

TOWN OF STERLING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
May 8, 2013

MEETING

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

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 meeting resumed at 7:00.

VOTE: Chairman Sushchuk made a motion to approve the regular minutes of April 11<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

VOTE: Chairman Sushchuk made a motion to approve the regular minutes of April 24<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

VOTE: Chairman Sushchuk made a motion to approve the regular minutes of April 29<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Police Report:

Chief Gary Chamberland presented the monthly police report for April 2013. Included in the report was the following:

- After a meeting with Fire Chief and DPW superintendent and Town Administrator decided that the best use of the allocated homeland security funds would be the purchase of a message board.
- Working with Massachusetts State Police, on setting up the Active Shooter training at the Chocksett School. A tentative date of Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> has been set. West Boylston Officers will also participate. Code Red will be utilized to notify neighbors.
- Basic handgun safety class is being held Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Sterling Police Department.
- Officers David Johnson and Scott Johnson represented the Sterling Police Department at the memorial service of MIT officer Collier.
- Ten crashes during the month. Three at Chocksett and Leominster Rd.

Chief Chamberland publicly thanked Chairman Sushchuk for his support to the Chief and the Police Department over the past 12 years.

Sholan Park Non-Resident Parking Pass Fees

Barbara Roberti and Daniel Kloczkowski were present to express their concerns about the recent decision of the Board to decrease the price of the non-resident Parking Pass fees from \$300.00 to \$150.00. Both reminded the Board that the original purpose of the fee was not to raise revenue but rather to protect the lake from invasive weeds, that can be unintentionally introduced into the water by boat trailers. They also reminded the Board that the original decision process was arduous and well documented as the best option for the well being of the Lake. After

discussion, VOTE: Chairman Sushchuk made a motion to rescind their vote of April 11<sup>th</sup>, that decreased the cost of the annual non-resident pass to \$150.00. The annual fee will remain at \$300.00. Selectman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Sushchuk and Selectman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – opposed.

The consensus of the Board was that the people who had already purchased their pass for this year at \$150.00, would not be asked to pay the additional \$150.00. It is also the intention of the Board that these passes be made available for non-residents who wish to use the beach (having a boat is not necessary).

Selectman Patacchiola suggested that the Board review and discuss, at a future meeting, the possibility of non-resident, non-boat passes for the Lake.

GIS for Pandolf Perkins

Pandolf Perkins has requested that they be allowed to use the Town's GIS information in order to do a detailed mapping of a project which would ultimately bring a gas line from West Boylston to their business on Route 12. The board discussed the benefits for the Town in this joint project between Pandolf Perkins and N-Star Gas. Residents along the route, as well as the school would have the opportunity to convert to gas, at a substantial savings in fuel costs. VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to authorize Karen Pare to provide GIS information to Pandolf Perkins, for their gas installation project at no charge. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor.

Fire Dept.  
Quarterly Report

Chief David Hurlbut presented his report for January through April 2013. Included in the report was the following:

- Hosted firefighting recruit graduation ceremony at the Chocksett School Auditorium. Graduated ten area recruit firefighters including two from Sterling, Roy Backstrom and Josh Tamulen
- Conducted a live burn drill at the former Twin Oaks Restaurant
- Completed installation and training on the new Credentialing System obtained through the Citizen Corp and Emergency Management Planning Grants totaling \$5,500
- Hosted public announcement with Congressman McGovern to announce receipt of \$290,000 Federal Fire Act Grant
- Attended grant award ceremony in Bolton for receipt of \$2,600 Volunteer Firefighter Assistance Grant from the DCR towards the enhancement of forestry firefighting equipment
- Started conducting meetings with radio vendors regarding the design and update of the fire department radio system as a result of the FireAct Grant award
- Attended an Active Shooter Preparation and Response seminar at Anna Maria College with the police chief

Chief Hurlbut also announced that Erik Ares received the Paramedic of the year award and publicly thanks Chairman Sushchuk for his continued support throughout his tenure as a Selectman.

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Discuss MRPC  
Traffic Counts

The Montachusett Regional Planning Commission is preparing for the 2013 traffic counts. They have scheduled a volume count on Redemption Rock Trail (Rte 140) at the Princeton Town Line and North of Dana Hill Road. Requests for counts at additional locations can be requested.

