

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday September 10, 2008
7:00 PM
Court Room
Revised**

1. Call to order

Meeting brought to order by Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman. Present were Selectmen Edward Meadows and Kevin Generous. Also present: Chuck Peaslee J.P. Maguire, Walter Bell, Wilfred Zinavage, Ralph Greenhalgh, Gerry Meadows, Linda Puetz, Keith Laliberte and Bob MacDonald

2. Review and act on minutes of June 11, 2008 August 20, 2008 and September 2, 2008

No action, to discuss at next months meeting.

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

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by C. Osten to accept the tax refund of overpayment of taxes for Roger Newton Jr. for \$27.65. Unanimously voted.

4. Presentation by Chuck Peaslee, J.P. Maguire Associates, Inc. – Disaster Cleaning and Property Reconstruction Professionals.

- Chuck Peasley made his presentation stating J.P Maguire is the largest damage reconstruction contractor in Connecticut and in business for 25 years; specializes in emergency situations and works with CIRMA through insurance company.
- Started a tier I program and has 230 schools signed up on the plan agreement.
- Agreement includes emergency services only and not reconstruction; restoration includes construction repairs, restoration of duct system, post drying demolition and mold remediation.
- Field survey of property at no cost and no obligation to the Town.
- C. Osten to contact Chuck Peasley
- Board agreed to contact a few schools on list who have used J.P. Maguire.
- Table decision for next meeting

5. Discuss Code of Ethics within Personnel Handbook

Discussion followed: C. Osten and E. Meadows agree to accept the existing code of ethics. K. Generous stated it's a policy and not an ethics code. K. Generous recommends sending this to all Employees, Boards and Commissions. The Board agreed to keep the current code until the town adopts the Charter. Charter Commission will be holding a hearing on Sept. 30th and K. Generous suggests meeting with the Commission after their hearing.

Motion made by C. Osten, seconded by K. Generous to accept the Code of Ethics in the town's personnel handbook and that all Elected Officials, Boards and Commissions be given a copy. Unanimously voted.

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

Discussion followed: C. Osten requested tabling for next month's meeting until all information is reviewed. K. Generous stated it has taken 10 months to decide on a recording system.

Motion made by K. Generous: as an interim measure until a more formal systems can be prepared and purchased, the BOS will record all BOS meetings using the existing town equipment bought by taxpayers to record public meetings. He states taping meetings should be a requirement and a recommendation to the Charter Commission and believes the financial body of the town should have their meetings taped and available to the town for accountability purposes. No second on the motion. C. Osten stated the information on the Audacity software recording information was only received at last month's meeting. Tabled until next month.

7. Discuss and possibly act on price increase for fees at the Transfer Station

- Walter Bell spoke to the Board re: price changes:
 1. Change from zero charge for initial permit to \$5.00 for all permits.
 2. Change current price for toilet \$5.00 to \$10.00 complete toilet, \$5.00 toilet tank and \$5.00 toilet bowl.
- Board agreed to table this item and with no price increase at this time.

8. Act on appointment to the Sprague Water & Sewer Authority

No action at this time, waiting for a recommendation from the Water & Sewer Authority.

9. Act on appointment to the Commission on Aging

Motion made by C. Osten, seconded by E. Meadows to appoint June Trainor to the Commission on Aging. Unanimously voted.

10. Authorize First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting to accept a drainage easement from Andrew W and Heather L. Hatch Pinecrest Lane.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by K. Generous to authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting to accept a drainage easement from Andrew W. and Heather L. Hatch Pinecrest Lane. Unanimously voted.

11. Discuss actual dates on events for President Lincoln's Bicentennial February 12, 2009 through February 12, 2010.

Board will review and choose specific dates on events for President Lincoln's Bicentennial.

12. Selectman's report

**Reviewed State Trooper's report, Assessor's report, and Senior Coordinator's report. **Foreclosure meeting held by Uncas Health – copies of minutes distributed to the Board members; discussion at next months.

**Newsletter from Ombudsman for Property Rights – copies distributed to the Board; for questioning at next meeting.

**State closes books with \$83.4 Million surplus.

**Marie Davis and Claire Glaude are working with TVCCA completing applications for fuel assistance.

**Interim State Trooper John Saucier back on regular duty with the State and John Patterson Town's Resident State Trooper back on duty.

**Voice of the Valley Quinebaug Shetucket National Heritage Corridor – received \$25,000 for handicapped fishing ramp.

13. Public comment

B. MacDonald – complaint of Joe Smith, Zoning Enforcement Officer; he has asked the Board to evaluate Joe's position. C. Osten stated that this position is not hired by the Board of Selectmen but by the Planning & Zoning Commission by State Statute. C. Osten to inform Planning & Zoning of B. MacDonald's concerns.

--K. Laliberte – states cost is too high to dispose of his trash at Transfer Station.

--L. Puetz – explains minutes were recorded 20 years ago and asks why this is an issue now. Planting around sign at Ball field. Price list for Transfer Station fees should be listed in Our Town. Friends of library are official and have received a grant for start up.

--R. Greenhalgh. – requesting roadside mowing to continue, need fencing on Salt Rock Road, Culvert on Main St. Hanover corner of Spruce St needs to be looked at. Questions Town crew planting trees. C. Osten stated Town Crew is responsible for other jobs and not just maintenance. Curbing installed on Baltic Hanover Rd. needs back fill. Public Works employees should be wearing hard hats and safety vests when working. C. Osten will speak to Road Foreman about safety glasses and hard hats.

--W. Zinavage – Board needs to work together and states C. Osten is our Chief of Police representing our town and has the authority in any emergency to make decisions.

--K. Generous – need a recording system for accountability.

--G. Meadows – states the Secretary for Board of Selectmen is not a Court Stenographer and should not have to type word for word.

14. Adjournment

Motion made by C. Osten, seconded by K. Generous to adjourn meeting at 9:00PM. Unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted by,
Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman