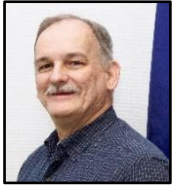


WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

To the Citizens, the Select Board, and Town Manager:



In 2023 we had another good year at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. We began our second four-year process of jetting, vacuuming, and videoing the facility's collection system. This year Vortex, formerly Ted Berry Company, will also be GIS locating and mapping our sewer lines. Once this project is completed, Vortex will set this information up on a map program that we will be able to access from our tablet computer. This project is expected to be completed by the Fall of 2027.

We hired Patrick Rogers in June to fill our empty position. New flow meters were purchased and installed on our Return Activated Sludge (RAS), our Waste Activated Sludge (WAS) and our Sludge Press Feed (SPF) lines. The flow meters installed during the 1992 Upgrade stopped operating several years ago. Now we can see and record the number of gallons of sludge we remove each day, the gallons we are sending out through the return pumps back to the oxidation ditches daily, and the gallons we run through the pump to the belt press on the days we press sludge. This information will allow the operators to be more accurate in the day-to-day operation of the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

In addition to new flow meters, the facility also had a new plant water system installed. I continue to build our spare parts and equipment inventory, so the facility is prepared when equipment breaks down.

The Legislature passed two new bills in 2022, LD 1911 and LD 1639, that had a substantial impact on the disposal of biosolids for all treatment facilities in the State of Maine. LD 1911 prohibited the composting and land application of biosolids, and LD 1639 prohibited the acceptance of out-of-state bulky waste into landfills for mixing with the biosolids. Once these two bills were passed, the price per wet ton for biosolids disposal went from \$95.00 to \$219.75 per wet ton. On July 7, 2023, LD 718 passed which allowed the landfills to keep receiving bulky waste (washers, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, and stoves) until the end of 2024. The passing of this bill reduced the wet ton disposal rate by \$61.49, which saved Farmington's facility between \$4,000 and \$5,000 per month. I would like to thank all the people for their hard work on getting LD 718 to pass.

As we move forward into 2024, I would like to thank all my operators for the excellent work they do throughout the year. The Farmington Wastewater Treatment Facility and the operators will continue to operate this facility in the best, most cost-effective manner as we have done in the past and continue to protect the environment we live in.

Respectfully submitted,

Stephen M. Millett
Superintendent



L - R: Patrick Rogers, Joe Hartigan, Paul Stanzel, and Superintendent Steve Millett