital plan includes \$50,000 for continued funding of the VPIC PePhlo pilot work. Preliminary work showed promise and was awarded 50% funding from the Phosphorus innovation challenge program. CSWD has pledged a minimum support of \$5,000. We have applied for other matching fund grants without success. Consensus supports use of facility funds at this stage of the evaluation. Should the scale up not show promise, we will reconsider future investment. Staff will pursue outside funding sources to offset the facility financial exposure in this phase of the evaluation.

**Energy items:** The facility is involved in several energy projects:

**Cogeneration:** The failed Cogeneration motor has been replaced and has been operating since September 19, 2019. Insurance reimbursement has been processed and is not yet complete.  
**Flexible Load Management (FLM)** is a utility sponsored project to maximize cogeneration output during peak power demand times. For this, we will be forgiven some demand charges to be determined. Currently demand charges are 30% of our utility bill so savings could be substantial. The pilot installation is being paid for with GMP and Efficiency VT funds. We are improving process controls at the same time and at no cost to us.

**Energy Audit:** a final report of a 2019 facility energy audit is in the works. The audit was sponsored by Efficiency VT at 50% cost share. Several project were identified for simple and quick returns on investment, many less than 1 year and can be done out of operational funds. We are also participating in an **Energy Kaizen** or “treasure hunt” to find other simple savings that may not have been identified in the energy audit. Finding of both the report and Kaizen will be incorporated into operations upon completion of both the audit and Kaizen.

**High Strength Waste Ordinance and Zinc Waste Issues:** Policy and operational perspectives surrounding a high strength ordinance were discussed. A draft amendment to the TriTown agreement was discussed and resolved to include further clarification of the percent of facility AND organic load. This loading is implied in the original agreement but will be more clearly presented in the proposed amendment. The three town consensus was to continue with development of one universal ordinance for all three communities to adopt. The consultant will be contacted and this will be pursued. Included will be consideration of an NOAV process for incremental steps for enforcement to violating discharging connections.

**Adjourned:** 9:30 AM

**DRAFT**

Respectfully submitted  
James Jutras, Water Quality Superintendent