

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SEPTEMBER 28, 2011
MINUTES

MEETING: Chairman Philpot called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call established that Selectman Sushchyk, Selectman Furmaniuk and Selectman Philpot were all present.

Chairman Philpot read the statement declaring Sterling Lancaster Cable Television as the only official electronic copy of the meeting.

AGENDA: Chairman Sushchyk made the motion to approve the agenda with the addition of a one day liquor license. 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

TOWN ACCOUNTANT
INTERVIEW SESSION
7:05 PM

KAREN CHICK: The Board of Selectmen interviewed Karen Chick from Hubbardston for the position of Town Accountant. Each member of the Board asked questions of Ms. Chick. Ms. Chick informed the Board that if awarded the position she would continue her position in Hubbardston as well as working in Sterling. Chairman Philpot informed Ms. Chick that the Board would be discussing the position and the candidates at the end of the meeting if she would like to stay. The Board thanked Ms. Chick for her time.

7:20 PM

MRPC/HUD GRANT: Ms. Ackerman asked the Board members if they were in agreement with endorsing, supporting and participating with the Montachusett Visioning Council. Selectmen Furmaniuk and Sushchyk were willing to support the Council after getting some of their questions answered by Jennifer Siciliano. Chairman Philpot expressed his concern with the wording in the letter regarding the Council's involvement in local issues. The Board agreed to remove that phrase from the draft letter. Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to execute the letter with amendments to the letter, 2nd by Selectmen Furmaniuk. All in favor.

WACHUSETT FUND
COMMITTEE:

Chief Hurlbut, Chief Chamberland and Peter MacDonald met with the Board of Selectmen to ask the Board for their approval of expenditures from the Wachusett Fund Account in the amount of \$6800.00 to cover 80% of the total tuition for a current firefighter/EMP to attend Paramedic class. The candidate will, in turn, sign a written agreement to work in Sterling for a minimum of two years after completion/graduation from the class. The Board of Selectmen stated they each trusted the committee's judgment and agreed upon the request. Selectman Sushchyk made

the motion to authorize the expenditures as requested as well as the conditions listed, (see attached) 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

After reviewing the Wachusett Fund's establishment and purpose the Board asked that an explanation of the fund be explained on the website for residents to view.

ELECTION WORKERS: Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to appoint Kathleen Mello and Lisa Call as election workers for a 1 year term to expire August 15, 2012. 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

COMMON VICTUALLER

PERMIT: Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to approve the Common Victualler permit for Appletown Market. 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

ONE DAY LIQUOR

LICENSE: Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to approve the one day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for October 8, 2011. 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S

UPDATE: Ms. Ackerman informed the Board of Selectmen that the Board of Health has successfully moved their office to the second floor. Tom Rutherford, Chief Chamberland and Terri worked on six small loss-control grant applications with hopes of receiving at least one or two. Ms. Ackerman reported that she attended the ICMA conference and would like to speak to the Board at a future meeting about paperless Board meetings. She reminded the Board that the MMA meeting is in January and to look in their Beacon issue for registration papers. Ms. Ackerman supplied the Board with a Town Meeting Calendar Schedule and informed them that the Finance Committee approved the calendar with one minor date change. The Board of Selectmen will review the dates and vote at their next meeting on the calendar schedule.

Chairman Philpot reminded Ms. Ackerman to supply him with a copy of the procurement delegation paperwork sent in to the state and the date Ms. Ackerman took the procurement seminar and how it compared to the timing of her attempts to hire a consultant, Mr. Bullock, for the senior center research.

