

TOWN OF STERLING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
July 1, 2013

MEETING	Chairman Furmaniuk called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Roll call established that Selectman Furmaniuk, Selectman Patacchiola and Selectman Cutler were all present.
Set Goals for FY14	Discussion was had pertaining to possible goals for the Select Board for Fiscal Year 14. The Board will consider the options suggested and will review this topic at the next meeting to make a final decision.
Annual Ambulance Write-offs	Chief David Hurlbut recommended "writing off" uncollectable receipts, as determined by Coastal Medical Billing, Inc., for ambulance services. <b>VOTE:</b> Selectman Brain Patacchiola made a motion to "write off" the uncollectable debt of \$18,728.00 for ambulance services. Selectman Cutler 2 <sup>nd</sup> . All in Favor.
Federal Excess Agreement	Chief David Hurlbut requested that the Board sign the Federal Excess Property & Firefighting Program cooperative agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to better utilize Excess Federal Property in the Control of Wildland and Community Fire Protection. There is no cost to the Town to enter into the agreement, however the State requires updated contracts to be signed. <b>VOTE:</b> Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to support and sign the agreement. Selectman Cutler 2 <sup>nd</sup> . All in Favor.
DOD Fire Fighting Co-operative Agreement	Chief David Hurlbut requested that the Board sign the Department of Defense Firefighting Program Cooperative Agreement. The purpose of this agreement is to offer the Town an opportunity to purchase equipment at a Federal contract price. There is no cost to the Town to enter into the agreement, however the State requires updated contracts to be signed. <b>VOTE:</b> Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to support and sign the agreement. Selectman Cutler 2 <sup>nd</sup> . All in Favor.
Discuss and Vote re: Property on 228 Leom. Rd:	<p>Building Inspector/Zoning Enforcer, Mark Brodeur was present to provide information regarding the property on 228 Leominster Road. Mr. Brodeur stated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Since an entertainment license is generally associated with a business instead of privately owned property, and since no commerce is involved in the "car cruise" events, he does not believe that an entertainment license is necessary. The property owners are using an unamplified radio as ambiance during their car cruise events.</li><li>• The large sign near the road is actually located on State property and may not be appropriate.</li><li>• A building and electrical permit has been issued so the storage of materials and supplies is acceptable.</li><li>• The property is zoned as Rural Residential Farming. However, it is grandfathered with a 2 year lifespan, in which to resurrect a restaurant style building.</li></ul> <p>The property owners have engaged Attorney William Hayes to represent them. Attorney Hayes explained that FISHCO Inc. wishes to be granted one day liquor licenses to be used on Saturday afternoons from 3 – 7 pm during</p>

