

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: February 15, 2012
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Ward Eccles, Dennison Allen, Todd Hastings, Tom Hannon, Catherine Osten, First Selectman, Christine Kurtz, Wright Pierce, David Trainor
Absent: Richard Douville, 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 Dennison Allen to accept the minutes of the January 18, 2012 and the disbursements for January as presented in the amount of \$14,188.22. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

Wright Pierce:

Christine Kurtz had Ward sign the SCEL permit application. She told the board members that she has submitted the Wetlands permit and they are continuing to attend the meetings. A discussion followed on the design of Pump Station #1. She addressed some of the concerns and showed the changes that they had made due to our comments. A discussion on security cameras and lighting followed. Pump Station #1 upgrade should be going out to bid within the next two months. They are hoping to get this project up and running as soon as possible and they feel it will be a six month time frame.

Christine wanted to pass along to the WPCA that CCTV, the company that came out to camera the lines was very pleased with the cooperation shown to them while they were out here working. They said that they don't always get that support and wanted to thank us for all our help.

A discussion was held on the water/sewer lines going under the bridge on West Main St that is due for repairs by DOT.

Christine went over the possible options on how to proceed with the upgrades on Pump Station #2 in Hanover. Much discussion followed. Cathy Osten informed the board members that she has attended a meeting with USRDA and she thinks that she can get

some more grant monies for this project but she needs to get more detailed costs before she can proceed.

Cathy Osten said that she has gotten approval for the PPG monies for the Water Supply Plan. She has signed the contract and sent it back to Wright Pierce. A discussion followed on the water quality and safe yield testing.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd gave the board members an update on the problems over at Pump Station #2. He has ordered new pump parts from Smith and Loveless and is having the pump rebuilt at Piela Electric. Discussion followed. A bill from P & H Septic Service LLC was reviewed. They had to pump out the wet well when they were working on the pump. They have asked if we want to pay them for this or take septic in trade up to the amount owed. Discussion followed. Ward indicated that he would rather take the septic than issue a check for payment. Todd will call them and let them know.

Todd informed the board members that employee David Trainor has read the employee handbook and he had a question regarding being paid for holidays. In the handbook it states that anyone on the payroll is paid for holidays. He would like to be paid for all the back holidays since he was hired. Discussion followed. Ward told Mr. Trainor that when he was hired, he was hired as a temporary employee with no benefits. No back holidays will be paid. Going forward he will receive holiday pay since he is now full time and no longer a temporary employee. Todd also told the board members that Mr. Trainor recently took some time off due to a death in his family and according to the handbook he was wondering if he would be paid for it. Discussion followed.

Dennison Allen made a motion to pay David Trainor for the day of the funeral for his family member. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

A discussion followed on problems at the Well House in mixing of chemicals.

Discuss and possibly act on property located at 41 West Main Street being foreclosed on:

A discussion ensued on the fact that this property is being foreclosed upon and that there is a past due balance on this account at this time of \$20,958.15 owed to the WPCA. Cathy Osten spoke to the board members regarding this property and that the Town of Sprague will probably own this property by the end of March due to this foreclosure. She discussed possible solutions for recouping some of the monies. She will be going over to look at the property on March 27th with the building official and asked if any of the board members would like to come along to see what shape this property is in and if it is worth salvaging and turning it into affordable housing for the town that will be run by the Sprague Housing Authority. We will have to put the past due balances on the back burner but should be able to collect on future charges once the town owns the property. It

will take some time but the plan is to eventually collect the past due balances over time. Discussion followed. Dennison indicated that he would like to attend this viewing of the property.

Discuss and possible act on 23-25 West Main Street and the debt service charge:

Kathleen explained that this property is also being foreclosed upon. The owner has moved to Florida and is not responding to any notices. The water has been turned off at this property so there is no charge for water or sewer but the debt service charge is still being assessed to this property and it is adding up. The past due balance at this time is \$2,017.10. Kathleen asked the board members that since we do not anticipate collecting on these charges do we still want to keep charging them. Discussion followed. After much discussion it was decided that we would hold still on this property until we get notification from the attorney.

Cathy Osten informed the board members of her knowledge on this property and the state of disrepair that this property is in. Discussion followed.

Discuss and possibly act on certificate of deposit coming due 3/09/2012:

The certificate of deposit that the Authority has is coming due on March 9, 2012. Kathleen has been researching rates and informed the board members that she has not found any good rates. These monies were earmarked for the purchase of a truck for the Authority. We purchased the truck using funds from our general fund in anticipation of this CD coming due. We should close out the CD and deposit the fund into our general fund.

Dennison Allen made a motion to close out the Certificate of Deposit when it matures and deposit the funds into the general fund. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. A vote was called and the motion was passed by all members voting in favor.

First Selectman's report:

Cathy brought the board members up to speed on her recent meeting in Hartford and with the Rural Development. Discussion followed on capitol projects.

Cathy informed the board members that the Town auditor is having trouble with the Water and Sewer Fixed assets and he has not completed his audit due to this. Discussion followed.

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

This item was tabled until next meeting.

Review bills for payment:

The following bill was reviewed: Suisman, Shapiro, Attorneys at Law for \$551.00, Piela Electric for \$1,169.39, Depot Pump and Supply, Inc for \$1,874.28. The board gave their okay to pay.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Tom Hannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.