

FACTS about the Tony Smith Sculpture Project

FACT: South Orange Trustees have committed to spend at least \$250,000 of TAX DOLLARS on the fabrication and installation of a Tony Smith Sculpture where the gazebo currently stands on Sloan Street. The Trustees have also committed to use TAX DOLLARS to pay any cost overruns and any balance not covered through fundraising.

FACT: The existing Gazebo was purchased & installed in 1999 using bonds (debt) that still has not been paid off.

FACT: In March 2005, The Village received only the “rights” to fabricate the sculpture as a gift.

FACT: The “gift” contains the following stipulations:

- The sculpture must be installed by September 2007
- The sculpture must be installed at this specific location for a minimum of 25 years. After that time, it may only be moved within the Village or DONATED to a museum or public institution (it may not be sold).

FACT: When initially questioned about the source of the funding for the project on February 27, 2006, the Board of Trustees publicly stated AT LEAST EIGHT TIMES that the money was coming from a Grant.

FACT: Prior to a March 15, 2006 Star Ledger article, there were no mentions of taxpayer cost for this project in any newspaper articles.

FACT: On April 10, 2006, it was publicly disclosed that the funding is actually hidden in a Bond (taxpayer debt) approved in 2004 for “Street, Sidewalk & Roadway improvements”.

FACT: There have been NO public hearings about whether tax dollars should be spent on this project.

FACT: South Orange Taxpayers are facing a 13.5% municipal tax increase this year!