

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
October 23, 2013

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| MEETING | <p>Chairman Furmaniuk called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm. Roll call established that Selectman Furmaniuk, Selectman Cutler and Selectman Patacchiola were all present.</p> <p>The Chairman announced that there had been no Executive Session.</p> |
| Interview Law Firm - Robert J. Hennigan | <p>The Board interviewed Attorney Robert Hennigan of The Robert Hennigan Law Firm. Attorney Hennigan's office is located at 390 Main Street in Worcester. He has been a practicing attorney since 1982 and has been the Municipal Counsel for the Town of Auburn for 18 years. Should his firm be chosen as Town Counsel for Sterling, Mr. Hennigan would be the primary contact for the Town.</p> |
| Discuss Intersection of Rte 12 and Chocksett | <p>The Town Administrator reported that the State has received numerous calls from concerned citizens, town officials and State representatives regarding the dire conditions on Rte 12 an Chocksett. For this reason and the fact that serious accidents continue to mount, the State has decided to try a temporary fix, in hopes that it will improve the safety, in that area. Therefore, the state has begun to restripe the road and to narrow it to a single lane in both directions. Andy Paul of the Massachusetts Department of Transportation is in charge of the project. While the State is hopeful that the accidents will decrease in number, the Town is being assured that the full fledged project, that is scheduled for the TIP funding in 2015, is still on schedule. The project will not be abandoned due to this "temporary fix".</p> |
| Interview Law Firm – Kopelman and Paige | <p>The Board interviewed the firm of Kopelman and Paige. Attorneys Gregg Corbo and Brian Maser represented the firm. The Kopelman and Paige home office is located at 101 Arch Street, Boston, MA. Attorney Corbo has worked for the firm for 15 years and Attorney Maser has worked for the firm for 8 years. Kopelman and Paige currently represents 122 Municipalities. Should this firm be chosen, Attorney Corbo would be the primary contact for general law and Attorney Maser would be the primary contact for Labor/Personnel issues.</p> |
| Discuss Cordish Surrounding Community Agreement | <p>Joe Cordish, CEO of Cordish Company, was scheduled to participate in the meeting but was unable to attend. Chairman Furmaniuk, Town Counsel Stan Weinberg and Town Administrator Terri Ackerman have been participating in conference calls and detailed negotiations with Mr. Cordish, in an attempt to negotiate an agreement. They will continue to negotiate in hopes of receiving funds that would help to mitigate the negative impact that is anticipated due to the proposed slots parlor in Leominster. Cordish Company and the Town of Sterling have a deadline of October 31, 2013 to come to an agreement. If an agreement is not reached by then, the Town of Sterling may petition the State to be designated as a "Surrounding Community". After further discussion:</p> <p>VOTE: Chairman Furmaniuk moved that the Town Administrator be authorized to request from PPE Casino Resorts MA, LLC a disbursement of funds for the use by the Town to study the potential impacts of the proposed slot parlor in Leominster, Massachusetts, and for the negotiation of a surrounding community agreement, with the amount to be requested to be \$40,000.00. