

**VILLAGE OF NEW AUBURN
MEETING MINUTES
Special Board Meeting on
Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.**

The Village of New Auburn held a Special Board Meeting at the New Auburn Village Hall, 130 E. Elm St., New Auburn on Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 9:30 a.m.. to review the Wastewater Treatment Plan WPDES General Permit and DNR Public Hearing regarding such.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call;
Meeting called to order at 9:34 a.m. Answering roll call were President Brad Lotts, Trustees Allan Anderson, Gary Pitts, Dalton Hinke, Shannon Berg. Staff present were: Clerk Ardith Story, and Public Works Jon Bohl. Engineer Larry Gothum was present.
2. Meeting Minutes: 1/12/23 Personnel; 1/12/23 Regular Board; 1/25/23 Special Board; 1/26/23 Tourism; 1/30/23 Tourism; 2/8/23 Tourism;
Motion by Trustees Berg/Anderson to approve the minutes as posted. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.
3. Consider/Act on Wastewater Treatment Plant WPDES General Permit;
Larry Gothum proceeded to discuss the WPDES General Permit for the Wastewater Treatment Facility. As a 5-year permit it has come up for renewal. With the new permit the DNR has changed the total nitrogen level limits which our plant cannot achieve. Larry discussed the DNR's level of performance, the public notice was published in the Bloomer Advance as part of the permit renewal requirement. The public works staff tests for nitrogen once a month. The DNR wants to achieve a 10 mg/l goal as part of their groundwater standards. The current average level at the WWTP is 50 mg/l. Larry indicated he was given a variance from the DNR but that the DNR then took the variance back six months later. The way to possibly fix to meet the new level is to add components on, aerators that address nitrogen specifically, an estimated amount of \$400,000 for equipment only and a total estimated amount of \$800,000. The open pond would also require to be heated which would substantially increase the electrical bill. Larry proceeded to provide the board a chemistry lecture to explain the processes of the nitrogen at the plant and as it goes down the system once in the ground it is nitrates. The nitrates are tested at the monitoring wells which are north of the seepage cells and those have to be at a level of 10 mg/l. The current General Permit schedule, page 11, was reviewed with the board members which indicates that these levels and construction completed by December 31, 2026. An approval memo from the DNR dated March 17, 2023 was reviewed. President Lotts requested that Larry exit at 10:34 a.m. so the board could discuss. Further discussion of how to proceed.
Consensus of the board requesting Clerk Story to contact CBS Squared for a second opinion, to contact legal, and the DNR and request that the DNR meet with the board.
4. Adjourn at 10:52 p.m.
Motion by Trustees Hinke/Berg to adjourn. All aye. None opposed. Motion carried.

Prepared by Ardith Story, Clerk-Treasurer