Following discussion, the consensus of the Board was that it would be helpful if a count was taken at the juncture of Boutelle and Muddy Pond Road as well as the cross road at 140 and Rte 62.

Sign Board Policy

The Town will purchase an Electronic Sign Board through a hosting program provided by the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission. The cost of the signs must be shared between the Towns and the CMRP through a matching funds grant. These signs are Homeland Security assets and must be made available to neighboring towns in case of emergency.

Moderator, Richard Sheppard has surrendered his \$500.00 Moderator's salary to help pay for the sign, with the understanding that it will be used to announce Town Meetings. The remainder of the \$1300.00 cost, to the Town will be shared by the Police, Fire and Department of Public Works. The Select Board considered a usage policy, presented by the Town Administrator. Discussion ensued. VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to approve the policy as amended. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor. (policy attached)

Year End  
Transfers:

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to transfer the sum of \$500.00 from Moderator Richard Sheppard's Salary account to the Moderator's expense account, be used toward the matching funds grant for the electronic sign Board. Selectman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to transfer the sum of \$5000.00 from the Fire Wages account to the Fire Expense account to maintain sufficient funds to pay vendors for the remainder of fiscal year 2013. Selectman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to transfer the sum of \$5000.00 from the Ambulance Wages account to the Ambulance Expense account to maintain sufficient funds to pay vendors for the remainder of fiscal year 2013. Selectman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Positions of  
Articles 3 & 13

VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to support Article 3 – the dispatchers contract. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

After discussion, the consensus of the Board was that they may report on Article 13 at Town Meeting.

Administrator's Up-  
Date:

- There is a mandatory outdoor water restriction as ordered by the EPA from May 1 - September 30, 2013.
- On Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new vault, at 8:00 am.
- Young's Landscapers has offered to replant and maintain the front of the Butterick building. The cost to the Town will be 500.00 for the

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initial plants and Young's will maintain the landscape indefinitely. The Town Administrator will contribute \$300.00 toward this project, from the Administrator's expenses. VOTE: Selectman Furmaniuk made a motion to contribute \$200.00 from the Selectmen's expenses. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

- Long time resident, Norma Strang's has passed away and her daughter is holding a celebration of life ceremony. Those who wish to honor her memory are encouraged to make a donation to either Y.A.H.O.O. or to the Sterling Senior Center.
- The Town Administrator and Board discussed the speakers list and other Town Meeting business. Chairman Sushchuk encouraged the Board to continue to actively engage the public in order to gain support needed to pass the key initiatives that are supported by the Select Board. Both Selectman Furmaniuk and Selectman Patacchiola agreed to this course of action.
- The owners of the Black Sheep Tavern will come before the Board sometime this summer to present their plans for alleviating the water issue that has posed a problem at Pratt's Junction.
- The Town Administrator publicly thanked Chairman Sushchuk for his assistance and support for the past 5 years.

Farmers Market  
Wine License  
Renewal

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to issue a renewal of the permit to sell wine at the Sterling Farmer's Market for Zoll Cellars. Selectman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor

Antique Dealer  
License Renewals:

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to issue renewal of the following Antique Dealer Licenses.

- Deacon's Bench
- Pratt's Junction Antiques
- M. T. Pockets
- Sterling Rare Coin
- Blacksmith Antiques
- Heritage Antiques

Selectman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in Favor

Adjourned:

Chairman Sushchuk made the motion to adjourn at 9:10. Selectman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

## SIGN BOARD USAGE POLICY

Adopted by the Board of Selectmen on May 8, 2013

- Town Business only – not for private or corporate functions

Town Business includes but is not limited to:

- Traffic Routing and Road Closures
  - Elections/Town Meetings/Public Hearing Notices
  - Water Bans
  - Welcome Home to Military Personnel
  - Sterling Fair
  - Fundraising Events (if related to town functions such as Library, COA or Scholarships)
  - Health Related Issues
- Precedence will be given to emergencies, as may be determined by Public Safety Officials
  - Postings for events need to be approved by the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen at least 2 weeks prior to the event, except in the case of emergency
  - Town maintains, insures and registers sign board, as required by Homeland Security
  - Town agrees to loan sign board to another community for use during an emergency