

### Putting things in Context – feedback from citizens.

The videos are produced to demonstrate:

- The excessively overgrown conditions that the collection system is buried under.
- The unsafe conditions in which we send ONE employee alone to attempt to clear with a chainsaw and a ‘prosumer grade’ brush hog.
- To help folks who cannot hike in and experience firsthand (ugh) to have some sense of the overgrown conditions.

The Newsletters are a channel of communication to the citizens. The goals are to teach, inform, communicate, regular updates, etc.

We all learn best with incremental time to read, synthesize, ask, and participate. The Town Sewer Dept, the Highway Department, the Commissioners, and the Engineers have labored, dug deep, felt frustrated, nervous, scared, and just kept going forward. We have to.

First, we have to educate, try to stop the fines, and eventually fix the problems. There are future possibilities of safety improvements for employees, cost containment with technologies, and revenue stream improvements such as increasing homes to join the system, and maybe septage from homes not on the system.

But we need everyone to learn with us.

## Safety First!!!

The excessive amount of rain and the overgrown conditions of back country sewer pipes have caused us to temporarily postpone the hikes. Isaac (Plant Chief Operator) and I will continue to hike in together, inspect, video and report back to everyone.

During our last hike in, we came a little too close to two folks careening down a 100–150-foot drop into moderately fast-moving water. When better conditions return, we will schedule more back country hikes. Thank you for your understanding.

### New Segment Introduction: Fun with Facts.

The Sewer Department and Commission have built a fabulous relationship with the Assessor’s Office (Beth), the Treasurer/Collector (Michele), the Financial Assistant (Erin), the Town Clerk (Amanda), and the Grant Director (Mallory). Their expertise and collaboration have allowed us to quickly dissect and analyze our information unlike ever before.

## Fun with Facts:

It is important to know the scope of the Collection System (Pipes).

- There's a North Collection- big pipe into the plant. Campus side of Town.
- There's a South Collection-big pipe into the plant. Mims side of Town.
- There are 9.46 linear miles of pipe.
- About 1/3 to 1/2 of the pipes are through forestation or back country.
- There are 283 'Accounts' (Receivables) in the Departments Accounting reports.
- There are 278 Accounts that are a composite of single-family units, multi-family units, businesses, business/residential.
- There are 5 Flat fee accounts.

## Account and Collection system demographics.

We turned to automation and the Town Clerk 'Digital Native Wizkid' Amanda. The Sewer data was merged with Street Listing data. That 10-minute exercise allowed us to produce account demographic summaries. Prior to this 'new age' approach to data driven decisions, the process was paper, counting, calculator, report.

<b>Age Demographics</b>	<b>Account Stats 08-2023:</b>	<b>Account Stats 11-2022</b>
1620 to 1953 = 70 and above.	57	Age group 70+ = 53
1954 to 1963 = 60 - 69	41	Age group 60-69 = 30
1964 to 1973 = 50 - 59	40	Age group 55-59 = 20
1974 to 1983 = 40 - 49	27	Age group < 55 = 123
1984 to 1993 = 30 - 39	16	
1994 to 2003 = 20 - 29	6	
	<b>187</b>	<b>226</b>
<b>Blank Year of Birth (30 residential, 67 business)</b>	97	
<b>Total Accounts</b>	<b>284</b>	
<b>Break Down - No Year of Birth</b>		
Residential and have a blank Year of Birth.	<b>30</b>	
Nonresidential and by nature will have a blank Year of	<b>67</b>	
<b>Accounts Age 50 and over</b>	138	
63.59% of all residential accounts		
Of the 67 - 5 are flat fee accounts.		TA College = 38
Of the 67 - 25 are TAC accounts. 21 are campus buildings.		Moody Ctr = 13
Of the 67 - 9 are Moody accounts. 1 account is Flat fee.		Town = 6

## Public use- Facilities on the system.

Without a Clean Water Treatment Plant or with a broken unreliable one, the following ‘entities’ that we all rely on, will either go away or be forced to put in Septic, if they can.

1. The Thomas Aquinas Campus
2. The Moody Center buildings.
3. TAC homes surrounding the Campus.
4. The Salons.
5. Dr Mikes Garage.
6. The Post office.
7. All the churches.
8. The Historical Society.
9. The Greenfield Bank
- 10.The Golf course.
- 11.Dickinson Library.
- 12.The Food pantry.
- 13.The Elementary school.
- 14.The Gallery, Church, and Auction center
- 15.The Centennial house.
- 16.Stellar Kayaks.
- 17.The Town Hall
- 18.The Senior Center
- 19.The Police Station
- 20.The Fire Station
- 21.The Funeral Home
- 22.The Hardware store.
- 23.Hubbard HVAC
- 24.Maple Sugaring Business
- 25.The IGA
- 26.The building across from the IGA, Johnson Paving, Lowry Florists,
- 27.Mims
- 28.The Creamy.
- 29.The Guitar Store.
- 30.Many small businesses in the cottage industry.

## Events.

**October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – Initial Zoom conference with Sen. Jo Comerford, Rep. Whipps, our Town Administrator and myself. A first steps conversation about funding large capital infrastructure projects on tiny operational budgets.

**October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2023** – Engineering firm Tighe&Bond presented “Asset Management Plan 1.0; The Collection System” to the:

- Town of Northfield Sewer Department.
- The Sewer Commission.
- The Town Administrator.
- The Treasurer/Collector.
- The Grant Development Director.
- Three members of the Town’s Select Board.

The content was engineering heavy and to activate the Town’s Leadership team. No votes were taken.

**There is an “Asset Management Plan 2.0 – The Plant” in the beginning stages.**

### Additional Presentations:

#### PLANT TOURS!!!

Multiple small- and large-scale public meetings will be conducted in the future. In the meantime, brush up your Sewer Infrastructure skills by reading our Newsletters and attending Plant tours.

We, the Town’s Sewer Department, and the Commissioners have a commitment to:

- broadcasting the multiple meetings with lead time.
- with visibility to presentation materials.
- with time to synthesize, ask, contemplate.

Please show up to at least 1 of these future presentations. Repeat attendance is also permitted.

This is a multi-year (5-30) endeavor in which we have the opportunity to get it right for the next 50 years.