

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday June 10, 2009
5:30 PM
Court Room
Revised**

1. Call to order

Meeting brought to order by Catherine A. Osten First Selectman at 5:30PM. Present was Selectmen Edward Meadows and Kevin Generous. Also present: Gerry Meadows, Pat Deslandes, Peter Silvestri, Denise Lance, and Pat Olson.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by E. Meadows

3. Review & act on minutes of May 13, 2009 and May 21, 2009

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to accept the minutes of 5/13/09. Unanimously voted.

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to accept the minutes of 5/21/09. Unanimously voted.

4. Act on request for tax refund of overpayment of taxes

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to accept the tax refund for Lawrence Ejchorszt \$70.56. Unanimously voted.

5. Solar energy update

P. Silvestri presented the Solar System Cost Update for three companies who submitted contract prices. SolarWrights \$296,550.74, Mystic Solar \$295,000.00 and Sunlight Solar \$351,587.00; all three companies are located in CT. Freezing cost for the next 20 years and gaining a system that will generate thereafter. Town is eligible for partial funding through USDA and Connecticut Clean Energy; financing through CL&P. Board has reviewed quotes from SolarWrights and Mystic Solar and has asked to review the quote from Sunlight Solar. To be discussed at next month's meeting.

6. Discuss & possibly act on adoption of tax exemption for farm equipment and buildings.

C. Osten sent a sample ordinance adopted by Norwich to our Town Attorney for review. Discussion: adopting an ordinance would preserve a rural character but the Board is concerned of the impact and tax revenue loss to the Town; may not consider if numbers are too high. C. Osten to obtain exact numbers from the Assessor for further discussion at next month's meeting.

7. Discuss and possibly act on a municipal option to delay revaluations passed by General Assembly

C. Osten spoke with Robert Coates, Assessor regarding the delay. R. Coates does not see the value in delaying revaluation; taxes will not substantially shift, remaining fairly neutral in comparison to the market. RFQ has been completed by Town Council. Board will make a decision at next month's meeting.

8. Discuss and possibly act on the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) – Sprague eligible for \$9,100.00

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to accept the Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) recovery act. Funds to be used for an ATV for our Resident Trooper, trailer, course to attend; this will allow access to areas unable to reach right now. Unanimously voted.

9. Discuss and possibly act on Worker's Compensation policy and Initial Care provider

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to accept the Worker's Compensation policy and Initial Care provider. Recommended by our Insurance company CIRMA; will be incorporated into the Employee Handbook. Unanimously voted.

10. Discuss and possibly act on Worker's Compensation policy for Return-to-work procedure and policy.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to accept the Worker's Compensation policy for Return-to-work procedure and policy. This policy gives employees an expectation when out on compensation. Recommended by our Insurance Company CIRMA; will be incorporated into the Employee Handbook. Unanimously voted.

11. Act on Resolution: Authorizing First Selectman to enter into agreement and sign contracts on behalf of the Town of Sprague and the Department of Environmental Protection. (Baltic Reservoir Dam Repairs)

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to accept the resolution authorizing the First Selectman to enter into agreement and sign contracts on behalf of the Town of Sprague and the Department of Environmental Protection. Resolution is for the million dollars to be spent on dam problems.

RESOLUTION

Be it resolved that it is in the best interests of the Town of Sprague to enter into contracts with the Department of Environmental Protection.

In furtherance of this resolution, the First Selectman, Catherine A. Osten is duly authorized to enter into and sign said contracts on behalf of the Town of Sprague. The First Selectman is further authorized to provide such additional information and execute such other documents as may be required by the state or federal government in connection with said contracts and to execute any amendments, recisions, and revisions thereto.

The Town Clerk is authorized to impress the seal of the Town of Sprague on any such document, amendment, recisions, or revision.

12. Act on resolutions for the following bonding projects 2009/2010: Roadway Management, ADA Upgrade Elevator (Grist Mill), Ford F-550 Mason Dump Truck and Water & Sewer Upgrade.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to accept the resolutions for bonding project 2009/2010: Roadway Management, ADA Upgrade Elevator (Grist Mill), Ford F-550 Mason Dump Truck and Water & Sewer Upgrade. Discussion: 12c. Small Cities 10% share of Town. 12d. Pump House #1, switch mechanism upgrade/safety issue and related improvements. Unanimously voted.

RESOLUTIONS OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Item a:

WHEREAS, the Town's capital budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010 includes appropriations in the aggregate amount of \$446,000 for costs related to various projects constituting the Fiscal Year 2009/10 Road Upgrades Program; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town to authorize borrowing to defray such appropriations;

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Sprague issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$446,000 to finance appropriations in the aggregate amount of \$446,000 included in the adopted budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 for costs related to various projects constituting the Fiscal Year 2009/10 Road Upgrades Program, as follows: (a) pavement overlays to all or portions of Parkwood Road, Fifth Avenue and Park Drive and other related work as to be determined by the Board of Selectmen (\$400,000 appropriation), (b) pavement chip sealing to all or portions of Main Street Hanover, Mission Street, Spruce Street, Westminster Road, Wendy Drive and Wendy Circle and other related work as to be determined by the Board of Selectmen (\$36,000 appropriation), and (c) installation of ribbon guardrail to all or portions of Main Street Hanover, Riverside Drive, Baltic Hanover Road and Salt Rock Road and other related work as to be determined by the Board of Selectmen (\$10,000 appropriation). The appropriations may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, materials, engineering fees, legal fees, related land or easement acquisitions, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby declares the official intent of the Town under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing recommended above for the project.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Special Town Meeting be held on June 30, 2009 with respect to the foregoing recommendations, if approved by the Board of Finance, and that notice of said meeting be given substantially in the form presented to this meeting.

