

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: September 19, 2012
Time: 4:07 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Walter Treat, Tom Hannon, Richard Douville, Todd Hastings, David Trainor, Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce, Catherine Osten, First Selectman, Vincent Papineau
Absent: none

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. by Richard Douville.

Minutes and Disbursements:

Tom Hannon made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 15, 2012 meeting and the disbursements for August in the amount of \$25,307.52. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. A vote was called and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

Dennison Allen made a motion to add an item to the agenda regarding a Resolution of the Water and Sewer Authority. This motion was seconded by Walter Treat. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor of adding this item to the agenda.

Resolution of Water and Sewer Authority:

Dick Douville spoke to the board members regarding a Resolution of Water and Sewer Authority regarding Pump Station #1 project. Copies of the resolution were passed out and reviewed. The resolution is as follows:

RESOLUTION OF WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

RESOLVED, that the Water and Sewer Authority of the Town of Sprague recommends that the Town of Sprague: (a) increase by \$450,000 the \$900,000 appropriation adopted at the Annual Budget Meeting held June 6, 2011 for costs related to the rehabilitation of sanitary sewer system Pump Station No. 1, located off of Main Street on the south shore of the Shetucket River, for an aggregate appropriation of \$1,350,000, and (b) increase by \$300,000 the \$900,000 authorization of the issuance of bonds, notes and temporary notes to finance such appropriation approved at said Annual Budget Meeting, for an aggregate bond, note and temporary note authorization of \$1,200,000. The Town anticipates receiving an aggregate \$500,000 in State and Federal

grants to defray in part the appropriation for the project, and to defray the \$150,000 balance of the appropriation not anticipated to be funded by grants or borrowings from Sprague Water and Sewer Authority funds. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued to finance the appropriation shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project to the extent that such grants are not separately appropriated to pay additional project costs.

After review of the resolution, Walter Treat made a motion to accept the resolution as written and forward it to the Town. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. Discussion followed. After much discussion a vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Wright Pierce:

Christine Kurtz spoke the board members and addressed concerns why the Pump Station #1 Rehabilitation project has taken so long to come to fruition. She went through the timeline of events that caused delays in this project. She informed the board members that the contract has been signed and the pre-construction kickoff meeting will take place next Wednesday, September 26, 2012. a discussion followed on the possibility of having a Clerk of the Works on the job as an additional set of eyes looking out for the interests of the Sprague Water and Sewer Authority. Cathy Osten addressed the board members and told them that she had Bob Noon do this on the Grist Mill project for the Town and she felt that it was very beneficial to the Town and that it saved the Town money. The board by a consensus recommended that we hire Mr. Noon to be the Clerk of the Works for this project. He will be paid by the Town and the Water & Sewer Authority will reimburse them.

Christine informed the board members that the bids were opened on Monday, September 17, 2012 for the I & I rehabilitation and the low bid was from VMS Construction. Their bid package was complete and she will go to DEEP for approval to allow us to award this project to them.

Christine gave the board copies of the completed Water Supply Plan and let them know that she has sent it to the State for approval.

Christine discussed with the board what transpired during her recent conference call with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding their project on replacement of the bridge over Beaver Brook. She explained that they are making the changes discussed and will complete the paperwork and submit to DOT for approval.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd explained to the board members that another pump went down at Pump Station #1. He replace it with a spare and brought the broken pump to Piela Electric for repair. The cost of the repair is around \$745.00.

Todd told the board that the tree that had fallen on the white water tank and fence at the reservoir has been removed and the fence has been repaired. The cost will be covered by

insurance except for the \$1,000.00 deductible.

David Trainor, Operator in training, addressed the board members and informed them that he incurred an hernia on the job awhile ago and recently went to his own doctor and was referred to a surgeon for surgery. He said that he had spoken to CIRMA and found that paperwork needs to be filled out and returned to CIRMA to find out if it will be covered by workers compensation. He is not sure when or where it happened but his doctor indicated that it happened about six (6) months ago. Todd had him go to Concentra when he reported it to him on September 7, 2012. He went to Concentra and they put him through weight lifting exercises and he was cleared to return to work with no restrictions on September 10, 2012.

