

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2009  
MINUTES

- MEETING: Chairman Sushchyk called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call showed that Selectman Sheppard, Philpot and Sushchyk were all present.
- AGENDA: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the agenda making two changes, adding on 3 Gates Terrace and removing the official vote for the appointment to the Town Common Committee. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.
- PUBLIC SESSION:
- ROBERT PROTANO  
3 GATES TERRACE: Mr. Protano brought forward the quitclaim deed for 3 Gates Terrace for the Board of Selectmen's signatures. The deed was reviewed and approved by Town Counsel for signatures. Chairman Sushchyk made the motion to execute the claim as submitted, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.
- BNC/COA  
REPORT: Mr. Amrith Kumar gave a brief update on the meeting held last week with the Council on Aging, Building Needs and Mr. Pape, Chairman of the Finance Committee regarding the building of a new senior center. An action plan was developed with the first three steps to help determine the basic needs. The first step was to take a look at town owned property and eliminate any or all that was found unusable, the second was to look at the previous study of properties and locations done by the Council on Aging and finally to do a survey to determine the needs and size of a new senior center that would best fit the needs of the Town of Sterling. Mr. Kumar requested permission of the Board to use a sum of money for the survey from the article voted at town meeting and to register in the Central Register for quotes of engineering services for the new center. He estimated \$500 was needed for the survey and a design concept to cost between \$5000-7500. After some discussion Selectman Sheppard made the motion to authorize the expenditures of \$500 for the senior survey to be taken from Article #7 from the Special Town Meeting and to permit the committee to advertise in the Central Register for engineering study of town owned land. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.
- MINUTES: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the minutes of August 19, 2009 with one minor change. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot.  
Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the minutes of September 2, 2009 with two changes. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.
- CHIEF CHAMBERLAND  
JULY AND AUGUST  
REPORT: Chief Chamberland reviewed the July 2009 report with the Board of Selectmen. He reported that work was being done on the school backup generator. The department had received their leased motorcycle; a second motorcycle check was held at the intersection of Rte 140 and 62. Chief Chamberland has received many thank you letters from residents indicating that the motorcycle check was very successful.  
The Chief reported that in August Officer Johnson returned back to work after being out injured for 8 weeks. He reported that the department lost another cell monitor and would be interested in having the Human Resource person look into the pay scale for cell monitor's with

hopes of improving the pay scale and keeping personnel. Chief Chamberland informed the Board that the details for road cleanup are done.

The Chief reported a \$50,000 grant was received for the Regional Dispatch Center due to the hard work of Lt. Kokernak from the Fire Department. It looks as though there are 12-15 communities interested in regionalizing dispatch.

The Board of Selectman thanked the Chief for his reports.

Selectman Philpot asked the Chairman why the Fire Chief does not give similar reports. He stated that Chief Chamberland's report was informative not only to him but to the public and would like to hear the same from Chief Hurlbut for the benefit of taxpayers. Selectman Sheppard informed him that Chief Hurlbut reported via e-mail and Ms. Ackerman would make sure that Selectman Philpot was on his e-mail list. Selectman Philpot asked that the Fire Chief come to a selectman's meeting and Ms. Ackerman informed him that she would talk with Chief Hurlbut and set up a time.

#### 2010 ANNUAL

##### TOWN MEETING:

Chairman Sushchuk made the motion to set a date and time of May 17, 2010 at 7:00 PM for the FY 2011 Annual Town Meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to set a date and time of the Special Town Meeting for May 17, 2010 at 6:30. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

The Board proceeded to look at the FY2011 Budget Schedule and set the following deadlines for submitting articles; January 12 for submission of final budgets, capital plan and estimate of money articles; March 1<sup>st</sup> for final money articles and non-money articles. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to accept the deadline dates as mentioned, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

##### TOWN AUCTION:

The Board reviewed the submitted list of items for the annual town auction. After looking at the list, Selectman Sheppard suggested using a company called GovDeals that holds an online government surplus auction. Ms. Ackerman was to contact the company for details and costs involved. There was some discussion regarding the 3 safes stored in the 1835 Town Hall and the historical value if any. Ms. Roberti informed the Board that she knew someone that expressed an interest in the safes and it was decided that Ms. Ackerman would check with the interested parties.

##### EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chairman Sushchuk read the executive session policy as outlined in the MGL Chapter 39, Section 23b. He stated that his intent was to have policies in effect that would help guide the Board of Selectmen. He asked that Selectman Sheppard and Philpot take a look at the policy for further discussion. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to accept the policy as submitted, stating that the Board follows the Mass General Law already. Selectman Philpot requested that they continue this discussion until the next meeting, giving him time to review the policy.

##### HUMAN RESOURCE:

Chairman Sushchuk brought forward the names of the three top candidates for the position of the Human Resource position, Karen Whittier, James Kelley and Christine Blackwell, giving reasons why each one would be qualified for the position. Each Board member spoke to the individual candidates and the pros and cons for each one, all stating that the decision was not an easy one.

Chairman Sushchuk informed the Board that he felt Mr. James Kelley was the best candidate for the position as the new Human Resource person as long as he agreed to conditions set by the Board; to maintain set hours in the Butterick Building, that his law practice would not interfere with his work in Sterling and a six months probationary period. Selectman Sheppard expressed

his concerns, opposing the hire of Mr. Kelley. He felt uncomfortable going outside the selected candidates named by the search committee, stating that the Board was negating the work done by the search committee. Selectman Philpot disagreed and informed the Board that they would be doing a tremendous dis-service to the town if they did not select the very best candidate. Mr. Philpot also stated a concern over whether the other candidates were, in fact, qualified since neither had any exposure to unions and one, Ms. Whittier, had no experience working in a municipality.

Chairman Sushchuk made the motion to hire Mr. James Kelley as long as he agreed to the conditions set by the Board of Selectmen, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. Two in favor, Selectman Sheppard respectfully disagreed.

DESIGNATE  
AUTHORIZED  
SIGNATURE:

Selectman Philpot made the motion to authorize Chairman Sushchuk to sign settlement documents for Exxon, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.

TOWN  
ADMINISTRATOR'S  
FOLLOW-UP:

Ms. Ackerman gave a brief summary on the conference she attended. She informed the Board that on September 30, 2009 the appointment of the Government Study Committee was scheduled in a joint vote of the Board, the Moderator and the Finance Committee. There were twelve individuals that expressed an interest in the committee. Interviews for the Town Clerk were under way and she hoped to bring forth recommendations on September 30, 2009. Once the Town Clerk is appointed the process will continue for an Assistant Town Clerk as well as an Assistant Treasurer.

ONE DAY  
LIQUOR LICENSES:

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the one day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for September 19<sup>th</sup> from 5:00 PM to 12 midnight. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the one day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for October 10<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 PM to 12 midnight. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

BANNER REQUEST:

Selectman Philpot made the motion to approve the banner request from the First Church to hang the banner over Main Street announcing the church fair on October 17, 2009. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.

RECREATIONAL  
TRAILS GRANT:

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve and sign the letter of support for the Recreational Trails Grant. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

INVESTMENT POLICY:

Selectman Sheppard made the motion to sign the investment policy previously approved at the July 8, 2009 meeting. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to adjourn at 8:47 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

RUSSELL R. PHILPOT  
CLERK