

TOWN OF STERLING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
March 13, 2013

MEETING:

Selectman Furmaniuk called the meeting to order at 6:30pm. Roll call established that Ron Furmaniuk and Brain Patacchiola were present. Chairman Sushchuk participated in executive session remotely. **Vote:** Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to approve the agenda. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

**VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion enter Executive Session regarding Contract Negotiations. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. **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 7:02.

Chairman Sushchuk did not continue to participate remotely.

**VOTE:** Selectman Patacchiola made the motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2013. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

Special Elections

Town Clerk, Dawn Michanowicz, address the Board. She announced:

- There will be a SPECIAL state primary on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>.
- April 10<sup>th</sup> is the deadline to register to vote or to change political party.
- June 25<sup>th</sup> is the General Election.
- The Town Clerk will apply for reimbursement from the State for funds required to run these elections.
- The deadline for submission of nomination papers for Town Election is March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Town Election will be held on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup>.

Police Reports

The Board signed the warrant for the upcoming Special, State Primary and commended the Town Clerk and the election workers for the work they do in order to ensure a smooth running election.

The Chief of Police presented the Police reports for January and February.

**January excerpts:**

- Experienced a failure in radio system due to extreme temperature and was repaired. A remedy has been developed and put in place.
- Letter of appreciation received regarding Elizabeth Todorov Toy drive.
- Notified of the Alzheimer's Association Bike race being held on July 13<sup>th</sup>. This event has little impact on the Town. It will be on the Chase Hill Rd and Metropolitan Rd area.
- Next Handgun Safety Class is February 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Seventeen motor vehicles accidents during the month. One at Chocksett and Leominster

**February:**

- There is a position vacancy for part-time emergency medical dispatcher.
- Police chiefs of the Wachusett School district met with acting school superintendent and his staff to discuss school safety matters.
- Sterling is following the nationwide trend in a surge in gun licensing.  
2009 issued 59 licenses  
2010 issued 105 licenses  
2011 issued 142 licenses  
2012 issued 250 licenses  
2013 as of February 80
- The next handgun safety class will be held on 28 March and 23 April at the Sterling Police Station.
- Twelve accidents investigated during the month. None at Leominster and Chocksett. One at exit 6. It was a rear end collision.

Town Planner      Selectman Patacchiola has made some changes in the most current draft of the job description for the proposed Town Planner. These changes will be forwarded to the Human Resource Director, who will incorporate the changes and present the new draft to the Personnel Board for approval. Upon approval, the job description will be resubmitted to the Select Board.

Paperless Meetings      Meeting materials were made available to the Board on Zip drive files. Selectman Furmaniuk suggests that there is a better way to make this material available in "Real Time". The specifics will be discussed with the IT person and this matter will be readressed at a future meeting.

Blacksheep drainage issue      This agenda item was postponed per the request of the party involved. The Selectman insist that this issue be brought before them at the next meeting, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Take position on Town Meeting articles      Personnel Class and Compensation Schedule Article  
  
Chairman Jed Lindholm presented the Personnel Board's reasoning behind their recommendation to increase Town employee wages by 2.2% as opposed to the traditional 3% increase. He also reported that the Personnel Board is planning on pursuing a comprehensive salary review to make certain that Town Employees are paid at a median pay scale rate.

**VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to support Article 2, Classification Compensation Plan including the Personnel Board's recommendation of a 2.2% wage increase. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Senior Center Articles

Maureen Cranson and Dick Maki attended the meeting to represent the Senior Center Building Committee. The first article will ask for \$2,500,00.00 funding for the construction of the new Senior Center. This money will pay for the complete cost of construction. The second article will ask for 250,000.00 for non-construction essentials for the Senior Center.

After some discussion it was decided to wait until the next meeting, when a full board could be present, to vote upon supporting these two articles.

Maureen made a public request for a volunteer(s) to lead a Capital Fund Raiser effort for the Senior Center.

#### Dispatch Contract Article

After discussion, **VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to report at Town Meeting on the Dispatchers Contract. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

#### Articles to be considered at next meeting:

- Senior Center (2) or (3)
- Amendment of Personnel Bylaws
- Set salary of Light Department Board
- Multi-family development (new or modified bylaw)
- Mosquito Control
- Amendments to the WRSD Regional Agreement

#### The Town Administrator made the following announcements:

- Karen Gaylord of the Police Department has retired. The Board thanked her for her many years of service to the Town.
- A memo was sent to all department heads asking them to prepare for departmental cuts of between 2 and 3 %.
- March 18<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for Town Meeting articles. Articles will not be accepted after 2pm.
- The Select Board will meet with the Light Department on Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the Light Department.
- Congratulations to the Fire Department. They received a grant of \$275,500 for new radios. The Board enthusiastically thanked Tom Kokernak for his efforts in writing this grant.

Town  
Administrator  
Updates/old  
business

Business and  
Correspondence:

#### Appointment

After discussion, **VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to appoint Kristen Nelson to the Recreation Committee. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

#### Snow and Ice Deficit Spending

After discussion, **VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to approve deficit snow and ice spending. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Adjourn:

**VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to adjourn at 8:47 Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor

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