

# MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: July 18, 2012  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Place: Sprague Town Hall  
Present: Ward Eccles, Dennison Allen, Walter Treat, Tom Hannon, Richard  
Douville, Todd Hastings, Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce, Catherine  
Osten  
Absent: none

## **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 Walter Treat to accept the minutes of the June 20, 2012 meeting and the disbursements for June as presented in the amount of \$50,375.46. 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 informed the board members that the draft of the Water Supply Plan was complete and she gave Todd Hastings a copy to review. Todd will review it and make any changes and return to Christine for the corrections and she will make the final copy to send to the State DPH.

Christine gave an update on Pump Station #1. Wright Pierce has only received one question and will be issuing an addendum tomorrow. She said that it is uncommon to only receive one question and anticipates that more will follow. If they receive more questions they will need to file an additional addendum and that will move the bid opening date from July 26<sup>th</sup> to August 9<sup>th</sup>. Christine said she should know by tomorrow. Christine asked the board if they will be calling a special meeting after the bid opening. Discussion followed. After much discussion it was decided that after the bids are opened and reviewed Christine will let us know and we will schedule a special meeting to recommend the contractor.

Christine updated the board members on the I and I rehab project. The gentlemen from the FMCA is still on vacation and is scheduled to be back next week and he has said that this project is on the top of his pile for review and approval. Discussion followed. The

board recommends that Wright Pierce handle the bid process at their office in Middletown.

Pump Station #2 in Hanover is still being discussed at Wright Pierce and they should have a draft of the contract written up soon. Permitting will need to be done. Discussion followed on possible using the existing building at the site to house the controls. Christine will inspect the building to see if this is feasible and what modification will need to be done to the building. If so it may reduce the number of permits needed.

**Status Report from Todd Hastings:**

Todd informed the board members of the problems that he encountered upon replacement of the valve on River Street. A customer, Everett Ferguson allowed the Authority to attach a hose to his water system to supply two houses that were without water due to these problems. Todd told Mr. Ferguson that he would compensate him on his water bill but needed to talk to the board. Discussion followed.

Dick Douville made a motion to cut Everett Ferguson's water bill in half with the September quarterly billing. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Todd told the board members that on 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue he had to replace forty feet of water line when replacing the valve. He also told the board that he removed an old hydrant on River Street from the backyard of a customer's house and relocated it to the front of the house. Todd said that he checked with the Baltic Fire Department and they were satisfied with the relocation.

Well #1 was slowly producing less water so he had Depot Pump come and pull the pump and found a hole in the pipe. He replaced the pipe and it is now back to normal.

Todd reported back to the board regarding having the sludge taken out in a liquid state as opposed to putting it on the drying beds, having to rake it and trucking it out to Manchester. Todd said that he has calculated it to be approximately the same cost. Discussion followed. Synagro has asked for a two (2) year contract in order to have them take out in liquid state. Todd will call them and ask if they would consider letting us try it out for six (6) months to a year rather than the two year requirement and report back at next meeting.

**First Selectman's report:**

The First Selectman was not in attendance at the time this item came up.

This item was tabled until a future meeting.

**Set Public Hearing Date:**

Dick Douville made a motion to set August 15, 2012 as the date for a Public Hearing at 6:00 p.m. following our regular monthly meeting. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. Vote was called and all members voted in favor.

**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. Kathleen informed the board that she had spoken to Attorney Rich Cody regarding what options we have on collecting monies owed by tenants and not homeowners. Attorney Cody suggested that he could send out a letter warning the homeowner that the house could be foreclosed upon if the bill is not paid and being that it was coming from an attorney's office it may hold a little more weight with the homeowner and they may not ignore it as they have when we sent out letters warning of foreclosure. The cost of these letters would be \$50.00. Kathleen informed the board that the cost would be added to the homeowner's bill so the Authority would not incur any cost. Discussion followed.

Dennison Allen made a motion to have Attorney Richard Cody send a letter out to homeowners with delinquent balances who do not live in the property, warning them of foreclosure if bill is not paid. Tom Hannon seconded this motion. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Dennison made a motion to move item # 9 Review the bills for payment ahead of #8 Executive session to discuss pending litigation. This motion was seconded by Tom Hannon. So voted.

**Review bills for payment:**

The following bills were presented to the board members: Jack Farrelly Company for \$7,699.37 and a bill for a new computer for Todd at the sewer plant that Kathleen had received from Cathy Osten for \$1,162.50. Discussion followed. A review of the computer bill was done and discussion on whether or not we should include a thinkpad tablet at this time. Todd said that he already has a new monitor and that the computer guy will be out on Monday to teach him how to use the thinkpad tablet. More discussion.

Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce said that when we upgrade Hanover Pump Station #2 we will likely include a computer, hardware and software with the project to be able monitor the stations. After much discussion the board decided that they will speak with the First Selectman and inform her that at this time we do not need the thinkpad tablet. The Jack Farrelly bill will be paid out of the town appropriated funds.

**Executive session to discuss pending litigation:**

A motion was made and seconded to go into executive session at 5:05 p.m.

They came out of executive session at 5:25 p.m.

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

Dennison Allen addressed the board members that he had heard from the Farm Bureau that there may be legislation in the works to monitor wells near rivers and this may affect us in the future. He will stay on top of this and report back when he hears new information regarding this.

Cathy Osten, First Selectman came late and the board updated her on items that we had discussed regarding our projects, including the decision that we did not want to purchase a think pad for the sewer plant at this time.

Cathy Osten informed the board that she had John Braccio from Wright Pierce speak with Gislane at Cascades/Fusion regarding putting a new sewer plant up there. Dennis Greci from DEEP thinks that this is doable. Discussion followed.

Cathy Osten addressed the board members on the importance of having another member appointed to Representative Advisory Board to SCWA. Discussion followed. Ward Eccles, Chairman informed her that we had asked for volunteers at our last meeting and no one did volunteer and that she should appoint someone she feels will be able to attend the meetings.

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 5:45 p.m.