

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: October 19, 2016
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, William Idarola, Todd Hastings, Kenneth Fitzgerald and Denise Downing
Absent: Jack Malone

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m. by Dennison Allen, Chairman.

Minutes and Disbursements:

Tom Hannon made a motion to approve the minutes from the August 17, 2016 and the disbursements for August in the amount of \$40,608.52 and September in the amount of \$24,622.27. This motion was seconded by Bill Idarola. A vote was called and the motion was passed by all members present voting in favor.

Kenneth Fitzgerald to discuss opening Laundromat at 2 West Main Street:

Mr. Fitzgerald and Ms. Downing addressed the members and explained their plans of opening a Laundromat on West Main Street. They wanted to know what was required by Sprague WPCA in order to discharge into our sewer system. Much discussion followed. They were urged by the board to gather more information with specifics and come back to present at our next meeting.

Wright Pierce:

Wright Pierce was not present at the meeting and no report was sent.

Update sewer regulations to reflect new Mandatory Sewer Upgrade charge:

Kathleen explained to the board members that we needed to update the sewer regulations to include the new Mandatory Sewer Upgrade charge to Item 7. The addition will be added as follows:

If the owner requests an exception to the sewer charge due to the property being unoccupied the EDU does not change and the owner of the unit will still be responsible for the Wastewater Recovery Assessment **and the mandatory sewer upgrade charge**. The sewer fee will be charged at a reduced rate during this exception. The property owner must reside on the premises for which the exception is being asked for.

Discussion followed. After much discussion Bill Idarola made a motion to add the mandatory sewer upgrade charge to the sewer regulations. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Discuss and possible act on water use charge for 112-114 Main Street:

Kathleen explained to the board members that this property had their water turned on in May of 2015 and did not have a water reading on this property since that time. Kathleen had sent letters to the customer to contact us to get the meter inspected but those letters went unanswered. We finally changed out the meter this past billing period in September and discovered that we could not get the previous usage due to the meter being broken. Todd spoke to the board and said that he believes that the customer was not living there the whole time but was rehabbing the home and only recently moved in full time. Much discussion followed.

Bill Idarola made a motion to get a full quarter reading and take this reading to figure and back bill the customer for his back usage on the next quarterly billing in December. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. Discussion followed. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Discussion ensued on measures to take when customers do not answer letters sent to have them contact us to check or repair meters due to it not reading. Bill Idarola suggested that we should fine them if they do not contact us within a reasonable amount of time. Kathleen indicated that we would need to update our regulations to include this fine and the board asked that she get the verbiage and bring it to the next meeting so we can add it to our regulations.

First Selectman report:

The First Selectman was not present.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd told the board members that one of the pumps at Pump Station #1 has been pulled and brought back to the shop and was found that it was not one of the defective pumps. They will be taking the other pumps soon and checking them as well.

Cameras are up at all the stations and Comcast has come out and checked all locations and we will run cable to connect them. Discussion followed on the cost to do this and the savings that will be realized. Todd indicated that they need to dig a trench to install the cable and Comcast's cost for the 100 foot trench would be \$9,000. Todd said that he had dug a trench there some time ago and the WPCA workers can dig it up and save this cost. More discussion on the cost from Comcast on the charges for the cameras.

Bill Idarola made a motion to have Todd get the most reasonable term contract with

Comcast. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Todd told the board that winter is coming and he was wondering if the board wanted to continue with the agreement to have Todd use his personal truck for plowing snow for the cost of \$35.00/hour. All board members approved continuation of this agreement.

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 August 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 \$62,500.22 of that amount \$1,052.88 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$1,736.83 of that amount currently has payment plans in place. Accounts pending shutoff or foreclosure are \$16,233.26. 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, \$3,040.01.

Versailles past due accounts total is \$3,602.26.

Discuss and possibly act on continued problems with meter readings on certain customers:

Discussion followed on issues we have had with problematic meters. One customer in particular has the meter running backwards. It was decided that Kathleen and Todd would contact this customer and go and inspect this meter. Todd has ordered and received new meter heads to change out future problematic meters.

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.