

MEETING OF THE SPRAGUE WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Date: February 20, 2019
Time: 4:00 PM
Place: Sprague Town Hall
Present: Dennison Allen, Tom Hannon, Bill Idarola Todd Hastings, Christine Kurtz from Wright Pierce, Catherine Osten, First Selectman, Chris Larose, NDPU

Absent: Jack Malone

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by Chairman, Dennison Allen.

Minutes and Disbursements:

Tom Hannon made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 16, 2019 and the disbursements for the month of January in the amount of \$58,326.29. This motion was seconded by Bill Idarola. A vote was called and the motion passed by all members in attendance.

Emergency inter-connection of water line with Norwich Public Utilities:

Chris Larose, acting General Manager of Norwich Public Utilities addressed the board members and told them that the plans for this inter-connection have been approved by the State. He expects to have the project go out to bid very shortly and it will take four to five weeks to get results. The plan is to start construction in the May time frame. Discussion followed.

Chris spoke to the board about the ongoing negotiations on the Inter-municipal agreement between the towns for sewer connection. He informed them that the latest draft of the IMA will be sent out by Mark Decker of NDPU tomorrow. He asked that once received that we review it. The board acknowledged this and indicated that they would be sending the draft agreement to our attorney as well for his review. Discussion followed.

Wright Pierce:

Christine spoke to the board members and informed them of the projects they are working on. She said that she and Todd are working on the PFAS Source water vulnerability assessment that is due to the State by March 1, 2019. Discussion followed.

A discussion was then held on the possibility of looking after the pump stations in Franklin once they are built and the FOG problem at Pump Station #1.

A discussion ensued on the possibility of utilizing wells found on the Bombero Property owned by the Town of Sprague to help with the town's water supply.

First Selectman Report:

A short discussion was held on projects that need to be addressed.

Cathy asked if the board plans on raising the rates this coming fiscal year and said she would like to be kept apprised of this information. Cathy then gave the board an overview of the Town's financials.

Status Report from Todd Hastings:

Todd informed the board that well #2A's motor failed and needed to be changed out but we have not received the bill for the cost of this to date.

Todd spoke about the digital monitor for the tank sensors and discussion followed.

Todd told the board that the company installing the solar panels at the sewer plant has been working on this project. He does not have information as to their timetable of completion.

The gate at the sewer plant that was struck by lightning has been repaired and the cost has been forwarded to our insurance company. The cost is \$5,681.42 and we have a \$1,000.00 deductible.

Budget:

Kathleen told the board that she was working on next fiscal year's budget and she needed to know information on what projects need to be addressed so she can budget accordingly. The board told her to put a 3% cost of living increase into the budget as well as money to cover some of the fixes that we know are on the horizon and we will see where we are and discuss at next meeting.

A discussion ensued on the need to start saving up for major projects like the force main in Hanover as any grants received require the Authority to pay a portion and it will be costly. Also discussed was the FOG problem at the pump stations and the costs to fix this. The board talked about increasing the Mandatory sewer upgrade fee to include monies to be put aside for these major projects. Kathleen and Todd will be working on the budget and they will report back at next meeting.

Review bills paid:

A copy of the Check Detail was given to all the board members that detailed all the checks that have been written out since our January meeting. Kathleen pointed out that there were checks paid to David and Joe for the ruined boots during the tank takedown and repair at the sewer plant and also a check to herself for repayment for a charge for ordering a battery back-up for the sewer plant from Amazon where she used her charge card which avoided costly shipping charges. The board members reviewed the list.

Review past due accounts:

A report was handed out to all board members. The amount of accounts past due is \$25,638.31 of that amount accounts with Attorney Langhammer are \$3,844.37.

Versailles past due accounts total is \$5,783.78. Of that amount \$1,007.69 is pending foreclosure.

Any other business to come before said meeting:

Bill Idarola made a motion to adjourn the meeting. This motion was seconded by Dennison Allen. A vote was called and the motion passed by all in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.