First Selectman's report:

Cathy asked the board what we are planning on doing next for the Pump Station #2 rehabilitation. Discussion followed. Discussion on where the projects are and how it related to the STEAP grants. Cathy is concerned that they may not approve new monies because we have not spent previous commitments. The projects are moving too slow. More discussion. Cathy said that she need to repair the road in Hanover and could use the STEAP funds for that project. The board agreed that she should use the STEAP funds for the road and we will put the replacement of the Force Main in Hanover in the que for future grants since there is the Authority is no where near ready to commence this project. More discussion.

Cathy told the board that she would like a review of Capitol Projects on next's meeting agenda.

Discuss and possible act on vacancy on board and appointing new Chairman:

Dick Douville asked the board members if anyone was interested in becoming Chairman to replace Ward Eccles who resigned August 20, 2012. Dick indicated that he had made some phone calls to see if he could get a replacement to volunteer for appointment to the Water & Sewer Authority Board but did not get any responses. Discussion followed. Tom Hannon said that he would be willing to serve as chairman for a short time until a new chairman can be found.

Dick Douville nominated Tom Hannon to serve as Chairman. Walter Treat seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. Nominations were closed and a vote was called. The vote was all members in favor of having Tom Hannon serve as Chairman.

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. It was noted that it is very difficult to collect monies owed in these hard economic times and that we continually work to collect these funds.

Kathleen informed the board that the property formerly owned by Gloria Hernandez at 23-25 West Main Street is now owned by the Town of Sprague through foreclosure action. The monies owed on this property will not be collected and she asked that the board approve a write off to bad debt. The amount owed is \$2,555.12.

Dennison Allen made a motion to write off to bad debt the amount owed on 23-25 West Main Street in the amount of \$2,555.12. This motion was seconded by Dick Douville. A vote was called and the motion passed by all voting in favor.

Kathleen asked the board members for their input on property at 148-150 Main Street where the water has been turned off. This water was turned off on August 8, 2012 and it appears that there are still people living in this property. Discussion followed. The board asked that we call the Department of Health and report it to the Resident State Trooper. Kathleen indicated that she will be off for the next few days and Todd offered to make the calls.

The board asked what happened with 6-8 Brookside Ave. and did we collect the funds owed or shut off their water. Kathleen indicated that the owner came in and paid the majority of the balance owed and told her that he would be in with the remainder that he would be receiving from an outside agency. He did not follow through and we did not receive the funds. The board directed Kathleen to send a letter and to shut off the water if necessary if the funds as promised are not received.

The board tabled the discussion on past due account procedures until next meeting.

Review bills for payment:

There were no bills to review.

Todd took this opportunity to discuss with the board the cost for receiving outside septic. We currently charge .065 cents per gallon and Todd would like to raise it to .08 cents per gallon. Discussion followed. Most area plants will not accept outside septic and if they do their rate is at least .09 cents per gallon. The board gave their okay to raise the rate and asked that a memo be given to anyone currently dumping septic of the change effective October 01, 2012.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Dick Douville informed the board members that his term on the board will be up as of December 31, 2012 and he wanted the board to know that he will not seek another term. Walter Treat also said that as of December 31, 2012 he will be resigning from the board.

Vincent Papineau a resident of Hanover spoke to the board members regarding his sewer charge for his home which is currently a duplex but only one unit is occupied. The board informed him that if he would like to only be charged for one unit he must have the

property changed to a one family per the building official. He indicated that he did not want to change the number of units but would only like to be charge for one unit since the second one is unoccupied. The board informed him that he needs to write a letter requesting relief of the sewer charge for the unoccupied unit but noted that he will still be responsible for the wastewater recovery assessment on that unoccupied unit. Mr. Papineau said he would write the letter and give it to Kathleen and the board will approve his request at the next meeting.

Kathleen told the board that her shredder is no longer working and would like to purchase a new one. The board approved her request. Kathleen also discussed a few minor office problems with the board members.

Walter Treat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Richard Douville. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.