

Town of Thomaston
ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

Report for September 2023

LAGOON PLANT OPERATIONS – This was a much better month for land application of the treated wastewater than August. We were able to land apply 12.5 million gallons (MG) with rainfall of 3.33 inches. The volume received for treatment was 9.4 MG. The storage lagoon was 50.80% full at the beginning of the month and 46.39% at the end. We have identified a large breach in our collection system and are working day and night to seal the breach. The Kubota ATV is still out of service.

LAND SPRAYING OPERATIONS – The land applied wastewater was monitored, sampled, and tested as required by our DEP permit and all parameters for spray fields 2, 3, 4, and 5 were within limits. Spray field one continues to remain offline. Efforts are under way to correct long term issues in our fields and each month we get closer to our goal.

CONTROL CENTER OPERATIONS – The laboratory continues looks better every month. The broken refrigerator in the lab has been replaced making sample gathering much easier. The lack of potable water continues to make operations challenging. Hopefully in the spring we may be able to address this.

PUMP STATIONS – As the fluid amounts continue to rise from Dragon Cement the Buttermilk Station is in need of changes. Currently all communication has been lost with Townline, Buttermilk and Fish Street pumping stations. Solutions are underway however resolution will likely not occur under December or January.

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

MUNICIPAL UTILITIES – Street lights were in 99% working order. one light is down and parts have been ordered.

This month the solar array produced 59,311 kWh of electricity that went to the grid. We were designed to produce 56175 kWh. CMP bills totaled \$16,573.20 and the Town had \$14,863.39 in credits, with electricity costing a total of \$1709.81 for the month.

The solar panels on the roof of the Environmental Department office building and garage produced very well and was all used in the treatment facility. Even with generating more than 59,000 kWh's this month it was not near enough to overcome the power used. As noted in last month's report, the breaches took their toll on cost. Next month the long-range forecast is calling for in excess of seven inches of rain. Rain equals no sun. I anticipate a bill in excess of \$3,000.00 next month.

SEWER, STORM, AND CLEAN WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM – Testing continues of the clean water and drain systems throughout town and at a variety of times. Results are being assessed.

FINANCIALS – The department has expended 35% of the FY24 budget at the end of September. The budget remains in order and viable. Progress continues in all areas of the Environmental Dept.