

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 30, 2013

MEETING:

Selectman Sushchuk called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Roll call established that Paul Sushchuk, Ron Furmaniuk and Brian Patacchiola were present. **Vote:** Selectman Patacchiola made the motion to table the agenda item regarding the discussion of the Clerk of Committees position and then approve the agenda. Selectman Furmaniuk 2nd. Unanimous.

VOTE: Selectman Paul Sushchuk made a motion enter Executive Session regarding Contract Negotiations. **Roll Call Vote.** Chairman Sushchuk – Aye. Selectman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. The public was asked to leave the room.

The public meeting resumed at 7:08.

Town Clerk
Updates:

Town Clerk, Dawn Michanowicz, made the announcement that there will be two more elections this year. The primary will be April 30th, 2013 and the special election will take place on June 25th.

Dedicate Town Report:

Ms Michanowicz requested that the 2012 Town Report be dedicated to the memory of Lois Seifert, who passed away on December 17th. Lois was remarkably devoted to the Town. She served Sterling for 32 years as Town Clerk, Town Collector, Warrant Officer, Burial Agent, Parking Clerk, Town Hall Administrator and Handicap Program Coordinator. **VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to dedicate the 2012 Town Report to Lois Seifert. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

Ms. Michanowicz reminded all boards and committees that their annual reports are due by March 8th. All reports should be emailed to Townreport@sterling-ma.gov.

Codification of Bylaws:

The codification of the general bylaws has been completed after 3 years. The Town Clerk has 12 books that will be distributed to buildings throughout town. Those who wish to use the books will be made to sign for them. The information will also be made available on the Town Web-site. These books will be updated when bylaws are changed.

Ms Michanowicz again thanked Judge Patrick Fox for all his assistance in making the codification a reality.

Historical Books:

The voters voted to preserve and archive historical books that have been in the Town's possession since the 1700s. The work has been completed and the

books are now beautifully preserved. The pages were cleaned and the ink was enhanced. The information within the books will be made available on the Town's website in the future. Residents are welcome to visit the Clerk's office to see the books.

Move Town Meeting and Town Election:

Per the School Committee's request, the Board discussed the possibility of moving the Town Election up one week, in order to coincide with the Town elections, in the other 4 Wachusett Regional School District Towns. The reason for this request is so that the schools can all be closed on election day, as an added measure of security. Since Sterling traditionally has Town Meeting prior to Town Elections, this would mean a very early Town meeting. The Town Clerk is amenable to this idea. However, it would mean that the Wachusett Regional School District staff will need to get budget numbers and Town Meeting articles to Sterling earlier than they have in the past. Since the Town meeting calendar is voted upon yearly. This topic will be addressed next year.

Vault Construction Update:

Present for this discussion: John Poulin, Contractor. Donlin Murray, Chair of Vault Building Committee, Mike Padula, member Vault Building Committee. Funding for the vault has been approved and construction will commence. The construction process has been delayed due to weather conditions. However, the date of completion is scheduled on or before May 6th, 2013. The Select Board will arrange for a ground breaking ceremony early next week.

Due to the possibility of negative impact on town services within the Butterick Building, Tom Rutherford, Building Facilities Manager, will be appraised of scheduling on the project. Job meetings will be held at 9:30 on Tuesdays or Wednesdays. Meeting times will be posted and anyone can attend.

Due to a possibility of Conflict of interest, the Town's building inspector will act only as such. Mr. Poulin will act as Clerk of the works.

The Select Board commended the Vault Building Committee on their perseverance and dedication to this project. It is a large step forward for the Town.

Police Chief, Gary Chamberland presented his Reports for November and December. Some points of interest are as follows:

November

- Officer Craig Pomeroy was appointed temporary sergeant and moved to the overnight shift to cover for Sgt out on an extended illness.
- Transferred Det. Johnson back to the Day shift.
- Notified our grant request was denied. (Live-Scan)
- Continuing our directed patrol assignments at Chocksett and Leominster.
- There were eighty-three (83) traffic stops, and thirty-three (33) citations issued.
- Fourteen accidents were investigated, one at the Chocksett and Leominster.

