

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
With Public Hearing
April 29, 2020

MEETING:	Chairman Kilcoyne called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:33pm. Roll Call: Selectman Cranson – Present. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Participated remotely. Chairman Kilcoyne – Present. Also present were Town Administrator, Ross Perry and Executive Assistant, Kama Jayne.
Minutes	Selectman Cranson moved to approve the minutes of April 15 th , 2020. Selectwoman Sonnenberg 2 nd . Selectman Cranson – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried. Selectman Cranson moved to approve the minutes of April 22 nd , 2020. Selectwoman Sonnenberg 2 nd . Selectman Cranson – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.
PUBLIC HEARING	<p style="text-align: center;">Town of Sterling PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE Alcohol License – Davis Farmland LLC, 145 Redstone Hill Road April 29, 2020 Butterick Building, 1 Park Street, Room 205, 6:35 pm, The Sterling Board of Selectmen will conduct a Public Hearing re: the issuance of an All Alcohol License to Davis Farmland.</p> <p>Selectman Cranson announced that she will recuse herself from voting in this matter because she is currently employed by Davis Farmland.</p> <p>Attorney Finklestein and Larry Davis participated remotely and reported to the Board that the Davis Farmland is seeking an annual All Alcohol license which is a change from their current license for beer and wine only.</p> <p>They are also filing to alter the premises. They wish to enlarge the Herd Rock Café by adding a 1,222 sq. ft. addition that includes both indoor and outdoor seating. This will add an additional room, 3 entrances and egresses, plus 2 additional lavatories. The new total capacity for that building will be 220.</p> <p>Specifics;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The manager of the Davis Farmland is Laurence Davis. He will be the manager of record for the All Alcohol license.• The Farmland is comprised of 13.7 acres of fenced in area.• There will be three points of service, the Herd Rock Café , the Udder Herd Rock Café and the slushy shack.• Any and all employees who have anything to do with the serving of alcohol will be T.I.P.S. certified.• No alcohol will be allowed in areas that prohibit food and drink. However, guests will be allowed to carry their alcoholic beverage throughout the park.• Security measures, within the Farm area, include wrist bands that have pull tabs which allow a 4 drink maximum per guest and specific colored glasses that distinguish alcohol from non-alcoholic beverages.• The Farmland plans to use ATLAS as their distributor.• The addition to the Herd Roack Café will serve as a year round restaurant.• No abutters have come forward with concerns. (No abutters participated in the Public Hearing.) <p>At 7:03 Selectman Cranson moved to exit the Public Hearing and return to public session.</p> <p>Selectman Cranson moved to approve the annual ALL Alcoholic License for Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill Road with the following stipulations</p>

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- Hours - 11:00 am – 9:00pm on Sundays through Thursdays and 11:00 am – 10:00pm on Friday and Saturday
- The point of sales are the Herd Rock Café, the Udder Herd Rock Café and the Slushy shack
- Alcohol must be consumed within the confines of the farm's fenced perimeter

The Board supports the alteration of premise.

Selectwoman Sonnenberg 2nd. Selectman Cranson – Abstained. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion carried.

Antique Licenses

After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to approve the annual Antique permits for the following; Pratt's Junction Antiques, Everett G. Pierce and Nouveaux Riches Antiques. Selectwoman Sonnenberg 2nd. Selectman Cranson - Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion carried.

Street Light
Twine Road

Jennifer Luksha requested that the Board consider placing a street light at the dead end of Twine road. She reported that it is dangerous at night, since people are sometimes taken unaware that the road is barricaded. She also said that the area is occasionally used for mischief. Chief Chamberland dispatched an officer who confirmed that the end of Twine Road is unlit. After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to request that Sterling Municipal Light install a streetlight at the dead end of Twine Road. Selectwoman Sonnenberg 2nd. Selectman Cranson - Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion carried.

Wekepeke
Discussion

The Chronology of the Wekepeke water source follows;

- 1882 Legislatures Act Authorizes the conveyance of the waters of the Wekepeke Brook, in Sterling, to Clinton
- 7/23/2007 Letter to Regional Assessor to Town Administrator questioning the PILOT calculation as paid by Clinton
- 2/23/2007 Sterling Select Board send letter to Clinton Select Board with concerns about the condition of the 3 dams in Sterling, owned by Clinton – asking to schedule meeting to discuss repairs
- 10/25/2012 Sterling Select Board send letter to Clinton Select Board inviting them to meet to discuss a plan to manage the Wekepeke water systems
- 2013/8/13 Sterling has a proposed warrant article to petition State Legislature to impose restrictions to the Wekepeke watershed. In reaction, Clinton Select board votes to stop PILOT payments to Sterling. According to the Clinton Town Solicitor, the PILOT was a voluntary payment
- 2020 /3/4 Sterling records indicate that PILOT payments from Sterling stopped in 2013
- Invoices from 2013-2017 were not paid
- Sterling stopped invoicing Clinton in 2018
- 2020/4/23 Sterling Select Board sent letter to Clinton Select Board requesting a joint meeting to discuss the future use of the Wekepeke land, dam repair/removal and timely notification to Sterling BOS and residents prior to changes to the land (i.e. forestry, dam removal, etc)

There will be a round-table discussion in the future to discuss concerns and what the Town would like to see happen with the Wekepeke water and surrounding land.

