RUMFORD-MEXICO SEWERAGE DISTRICT

TRUSTEE MEETING
August 5, 2026

1. Meeting called to order by Chairman Gautreau at 5:55 PM.

2. Board members present: General Manager Roland Arsenault, Supt. Matt Desroches, Peter Gautreau, Fawn Ouellette, Carleen Robinson, Seth Flynn and Shawn Murphy (Clerk). Absent: John Blais, Bob Daigle.

3. Previous Meeting Minutes: The previous meeting minutes were reviewed and approved by the trustees.

4. Personnel: Officer elections: A motion was made by Ouellette, seconded by Robinson to keep the officers the same. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Finance:

A. Septage Receiving: The District received 164,440 gallons of septage, generating $20,047 in revenue. Septage receiving will be shut down for a few days for scheduled maintenance.

B. Current Operating Budget Status: The Board reviewed the current operating budget and year-end financial outlook. Capital funding was also reviewed. Approximately $600,000 will be paid to project vendors from Capital Account 1011-31. The account contains approximately $1.9 million consisting of remaining bond proceeds and project reimbursements. Funds will be replenished as reimbursement requests are received.

C. Vehicle Pricing: RFPs were sent to several dealerships requesting pricing on SUV-style vehicles. Responses are expected by the end of August for review at the September meeting.

D. Capital Projects:

A Dix Avenue Update: The project remains scheduled to begin in September. A pre-construction meeting was scheduled for the following day. Material delays involving electrical equipment may delay portions of the project into December.

B. Main Plant - Phase 1 Update: The Board received an update on Phase 1 construction. One previously approved change order replaced coated steel clarifier components with stainless steel.

GM Arsenault reported on a proposed change order to replace approximately 50-year-old sludge digester piping. Because the current project will already require excavation down to the depth of the existing pipes, staff recommended replacing the aging pipes now rather than leaving them beneath the new construction and risking a future failure that would require excavating newly completed pavement and infrastructure.

GM Arsenault also reported on a possible change order to replace the planned mechanical aerators with a diffused air system. The proposed change would reduce long-term maintenance by eliminating multiple mechanical aerators in favor of a blower-based system while improving overall reliability.

E. Falls Hill Valve Replacement: Replacement valves have been received. Installation is awaiting T-Buck's scheduling availability. The work will require an overnight shutdown with coordinated pumping operations and standby equipment.

F. High Bridge Replacement: The District continues to pursue funding options. Correspondence has been sent to Maine DOT, DEP, EPA and USDA regarding funding concerns. Legal counsel is exploring possible legislative appropriations. The public hearing for the bridge project has been postponed until later this fall.

6. Legal: Executive Session: The Board entered Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Following Executive Session, the Board returned to open session.

Motion by Ouellette, second by Robinson, to continue following the District Personnel Policy regarding vacation and sick leave benefits. Motion carried unanimously

7. Operations: Current compliance of operating permits.

A. Main Plant: The Main Plant continues to operate well overall. Influent Pump #1 was removed from service after staff observed unusual noise and wear. Pump #3 was placed into service after replacement of its mechanical seal. After returning to service, Pump #3 developed a leak and will be inspected by the manufacturer's representative.

B. Sludge Disposal: GM Arsenault and Supt. Desroches met with representatives from Hartland Landfill. Hartland offered the District an opportunity to extend its disposal agreement due to additional landfill capacity becoming available. GM Arsenault anticipates entering into a three- to four-year agreement, delaying anticipated increases in sludge disposal costs.

C. Rumford Point Plant: Running well.

D Pump Stations:

* Dix Avenue: No operational concerns were reported.
* Falls Hill: A plug on pump 1 occurred during the day but was addressed. Valve replacement work remains pending.
* South Rumford: No issues were reported.

8. Buildings: Replacement man-doors have been ordered for the Loader Garage, Falls Hill and Rumford Point. Supt. Desroches reported on T-Buck Construction's proposal. After discussion regarding demolition, concrete and structural work required for installation, the Board approved the project.

Motion by Flynn, second by Ouellette, to authorize T-Buck Construction to replace four metal doors at three District facilities for an amount not to exceed approximately $40,000. Motion carried unanimously.

Supt. Desroches reported on repairs needed to the overhead door openers at the Main Plant and will continue obtaining pricing.

9. Collection System:

A. Manhole Rehabilitation: Vortex began rehabilitation work on District manholes Monday, August 3. Several manholes have already been completed. Future work will continue on Falls Hill, the flood zone and along the river corridor.

B. Mowing and Tree Removal: Supt. Desroches reviewed the annual mowing and tree removal program required to maintain sewer easements. Motion by Ouellette, second by Robinson, to authorize annual mowing and tree removal at a cost not to exceed $20,000. Motion carried unanimously. Additional tree removal may be contracted as needed along sewer corridors.

10. Other Business:

A. Executive Session: The Board entered Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter. Following Executive Session, the Board returned to open session.

Motion by Ouellette, second by Robinson, to continue following the District Personnel Policy regarding vacation and sick leave benefits. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Adjournment: Motion by Ouellette, seconded by Robinson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.

Shawn Murphy, Clerk