Police Report:

- Notified by the State that they will be preceding with plan for intersection of Chocksett and Leominster.

December

- Sergeant Gaudette attended a class on locating and writing grants.
- Illness has gone through the department affecting many personnel.
- Acting Sgt. Pomeroy is doing well as the OIC of the overnight shift.
- Scheduled next basic handgun safety course at the police Station for 22 January 2013.
- Working with COA and SLTV to produce a public service announcement that will be out in the near future.
- The police department issued an alert warning people of increased crimes during the holidays specifically break ins. We had four reported during the month. Two of which fit the classic day time house break method.
- The annual liquor inspections were conducted during the month.
- Twelve crashes during the month, some of these were minor accidents caused by weather and road conditions.

Sr. Center OPM:

Present: Co-chairs, Maureen Cranson and Jack Chandler,
Owners Project Manager, Diversified Project Management Co., Frank Kennedy

During the past few weeks, the Senior Center Building Committee had interviewed Owner Project Managers for the initial phase of the project. This phase will not involve the actual construction. This OPM will serve in a professional capacity to assist the building committee with determining square footage requirements, project costs and community involvement.

The Senior Center Building Committee interviewed three companies and was overwhelmingly impressed with Diversified Management Co. Selectman Furmaniuk attended the interviews and stated his enthusiastic agreement. The selectmen fully supported the Senior Center Building Committees decision.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to approve Diversified Project Management Inc of Newton, MA as the Owners project Manager for the Senior Center Building Com. at \$25,000, subject to a mutually accepted and binding contract between both parties. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

Appleton Town
Request to use
more floor space
for alcohol sales:

Chirag Patel, owner manager of Appletown Market requested that current restrictions be lifted by the Select Board, so that he could devote more floor space to the sale of alcohol.

In April of 2009, Appletown Market was granted a license to sell All Kinds of Alcoholic Beverages. However, the Board placed restrictions on the license. On January 21, 2009 the following restrictions were set:

- 1 shelf unit, 4' x 2 ½' wide to be stored in the wine room
- No alcohol advertisements placed on windows
- No nips sold

On December 9, 2009 the Board modified the conditions due to possibility of theft. The new modified condition stated that the shelf would be placed behind the counter, where the sales clerk would be in care and control of the alcohol.

Mr. Chirag requested that this restriction be lifted so that he could display alcohol in a larger area of the store. By devoting more space to his display area he intends to buy in larger quantity, in order to stay competitive with package stores in neighboring towns. Within two days, Mr. Chirag was able to gather ninety seven signatures in support of his request, to increase the floor space that is devoted to alcohol sales.

When asked about the specifics of his proposal, Mr. Chirag had several options which included creating a new space with walls, or simply displaying the alcohol on the existing back wall.

Mr. Doug Davis spoke on behalf of the First Church. He stated that because of the close proximity to the church, the church wishes to have some say in the restrictions that are placed on the alcohol license. The church does not want the convenience store to resemble a package store.

Chairman Sushchuk suggested that Mr. Chirag meet with abutters, neighbors and church members to iron out concerns. Chairman Sushchuk also asked Mr. Chirag to present the Board with a specific request, regarding how he would like to increase the floor space, devoted to alcohol sales.

VOTE: Chairman Sushchuk made a motion that this matter be tabled until the next Board meeting. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in Favor

It was noted that the Town has had no issues with Appletown selling to minors. There have been no alcohol related disturbances outside the market and there has been no alcohol related trash. The consensus of the Board is that they would like to make it feasible for Mr. Chirag to continue to survive as a small business in Sterling, while also addressing the concerns of the neighbors and the church.

