

**Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting
Wednesday January 11, 2012
5:00PM
Court Room**

1. Call to order

Meeting called to order by Catherine A. Osten, First Selectman at 5:00PM. Present were Selectmen Denise Dembinski and Dennison Allen.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Led by C. Osten

3. Review and act on minutes of December 14, 2011

Motion made by D. Allen, seconded by D. Dembinski to accept the minutes of 12/14/11, unanimously voted.

4. Act on tax refunds

Motion made by D. Dembinski, seconded by D. Allen to accept the tax refund for Mary Carmen Jones for \$12.75, unanimously voted.

5. Discuss and possibly act on a local option for a Veterans Tax Exemption Ordinance and authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting when appropriate.

Motion made by D. Allen seconded by D. Dembinski to discuss a local option for a Veterans Tax Exemption Ordinance and authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting when appropriate. Board reviewed the draft ordinance. C. Osten stated that the town has 132 Veterans, but not all meet the minimum income level requirement by state statute; this is a separate exemption offered by State. The Board feels that we should recognize all Veterans who have served even if served for a period of 90 days. Tabled until next month with final language.

6. Discuss and possibly act on the Waiver of Property Tax Interest for Certain U.S. Armed Forces Members called to Active Service Ordinance and authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting when appropriate.

This would apply to Veterans currently on active duty; waives any interest on property. Tabled until next month waiting for language from Town Attorney.

7. Review the previously approved Ordinance for Establishing Local Bid Preference.

Board reviewed the previously approved ordinance. Review again at next meeting.

8. Discuss and possibly act on Regulation of Dogs and Other Animals in the Town of Sprague Ordinance as amended by the Regional Animal Control Board and authorize the First Selectman to call a Special Town Meeting when appropriate.

Sprague is one of the five towns belonging to the Regional Animal Control Service District. Three of the Five Towns have accepted this Ordinance; Board to review the final language at the next meeting for a vote.

9. Discuss and possibly act on amending or repealing the following Ordinances:

#1962-1 Dump Ordinance– C. Osten spoke with Town Attorney Richard Cody; he suggested to repeal it, has no value. R. Cody to draft wording. Tabled until next meeting. Also a Special Town Meeting to be scheduled.

#1971-1 Pension Town Nurse – not applicable; to be repealed,, copy of death certificate from Town Clerk.

#1971-2 Salary Tax Collector – to be repealed; current Tax Collector makes more than the language in the ordinance. To review the minutes of May 17, 1971 meeting as to why this ordinance was established.

#1990-1 Refuse Collection and Disposal – R. Cody to review. Board questioned if the town had passed an ordinance with SCRRA and when was the name changed from a dump to a Transfer Station. C. Osten to speak with Winston Averill to see if parts of this ordinance should be kept. Also, anyone collecting refuse in town should have a paper trail to justify delivery.

#2001-2 Removal of Dog Litter – R. Cody is reviewing the Removal of Dog Litter Ordinance, the Blight Ordinance and the Refuse Collection and Disposal Ordinance; making sure they are not overlapping.

10. Discuss and possibly act on Transfer Station Price List changes and policy.

SCCRA offer many free items for disposal. C. Osten will coordinate a list with Walter Bell to apply the new policy list and changes so that residents will not be charged for things that the town is not being charged for. Board reviewed the new change and policy list. Overall discussion by the Board was a concern where residents should dispose the items not allowed; C. Osten to contact Winston Averill on this. Board agreed to change three items in the policy. **(1)** Add barbecue propane tanks **(2)** Mercury Vapor Lights for free disposal; and to decide a drop off location. **(3)** Change bulky waste to \$10.00 for contractors & landlords and residents.

Motion made by D. Dembinski, seconded by D. Allen to accept the prices as amended in the policy, unanimously voted.

11. Review Capital Projects for 2012/2013.

- Parks, Recreation Fields, Open Space and Cemeteries – reviewed 2012 proposals soccer field, little league field, softball fields, skateboard park, ice skating rink, basketball court, trail along river, playground, park benches, pavilion, Hanover Playground, Baltic Playground, River Park, Head Race, Hanover Cemetery, Lovett Cemetery, Grist Mill, Versailles Sign, Hanover gazebo, Versailles gazebo, Sprague Land Preserve, Baltic Reservoir Preserve
- Equipment – Truck replacement for the 1996 Ford L8000 for 2012/201 and replace 1987 chipper.
- Town Roads - reviewed roads and the 5year plan
- Town Hall, Town Garage, Grist Mill, Senior Center, Transfer Station, Salt shed area
- Sprague Water and Wastewater Capital Plan – Baltic Reservoir, Water System, Wells, Well House, Sewer Treatment Plant, Studies, Pump Station #1 Baltic, Pump Station #2 Hanover, Pump Station #5 Cascades new, Pump Station #3 Versailles Main Street, Pump Station #4 Versailles Bay Street, I and I Rehab.
- Sprague Water and Sewer – Removal of old non working hydrants, purchase spare pumps, repair fence at Sewer Plant damaged during tropical Storm Irene.
- Library – Technology costs set aside every year.
- P&Z – Plan of Conservation & Development
- Computers for 2012/2013
- Cameras throughout Town of Sprague
- Baltic Fire Department
- Inventory gun for fixed assets

12. Selectman's report

- Importance of Connecticut Agriculture – working on changing Planning and Zoning regulations to coordinate with the Agriculture Commissions to further promote farming.
- State Police report – reviewed call for service; break ins - stealing copper
- Town Attorney, Labor – Increase in rates from \$145 to \$150.
- Report on Two Storm Panel; C. Osten was on this panel and learned many things, copy of the report was given to Board. Study is on web site.
- State Regulatory Bulletin – Low-Income Housing Tax Credit
- State Regulatory Bulletin – Community Farms Preservations Grants Available; passed information to Board members. Connecticut agriculture saving farm land.
- Emergency Management Meeting – January 25, 2012 at 6:00PM – Special Board of Selectmen Meeting.
- Setting up a Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT)
- Roadside mowing
- Additional work road crew
- Maintenance on vehicles
- SCRRA tipping fees have not increased staying at \$60 per ton.
- Proposing a 3-way stop sign Spruce Street and Main Street Hanover
- Historical Society is opening up the museum for the public
- Next meeting opt to continue in the STEAP program – resolution to be passed

13. Public comment

None

14. Adjournment

Motion made by D. Dembinski, seconded by D. Allen to adjourn meeting at 7:15PM, unanimously voted.

Respectfully submitted by

Catherine A. Osten
First Selectman