



**TOWN OF SUNAPEE
WATER & SEWER COMMISSION**
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**New London/Sunapee Water & Sewer Commission Joint Quarterly Meeting
September 25, 2025
Sunapee Town Offices Meeting Room**

PRESENT: Theodore Gallup-Chairman, Charles Hirshberg, Jimmy Williams, Jeffrey Reed, Wayne Stoddard, Douglas Gamsby.

Also present: Holly Leonard, David Bailey. New London Selectmen- Janet Kidder and Bebe Hammond Casey, New London Town Administrator-Ashley Seybold.

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.:

1. May 29, 2025 Joint Meeting Minutes: Douglas G. made a motion to accept the May 29th 2025 joint quarterly meeting minutes, seconded by Janet K., Sunapee voted in favor of approving the minutes, New London voted in favor of approving the minutes, so declared by the Chairman.
2. Wastewater Treatment Highlights: Dave B reported that the plant flows have been down a lot with the dry weather and that without the dilution the phosphorus levels have been higher and there has been more need to use the Rare Earth for phosphorus control. He stated that the sludge agreement with Merrimack has been executed and will be in effect for five years. Dave B. reported that the plant is running nicely and that sludge sampling now has to be done quarterly instead of yearly, this will result in higher costs for testing in order to comply with this regulation from the Discharge Permit. Dave B stated that the ordering of a centrifuge bowl to have on hand in case of another breakdown needs to be discussed along with how to fund the purchase of approximately \$400,000 and that it will take around six months to receive once ordered. He also would like to discuss the purchase of the camera that had been discussed in the past. Dave B. stated that Brian has taken and passed the Grade III Wastewater Operator exam and that now the plant is in compliance with the need to have a back-up operator with a Grade III license. There was some discussion regarding staffing and licensing certifications. Janet K. questioned if the centrifuge bowl purchase was to have something available if there is a breakdown? Theodore G. stated that if the part was on hand the sludge drying operation would only be down for a day or two while the part was installed instead of the centrifuge being out of commission for the entire time that it would take to order and receive the part. There was some discussion regarding all the extra costs incurred during the centrifuge breakdown last year and the large disruption to the plant processes that were caused by the change in procedures needed to haul liquid sludge as opposed to partially dried.
3. Draft Proposed 2026 Plant Budget: Bebe H. questioned what the balance in the reserve account for such purchases was and Holly L. stated that there is around \$600,000 in the Plant Replacement Account. Bebe H. suggested allowing the purchase and have the funds come from the Replacement Account, she would also propose increasing the amount budgeted to go into the Replacement Account for next year and going forward. There was some discussion regarding what happened when the centrifuge broke down last year and the different funds held by the Sunapee Sewer Department. Bebe H. questioned what would be a safe balance to keep in the Replacement Account? There was some discussion regarding the account and what things might need replacing. The expenditure would leave about \$200,000 in the account and if the budgeted amount to go into the account were to be increased to \$50,000 per year that it should replenish the account in a couple of years. After some discussion regarding the possibility of tariffs affecting the purchase price. Janet K. moved to approve the expenditure from the Plant Replacement Fund of up to \$400,000 for

purchasing the centrifuge bowl, seconded by Douglas G., New London voted in the affirmative and Sunapee voted in the affirmative.

Janet K. stated that she had spoken with Sam regarding the possibility of going in on a camera purchase with Sunapee and that Sam had not seemed interested in contributing to the purchase.

Dave B. interjected that Charles H. had talked about the possibility of buying another drying unit and that had been talked about in the past. Dave has found one that comes from the Netherlands and the 1st US installation is supposed to be in Ohio in January 2026 at a smaller plant for 1.8 million dollars. He suspects that one for our installation would probably be around 2 million and this may help with PFOA removal from the sludge in the future and it will dry the sludge much more and reduce the amount of it produced. There was some discussion regarding the sludge and PFOA testing and reduction.

Proposed Budget: After some discussion regarding the budget amount for the deposit into the Replacement Account and which funds are used for what and how they are allowed to be expended. It was decided to increase the budgeted Plant Replacement Fund deposit from \$35,975 to \$50,000 for 2026. Bebe H. questioned the increases in certain line items and the default budget being operated under for the year of 2025 and how SB2 Town votes work with regards to Water and Sewer and what had happened at March's vote. Bebe H. stated that overall the increase of 5.6% is very frugal in the scope of the increase for 2 full years. New London questioned how Sunapee feels about SB2 because New London is considering becoming an SB2 town. There was some discussion regarding how some of the Commissioners feel about being SB2 and how it works.

There was some discussion regarding help and that Sunapee has two unfilled positions, Bebe H. stated that maybe going to the schools would be a good way to interest potential workforce. Dave B. reported that he does do tours with classes from Colby Sawyer and that he does try to plug the profession to them. There was some discussion regarding the wage study and rates for Water & Sewer Operators.

4. New London/Sunapee billing percentage for 2025-2026: After some discussion about the flows for the spring months being high, Janet K. made a motion to approve the 58.43 billing percentage for New London for September 2025 through August 2026, seconded by Jimmy W., New London voted in favor, Sunapee voted in favor.
5. Mt. Sunapee: Charles H. stated that Mount Sunapee is currently looking at three alternatives to remedy their sewer treatment problems and that one of them is to use Sunapee's Wastewater Treatment Plant. He stated that he wanted the Commission and New London Selectboard to be aware of what is being looked into. There was some discussion regarding the proposal and the capacity of the plant along with how long the whole process of evaluating, planning and constructing the chosen route will take.

New London Departed at 6:18 p.m.
Submitted by Holly Leonard.