

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
NOVEMBER 12, 2008  
MINUTES

MEETING: Chairman Murray called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Roll call showed that Selectman Sushchyk, Sheppard and Chairman Murray were all present.

AGENDA: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchyk. All in favor.

MINUTES: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Murray. All in favor.

PUBLIC SESSION

NORMAN PLOURDE: Mr. Plourde, representative of the WRSD school out-reach committee, updated the Board of Selectmen on the Energy Management Savings program that the schools had implemented. Mr. Plourde reported a savings of \$1,008,239 between the schools. He then informed the Board that he would be returning in January to report on the school budget process.

7:15 PM

CONTINUATION

COMCAST BREACH

HEARING: Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to re-open the Comcast breach hearing. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.  
Selectman Sushchyk then made the motion to continue the hearing until December 3, 2008. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.  
Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to close the hearing at 7:17 PM. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.

RECOGNITION OF  
PAMELA DELL:

Chairman Murray recognized Pamela Dell, Meal Site Manager, for the Council on Aging for her quick response, performing the Heimlich maneuver on a senior that was choking in the senior center during lunch time. The Board presented a certificate of recognition to Mrs. Dell expressing their appreciation for her professionalism and dedication to the seniors and the town of Sterling.

SENIOR CENTER BUILDING  
RESEARCH COMMITTEE:

Ms. Ackerman informed the Board that department heads met with members of the Council on Aging to discuss available locations and options for a new senior /community center. As result of that meeting the Chairperson for the Council on Aging, Sharon Bloom, thought it would be a good idea to form a Senior Center Building Research Committee to review possible sites and to report back to the Board of Selectmen as necessary. The Board agreed that a research committee would be beneficial but felt that a joint meeting would be required so that both Boards could come to an agreement as to the actual purpose of the committee and the process to use in helping to narrow down the best sites for

the center. The Board requested that Ms. Ackerman check with Council on Aging for the best time to meet, either December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>.

7:30 PM  
RECOGNITION OF  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
PROMOTIONS:

Chief Hurlbut introduced the newly promoted Deputy Chief David Day and Lieutenant Kevin Grebinar to the Board of Selectmen. Chief Hurlbut reported that David Day has been with the Fire Department since 1981 and Kevin Grebinar since 1999. Both men are an asset to the department and deserving of the promotions. The Board of Selectmen congratulated Mr. Day and Mr. Grebinar on the promotions and thanked them for the dedication to the Fire Department and the Town of Sterling.

AMBULANCE BILLING  
FEES:

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the ambulance billing rates submitted by Chief Hurlbut and Paramedic Robert Nickerson. After reviewing the rates, the Board agreed it would be advisable to increase the rates thirty-percent bringing the Town of Sterling in line with other fire departments and private ambulance companies throughout central Massachusetts and improving the ambulance revenue. Selectman Sushchyk suggested reviewing the rates every March/April so to stay in line. Paramedic Robert Nickerson agreed and informed the Board he will be reviewing the rates again before the annual town meeting. Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to approve the rates as submitted on October 27, 2008 by Chief Hurlbut. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.

EMILY'S FUND:

Selectman Sheppard informed the Board that he did some research regarding the Needy Women's Trust Fund and the qualifications that one would have to meet to receive funds from this trust. He informed the Board that one of our firefighters recently lost his wife and has a young child, born in Sterling, that meets the qualifications of the Needy Women's Trust Fund. Selectman Sheppard made a motion to approve the contribution of \$1000 to be taken from the Needy Women's Trust Fund to be put in an educational fund sponsored by the Sterling Fire Department for Emily. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchyk. All in favor.

MONTHLY POLICE REPORT:

Chief Chamberland reviewed October's monthly report with the Board of Selectmen. Selectman Sushchyk questioned Chief Chamberland on the failure of the heating system. The Chief explained that it involved one of the smaller circulating pumps; it had been replaced and is now working fine. The Board thanked the Chief for his report.

TRENCH SAFETY OFFICER:

Mark Brodeur, Sterling's Building Inspector, explained the new regulations adopted by the state regarding the Trench Safety Officer. He reported that this is not a local option and all building departments must work within the law. The Trench Safety Officer appointment must be made by December 31, 2008. Mr. Brodeur reported that after talking with the DPW it was decided that the DPW would police themselves with regards to permits and inspections and he would handle the private property permits and inspections, provided the Board of

Selectmen agreed. There was discussion revolving around permits required for sub-divisions and perimeter drains. Mr. Brodeur informed the Board that once everything was in place he would inform residents via web-site, send mailings to contractors informing them of the process, permits, insurance and licenses required. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to appoint Mark Brodeur as the Trench Safety Officer. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchik. All in favor.