Town
Administrator
Updates/old
business

Veteran's Officer:

After many years of service, the Veterans Service Officer, Roland Nelson, will be retiring in April. Mr. Nelson has been a most dedicated advocate for the Town's Veterans. He will be sorely missed.

The process of hiring a new veteran's officer will begin. Any computer literate veteran is eligible to apply. A complete job description will be made available on the web-site and the job will be advertised. There is a possibility that Sterling will work with Lancaster to hire a regional Veteran's Officer.

MART:

Montachusett Area Regional Transit Authority has approved a second van for the Town of Sterling. This second van will be used to provide additional service to seniors. The possibility of providing commuter transportation to the train station will also be considered. Part-time van driver/s will be needed. The first 20 hours

of pay per week, for the driver/s will be reimbursed by the MART. The service will be made available in March.

MMA:

Town Administrator Terri Ackerman and Selectman Brian Patacchiola attended the Annual Massachusetts Municipal Association Trade Show, in Boston. Selectman Patacchiola graciously accepted the Honorable Mention, awarded by the MMA for the Town's Website.

Governor Proposed Budget:

The Town Administrator reported that the Governor has proposed a 3% increase in unrestricted local aid for municipalities. This percentage would mean approximately \$20,000.00 for the Town of Sterling.

Hardscrabble Road:

The lawyers intend to file this case with the probate courts this week.

Light Department P.I.L.O.T. Program:

The Board of Selectmen wish to establish a long term agreement with the Light Department, in order to provide stability and to be better able to predict revenue and costs. The Select Board plan to attend a Meeting at the Light Department. They requested that the meeting take place on a Monday, in mid to late March.

Building Inspector:

The Town's Building inspector's contract expires in August. The consensus of the Select Board is that it is in the best interest of the Town to continue with the regional agreement that is currently established with the Town of West Boylston. The Board asked the Town Administrator to begin negotiations with Mark Brodeur and Town Administrator, Leon Gaumond of West Boylston, in order to bring back a proposed contract, for the Board's approval.

Annual Town Meeting Articles:

Place holder articles for the Annual Town Meeting are due February 4, 2013. The Board will take positions on Articles throughout February and March.

Policy Meeting:

The next policy meeting will be held on February 4, 2013, at 7:00.

Business and
Correspondence:

Appoint Voting Member for COA:

On December 31st, Ellen Sesia resigned as a voting member of the Council on Aging. The Council on Aging Board voted to request the appointment of Sue Doucette to the position. After discussion, VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to appoint Sue Doucette as a voting member of the Council on Aging to take the place of Ellen Sesia. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in Favor. Ms Doucette's term will end June of 2015.

Letter of Support for Rail trail:

The consensus of the Board is that the Rail Trail is a true asset for the Town of Sterling. It is frequented by many residents and visitors alike. After discussion:

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to support Wachusett Greenways in its mission to procure grant money to be used toward upgrades to the Rail Trail. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. All in favor.

License Renewals:

After discussion:

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to grant an automatic amusement license to WBC Golf Management Doing Business as Mulligan's Miniature Golf. Selectman Furmaniuk 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to grant a Common Victualer license to WBC Golf Management Doing Business as Mulligan's Miniature Golf. Selectman Furmaniuk 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to grant a Common Victualer license to Rota Spring Farm. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to grant a Common Victualer license to the First Church. Chairman Sushchuk asked to recuse himself because he is a member of the First Church. Selectman Patacchiola stated that he is also a member of the First Church. Therefore, a vote of necessity was taken. Chairman Sushchuk voted AYE. Request for Common Victualer's license was approved.

Future agenda:

Selectman Patacchiola asked that the custodians be commended for a doing a great job. A letter of appreciation will be drafted.

Adjourn:

Chairman Sushchuk made the motion to adjourn at 8:47. Selectman Furmaniuk 2nd. All in Favor.

Selectmen’s Meeting Minutes
January 30, 2013

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