

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: April 20, 2016
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, William Idarola, Andy Trudelle,
Grantwriter
Absent: Jack Malone, Todd Hastings, Christine Kurtz, Wright Pierce, 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 March 16, 2016 meeting and the disbursements for March in the amount of \$79,089.73. This motion was seconded by William Idarola. A vote was called and the motion was passed by all members voting in favor.

Grant Writer update:

Andy Trudelle gave the board members an overview on where he is in the process of submitting the request for funds to cover the costs associated with locating the break at Sayles School. He indicated that although they have streamlined the process it is new to him and a learning curve to complete the process. He is 99% percent done with the paperwork and will be submitting the request shortly. The good news is that with this new format they review and give an answer quickly. Mr. Trudelle also told the board that Cathy Osten, First Selectman is putting in for a grant for the SCADA system.

Wright Pierce:

Wright Pierce was not present and no report was sent.

Discuss and possibly act on refund request from Attorney Chris Albanese, LLC for current charges on sale of property 197-199 High Street:

Kathleen explained to the board that she was contacted on February 29, 2016 by Attorney Langhammer's paralegal to give her updated figures for 197-199 High Street an account that they were foreclosing on due to non-payment. Kathleen sent over the updated figures as of that date. She had an inquiry from Attorney Albanese for the balance on that

account and she referred him to Attorney Langhammer's office as she cannot give any information on an account once it is sent to Attorney Langhammer. On March 21st Kathleen received a check from Attorney Langhammer in the amount of \$1,423.56. Since giving the figure to Attorney Langhammer a new billing quarter was billed and the balance owed exceeded the amount received. Kathleen called Attorney Langhammer and they said to call Attorney Albanese and let him know of this dilemma. Kathleen called and Attorney Albanese and he indicated that he would write out a check and send it to me for the balance. Kathleen then explained to the board the emails that transpired after that initial call and that Attorney Albanese is requesting a refund from the Authority for these current charges.

William Idarola made a motion to inform Attorney Albanese and Attorney Langhammer that the Authority will not be issuing a refund of the current charges due on 197-199 High Street and that they should settle this difference among themselves. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members in attendance in favor.

First Selectman report:

The First Selectman was not present.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd Hastings is on vacation but sent the following report. Pump Station #4 control panel is in and we are waiting on the electrician to put it in. The cost of this repair is \$7,500.00 for the dual pump control panel plus \$950.00 additional cost for a Spare pre-programmed PLC. The electrician cost to install is \$1,090.00 for a total cost of \$9,540.00. We received a check from the insurance company for \$2,840.00 leaving a balance of \$6,700.00 to be added to the costs for Versailles customers and divided by the number of users. Discussion followed on how many months to spread this out so as to not burden the users.

The reservoir water is eight (8) inches from flowing over. Todd has opened it up $\frac{1}{4}$ of the way to drain it down two (2) feet.

Todd is getting prices for the SCADA system for Versailles and Cathy Osten is looking for a grant to hopefully cover the costs.

We have heard that the Board of Finance is considering giving us money to repair the splitter box at the sewer plant. Todd has gotten prices ranging from \$900.00 to \$28,000. There are many ways to do it and Todd will work on this when he returns from vacation. There is a Public Hearing on Monday, April 25th at 7:00 pm and board members are urged to attend to answer any questions pertaining any allotments that the Board of Finance is considering for the Water & Sewer Authority.

Discuss and possibly act on overtime policy:

Discussion on the current overtime policy took place and the way the workers are getting overtime pay and using comp time as paid time. Bill Idarola commented that you do not get paid for comp time. After much discussion the board decided to table this discussion to a later date when the Superintendent would be present to answer questions and participate in the discussion.

Budget:

Copies of the tentative 2016-2017 budget were handed out and reviewed. Discussion followed. The budget as it stands will require an increase in rates. The board members discussed ways to get back the money we have spent on the many breaks we have had to fix due to the aging infrastructure. The board after much discussion has decided that they are going to institute a temporary charge of \$10.00 on the sewer side and \$5.00 on the water side to recoup the cost of these breaks. This in addition to the increase of two dollars a quarter on the sewer side. The water side increase is still yet to be determined since it depends on the gallons used when we read the meter in June.

Discussion followed on a request for an increase to Mr. David Trainor's hourly wage above and beyond the current proposed three percent increase be included in the budget. Much discussion followed. Mr. Trainor has the opportunity to increase his hourly rate by \$1.00 by doing the work to obtain another license and once the test is passed his rate will increase.

Bill Idarola made a motion that the board would be glad to speak with Mr. Trainor regarding an increase over and above the current proposed increase after he has done the bookwork to obtain another license and passed the test. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members in attendance in favor.

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 \$61,431.00 of that amount \$7,781.61 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$1,695.53 of that amount currently has payment plans in place.

Versailles past due accounts total is \$3,350.56 and accounts with Attorney Langhammer is \$1,282.28.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Dennison spoke to the board regarding the dam repair at the reservoir and discussion ensued.

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.