



VEAZIE SEWER DISTRICT

34 Hobson Ave, Veazie, ME 04401

Phone 207-942-1536 Fax 207- 942-0011

MINUTES - November 18, 2025 Board Meeting

1. Call to Order

Tony called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Those present were Anthony Michaud-Chairman, Christopher Lynch-Treasurer, Robert Tomlison- Clerk, Barbara Kershner-District Administrator, Jonah Nadeau-Chief Operator/Interim Superintendent, Rachel Conlin-Lab / Regulatory Manager, guest Jim Lord and Jack Berry from Dirigo Engineering, and members of the public.

2. Consideration of Agenda – *Accepted as is vote 3-0*

3. Approval of *October 21, 2025* Meeting Minutes

Tony motioned to approve meeting minutes as presented, Chris seconded, all those in favor – motion passes approved 3-0

4. Comments from the Public - *None*

5. AP Warrant

Action: The Board reviewed and signed the AP Warrant for November 18, 2025.

*Chris motioned to transfer \$13,600 from the **Operating** account at Katahdin Trust Company to the **Capital Reserve** account, representing 68% of reserve revenue to date in accordance with the established Capital / Debt allocation split (\$46.80 / \$22.00) - Rob seconded, all those in favor – motion passes approved 3-0*

*Chris motioned to transfer \$6,400 from the **Operating** account at Katahdin Trust Company to the **Debt Reserve** account, representing 32% of reserve revenue to date in accordance with the established Capital / Debt allocation split (\$46.80 / \$22.00) - Rob seconded, all those in favor – motion passes approved 3-0*

6. Administration Report- *Reviewed attached reports*

- Overall summary / update
- Delinquent Accounts
- Lien Process- *1 Lien Discharge processed*

7. Treasurer Report - *Reviewed attached reports*

- Profit and Loss Statement

8. Operations Report - *Reviewed attached reports*

There are two tears in Lagoon #2, which accounts for the excessive water that was drained over the summer.

9. Laboratory Report

The DEP is requiring weekly TSS and CBOD testing. With a non-functioning dissolved oxygen sensor, the District is requesting to purchase a new unit. A cost analysis shows it is more economical to purchase a new sensor and perform the testing in-house.

10. New Business

- Annual DEP Inspection Report

Overall, the inspection was successful, with identified corrective actions being addressed. The Buck Hill Pump Station generator has been repaired

- Incident – November 5, 2025 GMC 3500

Insurance Inspector reviewed already – Three estimates will be obtained – Employee was reprimanded



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- HACH Quote – Sensor for BOD Measurements

Tony motioned to approve purchasing the HACH Sensor to conduct testing in house. Rob seconded, all those in favor– motion passes approved 3-0

11. Old Business

- Jim Lord / Lagoon #1 Project - Bond Anticipation Note (BAN)

Project update- Jim Lord updated the Board that more sludge was found than expected; there is on average 2' or so of sludge. Brewer is testing the percent solids but said it was much thicker and 6% and might be problematic to take and dewater. Brewer will test and update the team tomorrow which will determine if they will continue to accept or divert to Anson-Madison Sanitary District.

Each of the aeration laterals were tested from the submerged portion in cells 2 and 3 to see if they could see any aeration failures. It appeared that all air went to the diffuser units as it should have and that no bubble formed under the liner. They indicated that the floating aeration units, which were removed prior to draining the lagoon were found to have the bottoms of the ballast torn off. The ballast consisted of a plastic bucket they poured concrete into and then inserted the hook to hold the aerator diffuser units down. The fact that the bottom of the plastic had worn off suggested those units are sitting on the bottom and not floating just above it. In addition, the outside end of the aeration units, which are PVC pipe and roughly 1' above the bottom of the ballast buckets had been worn down in a 54% angle suggesting that the diffusers were, at times, tipped on their sides and dragged around on the lagoon bottom, likely tearing the liner. Currently, it is their belief that one, or more of these buckets worked itself under the liner and was feeding air under the liner creating the bubble.

The District has two options. The first is to obtain additional funding in order to remove all sludge from Lagoon #1 now and conduct a full assessment and repair; however, the current \$500,000 allocation would be insufficient, and the available timeframe makes this option difficult to accomplish. The second option, which Jim Lord recommended due to time constraints, is for Sargent to construct a temporary berm or coffer dam to contain the existing sludge in Cells 2 and 3. Sludge would then be pumped from Cell 1, where liner tears and the previous bubble had been located. After the liner tears in Cell 1 are repaired, the temporary berm would be removed and the lagoon refilled. Following this work, the membranes on the diffusers, along with the hoses and clamps, would be replaced. The hoses would be shortened to ensure the aerators remain elevated above the lagoon bottom. Buoyancy calculations would then be confirmed in case of any miscalculation in the original 2001 design. For this winter season, aeration will occur only in Cell 1. The buried airlines and submerged aeration equipment in Cells 2 and 3 will remain off for the winter as a precaution while their condition continues to be evaluated.

In addition, two floating baffle curtains were removed. One curtain was significantly torn and cannot be reused; it will not be re-installed. The second curtain is the same age and is also likely to tear during reinstallation. They do not anticipate reinstalling it, although they may attempt to reinstall it if time and weather conditions allow. Dirigo will reevaluate the aeration, mixing, and baffle wall needs prior to next summer, with the potential to eliminate the baffle curtain and reduce aeration requirements to lower long-term electrical costs. A Trustee asked whether the operators had been reducing blower and aeration levels each winter, as had traditionally been done. Jonah stated that he had not been adjusting the blowers, as he was unaware this was an expected operational practice.

Jack Berry, Dirigo's field representative working with Jonah and Sargent, is developing an asset list for the wastewater facility and conducting an evaluation of each asset's condition, remaining useful life, and any repair or replacement needs. This information will be incorporated into the Fiscal Sustainability Plan (FSP) required by the DEP. The evaluation of the aeration system will also be included in the FSP, along with the development of a capital improvements plan to assist the District in budgeting for future lagoon upgrades. It is anticipated that any work recommended in the FSP would not occur before 2027, as the evaluation must first be completed and grant applications pursued to secure the most advantageous funding available at that time.



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Jim noted that four valves have already been identified as not functioning properly. He also indicated that there will be sludge present in Ponds 2 and 3 in addition to the material remaining in Lagoon #1. Jim estimated that the current work will likely remove only approximately one-third of the sludge in Lagoon #1.

Jim further explained that the MMBB application, which the District is currently finalizing, will not be approved prior to the first pay meeting with Sargent scheduled for December 12 at 8:00 a.m. Trustee asked how long the District has to pay the contractor, and Jim Lord responded that payment is due within 21 days. As a result, it was recommended that the District obtain a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) from a local bank to provide interim funding while the MMBB long-term financing is being established.

Rob motioned that the Veazie Sewer District enter a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) with Katahdin Trust Company in an amount not to exceed \$500,000, and to authorize Treasurer Chris Lynch to execute all documents necessary to complete the transaction. Tony seconded, all those in favor – motion passes approved 3-0

- Rate Discussion

The Board reviewed and discussed the Public Hearing notice wording. A correction will be made to shorten the language for publication in the Bangor Daily News, and the revised version will be reviewed at the December meeting

12. Informational

- 2026 Maine Municipal Employees Health Trust Insurance Rates - reviewed
- Personnel Policy revisions – Hold for December Mtg
- Return to Work Policy – Hold for December Mtg

13. Adjourn

Tony motioned to adjourn meeting, Rob seconded– approved 3-0. Motion passes, meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm

Next Meeting December 16, 2025 at 5:30pm