

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 24, 2013

MEETING:

Chairman Sushchik called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Roll call established that Paul Sushchik and Brain Patacchiola were present. Ron Furmaniuk participated remotely. **VOTE:** Selectman Patacchiola made the motion to approve the agenda. Chairman Sushchik 2nd. All in favor.

Chairman Sushchik asked for a moment of silence in honor of the killed and maimed during the bombing at the Boston Marathon.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve the agenda. Chairman Sushchik 2nd. All in Favor.

Insurance
Advisory
Committee:

Chairman Sushchik recused himself from discussion and left the room. Ken Lombardi and Tom Kokernak were present to the MIIA insurance rate proposal for FY14. Mr. Lombardi explained the following

- The only company to bid for the coverage was **Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Association (MIIA)**
- MIIA will provide Blue Cross coverage
- The original renewal premium was proposed at 5.25% (premium rates were determined on last year's claims experience)
- The insurance Advisory Task Force was able to achieve a 0% cost increase by cost sharing with the insured (increased co-pays)
- All unions have signed off on these compromises. Thus saving the Town approx. \$70,000.

The Board congratulated Ken Lombardi and the Insurance Advisory Committee for all their hard work in achieving this compromise. **VOTE:** Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to accept the MIIA proposed Health Insurance Plan. Selectman Furmaniuk 2nd. Both in favor.

DPW Assistance
to Town Fair:

Chairman Sushchik read a letter which had been sent to Jay Hartnett, the Fair Committee Chairman. The letter stated that the DPW Board had voted, unanimously to pull all manpower and equipment support from the annual Town Fair. However, they proposed that for this final year, they would set up the potable water systems that are used by the vendors.

Jay Hartnett and Terry Heinhold were present to represent the Fair Committee. Mr. Hartnett had written a rebuttal to the DPW Board stating that the Fair Committee was shocked by this DPW Board action. He was adamant that without the assistance, that has been historically rendered by the DPW, it could very well mean the end of the Fair. Just a few minutes before tonight's Selectmen's meeting, Mr. Hartnett received another letter from the DPW Board stating that they had reconsidered and are willing to render limited services.

Each Selectman spoke in support of the Annual Town Fair. They were shocked and deeply concerned by the DPW Boards unilateral decision. The

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WRSD Budget
Update:

Select Board congratulated the Fair Committee for all the time and hard work that is required in order to put on the Sterling Fair. They hope that the DPW will further reconsider and render whatever services that are required by the Fair.

Vote for
Veteran's Service
Officer:

Anthony Gasparo, Interim Superintendent and Joe Scanlon, Director of Business were present to give an update on the Wachusett Regional School District Budget. Mr. Gasparo explained that the budget presented earlier for inclusion in the Town Meeting Articles may need to be adjusted, on their end, due to changes in funding at the State Level. However, he assured the Board that they should proceed at the Annual Town Meeting with the currently proposed Town Assessment and that any budget deficiencies will be handled by the School Committee and Administration.

The Board thanked Mr. Gasparo for his open communication and for the strong working relationship that has been forged with the Town of Sterling. They requested the final numbers as soon as possible.

Meet with Library
Board regarding
Article 26:

Chairman Sushchik attended the Lancaster Board of Selectmen's meeting on Monday, April 22. He stated that the Lancaster Board was impressed, as was the Sterling Board of Selectmen, with the quality of applicants. Chairman Sushchik stated that Lancaster Select Board supported the appointment of Richard Sheppard, as the New Veterans Service Officer for Sterling and Lancaster. Discussion ensued. The board verbalized their opinions. The consensus was that Dick Sheppard was committed to outreach and was significantly more comfortable working within the stipend that had been allocated by the Town. VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to appoint Richard Sheppard as the new Veteran's Service Officer. Chairman Sushchik 2nd. All in favor.

Dispatchers
Contract:

Jaap Vermeulen and John Dwyer were present to represent the concerns of the Library Board. The Library Board wants to maintain its autonomy and objects to some of the language in Article 26.

They are concerned about the ramifications upon free speech, if the Director of the Library is under the jurisdiction of any authority other than the Library Board. The Select Board understands their concerns but is also aware of the objective of the Government Study Group to create a more cohesive organization, in regard to the operational control of the Town. Chairman Sushchik will reconsider the verbiage of the article.

Discuss Speaking
Assignments:

No information is available regarding the Dispatchers contract at this time.

The consensus of the Board was to support the speaking assignments that were provided by the Town Administrator.

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Bid for
Professional
Services:

Currently, the Town uses the legal services of Stan Weinberg and Jack Collins for both General and Labor issues. Although it is the consensus of the Board that Attorney Weinberg and Attorney Collins have been providing excellent service to the Town, it is good business practice to go to bids for professional services.

Administrator's
Update/ Old
Business:

Terri Ackerman announced her retirement, as of December 31, 2013. She has worked as Town Administrator for 6 years. She stated "It has been an honor and a privilege and at times a challenge, to serve in Sterling, as your Town Administrator." She promised to make herself available and to assist in whatever capacity may be required, in order to assure a smooth transition.

The Town Administrator announced that there was a small retirement party for Roland Nelson. She thanked Judy Janda, Director of Recreation, for hosting the celebration. Rollie will be missed.

The Town would like to use the Homeland Security Grant toward the purchase of a new message board, to be used for public safety, traffic control, Town Meetings and election information. The Town Moderator, Richard Sheppard will voluntarily contribute his salary and expenses and 4 other Departments have offered to help defray the costs of procuring this new message board.

Asian Long Horn Beetle traps will continue to be placed within Sterling, by the EPA as a precaution. As of yet, there have been no signs of infestation within the Town of Sterling.

Connor Glasier's Eagle Scout project is to supply and build 6 new park benches, near the gazebo. His intention is to raise approx. \$3000.00 for this project. To that end, he has asked to keep shoe donation boxes in the Town Hall, during the months of May and June. He is also accepting cash donations. The Selectmen agreed to the placement of the shoe donation boxes and thanked Connor for his efforts.

Business and
Correspondence

CES Solar Pilot Agreement

The proposed P.I.L.O.T. agreement between the Town and CES was discussed. The terms of the agreement state that this solar producing company will use land on Wiles Road and will pay the Town \$22,500 every year for 20 years, in lieu of taxes. **VOTE:** Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to execute this agreement. Chairman Sushchik 2nd. All in favor

Chairman Sushchik commended Selectman Patacchiola, Assessor Harald Scheid and Town Administrator, Terri Ackerman for working together with

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CES to solidify this agreement.

CIC Grant

The Environmental Protection Agency has recently announced a mandate that would require all towns to map storm water. This mandate is not funded through the State or Federal Government. However, this regional grant will be used by the Applicant Towns toward the purchase of technological tools, such as Android tablets, that will be used to enter field data, in order to meet this new EPA requirement. The additional cost to the Town of Sterling will be \$2,300.00. VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to execute this agreement. Chairman Sushchuk 2nd. All in favor

Public Session:

Town Clerk, Dawn Michanowicz asked the Board to sign the warrant for Town Meeting again. (Using acid free paper for their signatures. Originally the warrant was signed on April 11, 2013.)

Dawn reported that the vault's fire panels are being installed and the Vault committee is hopeful that the vault will be completed by the Town Meeting date.

VOTE: Chairman Sushchuk made the motion to adjourn at 8:55. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

Adjournment: