

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: October 21, 2015
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, Jack Malone, Catherine Osten, First
Selectman, William Idarola, Todd Hastings, Christine Kurtz, Wright
Pierce
Absent: None

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Dennison Allen, Chairman.

Minutes and Disbursements:

Jack Malone made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 16, 2015 meeting and the disbursements for September in the amount of \$41,542.84. 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 was present but had no report to present.

Discuss and possibly act to on sewer repair bill for project in Hanover:

Dennison addressed the board members and told them that we will not be getting any grant money to help pay for the emergency repairs in Hanover. Mr. Allen explained to the board members his reasoning behind approving the work to be done. Discussion followed. The money will need to come out of our fund balance to pay for this bill of \$54,600.00. Todd told the board members that 630 feet of pipe was replaced and they replaced the old manhole, no more brick but now it is concrete, plus they put in a complete new manhole. More discussion. Jack Malone asked several questions and stated that in the future we must follow the protocol required by USDA and other agencies that give grants in order to be eligible for grant funds.

Jack Malone made a motion to pay this bill of \$54,600.00 from Pipes & Roads by James Benjamin & Sons, Inc. for the emergency repair in Hanover. Tom Hannon seconded the motion. A vote was called and all members voted in favor and the motion passed.

Discuss and possibly act on Lisbon Inter-municipal agreement:

Dennison explained to the board members why he wanted this item on the agenda. We do not have a current contract with the Town of Lisbon regarding sewer lines that run to our Versailles stations. The previous contract was in place for a term of ten (10) years from the date of signing which was October of 2003. Discussion followed. We cannot negotiate a new contract with them until we have a current contract with Norwich Public Utilities as the contract references this. More discussion. Bill Idarola asked if we should add a clause to enable us to reserve the right to test the sewage discharged from them.

Dennison asked that the members keep this item in the forefront of their minds and think about anything that we may want to add to the new contract as we move forward with completing a new one.

Discuss and possibly act on letter received via First Selectman from Viren Patel regarding drainage problem in front of his business:

First Selectman, Cathy Osten told the board that she did not write this letter but only received a copy of it and said that this issue is a Water & Sewer problem because when the I & I was done and the road was replaced at that area the problem of water build up got worse for owner Viren Patel. Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce was present and brought pictures of the road before and after the work was completed. The pictures show that the problem was present before we began any work at that area. Dennison ask that she gather any information and report back to us regarding this.

First Selectman report:

Cathy Osten addressed the board members and informed them that we have a new grant writer and the next project should be the PPG for the question of whether to join our sewer into Norwich. Discussion followed. Christine and Wright Pierce should be working on a report with the information so the board can make an informed decision to this question. The original cost of this report was \$15,000 but the request for more info has changed this cost. Cathy asked that Christine work with the grant writer to apply for monies from USDA. A discussion was held on the what the next PPG will be for and Cathy said that it is for the force main in Hanover. Cathy said that we do not need a pre-planning grant and we can just start the engineering work on this project.

Cathy told the board members that the auditors will be coming back and she would like to have Dennison and Kathleen at the meeting once the date has been set. Discussion followed. Cathy explained that the auditors still have a problem with the Water & Sewer Authority and are going to include that in their report. Material weaknesses are still a problem with regard to separation of duties. Cathy also indicated that the long term bond has created a problem on the Town's side and she does not agree with the way the

Auditors are addressing this issue. Much discussion followed. Jack Malone recommended that we thank them for their recommendation but that we should just agree to disagree.

Cathy said that we should start thinking about our next capitol project and set a Special Meeting up to discuss this.

A short discussion was held on the EOP and the Dam at the reservoir.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd informed the board members that he has tried to get a bid from Mattern Construction and has gone up there three (3) times but they never acknowledged.

The tank inspection has been rescheduled to November 4th. A discussion followed. Todd informed the board members that the state had come down for an inspection and they recommend that the tanks be replaced. More discussion.

Mapping of the system is almost done. Hanover is with Atlantic States to create a paper map.

Water usage is still high and we are waiting to get on Atlantic's state schedule to resume looking for the leak.

Todd informed the board that he and Dave will be attending a seminar next Wednesday and that Joe will be at the plant covering.

Review bills for payment:

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 September meeting. The board members reviewed the list. Any questions were answered.

Review past due accounts:

A report was handed out to all board members. The amount of accounts past due is \$57,148.25 of that amount \$5,215.94 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$3,208.83 of that amount currently has payment plans in place. Accounts totaling \$7,815.95 are pending either shut off or foreclosure procedures.

Versailles past due accounts total is \$3,306.09 and accounts with Attorney Langhammer in \$738.09.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Kathleen informed the board members that she has received a request from Jon King a realtor that has taken on the maintenance of 409 Main Street in Hanover. His request is to have the sewer bill reduced since the property is vacant and the water is shut off. Kathleen told the board that she has informed him that if the board does approve this that they will still be responsible for the administrative costs of the sewer along with the Wastewater Recovery Assessment charge during the duration. She also informed him that should the property become inhabited again and the Water & Sewer Authority not be notified there is a \$1,000.00 fine. She also sent him a copy of our Sewer Regulation where this is stated.

Jack Malone made a motion to approve the reduction of the sewer as long as the property is vacant. This motion was seconded by William Idarola. A vote was called and the motion passed by all in favor.

Kathleen gave the board members a copy of a notice of Public Hearing that she received via a certified letter showing a hearing set for proposed zoning changes for 47 Bushnell Hollow Rd. Discussion followed. After much discussion the board members felt that they had no objection to the proposed changes.

Jack Malone made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. All in favor and the meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.