

Sterling Town Government Study Committee

**STGSC MEETING AGENDA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22 2011
7:00 PM, ROOM 201, BUTTERICK BLDG**

Present: Bob Dumont, Don Murray, Doris Bennett, Jeffrey Donaldson, Mike Radzicki and Kathleen Mello

Guests: Michael Ward and Marilyn Contreas from the Collins Center

Absent: John Potter

Meeting called to order at 7:10pm.

1.0 Acceptance of Meeting Minutes:

4/20/11: Acceptance of meeting minutes as submitted

All in favor

Vote- all in favor

Unanimous

5/11/11: Meeting minutes

Mike- motion to accept as corrected

Motion to accept- seconded

All in favor- unanimous.

6/8/11: Mike moved to accept minutes as corrected

Jeff seconded

All in favor- unanimous

Don Murray abstained as he was not present at this meeting.

2.0 Collins Center

2 Items:

1.) An Act providing for the Town Administrator (TA)

2.) 2. Town of Sterling report/recommendations.

- Discussed the town of Hubbardston Charter committee handout- just an example.
- Discussed the report/recommendation – Michael W. had regrouped some of the topics.

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DPW options:

- 1.) Create a consolidated department- separate act dealing only with DPW. We would then transition elected officials out and they would become advisory to Board of Selectman (BOS). Then the department would become consolidated under the BOS.
- 2.) Include in document:
- 3.) Do this on a different timeframe; include more information than we have now e.g. DPW is responsible for...
(DPW needs a charter level change to change the current set up).

Doris: Questions the distinction between centralized gov't and town meeting, she was also concerned with the personnel bylaws current set up. Current set-up can be changed at town meeting- change bylaw.

Other boards:

-Board of Health (BOH): - one of the few multi member boards under Chap. B.

-Library board: Chap. 78- trustees elected or appointed. Can change from elected to appt. needs to be in a special act (similar to DPW) needs to be a ballot vote.

4 boards in question: DPW, Library, BOH and Personnel Board

Note- Earth Removal board- most likely should go under the Planning board- needs to be put under a board with permit granting authority.

Only boards that require an election: BOS, School Committee and moderator. Any other committee can be appointed unless defined by statutes.

Discussed the Act providing for the TA:

- Should the TA be allowed to litigate without the BOS.

- TA- Trained professional- should be as BOS may not have the education.

- Personnel bylaws- Personnel Board can stay as advisory vs. administrative position. It was noted the laws have gotten so complicated- you need a professional Human Resources (HR). HR is for prevention, most towns look for HR people with personnel vs. legal backgrounds.

The committee decided this was a good place to stop our conversation as we have been given a lot of good information etc to sort through.

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Collins Center: Overall comments:

Marilyn: Will be available if we need any additional information/examples. She said she would be able to come out again if needed. Note- Bob requested information regarding going to 5 BOS . Marilyn suggested we keep our document flexible so we will not need to go to the legislature every time we want to make a change.

Michael: This committee will need to determine which information to put in a special act vs. bylaw.

Noted: Any special act would supersede past bylaws. It would become our foundation document. We could then add details to the bylaws (but they must be consistent with the special act).

Next meeting: June 29th, 2011

Adjourned: 9:10pm

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