The Board discussed the following warrant articles. Selectman Cranson moved to support each of the following articles and Selectwoman Sonneberg 2nd. The Board voted unanimously to support the following;

Article 2. Fund deficit due to snow and Ice

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Warrant article
support

Article 3. Transfer Certified Free cash to Capital Fund
Article 4. Transfer Certified free Cash to Stabilization Fund
Article 5. Transfer Balances From Old Warrant Articles to the Capital Fund
Article 6. Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Plan – Free Cash
Article 7. Fiscal Year 2021 Capital Plan – Capital Investment Fund (typo will be corrected to read; or borrow the sum of \$419,151)
Article 8. Water Department Enterprise Operation Fund
Article 9. Compensation for Elected Officers (Consent calendar)
Article 10. Set Salary of Municipal Light Board (Consent Calendar)
Article 11. Reserve Fund for FY21 (Consent Calendar)
Article 12. Chapter 90 Funding (Consent Calendar)
Article 13. East Lake Waushacum Treatment (Consent Calendar)
Article 14. Authorize Treasurer to Borrow Money (Consent Calendar)
Article 15. Compensating Blance Agreements (Consent Calendar)
Article 16. Tax Title Payments Agreements for Properties in Tax Title (Consent Calendar)
Article 17. Fund Wauchusett Greenways Expenses
Article 18. Fund Sterling Land Trust (consent Calendar)
Article 19. FY 2021 Revolving Funds Spending Limits (Consent Calendar)
Article 20. Building Rental Revolving Fund (Consent Calendar)
Article 27. Amendment to General Bylaw – Earth Removal
Article 28. Amendment to Protective Bylaw – Earth Removal
Article 30. Amendment to the Protective Bylaw – Groundwater Protection District
Article 31. Amendment to the Protective Bylaw – Signs
Article 32. Amendment to the Protective Bylaw related to Town Center
Article 33. Amendment to the Protective Bylaw related to Site Plan Review – Citizen's Petition
Article 37. Road Acceptance – Chad Lane
Article 40. Transfer Portion of 7 Sunset drive for Purposes of Conveyance

Selectman Cranson moved to support article Article 21. Amendments to Personnel Bylaw Compensation Matrices. Chairman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – opposed. Motion carried.

Selectman Cranson moved to report on Town Meeting Floor regarding the following;
Article 29. Amendment to Protective Bylaw – Earth Removal
Article 42. Apply Stabilization Fund to Stabilize Tax Rate.
Selectwoman Sonnenberg – 2nd. Selectman Cranson - Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion carried.

Selectman Cranson moved to support Article 38. Bylaws and Regulations Amendment to Change the Board of Selectmen Name ...Citizens Petition. Selectwoman Sonnenberg 2nd. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectman Cranson - opposed. Motion carried.

The Board will continue discussion, regarding support of remaining articles, at a future meeting.

Appoint Pat Ward
to Cultural
Council

After discussion, Selectman cranson moved to appoint Patricia Ward to the Cultural Council. Selectwoman Sonnenberg 2nd. Selectman Cranson - Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion carried. The term will expire on April 29, 2023.

TA Report

Town Administrator Report 4/29/20
Town Hall Operations

Business and
Correspondence

- Work continues with a mix of work at home and staggered appearances at Town Hall. Staff is available via electronic means.

Budgets:

- We continue to monitor cash flow. Fred and Vicki have extended the analysis out to the end of Sept and the Town still has sufficient cash flow, even with very conservative revenue forecasts.
- The revised FY 21 Omnibus budget is looking close to total of \$24,420,482, with a Property tax levy of \$20,496,277 with an overall increase of 2.58%; resulting in an average tax bill increase of \$266 or about 4.27%, before using any of the Stabilization fund to further reduce the tax rate. This is down from ~6.5% increase discussed at the last Fin Com meeting. There are still some changes that we are working on. So, this budget isn't final.
- The expense warrant the Board will sign tonight is for \$424,913. As much as the warrants change, this one is down by about \$326,000 from the \$750K average. This shows the Dept. Heads are doing their best to reduce expenses for the rest of this budget year. Thank you to all for their work.

CPA

- As mentioned previously the information session is planned for Monday June 1st. The speakers asked that this be part of Select Board meeting as these tend to draw more attendees /viewers than a standalone meeting. Is the Board OK with scheduling an extra meeting on June 6th? (The Board is in favor of a "stand alone" meeting.)

Interim Board positions:

- At a previous meeting the Board voted to appoint interim members to the Planning Board and Board of Health, to serve 'until the May elections'. Since elected members serve until the next election when their term expires; the same applies to interim appointments, including when the elections occur in June or later. The Town Clerk and I agree, this means the new PB and BoH members can continue to serve (and vote) through June or beyond if elections are pushed out again.

PSA:

- Families planning to send children to Kindergarten next year should have registered by now. Forms are available at: www.wrsd.net/for-parents/enrollment.forms.
- The governor signed a special at "An Act Providing for a Moratorium on Evictions and Foreclosures During COVID-19." Banks, landlords, as well as renters and homeowners should check the government website for details.

5/13/20

- Public Hearing – Chap 61A release 175 Justice Hill Rd
- Scholarship awards
- Accept the provisions of M.G.L. c 110G regarding electronic signatures
- Sign ATM and election Warrant

PSAs

Selectman Cranson read an announcement for [Children's Mental Health](#) week.

The Board sends condolences to Walter Sanders family. Walt was involved in the Industrial Development Committee and was a contractor in town for many years.

The Board verbalized their appreciation for all town employees who perservere to provide services to the residents during this difficult time.

At 9:17 Selectman Cranson moved to adjourn. Chairman Kilcoyne – 2nd. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn

