

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday May13, 2009
5:30PM
Court Room
Revised**

1. Call to order

Meeting brought to order by Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman at 5:30PM. Selectmen Edward Meadows and Kevin Generous were present: Also present: Denise Lance, Patricia Deslandes, Jessica Lance, Patricia Olson, Claire Glaude, Allan Rainville, Gerry Meadows, Justin McGuire, Wayne Budney and Matthew Stabner from the N.L.County Farm Bureau.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by K. Generous

3. Review and act on minutes of March 31, 2009, April 8, 2009 and April 9, 2009.

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to accept the minutes of 3/31/09 and 4/8/09. Unanimously voted.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by C. Osten to accept the minutes of 4/9/09. K. Generous abstained.

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 of overpayment of taxes for Dennis Blanchard \$194.64, Cab East LLC \$225.55, and First American R/E tax Service \$189.68. Unanimously voted.

5. Authorize First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting to accept a grant from the State of CT, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for Grist Mill/Library in the amount of \$24,800.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting to accept a grant from the State of CT, Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation for Grist Mill/Library in the amount of \$24,800. Discussion: The Historical Preservation Grant will expand the architectural documents and include additional renovations to the second and third floor of Grist Mill for a historical museum. Unanimously voted.

6. Authorize First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting to accept a grant from the Federal Government Stimulus package through the State of CT for energy conservation projects in the amount of \$33,632.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting to accept a grant from the Federal Government Stimulus package through the State of CT for energy conservation projects in the amount of \$33,632. Discussion: Funds will be received from a block grant; every town in CT will receive a certain amount based on population. OPM encourages municipalities to use funding for conservation, efficiency and renewable projects. C. Osten will look into Solar Energy as being an acceptable activity under this program. Unanimously voted.

7. Discuss and possibly act on the Charter's Final Draft submitted by the Charter Commission.

The Board reviewed final draft submitted by the Charter Commission:

The Town of Sprague Charter Commission submitted the proposed Charter for consideration by the Board of Selectmen. They reviewed the Charter as directed by the Board and made changes as follows:

1. Article II Section 2.2 Elected Boards—the Commission decided to keep the three-member Board of Selectmen. This decision was reached after considering feedback from the public hearings and the survey conducted by the Commission.

2. Article II Section 2.4 Town Employees—The Commission feels that that it would be inappropriate to include language in the Charter that is more specific. In the opinion of the Commission, procedures to fill hired positions are better handled in the Employee Handbook under the direction of the Board of Selectmen.

3. Article III Section 3.2 B & C Eligibility for Elected Officials and Board members—The word “appointed” was removed from these two sections.

4. Article IV Appointed Officials and Boards Section 4.3.3—Language was changed to address the concerns expressed.

5. Article VI Section 6.2 B Hiring and Appointment of Town Employees—The Commission made no change for the reason cited earlier that it is not appropriate to define the hiring process in the charter.

6. Article X Town Meeting—The Commission made no change to the language after consulting with the Town Attorney.

7. Article X Section 10.2 A & B Town Meeting—The Commission adopted language suggested by the Town Attorney to address the concerns expressed.

8. Article X Section 10.5 Procedure—Commission left this as written because the language allows any elector in the Town of Sprague to serve as Town Moderator.

9. Article X Section 10.4 An Elector's Power to Require Town Meeting—Language was changed to address the concerns expressed.

10. Article X Section 10.6 Voting—The Commission made no change to the language after consulting with the Town Attorney.

11. Article X Section 10.7 (1) and (2) Town Meeting Action by Referendum—The Commission needs further explanation from the Board of Selectmen as to what to clarify.

Discussion ensued the following decision was made.

The Board opposed sending this Charter to referendum. They all agreed that the Charter Commission put in an enormous amount of time and are grateful for all the work done by this Commission. However, they disagreed with some of the basic principles in the Charter and could not support it as written.

Letter will be sent out to all Commissions members for a wonderful job performed and thanking them for all their time and effort in sending the Charter to the Board of Selectmen.

The Town's people have the ability to disagree with this decision and have 45 days to submit a petition.

8. Review and possibly act on the Affirmative Action Plan

Part of the application for funds for Small Cities includes the submission of an Affirmative Action Plan. The Town already has an Affirmative Policy in place and needs to come up with the Affirmative Action Plan. This document analyzes how the Town complies with the law in terms of discrimination, workforce analysis, an organizational chart and hiring goals for the next year. Employee handbook will also be updated.

Tabled, the Board will hold a Special Meeting.

9. Discuss and possibly act on approval of the Community Facilities Grant Agreement (USDA) for a generator, Baltic Fire Department (Public Safety)

Total estimated cost \$1,929.00 - USDA will fund \$640.00 – Town responsible \$1,289.00 @ .331778 percent.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to accept the Community Facilities Grant Agreement (USDA) for a generator for the Fire Department. Unanimously voted.

10. Solar Energy update

Solartek will be submitting their proposal within the next week. Tabled until the next Board of Selectmen's meeting.

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

The Board reviewed a sample tax exemption ordinance which was adopted by Norwich. Discussion: What would the impact be on the Town re: property taxes and threshold for assessed valued property?

Wayne Budney and Matthew Stabner from N.L. County Farm Bureau spoke of their concerns re: a tax exemption, which will help enhance farming in the future. Board is in favor of the tax exemption and will act on this at next month's meeting.

12. Discuss the development of a blight ordinance

Tabled

13. Discussion on four way stop, Main Street Hanover, Potash Hill Road and Salt Rock Rd.

Board does not oppose to this four way stop. C. Osten to speak with State Traffic Authority to make sure the Town's in compliance with rules and regulations for the installation of all four stop signs.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by C. Osten to install four way stop signs on at the intersection of Main Street Hanover, Potash Hill Road and Salt Rock Road. Unanimously voted.

14. Discuss and possibly act on Resident Trooper Contract – Resolution.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to accept the Resident Trooper Contract. Unanimously voted.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That Catherine A. Osten, the First Selectman be and herewith authorized to execute a contract on behalf of the Town of Sprague with the Connecticut Department of Public Safety, Division of State Police for the services of one Resident State Trooper for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2011.

For future copies of contract/agreements that are not available electronically, Board members will be called or e-mailed to obtain copies to review before meeting.

15. Act on Resolution – Nondiscrimination certificate State of CT Dept. of Public Safety

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to accept the resolution nondiscrimination certificate State of CT Dept. of Public Safety. Unanimously voted.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the Town of Sprague hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes State Statutes 4a-60(a)(1) and State Statutes 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142.

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to add 15a and 15b to the agenda. Unanimously voted.

15a. Discuss and possibly act on State/Municipal Project Grant and Loan Agreement for Local Bridge Program LaCroix Road over Beaver Brook – Bridge No. 133003 - Resolution

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to accept the State/Municipal Project Grant and Loan Agreement for Local Bridge Program LaCroix Road over Beaver Book – Bridge No. 133003.

RESOLUTION

Be it RESOLVED, that Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman, of the Town of Sprague is authorized to sign the agreement “PROJECT GRANT AND LOAN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND THE TOWN OF SPRAGUE UNDER THE LOCAL BRIDGE PROGRAM for LaCroix Road over Beaver Brook, Bridge No. 133003.”

15b. Act on Resolution – Nondiscrimination certificate State of CT Dept. of Transportation

Motion made by K. Generous, seconded by E. Meadows to accept the resolution nondiscrimination certificate State of CT Dept. of Transportation. Unanimously voted.

RESOLUTION

RESOLVED: That the Town of Sprague hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreement and warranties required under Connecticut General Statutes State Statutes 4a-60(a)(s1) and State Statutes 4a-60a(a)(1), as amended in State of Connecticut Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142

16. Selectman’s report

Main St. Hanover – complaints about noise from dirt bikes on private property; letter sent to State Trooper, Inland Wetlands Officer, Planning & Zoning, Zoning Enforcement Officer to determine if these activities are against current rules and regulations. C. Osten to send letter to the homeowner of concerns of neighbors where this activity is taken place. If noise situation is not settled, the town will consider adopting a noise ordinance.

17. Public comment

None

18. 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