

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 13, 2013

MEETING:	<p>Selectman Sushchyk called the meeting to order at 6:35pm. Roll call established that Paul Sushchyk and Ron Furmaniuk were present. Selectman Patacchiola was not able to attend the meeting. Vote: Selectman Sushchyk made the motion to approve the agenda. Selectman Furmaniuk 2nd. Unanimous.</p> <p>VOTE: Selectman Paul Sushchyk made a motion enter Executive Session regarding Contract Negotiations. Roll Call Vote. Chairman Sushchyk – Aye. Selectman Furmaniuk – Aye. The public was asked to leave the room.</p> <p>The public meeting resumed at 7:00.</p> <p>VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to approve the executive session minutes of January 30, 2013, regarding contract negotiations. 2nd by Chairman Sushchyk. All in favor.</p> <p>VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to approve the regular session minutes of January 30, 2013, regarding contract negotiations. 2nd by Chairman Sushchyk. All in favor.</p>
Remote Participation	<p>The Board discussed the option of remote participation in their Selectmen's meeting, per the Open Meeting Law. Remote participation is covered in the Open meeting law, 29.10: Remote Participation. The consensus was that this option will prove to be very beneficial.</p> <p>VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to adopt 940 CMR 29.10 and all of its provisions. 2nd by Chairman Sushchyk. All in favor.</p>
School Committee Update:	<p>Norman Plourde was present to give an update from the School Committee. Mr. Plourde reported the following;</p> <p>There is a decline in the number of Sterling students within the School system</p> <p>Superintendent :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The search for the new Superintendent is ongoing• The public is allowed to give input regarding the hire of the new superintendent, via the schools website. The deadline for input is February 18th• The Massachusetts Assoc. of School Committees will screen applicants for the superintendent position• The deadline for the applications for Superintendent is March 1, 2013-02-14 <p>Budget:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 9th, the School Committee members will receive the school budget• There is no provision for reinstating a principal for Chocksett school.

However Mr. Plourde assured the Board that things are running extremely well with only one principal in charge of both Houghton and Chocksett school

- The budget will be voted upon on March 18

Regional Agreement:

- New agreement calls for downsizing of School committee to 12 members over the next three years.
- As members terms expire, the seat will also expire, until such time as there are 12 members. Holden will have 4 School Committee members. Other towns within the Wachusett Regional School District will have 2 members each.
- School Committee votes will be weighted, according to population.
- Due to changing student populations, the agreement will be reconsidered in 3 years rather than 5 years, so as to keep the weighted votes balanced.

Chairman Sushchik asked that the School committee report back to the Board at the end of March.

Fire Dept Quarterly update:

Chief David Hurlbut was present to give his report. Some items of interest;

- Attended a program on "Taking Care of our Own" at the fire academy on how to deal with fire ground injuries and firefighter fatalities
- The annual Regional Emergency Planning Committee drill was held in West Boylston on Saturday October 13th. This year's drill simulated a hazardous materials release on the railroad tracks and setting up booms in all the tributaries that feed Wachusett Reservoir
- Attended a regional Homeland Security Council meeting in Worcester and the department was issued a new multi-gas meter

November Review:

- The department participated in a Live Burn training drill at the Worcester Fire Department Training Facility on December 3rd
- Emergency Management received a Citizen Corps Grant in the amount of \$2,950 which will be used to purchase and implement a credentialing I.D. system for the town

December Review:

- Emergency Management received an Emergency Management Planning Grant in the amount of \$2,500 which will be used to purchase and implement a credentialing I.D. system for the town in conjunction with the Citizen Corps Grant received in November

Call Member Achievements:

- Christopher Baker was credentialed to work as a Paramedic with the department
- Michael Garceau passed the Firefighter I/II Certification test

Vault Construction

Economic
Development
Committee
Appointments

The Board commended Chief Hurlbut and the Fire Department for the impressive recruits that graduated from the Call/Volunteer Recruit Class on December 27th with a total of 10 recruits from area departments completing the program, including 2 candidates from Sterling. The Board is also impressed with continued achievements by department members as well as Chief Hurlbut's leadership ability.

At the Special Town Meeting of November 13, 2013 the votes approved a new Economic Development Committee. Subsequently, this bylaw change was approved by the Attorney General's Office. There were 5 applicants for the appointments to the new board.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to Appoint;

Jeffrey Donaldson, term to expire 6/30/15
Kevin Sanders, term to expire 6/30/15
Michael Pineo, term to expire 6/30/14
James Patacchiola, term to expire 6/30/14
Paul Rehrig, term to expire 6/30/13

to the Economic Development Committee. 2nd by Chairman Sushchyk. All in favor.

There are two vacancies remaining, one to be filled by a Selectman.

