

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: June 19, 2013
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Tom Hannon, Dennison Allen, Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce, Todd LaPointe, Todd Hastings, Catherine Osten, First Selectman
Absent: Manny Meneses

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Dennison Allen, Chairman.

Minutes and Disbursements:

Tom Hannon made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held on May 15, 2013. This motion was seconded by Todd LaPointe. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Tom Hannon made a motion to approve the disbursements for the month of May in the amount of \$16,871.66. This motion was seconded by Todd LaPointe. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members voting in favor.

Wright Pierce:

Christine updated the board members on the various projects that they are currently working on.

The DOT project on Rt. 97 over the bridge has been delayed due to a problem with the location of the gas main. The state will be doing additional survey work before the project begins.

Pump Station #1 update: They will be putting in the plywood and painting it this week. Todd pointed out that they started to do that today and found that they had the wrong plywood, which has been sitting on the job site for two weeks.. Discussion followed. Dennison pointed out that there seems to be no attention to detail on this project as there has been many things going wrong on the job site. Discussion followed. A discussion followed on the problem with the pillar being poured in the wrong spot. Christine said that this problem has been resolved and that they are going to pour one right next to it to correct the problem. She indicated that no change order will be needed for this and USDA is aware and has approved the fix.

On the I & I project Christine said that Joe Hauseman, engineer for the project told her

that they will be taking out the ramp to the parking lot across the street will be taken out this Friday. Dennison asked if they will have to re-install it. Christine said that she was not sure but that was a distinct possibility. Discussion followed. Dennison said that if we need to put it back in why are we removing it. An event at the Grist Mill Library will be held this weekend and First Selectman Cathy Osten was adamant that the ramp be removed. Discussion followed on whether or not there will be a cost to put the ramp back in should it need to be and who would pay for this. Christine said the water main portion of this project has been completed and the project as a whole seems to be on target to finish by the estimated date.

A discussion was held on the payment of a bill in amount of \$315.00 for the tving of the sewer line down at the ball field that was disrupted during the Pump Station #1 project. Kathleen told Christine that she had received the bill from VMS and then gave Christine a copy of it and she forwarded it to the town bookkeeper. The Town will be paying VMS and will be reimbursed from the contractor at PS#1.

Christine told the board that she has not yet received the signed contract for Pump Station #2. Cathy Osten said that it was mailed out over two weeks ago and we should probably redo since they have not received it and it seems to be lost. Christine said that she would check back at the office with John Braccio before we commit to redoing it.

The dam fix at the reservoir is partially done. NEI did the wet side and they are waiting to make sure no more movement before finishing the job.

First Selectman's Report:

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Cathy Osten spoke to the board members informing them that the resolution for the bonding for the town goes to the Board of Finance tomorrow night.

She told the board that the grant writer is working on the grant for a generator for Pump Station #2 and it is almost complete. Cathy also said that we should take into account the age of all of our generators and their life expectancy and keep on top of this information as there periodically is grant monies for generators and we should take advantage of this to update our equipment.

Cathy then spoke informing all in attendance about the meetings that she has been attending along with Dennison on regionalization of water and sewer between several local towns. Cathy said that Dennis Greci from the DEEP was present at the last meeting. She said that the towns of Franklin and Bozrah have an immediate need for regionalization and discussion of connecting to Norwich was discussed. Cathy said that we really have to seriously consider this as we do not have the funds to build a new sewer plant at a cost of around \$10 million. Other options are to go with the paper mill and build on their site at approximate cost of \$30 to \$40 million or hook into Norwich approximate \$5 to \$6 million. Much discussion followed.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd informed the board members that he had received a call from the Academy of the Holy Family regarding possible tie in of a house directly above St, Michaels gym. He said that the house across the street has also had problems with their septic system and they would also like to tie into our system. They also indicated that they would like a break on the tie in fee. He spoke with First Selectman, Cathy Osten and she adamantly said that we cannot tear up her road she will not allow it so it seems that this is off the table. HFA will have to go across their parking lot to tie in the house. This is still in the talking stage and he has not heard back from them but will let us know when he does.

Todd has received alarms from Pump Station #3 in Versailles and found numerous problems he hired Keith Laliberte to help him discern what needed to be done and they repaired it but there will be an increase in the cost to Versailles users in the next couple of months due to the repairs.

Todd informed the board that Operator in training, David Trainor has had his surgery and is scheduled to go back to the doctors on July 1st and hopes to be back on the 2nd of July. A discussion followed on salaries and licensing.

A gentlemen will be here tomorrow to go over the SCADA system and present the ins and outs of the system and tour the stations. Tom Hannon indicated that he would like to attend.

Due to excessive rain the flows at the sewer plant went from 89,000 to 670, 000 gallons per day. This is way over our allotted amount and the tanks overflowed. Todd called Uncas Health District and DPH and DEEP and informed them and he will be filling out the required Bypass report forms.

One blower at the sewer plant went down and had to be replaced. Joe had brought the old one to Piela's to be fixed but found we need to get a new one. The cost is approximately \$1,500.00.

The chlorine analyzer at the well house broke and needed to be replaced and the cost for that is \$4,105.00. While he was here did our required annual calibrations.

Todd has ordered a sludge truck for next week.

Review and discuss possible town ordinance regarding building permits:

Dennison addressed the board on the possible ordinance and that the town will make the decision as to whether to go forward with it. Discussion followed.

Review, discuss and act on 2013-2014 Fiscal Year Budget:

The 2013-2014 Fiscal Year budgets were presented. The Sewer budget is \$297,151.52 and requires a two (2) percent increase in the fixed sewer rate from \$105.00 per quarter to

\$107.00 and metered sewer from \$5.17/1000 gallons to \$5.25/1000 gallons. The Water budget is \$196,110.71 and does not increase the current rate of \$5.40/1000 gallons. Discussion followed.

Tom Hannon made a motion to accept the 2013-2014 budget as presented. This motion was seconded by Todd LaPointe. A vote was called and the budget passed by all members voting in favor.

Review bills for payment:

A list of all bills paid since the last meeting was handed out and reviewed. No one had any questions.

Review past due accounts:

A report was handed out to all board members. The amount of accounts past due is \$29,010.49, \$3,911.46 of that amount is with our Attorney, \$6,416.17 of that amount currently has payment plans in place, \$2,760.47 of that amount the water has been shut off and \$1,181.73 of that amount will be going to the attorney since they ignored the certified letters from Attorney Richard Cody. Versailles past due accounts total \$1,206.25. Discussion followed.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Tom Hannon made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Todd LaPointe. The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.