

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday December 9, 2009
6:15PM
Court Room**

1. Call to order

Meeting brought to order by Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman at 6:15PM. Present were Selectmen Michael Collins and Edward Meadows. Also present: Gerry Meadows, Tom Girard, Chris Mueller, and Susan Zimmerman

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by C. Osten

3. Review and act on minutes of regular meeting November 11, 2009 and special meeting November 23, 2009.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by M. Collins to accept the minutes of 11/11/09. Unanimously voted.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by M. Collins to accept the minutes of 11/23/09. Unanimously voted.

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

No refunds

5. Review and possibly act on the revised Noise ordinance

Noise ordinances are approved by the Departmental of Environmental Protection. DEP will not approve our ordinance and recommends Sprague to make amendments similar to Hartford's ordinance; the verbiage does not pertain/fit into Sprague's. Town Attorney to re-draft a nuisance ordinance.

6. Review and possibly act on the Blight ordinance

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by M. Collins to accept the Blight Ordinance and authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting. Unanimously voted.

7. Review and possibly act on amending Ordinance 1967-1, Ordinance creating a Water and Sewer Authority for the Town of Sprague.

The amendment in Section 8 is the only item changed (the Sprague W&S Authority shall determine the rate of compensation for its members on the basis of meeting attended).

Motion made by M. Collins, seconded by E. Meadows to accept the ordinance and authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting. Unanimously voted.

8. Discuss and possibly act on cemetery plots for Sexton's at Lovett Cemetery.

For 25 years Sexton's William Mares and Jonathon Arpin have overseen the duties at the Lovett Cemetery with no compensation from the Town. Their request: Town donates to each one (2) single plots in their names as recognition for services provided.

Motion made by E. Meadows, seconded by M. Collins that the Town donates 2 single plots each for their services. Unanimously voted.

9. Selectman's report

- NE Utilities – quality of service investigation report – C. Osten requested report because of amperage problems particularly in the summertime. Repairs will be made this fiscal year approx. \$2,500.
- Feasibility analysis for Baltic Mills – Prepared by CERC (Conn. Econ. Resource Center) - appendices- Board to review reports
- Connecticut Rural Development Council – community assessment report for the Town of Sprague. Board to review reports

- Update on Probate Court Consolidation – probate consolidation happened throughout the state because of the deficit in Connecticut. Result; cost will decrease, based on per capita per town.
- Update on H1N1 – report from State of Conn. Dept. of Health
- Update on Town roads – Parkwood, Pearl Street completed, Hazelwood nearly complete, Hanover Versailles completed but looking at a few areas by Zinavage’s residence; some ponding on road. CLA Engineers is overseeing all projects. Bridge on Rte #207- State of CT to start construction in 2012, two year time limit. To reduce the time frame for this project, town may consider turning a section of High St. into a two way street, by this action parking would be banned on High Street. C. Osten to bring this discussion to a town meeting.
- **Capital Plan Review for the Town and recommendations for 2010/2011** –
- Sprague Water & Wastewater - reviewed plan with Todd Hastings; southwest dam is out to bid, east dam to be completely demolished, filtration upgrade, fire hydrants to be removed abandoning lines, upgrade 3 miles of piping. Sewer treatment – working with Cascade Box Office to revert their sewer from Norwich plant to the Town’s. Two pump stations need work; expand all services on Inland Road.
- Town roads- reviewed FY 2010/2011 road projects
- Recreation field, parks- reviewed plans for ball field, little league, soccer field, skate park, skating pond, playgrounds in Hanover and Baltic, cemeteries, gazebos, Baltic reservoir preserve. Lighting upgrades at the ball field; researching grant.
- Town equipment – replacement 1988 International and a 1987 brush bandit Chipper. New Almo mower, new bobcat brush hog. Looking for a used pickup truck to provide better usage. Sweeper needs repairs.
- Town facilities – no report at this time, will review in the future. C. Osten expressed her concerns: suggested replacing boiler town office building, on demand hot water heaters, replace windows in the Library, steel building to park town vehicles.
- C. Osten appointed to the Governors workforce – working on reducing the 3 percent proposed cut to municipalities.

10. Public comment

T. Girard – pleased to see the blight ordinance in place, questioned the bridge project asking if there was any discussion on the bridge project re: piping (boxed culvert) C. Osten to question the State. Under the capital plan he asked if the transfer station was included. C. Osten stated no; but needs to be reviewed. The radio system needs to be replaced.

Susan Zimmerman – thanked C. Osten for the work done on Hanover/Versailles Road.

11. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by,

Catherine A. Osten
First Selectman