

**Newington Board of Selectmen  
Meeting Minutes**

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**July 14, 2003  
Newington Town Hall  
6:30 p.m.**

**In attendance:** Chairman Board of Selectmen Jack O'Reilly, Selectman Cosmas Iocovozzi, Selectman Jan Stuart, AA Cynthia Gillespie, Ted Reed & Buck Eliot of Sprague Energy

***Pledge of Allegiance***

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

**Sprague Energy/ Patterson Lane Residents**

The purpose of this meeting was to follow up with Sprague Energy from the June 16<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Reed, Manager of Operations Support stated that he is aware that there was a vibration problem. Sprague Energy brought in experts from Houston, Texas to investigate where the vibration was coming from. The Houston firm is the second leading company in the world for this technology. Mr. Reed reported to the Patterson Lane residents the specialists seem to have found the problem and Sprague is in the process of fixing it. Mr. Reed said that the Houston firm came up with three things Sprague needs to do: Order parts (at the worst 2- 4 weeks), update blower from 3500 to 4300 and combustion problems. Sprague will shut the plant down in order to fix these things when the parts arrive. Sprague anticipates the parts should be in, the week of August 11<sup>th</sup>.

Irving Beebe asked how long it will take to fix the problem. Mr. Reed answered one day. Mr. Reed also stated that Sprague has only received 11 complaints since the last meeting. Sandra Sweeney mentioned that she had stopped calling as often because she was assured that Sprague was fixing the problem.

Mr. Sweeney stated that he felt it was wrong to call and take someone off the job just to answer the phone when Sprague is supposedly fixing the problem. Ms. LaClair, resident, asked about the volume of trucks pumping. Mr. Reed said that the weather has caused the air to change. The cool air has a lesser effect on the machinery then when there is hot and humid air. Ms. LaClair asked why things have gotten better. Mr. Reed said that can't really be explained. Nothing has changed since the terminal was built. The maximum Sprague can unload is 2400 gallons of gasoline per minute.

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Mr. Beebe stated that he felt the capacity for two trucks to pump at the same time, was lacking, therefore causing vibrations. Mr. Reed responded that the company that built the pumps is confident that everything works fine the way it is. So Sprague brought in another company. This is the third company that Sprague has brought in to investigate. Sprague is sure that the new blower and installation will solve the problem.

Mr. Reed explained that the blower is never completely quiet, much like a furnace in someone's home. The blower that Sprague currently uses has a low frequency vibration much like a kid's boom box. The low frequency travels a long way. The new blower will put more air into the machine that will support the combustion and raise the frequency. The shaking should stop.

Selectman Stuart asked if at the end of three weeks the vibrations would stop. Mr. Reed answered that yes, they should. Mr. Reed also said that if it doesn't work, Sprague has other options that could be explored.

Chairman O'Reilly asked to set another meeting with Sprague after the blower has been fixed. It was decided to meet September 8, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. if the vibrations has not stopped.

Mr. Reed asked that residents to still call so that Sprague can log the calls. He stated that this is important backup to show Sprague management. In order to justify the spending of more money there has to be proof that it is needed. Mr. Reed also said that the residents should understand that parts take time to receive. If there was any other way, Sprague would have done it. If it takes only filling one truck at a time then Sprague will do it.

Selectman Iocovozzi asked if a geologist was brought in to verify where the vibrations were coming from. Mr. Reed answered that after the new blower is installed the vibrations should stop.

Mr. Peter Rose, Dover resident, said that the low noise he was hearing kept him and his wife up at night. He noticed that there was a bulldozer moving across the river from him, possibly Newington Energy. Mr. Reed responded that he talked to Mrs. Rose three years ago when Sprague was unloading rock. Sound panels were installed at that time to stop the noise coming across the water. Mr. Reed had received no other calls from Mrs. Rose

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until a few months ago when she complained of loud truck noises. Every bulldozer that Sprague used had mufflers on them, and bulldozers are not frequently used. Mr. Reed said that Mrs. Rose told him that the noise appeared in September, which coincides with the power plant going on line. Sprague can not find out what the Rose's noise is.

Mr. Dennis Acton mentioned the smell that wafts over his yard on Patterson Lane. Mr. Reed said that this is the first time in 2 years that Sprague has gotten a complaint about the smell of asphalt. Sprague spends a lot of money controlling the smell. Mr. Acton said the smell is so strong that no one can say they don't smell it. Mr. Reed responded that he has to go to the higher powers to see what can be done. Mr. Reed suggested that the Board of Selectman write a letter about the asphalt smell to Burt Russell, Vice President of Terminals. Sprague has spent \$200,000 on the noise and smell problem since 1997. Last month was the first time in 2 years that this has been brought forward.

Mr. Reed said that the MMA (methyl methacrylate) people will be moving out of the Avery Road property at the end of the month, which will reduce the odor.

Chairman O'Reilly ended this portion of the meeting by verifying that Sprague has ordered the parts and the parts should be installed around the 18<sup>th</sup> of August. The Board of Selectmen will hold another meeting with Sprague and the Patterson Lane residents on September 8<sup>th</sup> for any further concerns or problems. The Board of Selectman will send a letter to the Vice President Russell about the asphalt smell.

**Building Inspector Correspondence**

Selectman Stuart made the motion to accept the Bid to purchase a new truck from Grappone Ford (tilt bed, diesel) not to exceed \$35,000. Seconded by Selectman Iocovozzi. Vote 3-0.

**Miscellaneous**

Selectman Iocovozzi made the motion to accept the minutes from July 7, 2003. Seconded by Selectman Stuart. Vote 3-0.

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**Town Hall Use**

A Town Hall Use Form from Thermo Neslab for a July 23rd meeting was approved.

A Town Hall Use Form from Sandra Sweeney for a December 27<sup>th</sup> anniversary party was approved.

There being no further business before the Board:

Adjourn 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia L. Gillespie  
Administrative Assistant