Item b:

WHEREAS, the Town's capital budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010 includes an appropriation in the amount of \$85,000 for costs related to the acquisition of a Ford F550 dump truck and related equipment for use by the Sprague Public Works Department; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town to authorize borrowing to defray such appropriation;

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Sprague issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$85,000 to finance an appropriation in the amount of \$85,000 for costs related to the acquisition of a Ford F550 dump truck and related equipment for use by the Sprague Public Works Department. The appropriation may be spent for acquisition costs, equipment, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby declares the official intent of the Town under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing recommended above for the project.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Special Town Meeting be held on June 30, 2009 with respect to the foregoing recommendations, if approved by the Board of Finance, and that notice of said meeting be given substantially in the form presented to this meeting.

Item c:

WHEREAS, the Town's capital budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010 includes appropriations in the amount of \$50,000 for costs related to the Sprague Public Library ADA Compliance Upgrades Project; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town to authorize borrowing to defray such appropriation;

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Sprague issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to finance an appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 included in the adopted budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 for costs related to ADA compliance upgrades and related improvements to the Sprague Public Library located in the Grist Mill, 76 Main Street, Baltic, as to be determined by the First Selectman. The appropriations may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, materials, engineering fees, legal fees, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby declares the official intent of the Town under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing recommended above for the project.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Special Town Meeting be held on June 30, 2009 with respect to the foregoing recommendations, if approved by the Board of Finance, and that notice of said meeting be given substantially in the form presented to this meeting.

Item d:

WHEREAS, the Town's capital budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2010 includes appropriations in the amount of \$50,000 for costs related to the Sanitary Sewer System Pump House # 1 and Related Areas Improvements Project; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Town to authorize borrowing to defray such appropriation;

NOW, THEREFORE, RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen recommends that the Town of Sprague issue bonds or notes and temporary notes in an amount not to exceed \$50,000 to finance an appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 included in the adopted budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010 for costs related to improvements to sanitary sewer system pump house # 1 and related areas of the sanitary sewer system, as to be determined by the First Selectman. The appropriations may be spent for design and construction costs, equipment, materials, engineering fees, legal fees, related land or easement acquisitions, net interest on borrowings and other financing costs, and other expenses related to the project or its financing.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Selectmen hereby declares the official intent of the Town under Federal Income Tax Regulation Section 1.150-2 that project costs may be paid from temporary advances of available funds and that the Town reasonably expects to reimburse any such advances from the proceeds of

borrowings in an aggregate principal amount not in excess of the amount of borrowing recommended above for the project.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that a Special Town Meeting be held on June 30, 2009 with respect to the foregoing recommendations, if approved by the Board of Finance, and that notice of said meeting be given substantially in the form presented to this meeting.

13. Discuss and possibly act on updating Employee Handbook.

Discussion for updates to the Employee Handbook: Worker's Compensation Policy/Procedure, Affirmative Action Plan, Holiday/Vacation schedule and policy for all Town Credit cards. In addition, there may be some legal changes. Board will e-mail questions and concerns to the First Selectman by July 1st along with additions to be forward to Attorney's office for a draft copy and vote at next month's meeting. Once completed, revised handbook will be distributed to all employees, Boards and Commissions. Reference copies will be available at the Town Hall.

14. Discuss and possibly act on Ordinance 2009-1 (Parking on High Street)

Draft ordinance sent by Town Attorney was reviewed by the Board. Ordinance states no parking on the south side of High Street.

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to accept Ordinance 2009-1. Discussion: The Board agreed to add additional language to the ordinance; on the day after a snow storm, parking will be reversed one day only for plowing purposes. 15-30 minute parking signs will be posted for businesses. Violations: first offense written warning; second offense a fine of \$30.00; third offense \$60.00. To be sent back to Attorney for additional language, violation fees and discussed at next month's meeting.

15. Selectman's Report

Arrest on River Street – cleared up two areas of problematic behaviors Illegal weapons and drugs.

K. Generous asked for grant updates and Police report updates; he also asked what the status is re: the \$500,000 Open Space Grant for Mukluk property. C. Osten answered; money is in a reserve account and can not be spent unless approved by the Town. C. Osten referred him to the Board of Finance for further questions.

K. Generous asked questions re:

- Cascades – energy plant in regards to sewer; answer: three year contract with Norwich.
- Mohegan Sun water rights – C. Osten stated no discussion.
- Baltic Mill Site – C. Osten stated waiting for EPA and CERC report, upon completion the report will be handed out. Still waiting for cleanup cost.
- Cell Tower – asked what the expenditure policy is and requesting a monthly report. C. Osten stated revenues are used for Open Space and Parks account which allows cleanup at the reservoir.
- West Main Street sidewalks – questioned the scope of sidewalk project. C. Osten stated structural issues. Project was approved by the Town.

16. Public comment

G. Meadows – Asked if there are grants available to restore restroom facilities at the Little League Field. C. Osten stated buildings need to be replaced/upgraded and states the town needs to put money aside every year. After July 1, 2009, restroom doors will be replaced.

E. meadows – suggests establishing a complaint sheet with signatures for discussion at the Board's meetings.

17. Adjournment

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to adjourn meeting at 7:15PM. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted by Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman