

Board of Selectmen  
Regular Meeting  
November 12, 2008  
7:00 PM  
Court Room

Postponed to November 19, 2008  
5:00 PM  
Court room

Postponed to November 24, 2008  
5:00 PM  
Court Room

**1. Call to order**

Meeting brought to order by First Selectman Catherine Osten at 7:00PM. Present were Selectmen Edward Meadows and Kevin Generous. Also present: Cheryl Blanchard, Denise Lance, Pat Deslandes, Peter Silvestri, Gerry Meadows, Stan Walczyk, Keith Laliberte and Linda Puetz.

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Led by Selectman E. Meadows

**3. Review and act on minutes of October 8, 2008**

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to accept the minutes of 10/8/2008 with correction to Item #13 re: K. Generous' comment on public hearing and petitions. C. Osten states that the Board does not have to address any public comment in minutes. C. Osten and E. Meadows voted yes to accept the minutes without correction. K. Generous opposed.

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

None

**5. Discuss and possibly act on calling a Special Town Meeting re: Solar Energy through Solar Wrights – earth friendly energy.**

David Cohen from Solar Wrights system presented a proposal on solar energy for the Town Hall, Sewage Treatment Plant and two pumping stations. This is a Web based system enabling the town to keep track of their electricity production. The Board asked several questions. Board needs more time to review proposal package and e-mail any questions and concerns to Solar Wrights; to be discussed at next month's meeting.

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

Mr. Spielman and Mr. Rainville have requested a tax exemption for their farm buildings; the exemption would be for active farms only. The Towns of Woodstock, Lebanon, Somers and N. Stonington have already enacted this tax exemption. To be reviewed by Assessor and Town Planner before Sprague will consider. C. Osten has had a preliminary discussion with Planning & Zoning on this issue. K. Generous questioned the fiscal impact on Grand List.

Need more information before Board makes a decision. To be discussed at next month's meeting..

**7. Discuss services of J.P. Maguire Associates, Inc. – disaster Cleaning and Property Reconstruction Professionals.**

P. Silvestri contacted several Towns that have used J.P. Maguire services; all had very good recommendations. Initially J.P. Maguire will do an assessment of all town buildings in preparation of a disaster occurring; no cost to the Town

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to sign an agreement between J.P. Maguire Associates and the Town of Sprague for their services. Unanimously voted.

**8. Act on three appointments to the Sprague Public Library Board.**

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to appoint Megan Feinglass to the Sprague Public Library Board. Unanimously voted.

**9. Act on appointment to the Planning & Zoning Commission.**

Motion was made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to appoint Mike Collins to the Planning & Zoning Commission. Unanimously voted.

**10. Act on Resolution – DEP Urban Forestry (America the Beautiful).**

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to authorize the First Selectman to enter into agreement and sign the Personal Services Agreement (America the Beautiful). Unanimously voted.

**RESOLUTION**

RESOLVED: That the First Selectman, Catherine A. Osten, is empowered to execute and deliver in the name and on behalf of the Town of Sprague a certain contract with the Department of Environmental Protection of the State of Connecticut for the fulfillment of the America-the-Beautiful grant, and is authorized to affix the Town Seal.

**11. Review and possibly Act on repealing ordinance #1996-1 (number of Justice's of the Peace).**

Discussed and approved repealing ordinance 1996-1.

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to repeal ordinance #1996-1 (number of Justice's of the Peace). Unanimously voted.

**12. Authorize First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting re: Ordinance #2008-1**

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting for ordinance #2008-1, which will increase the number of Justice's of Peace. Unanimously voted.

**13. Discuss and possibly act on adopting an Ordinance re: publication of a summary of certain actions in a Town Meeting Warning.**

Discussed and approved ordinance allowing summarization of legal ads.

Motion made by E. Meadows K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to adopt an ordinance regarding summarization of legal ads. Unanimously voted.

**14. Authorize First Selectman to call a Special town Meeting re: Ordinance #2008-2**

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting for ordinance #2008-2, which will allow for summarization of legal ads. Unanimously voted.

**15. Discuss the development of a Blight ordinance**

Several blight ordinances samples received by Planning & Zoning for review by the Board Discussion followed: Unless a blight ordinance is in place, the Zoning Enforcement Officer can not enforce residents to clean up property. Copies of the ordinances will be made for the Board to review. To be discussed at next meeting.

**16. Set meeting dates for year 2009**

Tabled until next month.

**17. Discuss recording system for the Town of Sprague Boards and Commissions.**

P. Silvestri presented to the Board his research on the Audacity Recording System. He will also contact the Groton Board of Education to ask about their recording system.

Table until next month

**18. Selectman's report**

- Reviewed Senior Coordinator and State Trooper's report
- Infrastructure (3) Projects – (shovel ready – engineering and permits completed) Parkwood Road drainage \$275,000 Riverside Drive overlay \$350,000 and Pautipaug Hill Road \$1,500,000. Money from the State of CT. Other projects – Fire Department upgrade and Senior Housing. Requesting feedback from the Board and if town is chosen, a more detailed discussion would follow.
- Reservoir Dam has been drained
- Applying for the next Small Cities project in April 2009 – West Main Street, Park Drive and River Street.
- Other areas to be considered: another streetscape, elevator grist mill, sprinkler system in town building.
- Visiting Washington D.C. to review the economic stimulus package

**19. Public comment**

P. Deslandes – commented on an excellent job C. Osten has done in her first year of service; sidewalks, Grist Mill Parking lot, Senior Center, Roads. Ninety percent of the population is behind her.

D. Lance – Stated K. Generous needs to have a more positive attitude and should resign if not happy with position. States C. Osten has done a wonderful job. Flag at River Park looks nice

K. Laliberte – to write up information on inexpensive microphones for recording meetings.

G. Meadows – replies to K. Generous’ comment on accepting monies for public buildings.

Stan Walczyk –Solar Wright System cost is high and asked the Board to consider a Small Cities Grant. Asked why the Justice of the Peace ordinance is increasing. He suggested the Board look into the system used by Sayles School.

C. Blanchard – Recording minutes would be putting town at risk and states Attorney’s opinion suggested we should not record; relieves the town of liability and risk; Board of Education will not record unless an ordinance is passed. Freedom of Information minutes requires only decisions and actions.

**20. Adjournment**

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to adjourn meeting at 7:00PM. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted by,

Catherine A. Osten  
First Selectman