

# MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: July 20, 2016  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Place: Sprague Town Hall  
Present: Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, William Idarola, Jack Malone, Todd Hastings, Christine Kurtz, Wright Pierce, Cathy Osten, First Selectman  
Absent: None

## **Call to Order:**

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Dennison Allen, Chairman.

## **Minutes and Disbursements:**

Jack Malone made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 15, 2016 and the Public Hearing on June 15, 2016 meeting and the disbursements for June in the amount of \$40,517.39. 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 spoke to the board regarding an email that was received by the Authority regarding a state project for bridge replacement. There was some confusion as to where the actual bridge that was being replaced was since the map showed a different location from the Beaver Brook Bridge outside the Town Hall. Discussion followed. After much discussion Christine said she would continue to stay on top of this project and let us know of her findings.

A discussion ensued on the Osha violation and the need for help from Christine to take care of three of the citing of violations. Christine said she will work on getting us the needed information to abate this problem.

## **Discuss and possibly act on interest removal for 2-10 West Main Street:**

Kathleen explained that Mr. Patel the owner of 2-10 West Main Street had come into the office and said that he had received a late notice but never received the original bill for sewer use. Mr. Patel was very upset and claimed that he felt he was being cheated and did not feel that he should have to pay a penalty for a bill that he never received. He has asked that the late charge be waived since he has always paid his bill on time or before it is due. Discussion followed. It states on the every quarterly bill that failure to receive a bill does not relieve the owner of any possible interest and lien charges. Concern that we could have a problem with multiple customers asking for this was discussed. Kathleen

said that she would like it understood that this will be a one time thing.

Bill Idarola made a motion to remove the interest on this bill without precedence or prejudice. This motion was seconded by Jack Malone. A vote was called and the motion passed by all in favor.

**Discuss problems with trash and debris at Reservoir and possible signage to alleviate this:**

Cathy Osten was not present when this item came up for discussion. Kathleen explained to the board what Cathy had told her when she explained to her why we were discussing this. Cathy indicated that she has signage up at the reservoir and is not going to put anymore.

Cathy arrived late and this item was again discussed and she indicated that she realizes that there is a problem up there and has alerted the resident State Trooper to patrol the area and to ticket repeat offenders. Discussion.

**Discuss and possibly act on solar project at sewer plant:**

A copy of the email that was received along with some information sheets were passed out. Since we have not been in on the discussions of this project directly it was decided to table this until we could get more information.

Cathy came late and this item was reopened and discussed. Cathy explained what she knew about this project and said that she has sent for more information to get answers to many of the boards questions but has not gotten any reply as of yet. It was decided that we would ask a representative to come to our next meeting to get more information. Discussion followed. Cathy said that this project should help alleviate the high electric bill that we get monthly at the sewer plant and should save the Authority a considerable amount of money.

**First Selectman report:**

The First Selectman spoke to the board and informed them that the bonding was approved and that it included money for the splitter box and the cameras. She said that Todd has the name and number of the gentleman that has done the camera work for the town and that he should call him and set up an appointment for him to start the work of installing cameras at Pump Station #2, Pump Station #3, Pump Station #4, the sewer plant and the reservoir. This would cover most the assets of the Authority. She has also asked Todd to get started on getting the splitter box replaced. The question arose that if there was any money left over could the Authority use that money for other projects. Cathy indicated that if there was money left she would recommend to the BOF that the Authority use it for other sewer projects.

**Discuss and possibly act on OSHA Violation notification and penalty:**

Copies of the letters from OSHA stating the violations that were found were handed out and discussion followed. Kathleen also provided the letters that were sent in reply to these violations for the board members to read.

Todd spoke to Christine from Wright Pierce about her getting us the needed books to have at the plant that addresses the concerns from OSHA. Discussion followed.

**Status Report from Todd Hastings:**

Todd informed the board members that in taking care of the OSHA violations David Trainor had burnt out his drill and he instructed him to purchase a new one to replace the burnt out one.

Todd said that the lawn mower at the plant has run its course and he had called to get prices from dealers for a new one and found that they would take the old one in trade. They would give us a \$400.00 credit. Operator David Trainor asked if he could purchase the old mower and he would give us the \$400.00. Todd approved that and he gave Kathleen the money from David and ordered a new mower.

Todd explained to the board that he had called the State with a problem that he had incurred while cutting down trees on the island at the reservoir. The state now wants a plan on the removal of the trees. Atlantic States will be coming down to help him with that. Discussion.

Todd told the board members that he had gotten a visit from a representative of G.A. Fleet Associates, Inc. regarding the pumps at Pump Station #1. He told the board that Xylem has identified a small population in four sizes of their closed loop cooled pumps, which were built using incorrectly mixed coolant. We have those pumps. They are recommending that we pull any of these pumps and permit them to take them to their repair facility where they will replace the coolant and look at any damage that might have taken place due to this error. Discussion followed. The board told Todd to go ahead with this request and get them repaired.

Board member Tom Hannon asked where we are with the dam repairs. Cathy Osten said that she has asked the State for direction as to what way to repair this dam but has not gotten any response.. Dennison indicated that the board had come up with several plans from the most practical and inexpensive to take care of the dam. Cathy asked that they get her their plans and she will put in for grants to get this project on the path to getting completed. Discussion.

**Discuss and possibly go into executive session to discuss employee benefits:**

Dennison asked the board members to take home the paperwork that was handed out and review it and come back to the next meeting with any concerns and/or suggestions that they might have regarding funding these benefits and be prepared to discuss it.

**Review bills paid:**

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. No one had any questions.

**Review past due accounts:**

A report was handed out to all board members. The amount of accounts past due is \$46,163.92 of that amount \$2,111.77 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$1,711.27 of that amount currently has payment plans in place. Accounts pending shutoff or foreclosure are \$2,664.40. Payments received are \$3,115.30. Accounts foreclosed on by the Town of Sprague Tax Collector and in process of being turned over to the Town of Sprague, \$2,661.16.

Versailles past due accounts total is \$3,008.47.

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

Jack Malone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.