

# **MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

Date: June 20, 2012  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Place: Sprague Town Hall  
Present: Ward Eccles, Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, Richard Douville, Todd Hastings, Christine Kurtz and Tony Vanna from Wright Pierce, David Trainor  
Absent: Walter Treat

## **Call to Order:**

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

## **Minutes and Disbursements:**

A motion was made by Dick Douville to accept the minutes of the May 23, 2012 meeting and the disbursements for May as presented in the amount of \$25,576.70. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. A vote was called and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

## **Wright Pierce:**

Tony Vanna from Wright Pierce addressed the board members and informed them that Christine had put him in charge of the Hanover Pump Station #2 project. He asked the board why they had decided to go with the suction lift option when rebuilding the station. Discussion followed. Tony explained that by keeping the same type of station and just replacing the pumps in-kind the Authority could save a substantial amount of money. The board expressed concerns on having our operators have to enter the hole at the station and the safety concerns with that. Tony explained that they would have a monitor to view what was down in the hole and would only need to go down infrequently and that with the suction lift option they would still have to go down the hole. A discussion was held on the SCADA system which will enable the operators to view the station from the plant via the computer and the costs associated with that. Tony recommends that we go with the standard dry pit pump due to all the recent work that was performed at the current station and that it will save the Authority money. After much discussion it was decided that Tony would go back and get together the figures for this type of rehab and installation of SCADA then get back to us and a decision would be made.

Christine, Tony and the board had a brief discussion on the meeting attended with the State DEEP regarding the possibility of accepting Cascades septage.

Christine discussed the timeline on the projects that Wright Pierce is currently working on. Pump Station #1 project has received verbal approval from DEEP. And the bid process should go forward as outlined at the last meeting with the bids being opened July 26, 2012. The bids will be opened at the Town Hall. On the I and I project Christine said that we are still waiting for approval from DEEP before we can move forward. Discussion followed.

**Status Report from Todd Hastings:**

Todd informed the board members that the pump that broke down at Hanover Pump Station #2 was rebuilt by Piela Electric, Inc. and then it broke down again and had to be repaired. Todd explained to the board members what he believes caused the problem and discussion followed. A bill was received from Piela for the second repair. After much discussion Ward told Kathleen to hold off paying this invoice from Piela until they can go down and speak with the owner regarding this situation.

Todd said that when he was operating the valves on the water line, he encountered problems and broke valves. Todd told the board what valves he replaced and what ones still need to be replaced. Discussion followed. A decision was made that we would change the valves that are problematic and put the other ones on a list of projects for the future. The replacement valves were from our stock and will need to be replaced.

**First Selectman's report:**

The First Selectman was not in attendance.

**Discuss and possibly act on reviewing and updating Water and Sewer Regulations:**

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

**Discuss and possibly act on letter received from Lombardi Companies regarding long term agreement for sewer fee structure for Sprague Active Adult on Riverside Drive:**

Kathleen told the board that she had sent the letter to the Town Attorney Richard Cody and told them of his response. Discussion followed. It was decided that she would send a letter to Lombardi Companies with the same content of the last letter with the heading on the advice of council.

**2011-2012 Budget Changes:**

The following budget changes were presented and discussed.

**Move \$3,000.00 from line item 49 acct#7250-2, Accounting Fees to line item 40, acct# 7200-2 Administrative Salaries.**

**Move \$2,546.74 from line item 51, acct# 7251-2 5 year water supply plan and \$2,000.00 from line item 19, Contracted Services to line item 24, acct# 7051-2 Well House Maintenance.**

**Move \$1,400.00 from line item 19, Acct# 7010-2, Contracted Services to line item 33, Acct. # 7120-2 Service Line Maintenance.**

**Move \$2,923.79 from line item 51, acct# 7251-2, 5 Year Water Supply Plan to line item 20, acct# 7015-2, Operating Supplies & Equipment.**

**Move \$337.50 from line item 51, acct# 7251-2, 5 Year water supply plan to line item 23, acct# 7050-2, Reservoir/Wells maintenance.**

**Move \$4,191.97 from line item #51 acct# 7251-2, 5 Year Water Supply Plan to line item #57, acct# 7300-2, Capitol Expenses.**

**Move \$1,169.61 from line item 18, acct# 7003-1, Overtime Salaries to line item 24, acct# 7035-1, Station # 2 Maintenance.**

**Move \$1,000.00 from line item 19, acct# 7010-1, Contracted Services To line item 24, acct# 7035-1, Station #2 Maintenance**

**Move \$2,000.00 from line item 30, acct# 7055-1, Maintenance of Mains to line item 20, acct# 7015-1, Operating Supplies & Equipment.**

Dick Douville made a motion to accept the changes as presented. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. Discussion followed. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members in attendance voting in favor.

**Discuss 2012-2013 Budget:**

Copies of the 2012-2013 budget were passed out and discussed. An increase on the water charge from \$5.30/1000 gallons to \$5.40/1000 gallons was proposed and discussed. There will be no increase in the fixed or metered sewer rates at this time.

Dick Douville made a motion to accept the 2012-2013 Water Budget in the amount of \$200,449.15 and the Sewer Budget in the amount of \$272,686.83 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dennison Allen, Discussion followed. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members in attendance voting in favor.

Kathleen informed the board that they will need to set a public hearing date at the next meeting due to the increase in the water rate.

**Review past due accounts:**

Kathleen gave the board a report on all the past due accounts both in the Baltic-Hanover system and the Versailles sewer. The board members reviewed the report and discussion followed. The board asked why we are not shutting off these customers who are not paying their bills. Kathleen explained to them that the Department of Public Utilities Control has certain regulations regarding shutoffs on tenants and discussion followed. The board asked that Kathleen contact the Town Attorney and ask him if there is anything that we can do to try and enforce collection from delinquent customers. Kathleen will call Attorney Cody and report back at the next meeting.

**Review bills for payment:**

The following bills were presented to the board members: James Benjamin for \$5,400.00, PJS, LLC dba Introl for \$2,107.50. Town of Sprague for \$25,652.35 and Piela Electric for \$2,190.00. The board asked that Kathleen hold the Piela electric bill and gave their okay to pay the others.

**Any other business to come before said meeting:**

Kathleen gave Ward Eccles a list of the Representative Advisory Board to SCWA that was left on her desk by the First Selectman with a note asking for one more representative to be appointed to this board. Discussion followed. There were no volunteers and the board did not have any suggestions and told Kathleen to tell the First Selectman that they did not have anyone to appoint.

Ward Eccles asked Todd Hastings if he got the figures on how much septage we receive at the sewer plant pursuant to the discussion at our May meeting. Todd said that with all the problems with Station #2 and the valve replacement he has not had the time to get that information. Discussion followed. Richard Douville asked that Todd make it a point to get these figures together and report back at the next meeting.

Dick Douville made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.