	<p>the Car Cruise events. He explained that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The events are not commercial enterprises</li><li>• FISHCO has employed a TIPS licensed pourer for the beer and wine</li><li>• The beer and wine are made available to attendees at no charge. (A donation is requested and that money goes to charity)</li><li>• None of the neighbor complaints have stemmed from alcohol related incidents</li></ul> <p><b>VOTE:</b> Selectman Cutler made a motion to grant a one day liquor license for beer and wine to be used on July 6<sup>th</sup> from 3pm – 7pm. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Chairman Furmaniuk – Opposed.</p>
Appointments and Re-appointments:	<p>The Economic Development Committee voted and supports the appointment of Brian Kindorf. <b>VOTE:</b> Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to appoint Brian Kindorf to the Economic Development Committee. Selectman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.</p>
OML Complaints	<p>The Chairman, in an effort to address many of the Open Meeting Law complaints filed against the previous Board, stated that the Board had worked with Town Counsel to answer allegations against the previous Board.</p> <p>He stated that the Board had negotiated and reached an agreement on three contracts, earlier this year. These contracts were negotiated in executive session, as allowed by law. Funding was reviewed by the Finance Committee and approved at the Annual Town Meeting earlier this spring for each of those contracts.</p> <p>On June 4<sup>th</sup>, on the advice of Town Counsel, this Board announced that these contracts have been settled.</p> <p><b>VOTE:</b> Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve and ratify the employment contracts entered into earlier this year with the Dispatcher's Union, the Chief of Police and the Town Administrator. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roll Call Vote. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – abstain. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye.</p> <p>Chairman Furmaniuk responded to the concern of several citizens over the decision to not re-appoint the Chair of the Finance Committee. He stated that after due consideration, which included job performance and feedback from department heads, other boards and committees, town employees and the public over the past several years, he made the difficult decision to make a change. While the Chairman believes that this decision is in the best interest of the Town, he commended and thanked Mr. Kilcoyne for his many years of service to the Town of Sterling.</p>
Process for Hiring New Town Administrator:	<p>The Select Board made a call for volunteers to serve upon the screening committee for the new Town Administrator. It is the intent of the Board to appoint 5-7 members to the screening committee. Their consensus was that they would ultimately like to have one member of the Finance or Capital Committee, two citizens at large and two former selectmen, with the possibility of appointing a current selectman. The deadline to volunteer for this committee is July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Board will interview candidates and make the appointments to the screening committee at the July 31<sup>st</sup> meeting. The Screening Committee will be assigned the task of presenting 3 finalists to the Select Board.</p>

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Bid Professional Services:

The Board discussed the practice of soliciting bids or proposals for legal services, to be rendered to the Town. The Town Administrator will solicit bids/proposals and explore the options. She will report back to the Board with information, regarding the findings.

Wekepeke Update:

The Town has filed for special legislation regarding the water rights for the Wekepeke River. The Board and citizen Mary Ann McCleod continue to champion for the Town's right to use the river as a secondary water source and to oppose Clinton's exclusive claim to the water rights. The Board will continue to work with and get updates from Representatives Harold Naughton and Kim Ferguson. The Town Administrator will follow up on the Payment in Lieu of Taxes invoice that was sent to Clinton regarding the usage of the Wekepeke water.

Town Administrator's update:

The town Administrator reported the following:

- The Wachusett Regional School District has informed the Town that the final assessment for the Town is \$58,422.00 less than what was voted at the Annual Town Meeting. Therefore it is not necessary to have another Town Meeting to vote on the School Budget. The savings in taxes is approximately, \$18.00 per household.
- The Extension service was set up as a national system, charged with diffusing among the people of the United States useful and practical information. This information includes:
  - 4-H and youth development activities
  - Home economics programs
  - Agricultural programs
  - Nutrition education
  - Education
  - Leadership programs that teach how to better use capital, human and natural resources
- The Town does not currently have a policy regarding dogs in the building. Any citizen may request that they be accommodated in a different room and the staff member will be happy to comply.
- The Town Administrator attended the "Power Up" event on Wiles Road for the CES Solar group. A picture was presented as a token of appreciation to the Board for their support.

Business and Correspondence:

After consideration:

**VOTE:** Selectman Cutler made a motion to approve a 1 day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club on July 27, 2013 from 4:00pm – Midnight. Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

**VOTE:** Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve a 1 day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club on July 28, 2013 from Noon – 8:00 pm. Selectman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

**VOTE:** Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve a 1 day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club on August 10, 2013 from Noon – Midnight. Selectman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

**VOTE:** Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve a 1 day liquor license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club on August 17, 2013 from Noon – 8pm. Selectman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor

**VOTE :** Selectman Cutler made a motion to approve a transfer of \$1200.00 to the Neighbor to Neighbor applicant's landlord for past due rent.

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Selectman Patacchiola 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Due to the untimely passing of the Council on Aging Director, in the Town of Princeton, the consensus of the Board was to offer resources and assistance in Princeton's time of need. Chairman Furmaniuk will be in touch with the selectmen in Princeton.

**VOTE:** Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to adjourn at 9:27 pm.

Selectman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

Adjourned:

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