



Utilities Department Status Report for Jan. 2023 (covering Dec. 2022)

PROJECT/CATEGORY	STATUS
WTP	No issues to report.
WWTP	No major issues. The December freeze brought some trees down that damaged the fence and power lines. Repairs are underway.
West Fork of the Eno Reservoir	With December rainfall, the reservoir is back to the Phase 1 normal pool of approximately 43 feet. The new Phase 2 normal pool elevation is 53 feet. The releases met or exceeded the minimum required release.
Water Restrictions	As of August 1, despite the rain, we are on Stage 1 withdraw restrictions until flow remains above 10 cfs for 7 consecutive days. This should be ending in early January.
Billing Adjustments	Draft code per prior WSAC and BOC input is circulating amongst town staff and legal and will be presented for WSAC input in January and discussion in the joint BOC/WSAC meeting in February.
System Development Fees and Budget	Proposals to update the existing system development fees are due Jan. 13. These are required by statute to be updated at least every five years and public noticed for 45 days prior to board approval of the FY24 budget. The FY24 budget process has started.
Specification Updates	Updates to the utilities technical specifications, standard details and merging of various development and construction technical documents and processes is almost complete. The specifications were last updated in 2018 and need to cover more technical requirements and situations that will support the town and clarify development requirements and expectations. Code updates will follow to ensure cohesiveness.
Funding Opportunities	The federal budget bill included 1.267M in State and Tribal Assistance Grant funds for the booster pumping station needed to receive water from the OWASA interconnection. Formal word has not been received. We received a \$100,000 grant for water system master planning from the state and are almost ready to sign a contract with Hazen & Sawyer. We are awaiting word of the fall round ARPA/SRF submittals to the state on four projects which is expected in February, at the earliest.
Staffing	A new nighttime water plant operator (trainee) will start on Jan. 17. A new WWTP operator started 12/5. A Utility Maintenance Mechanic I offer is pending acceptance by a candidate. There remains one Utility Maintenance Mechanic position opening. Also, a Utility Maintenance Technician (Locator) position is currently open. Corwin Hess of the WWTP recently earned his Biological Operator Grade 4 certification! This is the highest level of certification.
Water and Sewer Advisory Committee (WSAC) Activities	Two new members are beginning their 1 st term this February pending appointment by the board on Jan. 9 – Eric Raznick (out of town) and Grace Beeler (in town). Former longtime member Dan Barker and support staff Julie Laws were recognized at the December 1 meeting. Bill adjustments and review of water use are topics for WSAC and the upcoming joint BOC meeting. The WSAC will move to bimonthly meetings starting after February 2023. The joint BOC meetings will be in February and August. The BOC will attend WSAC on Feb. 2.