

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: May 18, 2016
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, William Idarola, Jack Malone, Todd Hastings, Christine Kurtz, Wright Pierce
Absent: Cathy Osten, First Selectman

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. by Dennison Allen, Chairman.

Minutes and Disbursements:

Tom Hannon made a motion to approve the minutes from the April 20, 2016 meeting and the disbursements for April in the amount of \$27,594.90. This motion was seconded by Bill Idarola. A vote was called and the motion was passed by all members voting in favor.

Wright Pierce:

Christine said that she had no news to update. Cathy Osten asked that she get a price for an environmental study and preliminary engineering report. Cathy said that USDA is requesting it before they can decide on the SCADA system for Pump Station #3 and #4. Discussion followed.

Todd spoke to Christine and the board explaining that the state will be redoing the bridge outside between the Town Hall and the Post Office and that he has spoken to them about possibility of having the water redirected to be hung alongside the new bridge. The state told Todd that he would need our engineer to design the water line path and then they could possibly put the hangers on the bridge while doing the work so that we could down the road change the water line out from under the brook.

Bill Idarola made a motion to have the engineer facilitate a study/design to put the water lines hanging off the new bridge. This motion was seconded by Jack Malone. Cathy said that the State will be holding a meeting before any of the work begins and the project is slated to begin summer of 2017 and they are estimating an eight (8) week turnaround. A vote was called and the motion passed by all in favor.

Discuss and possibly act on solar proposal for sewer plant:

Dennison spoke to the board members and voiced his concerns with the solar power proposal and asked the board members if they had any concerns. Bill Idarola spoke and asked what restrictions does it impose on the operation of the sewer plant? Are we selling back the excess power at the same rate that we will be paying? What is the cost to the Water & Sewer Authority? Cathy said that there would be no cost and said that she does not have answers to the other questions but she does need permission from the Authority to continue the process of pursuing these solar panels. Discussion.

Bill Idarola made a motion to give permission to continue the process and look into whatever rate they will be selling power back to us. This motion was seconded by Jack Malone. Tom questioned what type of ground work will need to be done to get these panels installed. If this is awarded we will have the solar company come to answer this and other questions. Dennison said that he would like to have that meeting at the sewer plant so that they can see exactly what their plan is. A vote was called and the motion passed by all voting in favor.

Discuss and possibly act on Versailles proposed 192 Unit for Sprague Active Adult LLC.

Kathleen told the board members that she included the minutes from the Public Hearing in their packets tonight so they can review them and discussion followed. The Public Hearing was continued and nothing was decided. Discussion on what would need to be done if the project is approved. This will be re-visited at that time.

First Selectman report:

The First Selectman told the board that the Board of Finance has included money in the 2016-2017 Town's budget to help the water and sewer Authority with the splitter box and cameras.

Cathy thanked the board for allowing her to continue the search for solar power.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd informed the board that the last uranium test came back high at 34.15 but this does not put us over our limit. They take the last three tests and add to this one and that is how it is figured. If the next one comes in high we will be in trouble and discussion followed. The State has suggested that we put in a new sampling port which required digging and that was not feasible. Todd discussed with Vicky Carrier, state engineer about a new location for the port which will require a new tap and port install. Todd got a price of \$1,500.00 from Jim Benjamin. Discussion followed if that would alleviate our problems. Suggestions were to have the state take a sample once the new port is installed along with our lab EML and have the samples tested to see if it works to lower the uranium levels. Todd will make phone calls.

Jack Malone made a motion to hire Jim Benjamin to install the new port for the new sampling site. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. All members voted in favor.

Discuss and possibly act on overtime policy:

Dennison asked Todd to explain to the board members how he figures the hours each week and his view of the current overtime policy. Discussion followed. Todd said that they put any overtime hours into comp time and when he wants to be paid he asks for overtime hours and deducts it from their comp time hours. Discussion on getting time and one half paid for comp time hours versus figuring the hours according to time worked and getting straight time for these hours. Jack suggested that we call our Payroll company and ask them. More discussion. Kathleen indicated that the employee handbook says that comp time hours are figured in lieu of payment and that the employees should not get paid for comp time hours but take time off with these hours. More discussion.

Bill Idarola made a motion that at this time we should let the comp time that each employee has let sit and any overtime that they work should be paid as time worked going forward. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. More discussion. A vote was called and the motion passed by all in favor.

Budget:

Kathleen explained the handed out budget copies and said that it looks like we will have an increase in the sewer rate from \$108.00 per quarter per EDU to \$110.00 per quarter per EDU. There will also be a temporary \$10.00 mandatory upgrade charge added to this flat rate. This is to recoup the recent improvements made to the sewer system and future upgrades to the aging pipes. The water side will also see an increase but the amount cannot be figured until we get our June reading of gallons used. The customer meter service charge will increase from \$7.25 per meter to \$12.25 per meter. Kathleen suggested that we hold our Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 15, 2016, with our meeting to immediately follow. The board members agreed to do this and Kathleen will put the notice in the Norwich Bulletin.

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 March 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 \$24,736.58 of that amount \$663.62 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$1,623.36 of that amount currently has payment plans in place. Accounts pending being sent to attorney for foreclosure \$2,890.07. Payments received are \$53.50. Accounts foreclosed

on by the Town of Sprague Tax Collector and in process of being turned over to the Town of Sprague, \$2356.80.

Versailles past due accounts total is \$2,412.74.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Todd asked the board if they had made a decision on the request from Operator David Trainor for an increase in pay. The board members told him what they had decided at the last meeting and that when Mr. Trainor does the work to get his next license, takes and passes the test they would give him the warranted \$1.00 per hour raise and revisit his request at that time.

Tom Hannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Jack Malone. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.