

**BOARD OF FINANCE
REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2012**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm in the Court Room.

ATTENDANCE THIS MEETING AND FOR ELECTION YEAR 2011-12 TOTAL 17, 10 REGULAR, 7 SPECIAL						
PRESENT	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
FOR EY	CLAUDE PELLEGRINO	JULIE LUMPKINS	WENDY SCHNIP	DEBORAH BAKER	KORD JABLONSKI	KATE TIFFANY
REGULAR	100%	90%	90%	30%	100%	100%
SPECIAL	100%	86%	86%	14%	100%	100%

Also present: Selectman Denise Dembinski, Jim Ennis, Debra Hutchinson, Warren Baker, Frank Davis, and Erin Spitale. First Selectman Catherine Osten arrived at 8:20 pm.

C. Pellegrino opened the meeting by explaining that he did not put the BoS recommended traffic study on the agenda as it was more appropriate as a discussion topic under Selectman's Report or Any Other Business, but the board could add it if they saw fit to do so.

Motion made by W. Schnip, seconded by D. Baker, to add to agenda Item #2a to discuss and possibly act on an appropriation for a traffic study. Discussion. Approved 4-1.						
	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Nay	Yea	Yea	Yea	<i>Abstained</i>	Yea

1. PUBLIC COMMENT

Jim Ennis spoke on opposition to the recently installed stop sign in Hanover. Warren Baker also opposed stop sign.

2. REVIEW AND ACT ON MINUTES OF AUGUST 16, 2012 MONTHLY MEETING

Motion made by W. Schnip, seconded by K. Tiffany, to approve said minutes. Approved.						
	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Yea	Yea	Yea	<i>Abstained</i>	Yea	Yea

2A. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON AN APPROPRIATION FOR A TRAFFIC STUDY

K. Jablonski has recused himself from this item, submitting a written document (see below) to explain his reason. C. Pellegrino suggests sending this item back to the BoS for specifics on the study which is the authority of the BoS. D. Baker stated the BoS at their meeting stated study could cost \$15,000 – \$25,000 with no factual basis. W. Schnip suggests spending up to \$1,400 on study. Further discussion.

Motion made by W. Schnip, seconded by D. Baker to suggest to BoS to appropriate up to \$1,000 for traffic study. Motion denied.						
	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Nay	Nay	Yea	Yea	<i>Abstained</i>	Nay

C. Pellegrino suggested this can be brought back to BoF after BoS provides specifics of study.

3. REVIEW AND DISCUSS MONTHLY MANAGEMENT REPORTS

Monthly reports were reviewed. C. Pellegrino indicated he will speak with accountant about including a prorated monthly budget into the budget vs. actual report.

By general consent, moved to item #12.

4. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON END OF FY 2011-12 ACCOUNT TRANSFERS

Board discussed Auditor stating this item was not necessary to execute only to acknowledge.

Motion made by J. Lumpkins, to approve the FY 2011-12 end-of-year account transfers, but not execute the transfers unless the Auditor requires it. Seconded by W. Schnip. Unanimously approved. **See Attached.**

	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

5. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON RECOMMENDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$2,000,000 FOR THE SHETUCKET VILLAGE FUNDED THROUGH THE STATE HOUSING REHABILITATION AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM BY A GRANT FROM DECD/CHFA AND CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING SAID FUNDS

Motion made by K. Jablonski, seconded by J. Lumpkins, to recommend an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Shetucket Village funded through the State Housing Rehabilitation and Preservation Program by a grant from DECD/CHFA and contingent upon receiving said funds. Unanimously approved.

	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

6. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON RECOMMENDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$25,000 FOR A WATER SUPPLY PLAN FOR THE TOWN FUNDED BY A USDA GRANT AND CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING SAID FUNDS

Motion made by J. Lumpkins, seconded by K. Tiffany, to recommend an appropriation of \$25,000 for a Water Supply Plan for the Town funded by a USDA Grant and contingent upon receiving said funds. Unanimously approved.

	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

7. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON RECOMMENDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$28,700 FOR THE UPGRADE OF THE TOWN HALL RESTROOMS IN ACCORDANCE WITH ADA REGULATIONS FUNDED BY A USDA GRANT FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING SAID FUNDS

Motion made by K. Jablonski, seconded by K. Tiffany, to recommend an appropriation of \$28,700 for the upgrade of the Town Hall restrooms in accordance with ADA regulations funded by a USDA Grant for Community Facilities and contingent upon receiving said funds. Unanimously approved.

	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

8. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON RECOMMENDING AN APPROPRIATION OF \$500,000 FOR THE FINANCING OF THE REHABILITATION OF PUMP STATION #2 IN HANOVER, CT FUNDED THROUGH THE STEAP PROGRAM AND CONTINGENT UPON RECEIVING SAID FUNDS

Motion made by J. Lumpkins, seconded by K. Jablonski, to recommend an appropriation of \$500,000 for the financing of the rehabilitation of Pump Station #2 in Hanover, CT funded through the STEAP program and contingent upon receiving said funds. Unanimously approved.

	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

There is a \$500,000 STEAP grant augmented with the USRDA grant of \$300,000. The project will be initiated upon receipt of both grants.

9. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON RESOLUTION REGARDING \$450,000 INCREASE TO SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM PUMP STATION NO. 1 REHABILITATION APPROPRIATION (\$1,350,000 APPROPRIATION AND \$1,200,000 BORROWING AUTHORIZATION)

C. Osten explained \$150,000 coming out of Water & Sewer CIP funds.

Motion made by J. Lumpkins, seconded by K. Tiffany to approve the following resolution: RESOLVED, that the Board of Finance recommends that the Town of Sprague: (a) increase by \$450,000 the \$900,000 appropriation adopted at the Annual Budget Meeting held June 6, 2011 for costs related to the rehabilitation of sanitary sewer system Pump Station No. 1, located off of Main Street on the south shore of the Shetucket River, for an aggregate appropriation of \$1,350,000, and (b) increase by \$300,000 the \$900,000 authorization of the issuance of bonds, notes and temporary notes to finance such appropriation approved at said Annual Budget Meeting, for an aggregate bond, note and temporary note authorization of \$1,200,000. The Town anticipates receiving an aggregate \$500,000 in State and Federal grants to defray in part the appropriation for the project, and to defray the \$150,000 balance of the appropriation not anticipated to be funded by grants or borrowings from Sprague Water and Sewer Authority funds. The amount of bonds or notes authorized to be issued to finance the appropriation shall be reduced by the amount of grants received by the Town for the project to the extent that such grants are not separately appropriated to pay additional project costs.

Unanimously approved.

	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

By general consent, moved to item #4.

10. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON CAPITAL PROJECT UNUSED FUNDS SWEEP

Tabled until next month.

11. REVIEW AND DISCUSS FIXED ASSETS REPORT

C. Pellegrino will request a monthly fixed assets report. Board agreed.

By general consent, moved to item #5.

12. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON UPDATES TO BOARD POLICIES AND FISCAL YEAR OBJECTIVES

Discussion ensued. Suggestions and amendments were made.

By general consent, amended policies were approved.

C. Pellegrino asked Board to suggest changes to the procedures and content meetings. W. Schnip suggests shorter meetings, but also requests some agencies meet with BoF quarterly. C. Pellegrino suggests meeting with town agencies starting at the December meeting and further discuss meeting quarterly going forward.

By general consent, moved to item #11.

13. DISCUSS AND POSSIBLY ACT ON BOF MEETING SCHEDULE CHANGE

Board agreed to keep the schedule as is on the 3rd Thursday of the month, except for the December meeting which will be on the 2nd Thursday.

14. FIRST SELECTMAN’S REPORT

C. Pellegrino informed C. Osten about added agenda item #2A. C. Osten stated cannot accept correspondences from someone not a town resident.

C. Osten presented a letter from Attorney Lloyd Langhammer dated 9/6/12 regarding tax collection issues.

15. OLD BUSINESS UPDATE

None.

16. PUBLIC COMMENT

W. Baker read letter from Erin Spitale, owner of Spitale Insurance, who attended but was unable to stay; requests her insurance company be given the chance to be utilized by the town.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS PROPER TO COME BEFORE SAID MEETING

K. Jablonski presented the Board suggestions on roadway structure, which he researched. Discussion ensued. To be brought back to the board at budget time.

18. ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by J. Lumpkins, seconded by W. Schnip to adjourn. Unanimously approved. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 pm.						
	Claude Pellegrino	Julie Lumpkins	Wendy Schnip	Deborah Baker	Kord Jablonski	Kate Tiffany
Vote	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea	Yea

CLAUDE R. PELLEGRINO, CHAIRMAN

The following letter (see agenda item 2A) was reformatted to fit the framework of the board’s minutes. Content, spelling, and grammar are unchanged.

September 7, 2012

Open Letter To: Selectman Cathy Osten
Town of Sprague, CT. 06330

cc: Selectman Denise Dembinski
Selectman Dennison Allen

Dear Selectman Osten;

I feel I must write you to keep the facts accurate in my pursuit to remove the stop signs installed on Main Street at Spruce Street in Hanover.

- 1.) Signs suddenly appeared July 5, 2012
- 2.) I researched the criteria of making a multi-stop intersection.
- 3.) I attended the July Selectman's meeting and copied my findings in the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices", (MUTCD) which was adopted by the State of CT. Also copies of State Statute 14-298-523, which states, "Stop signs shall not be used for speed control."
- 4.) The stop signs on Main and Spruce Streets don't meet any of the criteria in the MUTCD.
- 5.) I attended the August Selectmen meeting and was informed the State Statute allows the Traffic Authority in any municipality to place stop signs where ever they like and don't have to take the advice of Traffic Engineers, or data and statistics from over 100 years when cars started to share the road with horses.
- 6.) At both the July and August meetings, I was told by the Board there was no opposition to the stop signs.
- 7.) I spent 1.5 hours in the Town Clerks office and found the stop signs were never listed in the agenda for any Selectman's meeting and a vote by the Selectmen was never taken to install the stop signs. I asked how can there be any opposition when the stop signs were installed secretly.

