

Town of Thomaston  
**ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT**

Report for November 2023

*LAGOON PLANT OPERATIONS* – This was a great month for land application of the treated wastewater. We were able to land apply 17 million gallons (MG) with rainfall of 4.06 inches. The volume received for treatment was 9.21 MG. The storage lagoon was 55% full at the beginning of the month and 39% at the end. The aeration system continues to be a great concern. Blowers continue to run nearly 24 hours a day, the plant bill will continue to be much higher every month until the new system is in place.

*LAND SPRAYING OPERATIONS* – The land applied wastewater was monitored, sampled, and tested as required by our DEP permit and all parameters for spray fields 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 were within limits. Spray field one has been repaired and reworked. This concludes our land spray season. Next month we will be applying Ice and then in January discharge to the river. More equipment was damaged in the spray fields from gun fire. Security continues to be a concern.

*CONTROL CENTER OPERATIONS* – Since failing the Absolute Standards testing in April the lab has now become recertified passing and/or exceeded all requirements needed to be a Certified Lab. The Bush Hog John Deere Tractor has been sent in for evaluation as has the small lawn mower.

*PUMP STATIONS* – Townline and Buttermilk pumps continue to struggle and communications with both continue to be offline more and more. A monitor has been installed at the Dragon discharge port of entry to our system and we now can measure the amount of fluid we are getting. Interstate Septic is no longer available to service the Town of Thomaston and has been replaced with Moore Septic.

*STAFFING* – The hunt for good staff continues. Interviews have been conducted and the search is still underway.

*MUNICIPAL UTILITIES* – Street lights were in 100% working order.

This month the solar array produced 39,539 kWh of electricity that went to the grid. We were designed to produce 35,638 kWh. CMP bills totaled \$17,370.00 and the Town had \$9,272.68 in credits, with electricity costing a total of \$8097.32 for the month. While we exceeded output expectation, it is

still winter season for daylight so that means less light and our Municipal buildings were mostly up double digits for use. While extra use and lack of sunlight are contributing to higher bills the lions share still remains the fact, we only produce 80% of what we use.

The solar panels on the roof of the Environmental Department office building and garage produced as well as they can, and all was used in the treatment facility. The panels on the operation building are very much outdated. They are sized 200, the available size is 520's so we are actively looking into swapping out the panels which can be reused for other projects and the difference in output should put us over the 100% so as to make our bill effectively zero. Funding is an issue but we are looking into all opportunities.

*SEWER, STORM, AND CLEAN WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM* –Testing continues on the clean water and drain systems throughout town and at a variety of times. Results are being assessed but are pointing to individual discharge of fecal water into our clean water drain system. The clean water drain system is still operating beyond its capacity. If we receive more than 2-1/2 inches of rain in a 24-hour period it is likely basements will flood. December has a very wet forecast, should we start having flooded basements we would advise warning residents for all future rain events.

*FINANCIALS* – The department has expended 44% of the FY24 budget at the end of November. The budget remains in order and viable. Progress continues in all areas of the Environmental Dept.