

## **Special Council Meeting**

**October 27, 2025**

A duly warned Special Meeting of the Newport City Council was held on Monday, October 27, 2025 in the council room in the Newport Municipal Building. Present Were Mayor rick Ufford-Chase, council members John Monette, Andrew Touchette, Carter Finegan, Kari Schulze, City Clerk/Treasure James Johnson, Members of the Public.

Mayor Ufford-Chase called the meeting to order T 6:02 PM.

### **Additions/Deletions**

None

### **Consent Agenda, Minutes 10/20/25, AP Warrants 10/20/25, 10/24/25**

Ms. Finegan moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

### **Proposed Water and Sewer Rates (attached)**

Mr. Monette moved to approve the increase of the water base connection rate \$21.65 per quarter effective November 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mr. Monette moved to increase the sewer connection rate per quarter \$32.01 effective November 1, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Mr. Monette moved to ratify that if a meter is installed during the first half of the quarter, the meter is entered into NEMRC and billing for the quarter is generated as if the meter was installed for the entire quarter. If the meter is installed during the second half of the quarter, it is nor entered into NEMRC until after the quarter closes such that the billing for the entire quarter in which the meter is installed is at the flat rate. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

### **Public Comment**

Ms. Chairello spoke on the City Charter revision process

Ms. Hopkins spoke on the City charter revision process, taking a deep look at expenses during the budget process. And the purchase of the Zodiak boat for the fire Dept.

Ms. McIntyre spoke on the NDD video.

**New Business**

Mayor Ufford-Chase spoke about replacing the City Credit Card. Kari is looking into the best way to obtain a new credit card(s)

Mayor Ufford-Chase spoke about participating in the Opioid Settlement with Purdue and the Sackler Family and the Settlement Alvoegn.

Mr. Monette moved to authorize the mayor to sign all documents necessary for the Purdue and Sackler Family settlement. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

Mr. Touchette moved to authorize the mayor to sign all document related to the Alvogen settlement. Seconded by Ms. Finegan, motion carried.

**Old Business**

Ms. Finegan noted that the Finance Committee is working on the credit card and appropriations policies.

Mayor Ufford-Chase stated that he and Mr. Charboneau are working on the Personnel Policy. The two main points are Overtime and the Grievance process. The draft language is being reviewed by the City Attorney.

**Next Meeting Date**

Ms. Finegan moved to set the next meeting date for November 3, 2025 at the Gateway at 6pm. Seconded by Mr. Monette, motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Mr. Monette moved to adjourn at 6:51 pm. Seconded by Mr. Touchette, motion carried.

Attested James Johnson this 3<sup>rd</sup> Day of November 2025

[Signature] Mayor

**City of Newport, VT**  
**Water and Sewer Task Force**  
**Rate Adjustment Proposal**  
**October 27, 2025**



The City of Newport Water and Sewer Task force respectfully offer the following proposed water and sewer rate increases to the City of Newport City Council members for their consideration.

**Information used to Calculate proposed water rate increases**

The following information which was used to calculate the proposed rate increases was obtained for City staff, auditors and task force members. In the calculations you will see separate two and four quarter calculations. The four quarter calculations revolve mainly around the water department loan repayment where as the two quarter calculations is strictly what the water department already owes the general fund back for the current year. The total of the two calculations is the basis for the task force recommendation to the increase to minimum connection rate and its associated rates.

**Water information breakdown and calculation:**

Next 4 Quarters rate increase calculation

	\$
Water Department Loan	202,000.00
	\$
New Tank Maintenance cost	<u>10,000.00</u>
	\$
	212,000.00
	\$
Budgeted Loan payment amount in current budget	<u>(195,000.00)</u>
	\$
	17,000.00
	\$
Water well redevelopment project	<u>66,000.00</u>
	\$
	83,000.00
	\$
Cost per quarter over 4 quarters	20,750.00
	\$
Increase to connection rate per quarter (1790 users)	11.59

10/27/2025

**MEMO: Regarding Opioid Settlements**

If the City would like to participate in these settlements, it should make a motion to:

1. authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to participate in the settlement with Purdue and the Sackler Family.
2. authorize the Mayor to execute all documents necessary to participate in the settlements with the eight (8) Secondary Manufacturers.

