

Oxford Sewer Department

Intro to 2022-2023FY Budget

Oxford Sewer Department is in its 6th year of operation. The department operates under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) license #00102873. The license was issued in 2014 by the State of Maine for a period of 5 years. The department applied for a new license in early 2019 but is still waiting on the renewal. There is a backlog with the State, so we are still operating under the old license. The old license requires some testing that will not be needed under the new license, but we continue following the mandates of the old license until the new one is issued. Since taking over the Sewer Department in 2016, we have not had any chargeable violations. The department continues to be operated by two people – Superintendent (salaried position) and Operator (hourly position) – as a 24x7 operation, including responding to treatment plant/pump station alarms, resolving issues and daily testing.

As you know, due to PFAS contamination of the waste sludge, the department was pursuing designing and building drying beds to dewater our waste sludge so it could then be disposed of in a landfill. However, after receiving construction bids from contractors in 2021, the cost far exceeded the planned budget. The department sought alternatives for waste sludge disposal and we fortunately, found Anson-Madison Sanitary District, which is willing to take our PFAS contaminated waste sludge, dewater it, and dispose of it at a reasonable price. In early 2022, Oxford's Town Manager signed a 5-year contract with Anson-Madison Sanitary District. The Town of Oxford generates approximately 37,000 gallons of liquid waste sludge annually.

In 2021, the Sewer Department purchased a sewer jetter, which will be used by our department and the Oxford Highway Department to clean culverts and sewer lines. We expect to do joint training on this equipment in late May 2022.

Currently, the department is experiencing issues with possible membrane ruptures, and we have seen more settleable solids in our effluent, though still well within permit limits. We are working with Kubota to resolve these issues and they have a tech coming on-site the week of 4/4/22. It will be critical for our department to set aside capital improvement funds as our equipment and infrastructure age.

In 2022-2023 FY, the expenses of running the North End Sewer were transferred to Oxford Sewer Department. The Town of Oxford pays Norway Sewer District to run and maintain the North End pump stations and sewer lines and treat the wastewater. This system is a satellite system, and it does not connect to the Oxford Sewer systems. The cost associated with this will now fall under the Oxford Sewer Department instead of a separate account.

Thank you, and please reach out to me with any questions.

Zhenya Shevchenko, Superintendent, Oxford Sewer Department