Position on Town
Articles:

Article 14: Fund Senior Center - Tabled until language of article is completed

Article 26: Chapter 90 Funding –

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 90 funds in the amount of \$ xxxx , or any other sum, as funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway resurfacing and/or other related work or expenditures as allowed by the State Chapter 90 regulations, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, and in accordance with the DPW's 5-year Capital Plan reviewed annually by the Capital Plan Committee, or take any action in relation thereto.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support this article. Chairman Sushchyk 2nd. Unanimous.

Article 30 – Fund Update to the OPEB Actuarial valuation

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$5,850 to retain an actuarial firm or actuarial firms to update the actuarial valuation of Other Postemployment Benefits (OPEB) provided by the Towns to existing and future retirees, said sum to be expended by the Board of Selectmen, or take any other action relative thereto.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support this article. Chairman Sushchyk 2nd. Unanimous

Article 31. Fund Post-Employment Benefits (tentative)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$xxxx from xxxx Article xxx of the May xxx Town Meeting to fund the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund, as recommended under GASB 45.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support this article. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. Unanimous

Article 32 – Fund Wachusett Earthday (Wachusett Regional Recycling Center)

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$2,985, or any other sum, to satisfy the Town's financial obligation under the contract with Wachusett Earthday, Inc. for the Fiscal Year 2014, or take any other action relative thereto.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support this article. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. Unanimous

Article 33 – Fund Wachusett Greenways Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ 1,300 , or any other sum, to be used for expenses for Wachusett Greenways, a six Town collaborative, said funds to be administered and expended by Wachusett Greenways, or take any action in relation thereto.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support this article. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. Unanimous

Article – 34 Fund Sterling Land Trust Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,300 , or any other sum, to be used for expenses for The Sterling Land Trust, an organization dedicated to the preservation of various parcels of land within the Town, said funds to be administered and expended by the Trust, or take any action in relation thereto.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support this article. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. Unanimous

Article – 37 – 40 Government Study Tabled until Selectman Patacchiola can be present to participate.

Article 23 – Federal Fire Act Grant 5% Match

To see if the town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer the sum of \$14,500.00 from the Capital Fund or available funds, as a 5% match for a Federal Fire Act Grant applied for by the Fire Department for upgrades to the fire department radio system. Total cost of the grant proposal is \$290,000.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support this article. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. Unanimous

The Town Administrator reported the following:

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Administrator
Updates/old
business

- The Capital Committee has decided to support the following projects;
 1. A new copier for the first floor.
 2. The down payment on a new ambulance
 3. The 5% match toward the grant money received by the Fire for a radio repeater
 4. Refurbish Volvo Loader for the DPW
 5. Replace pick up for the DPW
 6. Fingerprint scanner for Police Dept.
 7. Replace 7 work stations

Total new expenditures supported - \$127,798.00

- The Department of Transportation will move ahead on the conceptual plan for Chocksett Road intersection. Their design will incorporate a portion of the Rail Trail. The Town can expect to hear more on this project this spring.
- Sterling and the other 30 towns that applied for a regional grant to manage storm water will receive some funds for that purpose this spring. Chairman Sushchik suggested that the funds might be expended in the Legate Road area.
- Dispatcher contract negotiations will be starting soon.
- Final language for Town Meeting Articles is required by March 18th

Business and
Correspondence:

Town Reports:

Chairman Sushchik reminded all Boards and Committees that Town Reports are due by March 1, 2013.

Building Inspector's Contract:

The Board discussed the professional Services Agreement by and Between the Towns of West Boylston and Sterling and Mark Brodeur. The Building Inspector, Mr. Brodeur was present. The Board reported that the mutual contract has been beneficial to all involved.

Mr. Brodeur reported that he was pleased with the progress that had been made during the past few years. Mr. Brodeur commended his Assistant Ann Kokernak. He stated that she has done a spectacular job, running the office and learning the new software that will ultimately make the Building Inspectors office much more accessible to on-line users.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to sign the agreement, for a 3 year term. Chairman Sushchik 2nd. All in favor.

Registrar of Voters:

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to re-appoint Christine Arsenault as a registrar of voters. Chairman Sushchik 2nd. All in favor. Her term will expire 4/1/16.

1-day liquor licenses:

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to grant 1-day liquor licenses to the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for the following dates:

February 23, 2013 - 4:00 – midnight

March 9, 2013 – 6:00 – midnight

March 10, 2013 – 2:00 – 7:00pm

Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. All in favor

Common Victualer License:

Adjourn:

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to grant a Common Victualer License to Stillwater Ice Cream. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. All in favor

Ride to End Alzheimers:

Ride to End Alzheimers 2013 has been set for **Saturday, July 13th, 2013**. Over the past 15 years, Memory Ride has raised over \$2.7 million to fund critical Alzheimer's disease research, through the Alzheimer's Associations research grants program. Many in the research community believe the ability to treat or even prevent Alzheimer's disease may be possible in the next decade with continued funding for research.

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to support this event. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. All in favor

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

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