MILLENNIUM INSURANCE: Selectman Sushchik requested that the Board discuss the idea of the hiring Millennium Insurance stating that he was not in favor of doing so at this time. Selectman Sushchik was more interested in revising the personnel by-laws and hiring a human resource person. Selectman Sheppard informed him that the Town Treasurer asked to be given time to review the actual needs of the town and to familiarize her office with those needs before hiring outside consulting companies that would deal with her office functions. The Board of Selectmen asked Terri Ackerman to notify Mr. Bomengen of their decision not to move forward at this time.

PERSONNEL ITEMS: The Board continued their discussion to include procedures for updating the Personnel by-laws to include a Human Resource Person. It was suggested that Ms. Ackerman check with the Mass Municipal Association to see if there are professional Human Resource people who might be available to serve several towns. Ms. Ackerman also agreed to talk with Donna Erickson, Treasurer/Collector, to determine the actual needs of the town and its employees. The Board requested Donna Erickson attend an upcoming meeting in December to continue the discussion.

ALTERNATIVE  
ENERGY: Selectman Sushchik made the motion to table the action plan goal of alternative energy. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.

NEW BUSINESS

WEKEPEKE/  
NESTLE WATERS: Ms. Bennett asked the Board of Selectmen if they have talked with the Town of Clinton regarding Nestle Waters and their proposal to buy Wekepeke water. The Board informed her that there had been no direct contact other than several requests asking for a copy of the Conservation Restriction. Selectman Sushchik stressed the need for Sterling to pursue a fee interest in the property located in Sterling. The fee interest along with the fact that Sterling's Fire and Police Department support this property would give Sterling more control over what happens to the water and the property. Selectman Sheppard does not agree that a fee interest is cost effective in this situation. The Board asked that Ms. Ackerman draft a letter asking for a joint meeting between the towns to discuss their mutual interest and the options to preserve and protect the Wekepeke. Ms. Bennett inquired if the Board was aware of a law going back to 1964, the abandonment of use by Clinton, obligating them to sell the land back to Sterling based on the 1964 value for the land. Selectman Sheppard asked her to send him the specific site for this law and then he would investigate.

ONE DAY LIQUOR  
LICENSE:

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the one day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for November 15, 2008, 6:00 PM to midnight. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchyk. All in favor.

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the one day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for November 29, 2008 from 4:00 PM to midnight. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchyk. All in favor.

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the one day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for December 14, 2008 from 6:00 PM to midnight. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchyk. All in favor.

HEARTS FOR HEAT:

The Board reviewed the correspondence from the Hearts for Heat, Linda Lula, asking permission to place a sign for their fundraiser at the intersection of Rte 140 and 62. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the placement of a sign pending approval from Mark Brodeur, Zoning Office, Police, Fire and the DPW. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchyk. All in favor.

OLD BUSINESS

ADMINISTRATOR'S  
UPDATE:

Ms. Ackerman informed the Board that the boiler installation has been successfully completed thanks to Manuel Pacheco and R.J. McDonald. Two heavy duty shredders have been purchased. The tax classification was set for December 3, 2008 and David from the Regional Resource Group Inc. will be attending. The Town Hall office hours have been posted for the holidays. She informed the Board that an Ethics Seminar has been set for December 2, 2008 and needs 30 or more people to sign up or the seminar will be cancelled. Special Town Meeting is November 17, 2008; warrants are posted at the library, the Butterick Building and on the website. Ms. Ackerman also informed the Board that the Winter Task Force has met twice so far. Once the group has formed their recommendations they plan on meeting with the Board of Selectmen.

WAUSHACUM  
VILLAGE HOMEOWNERS  
ASSOCIATION:

Chairman Murray shared the plaque given to him by the Waushacum Association expressing their appreciation to the Board of Selectmen for their support to the association. Selectman Sheppard congratulated the association on the development of the association and for the new construction taking place, which is almost completed.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to adjourn at 9:31 PM. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sushchuk. All in favor. Next scheduled meeting is November 17, 2008, Special Town Meeting and November 25, 2008 for the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

PAUL M. SUSHCHUK - CLERK