

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: February 20, 2013
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Tom Hannon, Dennison Allen, Todd Hastings, David Trainor, Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce, Manny Meneses, Robert Noon, Catherine Osten, First Selectman, Demian Sorrentino from Boundaries LLC, Barbara Benson and Karen Kay, residents, Cecil Dekle, Todd Lapointe
Absent: none

Call to Order:

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

Minutes and Disbursements:

Tom Hannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on January 16, 2013 and the disbursements for January in the amount of \$15,778.08. This motion was seconded by Manny Meneses. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Boundaries LLC regarding waiver for tie in to sewer for two lot subdivision on Riverside Drive, Versailles:

Demian Sorrentino from Boundaries LLC spoke to the board members regarding a proposed two lot subdivision on Riverside Drive for his clients Barbara Benson and Karen Kay. Mr. Sorrentino is requesting a waiver of Article 2, Section 4 of Town of Sprague Ordinance #1972-1 "Regulation of Sewer Use", as amended, which requires tie-in (at owner's expense) to the public sewer if it is within 100 feet of the property line. After his presentation, discussion followed. Todd Hastings, Superintendent spoke to the board members and informed them that he was against granting this waiver. Much discussion followed.

Manny Meneses made a motion to grant Barbara Benson and Karen Kay a waiver of Article 2, Section 4 of Town of Sprague Ordinance #1972-1 "Regulation of Sewer Use", as amended, which requires tie-in (at owner's expense) to the public sewer if it is within 100 feet of the property line. Tom Hannon seconded this motion. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Wright Pierce:

Christine gave the board an update on DOT bridge on Rt. 97 project. A discussion on the DOT Bridge project ensued.

Christine updated the board members on the Hanover Pump Station #2 project and informed them that the contract has gone to DEEP for approval. She informed them that they will notice an increase in the initial cost quoted by \$10,000. and this is due to the SCADA costs. Discussion followed.

The I & I rehabilitation project work was discussed and Christine informed the board that the pre-construction meeting is to be held next week. Christine asked if the paperwork that was required by the Clean Water Fund had been completed. Cathy Osten told her that it had been filled out and returned to the proper authorities.

Bob Noon , Clerk of the works, on Pump Station #1 project informed the board of the work that has been completed at the site. He informed the board that the wet well has been set but there is problems with it as it is leaning. Wright Pierce is aware of this problem has been monitoring the levels. Discussion followed. Christine told the board members that Wright Pierce will make sure that this problem will be corrected to their satisfaction before anything can be backfilled.

Cathy Osten asked Christine about the dam at the Reservoir. Todd informed Cathy and the board members that Tony Vanna from Wright Pierce came out and together they inspected the dam and found several spots that need to be addressed by New England Infrastructure, the contractor that did the project. They have been called and have said that they will come out to repair these defects but have not set a date. Cathy asked that we get a definitive date as we cannot keep the levels down forever and we need to get this addressed before the spring rains come. Discussion followed. Todd said he would speak to Tony Vanna and have him call New England Infrastructure and set a date and get back to us with that date.

A lengthy discussion followed on keeping the vegetation levels cut back at the reservoir.

Report on meeting with City of Norwich/Norwich Public Utilities:

Dennison Allen informed the board of a meeting he attended with the City of Norwich/Norwich Public Utilities regarding a regionalized water/sewer system. Dennison told the board that he was not impressed with the information that he learned at this meeting and gave the board members and oversight of the information he received. Cathy Osten also attended this meeting and she explained some of the information she has gathered. Both felt that working with Norwich is not the way to go and that they are not user friendly and we need to look into different options. Cathy informed the board that she has been contacted by Richard Matters, First Selectman from Franklin and that he is interested in working on a plan to regionalize water/sewer between the towns of Bozrah, Lisbon, Franklin and Sprague and he will be holding a meeting to discuss this.

Cathy told the board that they need to have a serious discussion on what we can do to help keep Fusion, the Town of Sprague's top taxpayer from leaving the area. They have agreed to have a new treatment plant built on their land which they would sell to the town and help with the costs to build this plant. They are currently paying exorbitant fees to Norwich for their sewer discharge and cannot keep paying those fees and stay in the area. We need a new treatment plant so this would be beneficial to both parties. Discussion followed.

First Selectman's Report:

Cathy gave the board members copies of her capitol plan and proceeded to go over this handout page by page. Dennison thanked her for all the work that went into this plan and for her input.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd informed the board members that during the last snow storm the easy insert dump body for the Water & Sewer truck fell out. He has called Smith Jeep the company that installed and they said they would take care of fixing it.

Todd told the board members that he has set up a class to be held at the Baltic Fire Department to go toward the credits needed to renew his license. This class is to be held on March 19, 2013.

David Trainor informed the board that he has completed two more chapters and is working on another in quest for completion to enable him to sit for his license.

Discuss letters from potential new board members and possible recommend new board members to First Selectman:

Dennison Allen spoke to Mr. Todd LaPointe and Mr. Cecil Dekle, residents that have sent letters requesting to be considered for an appointment to the Authority Board. Mr. Allen asked that each one take a moment to tell the board why they would like to serve on the board. Each candidate spoke to the board and they were informed that the board would discuss their requests and they would send them a letter informing them of their decision.

Discussion followed and the board has decided to make a recommendation to the First Selectman to have Mr. Todd Lapointe appointed to the Sprague Water & Sewer Authority Board. Kathleen will send letters out informing the candidates of their decision.

Review bills for payment:

The board reviewed a list of the bills that have been paid since our last meeting. Questions were asked and answered.

Kathleen passed out a quote from Ti-Sales for a new pro-reader to replace our old one that is having issues with the screen and being able to read it clearly. Discussion followed. The quote to replace it came in at \$846.84. After much discussion it was decided not to purchase a new reader at this point but try to see if we can possibly just get the screen replaced. Todd will look into this.

Kathleen also informed the board members that she is working on getting the Authority's AT& T bill reduced. There has been an increase in costs and she has been trying to get clarification from AT & T for some time. She currently is working with a Supervisor at AT & T to get our costs reduced. She will report back at a future meeting.

Review past due accounts:

Kathleen handed out a copy of the past due reports for the Baltic Hanover customers as well as the Versailles Customer and explained to the board members where she is in handling the past due accounts. Discussion followed.

Kathleen explained to the board that Attorney Langhammer has collected some of these accounts but she has yet to receive the payment. She showed the board an email that she received from Attorney Langhammer showing the amounts received and discussion followed. It was noted that the cost to the customer is greatly increased due to attorney and court fees. For example a \$968.93 amount due account ended up costing the customer \$4,021.76.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Kathleen asked the board if they would like her to cut a check for the remaining amount of \$75,000.00 that was promised to the town. Discussion followed. It was decided that Kathleen would make the check out during the month of March which is a billing quarter.

Tom Hannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Manny Meneses. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.