Gentlemen,

I was informed via letter from DEEP yesterday that the Town of Bozrah would not receive any funding under the truck replacement grant program that I had felt so encouraged by. I ordered the mason dump truck with plow package about a month ago. The majority of that truck can be paid for with the sale of the old FD ambulance so I still feel pretty good about that. I have discussed my hesitation with ordering the larger, more expensive truck, with the DPW personnel especially concerning my fear that what just happened, would happen. Thank intuition for that!!!

I attach a copy of a letter sent out to DEEP and to some of our Statesmen. As a footnote, we have two trucks presently disabled due to mechanical issues so as it is presently snowing there will only be three trucks on the road in Bozrah tonight. We will do our best.

Glenn
Dear Selectman Pianka:

Please see the attached letter for information regarding your VW Diesel Emissions Mitigation Grant proposal. We encourage you to reapply in another solicitation round for VW funding. Funding is also available through the U.S Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA’s) Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program that is still accepting proposals at this time. The incentive limits for vehicle replacements are not as generous as those under the VW Program, but the range of eligible projects under DERA is more extensive.

A complete list of eligible projects is provided in the 2018 Guidance for State DERA Project Proposals, which can be found, with the proposal form, on the DEEP website at: http://www.ct.gov/deep/cwp/view.asp?a=2684&q=322100&deepNav_GID=1619.

If you have any questions about DERA, you may contact me at patrice.kelly@ct.gov or by phone at 860-424-3410.

Patrice

Patrice P. Kelly
Sr. Environmental Analyst
Toxics and Mobile Sources Group
Planning & Standards Division
Bureau of Air Management
Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection
79 Elm Street, Hartford, CT 06106-5127
P: 860.424-3410 | E: Patrice.Kelly@ct.gov

Connecticut Department of
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

www.ct.gov/deep

Conserving, improving and protecting our natural resources and environment; Ensuring a clean, affordable, reliable, and sustainable energy supply.
Mr. Glenn S. Pianka  
First Selectman  
Town of Bozrah  
1 River Road  
Bozrah, CT 06334

Re: VW NOx Mitigation Grant

Dear Selectman Pianka:

Thank you for submitting a request for funding under Connecticut’s Volkswagen (VW) Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) Mitigation Grant Program. This initial round of funding was extremely competitive. The Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("the Department") received 56 proposals requesting $32 million in funding. Unfortunately, the Department regrets to inform you that the Town of Bozrah was not selected to receive a grant in this round for the project described below:

*Application No.: 201809526*

*Project Description:* Replacement of two (2) maintenance trucks, one MY 2008 Class 5 Mason Dump and one MY 1996 Class 7 truck, with MY 2019 diesel-powered equivalents

While the application was complete and well-prepared, the projected air quality benefits were smaller than those projected in proposals selected for funding. The Department applauds your foresight in recognizing the public health and environmental benefits of reducing diesel emissions in Connecticut and we encourage you to reapply under future VW NOx Mitigation Grant and State Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) program funding opportunities. Please be certain you have registered to receive the Department’s VW and DERA email notifications.

Thank you for taking the time to submit a VW NOx Mitigation Grant application. Please contact Patrice Kelly at Patrice.kelly@ct.gov or (860) 424-3410 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Babidge, Chief  
Bureau of Air Management

cc (via electronic mail): Diana Santo  
Certified Mail
November 15, 2018

Tracy R. Babidge, Chief
Bureau of Air Management
Connecticut DEEP
79 Elm Street
Hartford, CT 06106-5127

Re: VW NOx Mitigation Grant

Dear Ms. Babidge:

It was very disturbing to learn that the Town of Bozrah application for diesel vehicle replacement under this grant program has been denied because, “the projected air quality benefits were smaller than those projected in proposals selected for funding”.

I am not a professional grant writer, nor an engineer, so my figures were calculated from best available resources, which in my case, took over 40 hours to assemble, submit, and subsequently re-submit several times to satisfy “administrative insufficiencies” as the correction letters stated. We may be the victim of under-reporting, and those selected may be the beneficiary of over-reporting. No certified, engineer stamped, reports were ever requested.

Of the two vehicles which we presented for disposal/turn-in, one is a 1992 model, a 25 year old vehicle. I find it very difficult to believe that many municipalities still have 25 year old vehicles still on the road......Bozrah does. I can be more than sure that a new diesel vehicle against that truck, in particular, should take the EPA/Clean Air benefits off the charts!!

We were able to submit a request for the replacement of two diesel vehicles, which we did. If this program is supposed to benefit the entire State of Connecticut then I feel that it has failed, in that, if each town that did submit two vehicle requests were cut back to at least one vehicle then the “benefit”, on many levels, would have been better distributed.

I request that a list of successful recipients be provided at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Glenn S. Planka
First Selectman

cc: Senator Paul Formica
Senator Cathy Osten
State Representative Kevin Ryan
Bozrah Board of Selectmen
Bozrah Board of Finance