**PURDUE**

To participate in the up to \$7.4B settlement with Purdue and the Sackler Family, the municipality must agree to the lengthy settlement agreement found here:

<https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/purdue-sacklers-settlements/>

It can do so by executing the Subdivision Participation and Release Form through the administrator's online system. A PDF copy is located here:

[https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Fillable\\_Purdue\\_-\\_GESA\\_Exhibit\\_K\\_Subdivision\\_Participation\\_Form-1.pdf](https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Fillable_Purdue_-_GESA_Exhibit_K_Subdivision_Participation_Form-1.pdf)

**Key Points**

- In order to become a participant in the settlement, the municipality must release all claims it may have against Purdue and its shareholders (including the Sackler family members).
  - This includes all claims that currently exist, even if the municipality does not know (or suspect) they exist.
- The settlement contains injunctive relief governing opioid dispensing practices and requires the successor-in-interest of Purdue Pharma L.P. to implement safeguards to prevent diversion of prescription opioids, and also restrict certain Sacklers from directly or indirectly engaging in the manufacturing or sale of opioids.
- Anything the municipality receives from the settlement fund must be used for purposes that qualify as "Opioid Remediation". Examples are provided here:  
<https://nationalopioidsettlement.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/07/Purdue-GESA-Exhibit-E-List-of-Opioid-Remediation-Uses.pdf>
  - This is the same list of examples used in the previous opioid settlements with Walmart, CVS, Teva, Janssen, etc.

- Calculating the municipality's payout is complicated, and the amount that the municipality will ultimately receive is based on whether certain incentive payments are triggered. My best attempt to estimate a ballpark of what the City would receive (based on its 0.012443589 share of Vermont's Subdivision Fund) is within a range of \$6,000 - \$24,000.
- As with the other settlements that the municipality might have considered, and/or in which it has participated, the main consideration is whether the City would prefer to pursue claims against Purdue in its own (or join a) separate suit, rather than release all of its claims in exchange for the terms negotiated in this settlement. In my opinion, it seems unlikely that the City would do better by choosing a path other than this settlement.
- A municipality can wait to join after the initial participation date, but it would not receive any payments that were made before it became a participant. It would also receive a reduced share if it participates later than 6 months from the initial date and/or if it decides to participate after it loses a lawsuit (but before a final appeal is taken). There does not seem to be any reason for the City to wait to participate, given that it does not have near-term plans to sue Purdue or its related parties.

#### **"SECONDARY MANUFACTURERS" SETTLEMENT**

The municipality can also participate in the Alvogen settlement, along with settlements with Amneal, Apotex, Hikma, Indivior, Mylan, Sun, and Zydus, by submitting the Secondary Manufacturers' Combined Subdivision Participation and Release Form that the municipality received by email.

These settlements are all relatively small; Vermont's share of the total settlement is roughly \$1.8M. As with the other opioid settlements, 15% of Vermont's share is made available through a subdivision fund for municipalities to receive direct payments. Based on the municipality's 0.012443589 share, the municipality would expect to receive in the ballpark of \$3,000 by signing on to these settlements.

The municipality is also given the option to reallocate its share back to the State (where it would be added to the Vermont Abatement Account Fund). I assume this option is available for towns where the amount is so insignificant that it would be difficult to put it to any use. However, the municipality could combine these funds with any other (relatively) more significant payments it has received from other opioid settlements.

Please note: Other than Alvogen, I have not reviewed each individual settlement agreement because the small amount received by the municipality would not seem to justify the legal expense of my review. It is reasonable to assume that these are structured in a substantially similar way – namely, the municipality must release all claims, known or unknown, and must use the funds for opioid remediation.