

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: September 16, 2015
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, Jack Malone, Catherine Osten, First
Selectman, William Idarola, Todd Hastings, Christine Kurtz, Wright
Pierce, Andy Trudelle, grant writer
Absent: None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Dennison Allen, Chairman.

Minutes and Disbursements:

Jack Malone made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 19, 2015 meeting and the disbursements for August in the amount of \$37,003.33. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion was passed by all members voting in favor.

Wright Pierce:

Christine asked the board members if we had heard anything from Attorney Richard Cody in regards to the Norwich inter-municipal agreement. Cathy Osten said she has talked to Attorney Cody about other things but did not touch on this subject.

A discussion ensued on using the Baltic Reservoir as a secondary water source as opposed to going to Norwich. Cathy took over the discussion and said that she feels that this decision is 5-6 years away from having to be made but feels that we should not go with Norwich but keep our own water source.

Discuss and possibly act to on sewer repair project in Hanover:

Dennison addressed the board members and those present giving them an update on the problem with the sewer pipes in Hanover and the decisions he made. Roots are invading the pipes, breaking them and stopping the flow thus building up pressure which could cause a sewer backup. He felt that this was an emergency situation and acted accordingly to take care of the problem.

First Selectman, Cathy Osten spoke to the board and said that she has issues with the

process that took place in making these decisions and did not like being left out of the loop. She was informed of the problem and had the grant writer start the search for any grants to help pay for this fix and asked Superintendent, Todd Hastings to delay work. Due to the emergency situation Todd started the work and she felt that she was not informed properly. She told the board members that it is difficult to get monies to cover a project after the fact. She also feels that the work that is being done does not meet the standards of the recommendation by the engineer on pipe size. Much discussion followed.

Andy Trudelle, grant writer asked the board for a final price and asked if the figures he has been given cover everything. Discussion. The price from the contractor was \$78,200, but we will need to add in a cost for the engineers which has been given a \$5,000.00 value.

Todd explained the pricing and that it was in three phases due to conditions that were discovered during the job. Christine addressed the pipe size issue and said that the six (6) inch pipe is sufficient to handle the flow in that area. Todd said that he was informed by the First Selectman that the road will be unplowable this winter if we fix it the way that is planned to return it to its original condition and she had her engineers come out to access the situation. Todd had our engineers come out to do the same and their report show that putting it back to its original condition is fine. Discussion followed.

Discuss and possibly act on sewer bill for 31 West Main Street:

Kathleen passed out a bill for 31 West Main Street which shows a balance due of \$1,025.41 and explained that the Town of Sprague is foreclosing on this property for past due taxes and they will be taking ownership of this property soon. She also explained that the owner of the property had come in and expressed his desire to pay off this bill but realizes that he will not be timely in paying this back. Dennison Allen explained the board that the owner has little or no income to afford to pay this back and the probability is slim that we will collect this. The house is in such disrepair that it will have to be torn down. Discussion followed.

Jack Malone made a motion that we eliminate this bill from our receivables or accounts due list but not from memory and any payment received will go towards this bad debt. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Discuss and possibly act on cleanup at Baltic Mill site left by VMS:

Cathy Osten had left and Dennison spoke to the board that he has been over to the Baltic Mill site to look at the problem. Todd Hastings told the board that there is one pile over there that was left by VMS Construction. They left this pile because we had been approached by a resident who indicated that they were interested in using this material but they failed to follow through and take the material. Discussion. Todd has contracted someone to come and remove this pile and Kathleen will let the First Selectman know.

First Selectman report:

Cathy Osten had left to go to another meeting.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd informed the board members that the DPH will be here on the 25th of September for a drinking water inspection. He said that they have added a lot of items that they will be looking for and he will be getting together with Kathleen to get the items needed.

Todd also spoke to the board regarding mapping of the water system and Atlantic States will be helping to put the mapping together in paper format. There is no charge for this effort. We will send a letter of thanks to the agency.

DEEP wants mapping of the sewer system for all areas and is giving Todd until December to complete. Discussion followed.

Todd informed the board that he thinks that we have a water leak somewhere. Gallons generated are coming in high one day and down the next and over and over again. He has had Atlantic States out to search for the leak and have not found anything to date after doing main streets. He will start looking at side streets as soon as Atlantic States can fit us into their schedule. He informed the board that the river crossings are hampering the search. Discussion followed.

Todd told the board that he had received a call from the gentlemen that came down to give us an estimate to replace our meters and update the system to enable us to do a reading remotely. They are running a special and have given a price of \$24,000.00 for 48 meters plus the program. Discussion followed.

Review bills for payment:

A copy of the Check Detail was given to all the board members that detailed all the checks that have been written out since our August meeting. The board members reviewed the list. Any questions were answered.

Review past due accounts:

A report was handed out to all board members. The amount of accounts past due is \$23,790.80 of that amount \$3,181.57 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$2,824.54 of that amount currently has payment plans in place. Accounts totaling \$913.37 are pending either shut off or foreclosure procedures. Payments received total \$ 821.66 since this was printed.

Versailles past due accounts total is \$3,958.68 and accounts pending being sent to attorney for foreclosure is \$657.72.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Kathleen showed the board members an email that she received on a Financial Management Workshop for small water systems to be held at the Groton Utilities on October 14, 2015. There is no cost for this seminar. Kathleen asked if they would like her to attend. They gave their approval.

Kathleen told the board that CIRMA has paid the claim for the sewer back-up in Versailles and the case is now closed.

Andy Trudelle asked about the PILOT program payment that they failed to make for 2014. He wanted to know if there were any fees or late charges. Dennison said that due to the type of payment this is and that it is not posted until received there would be no fees or late charges.

Jack Malone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.