

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 24, 2009
MINUTES

- MEETING: Chairman Sushchyk called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Roll call showed, Selectman Philpot, Selectman Sheppard and Chairman Sushchyk all present.
- AGENDA: Chairman Sushchyk made the motion to approve the agenda with two changes. 2nd by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.
- MINUTES: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the Executive Session minutes of October 28, 2009 as submitted. 2nd by Selectman Philpot.
Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the minutes of November 10, 2009 as submitted. 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.
- FINANCE COMMITTEE
- APPOINTMENT: Larry Pape, Chairman of the Finance Committee, informed the Board that there was a vacancy on the committee due to Scott Moroney's resignation. He informed the Board that Mr. Moroney would be missed and hoped that he would return in the future. The appointment was to be made by the Finance Committee/Moderator/Board of Selectmen. The Finance Committee voted to recommend Mr. Michael Murphy, presently on the Capital Committee, to fill the open vacancy. The Moderator concurs in writing. Chairman Sushchyk made the motion to appoint Mr. Murphy to the Finance Committee, 2nd by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.
- AWARD BID FOR PUMPER/TANKER: Chief Hurlbut spoke to the bid process and reviewed the two bids submitted to the New Truck Committee. He noted that out of the two bids only one bid, Bid #2 met the bid specifications and the committee recommended the Board of Selectmen award the bid to Seagrave Fire Apparatus, LLC. Selectman Philpot asked several questions of the Fire Chief and after some discussion Selectman Sheppard made the motion to accept Bid #2 from Seagrave Fire Apparatus, LLC for the new pumper/tanker, 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.
Selectman Philpot asked the Chief for an update on the ice dams on the roof of the fire station. Ms. Ackerman informed the Board that Tom Rutherford had submitted a report on the issue and would supply the Board with a copy of the report.
- BANNER REQUEST: Dawn Michanowicz requested permission from the Board to have a banner hung over Main Street informing residents of the upcoming election. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to approve the banner request, 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.
- APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF REGISTRARS: Selectman Sheppard made the motion to appoint Dawn Michanowicz, Town Clerk, as the chairperson for the Board of Registrars. 2nd by Selectman Philpot. All in favor.
- OPEN SPACE PLAN: Marion Larson from the Open Space Implementation Committee requested input and comments from the Board of Selectmen on the draft Open Space Plan submitted. She informed the Board that the committee has received conditional approval on a 7 year plan instead of a 5 year plan. A list of 9 items need to be addressed by February 28, 2010 from various boards, Recreation, Conservation, Planning, Historical, Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen in conjunction with the DPW to get final approval. The OSIC was looking for letters of endorsement from the Board of Selectmen as well as from the MRPC. Selectman Sheppard asked what the cost to the town would be and was told it all depended on the input from the Boards and the projects that can be

completed. Selectman Philpot asked if the town was committed i.e. would the Town be forced to perform/complete everything in the plan? Selectman Philpot was informed it would be a trade off. Ms. Larson informed the Board that Amanda Amory would be available to help with grants and the Board would be wise to use her. The Board of Selectmen agreed to endorse the project and Selectman Sheppard would submit his comments to the OSIC.

COST OF COMMUNITY SERVICES STUDY:

Carl Mailler of the American Farmland Trust provided a power point presentation for the Board of Selectmen on the Cost of Community Services Study done for the Town of Sterling. Jon Jaffe of the First Pioneer Farm Credit reported on the economic survey and analysis of agricultural land done for the study. After both presentations there was a question and answer period. Chairman Sushchik asked the group what the Town should do with the study. Both Mr. Mailler and Mr. Jaffe responded, stating that the town should focus on bolstering the open space and agricultural land within Sterling, to educate the farmers so that the farmers can educate the residents of Sterling, increasing local sales and products, which in turn will encourage future farmers. Chairman Sushchik thanked them for coming in and for their presentations. Selectman Philpot suggested that the Board of Selectmen set up an informal meeting with Mr. French and Mr. Pineo to continue the discussion to find ways to foster the relationship between the town and the agricultural community. Mr. Protano, Planning Board Chairman, asked to be included in any such meeting. Selectman Philpot agreed and offered the clarification that he was more interested in exploring "commercial" issue with farmers and would leave "planning/zoning" issues to the appropriate boards.

