Wastewater Department

Staff:

Pete Clark, superintendent
Diane Moore, office manager
Mark Damon, Dwayne Brown, Cliff Dudley, Jean Murch, & Lee Hodgins, collection systems & plant operations staff

Purpose:

The Town's Wastewater Department provides service to areas of Falmouth and Cumberland. The operation is funded as a separate enterprise through user fees. Major infrastructure includes the town's treatment facility, 29 pumping stations, and approximately 60 miles of gravity and force main sewers.

Operations / expenditures:

The projected operating and capital budget for the coming fiscal year is $1.91 million. Of this amount, annual operation and maintenance totals $1.227 million, debt payment represents $435,700, and reserve contributions total $247,000. Total revenue is projected at $1.95million. Major O&M budget expenditures include labor and benefits, power and fuel, chemicals, and sludge disposal costs. Assessments to the Town of Cumberland offset approximately 22% of the total operating cost and 30% of capital costs in the shared components of the operation. Falmouth's sewer rates remain competitive for the region.

Labor costs comprise a large component of the department budget. We have no problem staying busy keeping up with regular operational and maintenance duties and mandated testing and reporting requirements. The facilities treated over 324.6 million gallons of wastewater in 2013, removing over 98% of the conventional pollutants from the waste stream.

2013-14 Projects:

- Continued initiative to regularly monitor nutrient removal processes and levels of nitrogen compounds in the discharge.
- Co-location work/plan review on Summit Natural Gas project.
- Design and evaluation of Mill Creek pump station upgrade and force main replacement.
- Continued system evaluation infiltration reduction effort.

2014-15 Projects:

- Complete design of Mill Creek pump station and force main upgrades, finalize land acquisition and easements, bid work, and start construction
- Continue co-location review/support of natural gas construction.
- Conduct infiltration identification and reduction work.