

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: August 17, 2016
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, William Idarola, Jack Malone, Todd
Hastings, Meagan Occhiogrosso from Greenskies
Absent:

Call to Order:

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

Minutes and Disbursements:

Tom Hannon made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 20, 2016 and the disbursements for July in the amount of \$38,396.44. This motion was seconded by Bill Idarola. A vote was called and the motion was passed by all members present voting in favor.

Presentation from Meagan Occhiogrosso on the solar project at sewer plant:

Meagan Occhiogrosso addressed the board members and Superintendent and gave them a handout and information regarding the solar project. She explained the benefits and savings that the Authority would receive based on the information from our current electric rates. This project will be constructed at no cost to the Town or the Authority.

Meagan explained that this will not zero out the bill since Eversource has many charges on each bill that they cannot take care of but they will significantly reduce the demand and generation costs. We are currently paying 16 to 17 cents per kilowatt hour and once the solar array is installed and up and running they will reduce that to 7 cents. It would be a twenty year contract that the town would have to sign. Bill Idarola told Meagan that he would like to see it go to 6 cents per kilowatt hour and discussion ensued. Meagan said she would see if she could lower that cost and will let us know. They would like to start on the project spring of 2017.

Dennison said that he would like a site visit to see the area and get a feel for where it will be located, how it is going to work. Meagan said that she would talk to her people and set up a meeting at the site for all members to get a feel for where and how it will be done. The board suggested that we meet before next months meeting at the site for a walk through and come back to the Town Hall for our regular meeting after.

Jack Malone made a motion in the event that the Town approves the installation of the solar energy project, we the Sprague Water & Sewer Authority are in favor of it and in

conjunction would like to oversee the positioning of it. This motion was seconded by Bill Idarola. Discussion. Bill Idarola reiterated that he would like to see the kilowatt hour price drop to below the 7 cents. After discussion a vote was called and the motion was passed by all members voting in favor.

First Selectman report:

The First Selectman was not present.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd told the board members that he had received a call from the lab while he was attending a seminar that they had a positive e-coli hit on the water sample from the Town Hall. He called the state and they told him to re-sample all wells and to sample the surrounding houses to the positive test site. Results from re-testing came back fine.

Todd explained to the board that he had received a call on Saturday from a member of the Baltic Fire Department that a house on Main Street, Baltic had water shooting through the wall in the basement. Todd arrived on scene and shut off the main and went to the door of the home affected and spoke to the tenant. The tenant said that the water had stopped prior to Todd shutting off the main. He went into the home and down to the basement to look at the pipes and the tenant brought him to the back of the property wall where the water was shooting out from. Todd told the tenant that the water line is in the front of the house not the back and he was confused as to what could be causing this water leaking. Since it had stopped Todd opened up the main again and it did not leak so he left. On Sunday, Todd received a call from Andre Trudelle that his neighbor had water shooting into his basement. This house was three houses down from the previous house. Todd went to investigate and found that it was located at the back of the home where the old abandoned pipes were and not from our current active lines. Discussion followed. Dennison would like to have Todd and Kathleen call our insurance company and attorney and see what our liability is on this since these lines were cut when the water lines were moved to the front of the homes. It was suggested that our employees do an inspection of the homes on this block and see if they can see any plumbing has been done on the connections that might have fed this abandoned lines.

Todd told the board that we have received the approved NPDES permit. Discussion on new testing and reporting requirements ensued.

Todd informed the board that he would like to take off next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The board asked if he had coverage and he said yes so they had no problem with his request.

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 \$30,056.23 of that amount \$2,141.02 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$1,736.83 of that amount currently has payment plans in place. Accounts pending shutoff or foreclosure are \$2,679.67. Payments received are \$357.85. Accounts foreclosed on by the Town of Sprague Tax Collector and in process of being turned over to the Town of Sprague, \$2,695.22

Versailles past due accounts total is \$3,316.63.

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

Discussion followed on employee benefits and how the Authority will be able to fund any new benefits. After much discussion this item was tabled and will be put on the agenda for our next meeting.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Tom Hannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Bill Idarola. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.