MASTER PLAN:

Chairman Sushchik asked that the Board discuss the potential Master Plan for Sterling including cost, benefits and the process to develop such a plan. Ms. Ackerman checked with MRPC and was told that the cost to do a Master Plan could be anywhere from \$100,000 to \$125,000 and that it would be at least a two year process. Chairman Sushchik then asked Ms. Amory what the benefit of a Master Plan would be for the town. She informed him that it would be a long range document that would help steer the town of Sterling into the future. She also reiterated that it was a big commitment that would involve a Steering Committee of 15-20 members. Mr. Ken Williams of the Planning Board questioned the possibility of getting that many people to serve on a committee. Chairman Sushchik asked if there was something between the Master Plan and nothing that could be done. Discussion continued, Mr. Larry Pape of the Finance Committee agreed that a plan would be helpful and stated that the Open Space and Agricultural Plan already being developed is part of the Master Plan for Sterling. He went on to comment that we, as a Town, have a poor history of not following through on plans, something which should be improved before spending money on a master plan in this economy. It was suggested that Ms. Amory work with the Open Space Implementation Committee to correlate and develop a plan with some of the goals listed in their plan. The Board of Selectmen agreed to continue this discussion at a future meeting.

WIRELESS ACCESS POLICY:

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the wireless access policy submitted by Karen Pare'. After some discussion on the policy, it was decided that times of use and some wording with respect to enforcement of the policy be changed. Ms. Ackerman would work with Karen Pare' to make the changes and submit a modified policy to the Board.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S UPDATE:

Ms. Ackerman informed the Board that the 1835 Town Hall's certificate of occupancy allows for occasional meetings of 30 people in the building. Locations for the community gardening have been discussed and it was determined that the land

behind the Fire Station was not a good location and it was suggested that the soil be tested on the Mudgett property. Budget forms have been sent out and draft budgets are due for December 10, 2009 and final budgets due January 12, 2010. Ms. Ackerman reported that the parade funding is estimated at \$2400.00 for both parades and with Police grants being cut the town should budget for the cost.

SIGNAGE QUOTES: The Board reviewed the quotes from Connor Sign for the Town of Sterling appreciation signs for landscapers who have performed work on town property. Selectman Philpot questioned the need to spend town money on signs and suggested that the landscaper be responsible for the cost of the signs advertising their name and that the Town simply limits the size of the sign to conform to our By-Laws. Chairman Sushchyk agreed with some of Selectman Philpot's comments and made the motion to table the issue, 2nd by Selectman Philpot. Two in favor, one against.

**HOUSEHOLD
HAZARDOUS PAINTS
AND CHEMICALS:**

Ms. Ackerman announced that the Wachusett Regional Recycling Center will be holding the first collection of household paints and chemicals on December 5, 2009 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM at the site on Raymond Huntington Highway in West Boylston.

**APPOINTMENT OF
SEXUAL HARASSEMENT
OFFICERS;**

James Kelley, Human Resource Administrator, requested that the Board of Selectmen appoint the following individuals as members of the Harassment Team: Gary Chamberland, Chief of Police, Terri Ackerman, Town Administrator and James Kelley, Human Resource Administrator. Selectman Philpot expressed concern that this additional task would overload Terri Ackerman and wanted to be sure it would not have any negative effects to her primary responsibilities. Ms. Ackerman assures him it would not. Selectman Sheppard made the motion to appoint the individuals recommended, 2nd by Chairman Sushchyk. All in favor.

NEXT MEETING: The next meeting will be held on December 9, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Philpot made the motion to adjourn at 9:54 PM. 2nd by Selectman Sheppard. All in favor.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

**RUSSELL R. PHILPOT
CLERK**