

Minutes from 22 February 2011 Meeting of Town of Sterling Finance Committee (AMENDED)

Attendees: Larry Pape, Frank Heinemann, John Kilcoyne, Matt Emsley, Bob Brown

Terri Ackerman, Donna Couture

-Meeting called to order at 7:00pm

-Read aloud letter from Claire Stidsen (attached/included with these minutes)

-Met with Dawn Michanowicz to discuss Town Clerk and Elections Budget requests for FY2012

-Met with Dick Hautaniemi to discuss Zoning Board of Appeals budget request for FY2012

-Possible \$5,000 reduction in expenses (legal fees)

-Met with Mark Brodeur to discuss Inspectional Services budget request for FY2012

-Possible \$500 reduction in expenses (Dues and Meetings)

-Met with Jamie Kelly to discuss Human Resources budget request and any associated personnel actions for FY2012

-Met with Karen Phillips to discuss COA budget request for FY2012

-Met with Judy Janda to discuss Recreation budget request for FY2012

-Requested action to eliminate expenses (\$12,000) from budget request and use revolving fund revenues to cover such costs

-Met with Terri Ackerman to discuss Town Administrator budget request for FY2012

-Reviewed proposed articles for Annual Town Meeting

-Adjourned meeting at 9:20pm

Letter from Claire Stidsen received and read into the minutes as follows:

Tuesday, February 22, 2012

Dear Members of the Finance Board,

During a previous conversation between myself and the Town Clerk I was made aware that she has contracted the services of Jamie Kelly in her office to review the Animal Control bylaw, as well as all bylaws, in preparation for codification of Sterling bylaws. It was revealed to me by another employee in a different office who wishes to remain un-named that this service is being paid from the election account money.

Personally, I am not in favor of the back door approach to hiring people without approval of town meeting and although I am aware that the BOS has the ability to do this I do not know if this authority transmits to the Town Clerk, unless of course the BOS gave permission for this to occur.

I am writing to you because I do intend to ask on Town meeting floor for a detailed account of all monies received or expended by the office of the Town Clerk and as her expense report is designated for review at your meeting tonight I wanted to request that I receive a copy of all documented budget/report material which you will receive tonight from the Town Clerk.

If necessary, you may consider this a Freedom of Information request, however I would hope that a simple request for information from a citizen to a board would be sufficient.

Currently I am in Florida until mid-April however if this is addressed as an FOIA you may call me at 774-696-1430 to tell me how much it will cost at which time I will give you an address to mail it out. If you can simply supply me a copy then please just send it to my Sterling home address at 5 Sherwood Drive and it will be forwarded down here.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation with this matter.

Claire Stidsen