

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: September 17, 2014
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce, Tom Hannon, Keith Duprey, Jack Malone, Todd Hastings

Absent:

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Dennison Allen, Chairman. Dennison welcomed our new member Keith Duprey who was appointed by the Board of Selectmen.

Minutes and Disbursements:

Jack Malone made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 20, 2014. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. Chairman, Dennison Allen asked if this motion included the approval of the disbursements and Jack amended his motion to include the approval of the disbursements for the month of August in the amount of \$17,773.43. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Discuss and possibly act on Beaver Brook Mill LLC request.

No one was here to represent Beaver Brook Mill LLC nor did they send in any written communications. Dennison took this time to speak to the board members about requests to get adjustments to their billing units. Kathleen gave the board information regarding Beaver Brook Mill LLC and told them that when Mr. Nascin purchased the property they were being charged for twenty units. That was adjusted in 2005 to four units and in 2007 to two units. Discussion followed. After much discussion the board decided that it was time to look at our water and sewer regulations and maybe revise them.

Dennison asked Kathleen to put this on our agenda for next month's meeting.

Discuss and possibly act on resident from 7-9 School Hill Rd. request to reduce charges for one unit:

Mr. Lowe was not present and this discussion was tabled.

Wright Pierce:

Christine Kurtz updated the board on the following projects:

- The dam is being monitored but the water is not rising to enable them to inspect it to further evaluate the problem and come up with a fix. N.E.I. the company that did the project will be coming to look at the problem with an engineer from Wright Pierce and try to come up with a concept to repair.
- I & I rehab has been inspected for the one year warranty and no problems were found. Project can now be completely closed out.
- Pump Station #1, one year warranty check showed a few items that needed addressing and Earthworks came down and finished his work. The air condition unit is not working and parts have been ordered and once they come in it should be repaired.
- Pump Station #2 one pump is installed and up and running and the second one should be installed shortly. On September 25, 2014 the SCADA system work and instrumentation should be done and training will be held. Substantial completion date is October 6, 2014 and they are on target to meet this date.
- Water Quality testing is on the second round with two more to go. The Safe Yield is done and they came up with .241mgd. Discussion followed.
- Water main on the DOT project has been installed.

Discuss and possibly act on problems associated with non payment to sub-contractors on Pump Station #1 project:

Letters that were received regarding this problem were passed out to the board members and reviewed. Christine from Wright Pierce told the board that this is not a problem for the Town of Sprague or the Authority. We did our job and it is the contractor on the job and his handling of payment for the sub-contractors on the job that is responsible. We are receiving these letters because the work was on our project. Much discussion followed. Dennison asked Christine how we can avoid this from happening on any future projects that we might engage in. Christine gave the board some suggestions on how to avoid this from happening again.

Discuss IMA with Norwich Public Utilities and scheduled meeting for 09/25/2014:

Dennison addressed the board and explained what this Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) is and why Norwich Public Utilities is looking to get Sprague to buy in on capacity for the future if we decide to send our wastewater discharge to Norwich. He noted that our current sewer treatment plant is now doing the work but the state is always instituting new requirements that our current sewer plant may not be able to accomplish. Down the road we will have to make a decision to either upgrade our current plant or send our discharge to Norwich. Wright Pierce is currently evaluating this and will be giving us a report on their findings. Dennison thinks that it is a good idea to go and sit in on these meeting and get as much information from these to enable us to make an educated decision when the time comes. We will need to sign an agreement with Norwich Public

Utilities because we currently send our Versailles sewer customers discharge to Norwich and do not have an active agreement. We need to make sure our interests are addressed in the agreement and these meetings are to discuss what will be in the agreement. Much discussion followed.

Dennison has questions regarding the ponds at Fusion and closing of these ponds due to the plant closing. The ponds were addressed in the draft paperwork we received from Norwich Public Utilities. Christine said that she will check into this. Questions came up about taking over the pipe and if it would be advantageous for us to own this pipe. Wright Pierce has an expert that works on these types of things all the time coming down from Maine to attend the meeting on the 25th. Christine would like the board members to meet him prior to the meeting and a discussion followed.

First Selectman Report:

The First Selectman was not present.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd told the board that over the labor day weekend a grinder pump in Versailles went down and the spare pump we had on hand did not fit. Todd did some research and found a company in Dedham, MA that can supply the pump at a substantial savings to prices we found in the immediate area. He drove up there and purchased two pumps one to replace the broken one and one to have for a spare.

Well #5 pump is not working and Todd thinks it might be the same problem that we had with Well #4. He is going to call Depot Pump to see if they can pull the pump and evaluate the problem. If a new pump is needed he will research to get the best price.

Todd informed the board that he has heard that some plants are taking their sludge and mixing it to compost and selling it. He is looking into this and if it is possible we could make money on the sludge instead of spending money to dispose of it. Discussion followed.

Pump Station #2 driveway is not included in the project price. Todd spoke with the First Selectman that we could take monies leftover from PS#1 project and do the road. Discussion followed.

Our part time seasonal worker Joe Lussier will be done October 10th.

Todd informed the board members that they had read the meters for water usage and the numbers were high. Kathleen checks the reading against previous ones and reports of high usage. One of them was Cumberland Farms who used more than 40,000 gallons more than usual. Todd went down to inform them and they said that they knew they had a problem cause they heard water running. Todd helped them find where the leak was and then told them they needed to call a plumber in to fix it which they did. The other

problem was a resident on High Street where they had a usage of 140,000 gallons when their usual was approximately 40,000 gallons. Kathleen called the customer and left a message and made an appointment to have Todd go over and check the situation out. He found that one of their tenants had a toilet that was constantly running. Discussion followed.

Todd informed the board that David Trainor attended a two day class held by Atlantic States to help him the next time he sits for his license test which he previously failed.

Dennison asked Tom Hannon to speak to the board regarding the class that he went to. Tom gave a short overview and said that he has asked for pamphlets and handouts so that he could pass them on to the other board members. This class was specifically for board members and dealing with rising costs and how to communicate this to the townspeople when rates go up.

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 August meeting. The board members reviewed the list and asked any questions they may have had..

Review past due accounts:

A report was handed out to all board members. The amount of accounts past due is \$28,898.98 of that amount \$5,975.14 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer, \$12,271.90 of that amount currently has payment plans in place. I have received payments of \$342.33.

Versailles past due accounts total is \$2,702.15 and payment plan is in place for \$609.81 and \$763.88 is with Attorney Lloyd Langhammer pending foreclosure. Discussion followed.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Kathleen informed the board that her new printer has been installed and she is looking to get her old printer installed at the sewer plant. This way Todd won't have to always rely on Kathleen when he needs something printed.

Tom Hannon wanted to extend a thank you to Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce for the refreshments that she provided at tonight's meeting.

Jack Malone told the board that he will not be able to make the next meeting scheduled for October 15, 2014. Discussion followed/

Tom Hannon made a motion to change the next meeting date from October 15th at 4:00 p.m. to October 16th at 4:00 p.m.. This motions was seconded by Jack Malone. A vote

was called and the motion passed by all in favor.

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 6:00 p.m.