- 8.) I thought maybe it was just me thinking the stop signs were unnecessary , expensive to the community and polluting the environment.
- 9.) August 13, 2012 I tested the response of the community with a petition. I made 2 signs which read "PLEASE STOP & SIGN PETITION TO REMOVE STOP SIGNS". I chose the use of a sign so I would not have to approach a car stopped at the stop sign and the operator wouldn't feel harrassed or threatened. The operator read the sign and either chose to stop on the side of the road and sign the petition or not sign it.
- 10.) August 13,2012 Selectman Osten drove up and told me I must leave with my signs and stop with my petition drive. She stated I am harrassing people. I asked her for the names of the people to see how I harrassed them and address their concerns. Selectman Osten would not supply me with any names. I told her I have a right to know my accusers. She then informed me she called the State Police and said I should pick up my signs and leave before the police arrived. It was not my intention to disrespect the office of the Selectman but when informed me she called the Police I had no choice but to stay until the trooper arrived. The trooper arrived and watched our operation and had not problem and found we harrassed no one. I wish Selectman Osten was aware of The First Ammendment of our Constitution.... which reads,"The Freedom of Speech, or of the Press, or the Right of the People peacefully to assemble and petition the Government for a readdress of grievances." Thank God the State Police are aware of the Constitution.
- 11.) On or about August 15, 2012 I called Selectman Osten to find out why she became so angry with me when I was just trying to find out if it was only me overreacting to the installation of the stop signs. I was surprised by the support petition received, in 5 hours 168 signatures. I offered Selectman Osten a proposal that would not divide the community and to resolve this issue honorably for everyone. The proposal was to have a traffic engineered study done as described in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. She agreed to think it over. A week went by and I called Selectman Osten 3 times and never received a call back.
- 12.) On August 29, 2012, I stopped at the Town Hall and met with Selectman Osten. I asked if she came to a conclusion to my proposal. She rejected it saying the Board of Finance would not approve the funding. I asked her if she would take 15-30 minutes and park on Spruce Street and observe the intersection. She would see why the petitioners are so upset: She refused to do so.

I feel I have answered the Boards concerns why the stop signs should be removed.

- 1.) Speeding: State Statute says ... stop signs should not be used to control speed. We have speed limit laws in place and law enforcement agencies to enforce them.
- 2.) Bikers: If a biker chooses to use a road shared with motor vehicles, there are inherent dangers. If the biker should choose the use of a designated bike path or a road with a bike lane, it would be safer.
- 3.) Joggers: If a jogger chooses to use a road with no sidewalks shared by motor vehicles there are inherent dangers. If the jogger should choose a running track or jogging trail they would be safer.

I met with Selectman Cathy Osten August 29, 20 12. She pointed out the petition was not legal. The sole purpose of the petition was to establish for the Selectmen that there is strong opposition to the stop signs and not to force referendum.

I would like to remind the Board of Selectmen that everyone who signed the petition are taxpayers to the lawn of Sprague. When they purchase gasoline or diesel and the town accepts state money for bridges and road maintenance it uses their tax money. Remember the cries of our fore-fathers. "No Taxation Without Representation".

I respectfully urge the Board not to act like a "Board of Dictators"and more like a "Board of Selectmen". Don't abuse your powers in which you were entrusted when elected. I hope you respect the wishes of the overwhelming support to remove the stop signs by the petitioners and revisit your decision.

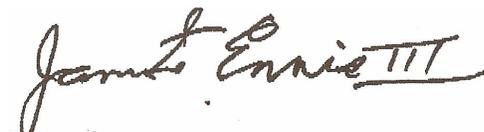
Now let's get to the real reason why these stop signs were installed. As of this writing I am aware of only three people in favor of the stop signs. The two Democratic Selectman, Osten and Dembinski and former Democratic Town Committee Chairman and current member of The Board of Finance, Kord Jablonski. I feel I can name names and not make it personal because you chose to distribute copies of Kord's letter addressed to you, dated July 9, 2012 , which you handed out at the Selectman's meeting.

The stop signs sure look like a political payback and political favoritism at its worst. The Board should be ashamed of itself as to how underhanded and secretly these signs were installed. This is a prime example of abuse of power by The Board.

The family of Debbie Hutchinson of 331 Main Street, Hanover, a petition signer, the one most effected by the stop signs was given no notice or asked their opinion before a decision was made. Now her family is stuck with loud motorcycles and trucks accelerating after stopping, frustrated drivers blowing their horns in protest....also privacy issues stopping right at her home.....breathing polluted air from emissions from cars exceleating after stopping!

I ask the board, "How could you correct a problem when there was never a problem ?"

I hope the Board does not make this personal, do the right thing and listen to the vast majority, and not divide the community.



Sincerely,
James F. Ennis III
Tax Payer in Sprague