1835 TOWN HALL

COMMITTEE: The 1835 Town Hall Committee members, Ken Stidsen, Vern Gaw, Beth Stuerman, Cynthia Secord, met with the Board of Selectmen to update them on the design process for the building. The Committee will be signing the contract with Menders, Torrey and Spencer now that all amendments to the contract have been made. The Committee requested that the Selectmen approve the expansion of their membership to nine members, staggering the terms by 3 years. The committee has had many highly qualified people interested in joining the committee and would like to take advantage of that. Mr. Sushchyk and Mr. Furmaniuk had no issue with the addition of members. Mr. Philpot expressed some concern and confusion stating he had, recently argued in favor of nine member

committees and the Board was not in favor. He said he would certainly give it some thought and would likely continue to support the idea. Ms. Stuerman asked about the process for utilizing the insurance payments so that they can disburse the payment to a painting contractor to repair the damage from ice. There was some discussion regarding the code on lead paint removal and the process that needed to take place to be in compliance with that code. Ms. Stuerman and Mr. Gaw stated the committee had determined it would be in the best interests of the Town to comply with the Federal Lead Paint Law known as "RRP" to avoid exposing the Town to risks in the future. Ms. Stuerman stated that the Law does not normally apply to public buildings unless they are schools or day care centers. She went on to say the 1835 Town Hall was in a gray area because of Recreation Department programs which might bring young children into the building. Mr. Philpot expressed commented it was unfortunate this issue was not raised a few months ago which might have helped the situation.

Vern Gaw expressed is disappointment with the MRPC application for a CDBG grant and asked the Board to consider securing a grant writer to assist in writing and receiving the much needed grants. Ms. Ackerman and Ms. Stuerman reported they met with Mr. Kevin Flynn, representative of the MRPC, and he informed them that the grant application for Sterling would most likely not be ready by the December deadline for submission. Mr. Gaw commented that the MRPC was a regional entity and within our region Sterling is "financially well off" and he felt we didn't have much of a chance to get the grant anyway. Chairman Philpot was not happy with that statement and thought that Sterling deserved more attention from the MRPC. He asked that Sterling's representative give Mr. Flynn a call. Mr. Philpot was informed that Sterling did not have a representative. Selectman Philpot expressed some interest at which time Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to appoint Mr. Philpot as the representative for Sterling, 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

Chairman Philpot will meet with Kevin Flynn.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

CONSULTANT:

Chairman Philpot made a statement before the discussion started regarding the Benefits Consultant declaring that he does not take advantage of the towns insurance or foresee doing so in the future; therefore he has no real or potential conflict of interest.

Selectman Furmaniuk stated that the town would receive a considerable benefit by hiring the Benefit Consultant which would ultimately reduce the cost of insurance by a sizeable amount. Chairman Philpot asked if the services of a consultant would be needed on an ongoing yearly basis. Selectman Furmaniuk reminded him that the hiring of a consultant was for one year with the option to review for year 2 and 3. Selectman Furmaniuk suggested hiring EBS Foran Insurance and stated that the underwriting provision was an additional benefit. Selectman Sushchuk concurred with Selectman Furmaniuk.

Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to hire EBS Foran Insurance and Advisory Services Inc. for one year at a cost of \$4950.00 with the option for year 2 and 3. 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

SECOND INTERVIEW

TOWN ACCOUNTANT

8:35 PM

HEIDI KRIGER: Ms. Kriger briefed the Board on her qualifications and her interest in working in Sterling. Each member of the Board asked Ms. Kriger questions regarding her experience. Chairman Philpot informed Ms. Kriger that the Board would be discussing the position and the candidates at the end of the meeting if she would like to stay. The Board thanked Ms. Kriger for her time.

FUTURE AGENDA

ITEMS: The Selectmen discussed what items they would like to discuss at their next meeting; grant writer, vault, paperless Board of Selectmen meetings, town calendar, time and attendance policy and possible interviews of candidates for the Treasurer/Collector position.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to enter into Executive Session at 8:50 PM in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 39, §23B to discuss Non-Union Personnel to only return to public session to adjourn. 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. Roll call: Philpot aye, Sushchuk aye, Furmaniuk aye.

ADJOURNMENT: Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:14 PM, 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

RONALD FURMANIUK
CLERK