

About Danville Sewer Rates

Danville's wastewater system has about 160 connections in the Village. Its operations and maintenance are covered by user fees. Rates had only seen a nominal increase over the course of several years --and they had fallen significantly behind those of similarly-sized systems. You can do some rate comparison here: <https://dashboards.efc.sog.unc.edu/vt>

Until 2025, our rate structure was not sustainable. In fact, our wastewater operations ran at a deficit of **\$45,230** from 2020 to 2025, with the largest deficit occurring in 2024.

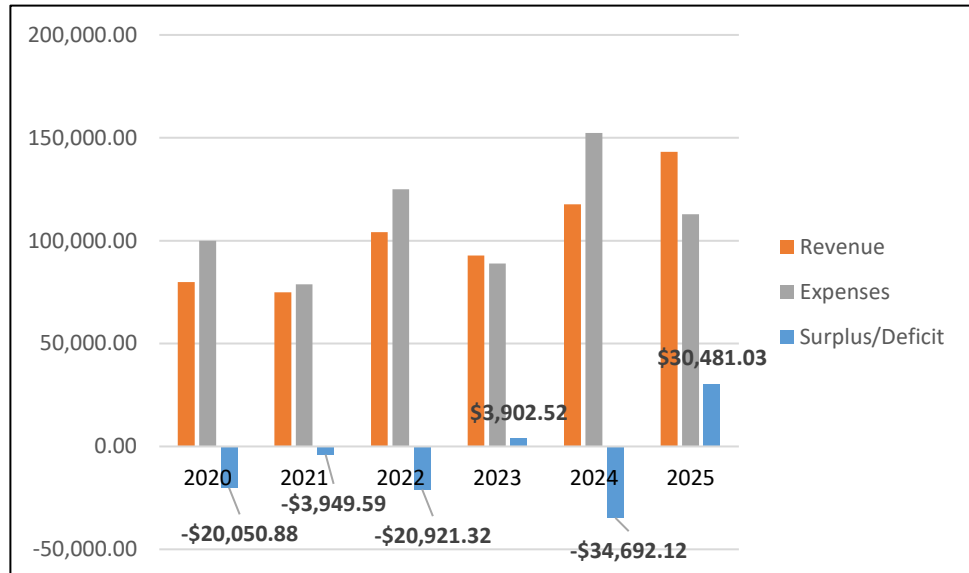
When we run a deficit, monies from the maintenance fund make up the

difference. And so, while we'll continue to see a course correction with the new fee structure, we have some catching up to do maintenance-wise. At the end of the calendar year, we had just over \$148,162 in our maintenance account. If all goes well in 2026, we'll be able to set aside \$45,000.

These maintenance funds are critical. While the system has operated reliably since 1983, many components of the system are nearing the end of their useful lives. Also, we will face some challenges in meeting permit requirements due to the sensitivity of the receiving water. The Water Andric is a very small stream, and when stream flows are too low, we have to store the effluent. Last year, we completed a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER) with Dufresne Group. They identified the following:

- **Collection System Improvements:** Equipment replacement and upgrades at the Railroad Street Pump Station and the Sugar Ridge pump stations; and
- **Treatment Facility Improvements:** Sludge removal; installation of a cover and upgraded mixing in Lagoon #1 and a polishing reactor with option to add baffles to Lagoon # 2 with chemical injection for additional phosphorus removal to meet future permit limits; upgrades to the existing UV system; mechanical and electrical upgrades; generator installation. (Process improvements to the lagoons will allow us to minimize ammonia and phosphorus runoff.)

The projected cost for construction in 2026 dollars is \$2,224,600. Funds from the Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund are available, but we are also looking to defray costs with grant funding



opportunities. Our funding scenario will require a local share. As we continue to explore every avenue, we will carefully weigh the financial impacts on its users.

The proposed system upgrade is a major investment – the first of its kind in more than four decades. But it's worthwhile. A functioning wastewater system is the backbone of our vibrant, beautiful Village. Without it, we would not enjoy the enviable mix of businesses, restaurants, civic and community services near around our iconic Village Green.

To learn more about our system and read the Preliminary Engineering Report, visit our web site:

<https://danvillevt.gov/projects/wwtf-upgrade/>