

# **MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

Date: July 16, 2014  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Place: Sprague Town Hall  
Present: Dennison Allen, Todd Hastings, Todd LaPointe, Cathy Osten, First  
Selectman, Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce, Tom Hannon, Keith  
Duprey

Absent: Jack Malone

## **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 p.m. by Dennison Allen, Chairman.

## **Minutes and Disbursements:**

Tom Hannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on June 18, 2014 and the disbursements for June in the amount of \$25,739.07. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen . A vote was called and the motion passed.

## **Wright Pierce:**

Christine Kurtz updated the board on the following projects:

DOT bridge project is moving along with the temp work done and the hydrant being Ordered. Discussion followed.

Wright Pierce is continually working on the EOP. She informed the board that she is waiting to hear from the state on the one sample taken from the Reservoir to determine whether or not it can be used for a backup water source. A total of four (4) need to be done over a period of time. Discussion followed.

The dam is still being monitored.

Pump Station #2 project is progressing per schedule. A discussion ensued on the SCADA system location cost. Christine indicated that she would like to see if C.H, Nickerson can possibly do some of this work to keep the costs down. She will keep the board informed.

Christine indicated that Norwich Public Utilities still has not responded to their suggestions and questions regarding the inter-municipal agreement, therefore no meetings between Sprague and the other towns have been scheduled.

### **First Selectman Report:**

Cathy Osten informed the board that all the paperwork has been submitted to the state to close out the Clean Water Fund loan for the I & I project. She indicated that she had rolled in the interest so the Water & Sewer Authority will not have to make an immediate payment. Discussion followed.

Cathy spoke to the resident Keith Duprey and explained to him about Fusion and the possibility of sewer regionalization or sewer plant upgrades and the possibility of getting PPG grants either from STEAP (outside of Baltic) or CDBG (within Baltic). Discussion followed.

Cathy told the board that she was approached by someone that would like to put several greenhouses over by LaCroix Bridge but they would need 40,000 gallons a day once they are up and running. She also indicated that she has also been asked by the Speilman Farm owners that they are interested in getting water up to their farm and she told Todd to speak to them. She asked the board if this is something that the current wells could handle? Discussion followed.

Todd spoke up and said that he thinks that the Mukluk property would be the place where the Authority should drill new wells in order to fulfill this request. Discussion followed. Possibility of using surface water and having it directly piped to the greenhouse was also discussed.

After much discussion Cathy indicated that she would like to see Christine and Todd work together to come up with a plan of costs to enable us to meet these demands and new customers.

Cathy told the board that they have been having problems up at the reservoir with people breaking locked gates, running over posts to bring vehicles up there and have been doing things that are not permitted such as bonfires. She has instructed the Resident State Trooper to arrest anyone that he catches doing this. Cathy also asked the W & S workers and board members to keep a watchful eye up there and jot down the license number of vehicles that they see that they are not familiar with and give it to her or call 911 as she has informed the State Police of the ongoing problems. Discussion followed.

### **Status Report from Todd Hastings:**

Todd updated the board on the broken lateral at the ball field. He told them that due to unforeseen circumstances the price had increased. They found pipe encased in several yards of concrete and had to jackhammer it out in order to repair the problem properly.

Well #5 has not been producing as it has in the past and he thought there might be a hole in the piping so he had the pump pulled and found that was not the case but that the motor was good but the pump end was bad. He ordered a new one and will keep the old motor as a spare. He has not received an invoice for this job yet.

Todd had to buy new tires for the truck and while the mechanic was changing these they discovered some other repairs that needed to be done. Todd authorized them to do the repairs. Since then he has been criticized by a subordinate for authorizing these repairs. Discussion followed. Todd informed the board that he was told that he should have bought the parts for the repair and done it himself. Todd was uncomfortable doing this since he is not a mechanic and did not want to make repairs on a vehicle that other people would be driving and have something go wrong. Discussion followed.

Todd told the board that he had contacted Mr. Spielman per Cathy Osten's request and spoke to him about his request to get town water. Todd explained the conversation that he had with Mr. Spielman and relayed to the board why they are looking to get town water. The water that his cows are drinking is laden with bacteria and their milk production is down and the veterinarian thinks this could be the reason. Todd told him the possible costs to bring the water line up to them and that it could not be done overnight but would be a lengthy process. He suggested that he speak to our instrument guy and see if they can put in a chemical pump on their current water source to alleviate the bacteria for the time being. When Mr. Santoro from Introl comes down to the plant he will bring him up to speak with Mr. Spielman.

Todd told the board that he is still having problems with employees with weekend duty responding to alarms. Discussion.

Todd informed the board that he will be taking some time off for vacation, July 31<sup>st</sup> thru August 5<sup>th</sup> and August 20<sup>th</sup> thru August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Discuss and possibly act on Reservoir and the maintenance of property by Water & Sewer Authority:**

Dennison Allen spoke to the board regarding the owning of the reservoir and the maintenance of this property. The Town of Sprague owns the property and he asked why the Water & Sewer is doing maintenance work up there. Cathy informed him that the Town workers take care of the maintenance around the reservoir and the Water & Sewer is responsible for inside the bowl. Todd has had some problems with Water & Sewer employees refusing to do this maintenance inside the bowl. Much discussion followed. Todd was told to write a letter of reprimand to any worker refusing to respond to a directive.

**Set Public Hearing Date:**

A discussion was held and the hearing was scheduled for immediately following our August 20, 2014 meeting. Kathleen will take care of the advertisement and notices.

**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 June meeting. The board members reviewed the list and asked any questions they may have had..

**Review past due accounts:**

A report was handed out to all board members. The amount of accounts past due is \$69,498.823 of that amount \$8,489.51 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$13,631.11 of that amount currently has payment plans in place. \$10,454.53 of that amount is pending either shut-off or foreclosure and she has received payments of \$2,362.68 Versailles past due accounts total is \$4,719.58 and payment plan is in place for \$457.13 and \$570.73 is pending foreclosure. Discussion followed.

**Discuss and possibly act on new board member recommendation:**

Dennison Allen, Chairman welcomed resident Keith Duprey and asked him to tell the board a little about himself and his reasons why he would like to become a board member. Discussion followed.

The board members present asked that we send a letter to the Board of Selectman recommending Mr. Duprey to serve on the Water & Sewer Authority Board.

**Any other business to come before said meeting:**

Kathleen handed out a copy of the rate schedule for the water and sewer services provided to our customers and asked that they review it. A discussion was held on the customer meter service charge. The charge will be per meter and not per EDU.

Tom Hannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Todd LaPointe. The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.