

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

Date: May 23, 2012  
Time: 4:00 PM  
Place: Sprague Town Hall  
Present: Ward Eccles, Walter Treat, Dennison Allen, Todd Hastings, Richard  
Douville, Catherine Osten, First Selectman, Christine Kurtz, Wright  
Pierce, David Trainor  
Absent: Tom Hannon

## **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 April 18, 2012 and the disbursements for April as presented in the amount of \$26,707.83. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. A vote was called and the motion passed with all members voting in favor.

## **Wright Pierce:**

Christine Kurtz handed Ward Eccles a Wetland Zoning application for his signature for the I and I rehab. She also passed out a plan sheet for this project. She informed the members that they are looking at going out to bid on June 22, 2012 with the pre-bid on July 16, 2012. The bids will be due and opened on July 26, 2012 at 10:00 a.m. in the Town Hall. Discussion followed on problem areas found during the tving of the system located on Main Street and West Main Street. Christine said that she needed some information from Todd regarding these areas and he said he would get it to her tomorrow. The cost for the bid documents will be \$50.00. The Notice to bid will sent to Kathleen for publishing in the Norwich Bulletin and also to be posted on the DAS website.

Pump Station#1 project bids plans will be available on June 11, 2012 and the pre-bid meeting scheduled for June 20, 2012 and the opening of bids on July 16, 2012. The cost for the plans for this project is \$75.00.

Christine will provide copies to the Authority the First Selectman's office, USDA and DEEP for both projects. Discussion followed on the project in Hanover. Cathy Osten is pursuing funding.

A discussion followed on the dam that was replaced at the Reservoir. There was an inspection and several defects were discovered in the structure. NE Infrastructure, the contractor that did the work will be coming back to fix the problems. They would like to drain the reservoir down. Discussion followed. We have a five (5) year warranty on the work that was performed. A timeline was discussed and Cathy expressed that she would like the repairs to take place in October.

Cathy Osten addressed the board members regarding a meeting that she attended with Norwich Public Utilities. They are currently trying to raise their rates which will affect Fusion's ability to stay here and continue to do business and she fears that we will lose their business due to these high rates. She asked Christine to get her some hard figures on options of having Fusion discharge to our sewer so that she can go to them and talk with them on their options. Discussion followed.

### **Status Report from Todd Hastings:**

Todd handed out a memo to all in attendance regarding the option of trucking out liquid sludge. Discussion followed. He got a quote of a cost of \$20,000.00 annually. The board members asked that Todd and David get more information on how much septage we take in and report back at the next meeting. The possibility of increasing our rates is an option.

Todd informed the board members of the problem in Hanover with the pump. He also told the members of the problems with the pumps at Station #3 in Versailles. He also had a pipe clog at the sewer plant and had Jim Benjamin come to blow out the system.

Todd told the board members that at the senior housing garden they needed water and he tried to tap into two different lines that appeared on his maps and did not get water. He eventually tapped off of the hydrant. Discussion followed. All the digging and lifting of the pumps was done by contractor Jim Benjamin at a cost of \$6,200.00.

### **Review past due accounts and discuss and possibly act on removing amounts due on 41A and 41B-E West Main Street now owned by Town through foreclosure:**

Kathleen gave the board members a list of all accounts that are past due and they reviewed it. Kathleen explained that some accounts were currently with Lloyd Langhammer for collection and some had payment plans in place. She also has sent out notices to some warning of shut off of water or foreclosure. They have until May 31, 2012 to respond before action is taken. Discussion followed.

The Town of Sprague had taken ownership of 41 A-E West Main Street through a foreclosure action. The previous owner had a past due balance of \$22,556.03 which we will not collect. Kathleen would like to charge this amount off. Discussion followed.

Dennison Allen made a motion to charge off this past due amount of \$22, 556.03 for 41

A-E West Main Street to bad debt. This motion was seconded by Walter Treat. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

**Discuss and possibly act on information to appear on Town's website for Water & Sewer Authority:**

Kathleen passed out a sheet showing the board members what is to be posted onto the web page for the Water & Sewer Authority. The board members reviewed it and discussion followed. The board agreed with what was to be posted at this time. They will revisit this at a later time and possibly add some content to the page such as annual reports and plans.

**First Selectman's report:**

Cathy asked the board members to be more detailed in their explanations to the Board of Finance regarding finances and projects. Discussion followed.

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

This item was tabled until next 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:**

A letter that was received from Lombardi Companies was passed out and reviewed. Discussion followed. The board asked that Kathleen forward the letter to the Town Attorney for his review and advice on how to proceed.

**Discuss and act on PUCA report remuneration:**

Richard Douville made a motion to pay Kathleen \$3,000.00 for the preparation of the PUCA report. This motion was seconded by Walter Treat. Discussion followed. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

**Discuss 2012-2013 Budget:**

Discussion followed on items to include in our next fiscal year budget. It was decided that since we are not getting a wage increase that we would continue to have the workers pay seven percent for their portion of employee health insurance even though the cost has increased.

A discussion on monies to be put aside for future use and what to call it. Cathy suggested that we call it a fund for Structural Improvements.

A discussion was held on an increase for new employee David Trainor.

Walter Treat made a motion to give a seventy-five cent per hour pay raise to David Trainor retroactive to April 8, 2012, conditional on a positive review by Superintendent, Todd Hastings the motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. Discussion followed.

After much discussion Walter Treat amended his motion to change amount from seventy-five cent per hour pay raise to one dollar an hour. The amended motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Kathleen explained to the board members that the budget that they have before them is not final until we get the meter readings in June. Discussion followed. The board feels that the water rates will increase by ten cents per one thousand gallons but the final figure will be determined by the gallons used. Kathleen will work on finalizing the budget and report back at the next meeting when a vote will be held for approval.

**Review bills for payment:**

The following bills was reviewed: Albert J. Rusilowicz, CPA LLC for \$6,500.00, DeRosier Electric, Inc. for \$623.45, Suisman Shapiro for \$841.00 and CIRMA for \$1,290.50. The board gave their okay to pay.

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

Walter Treat made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Dick Douville. All members voted in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.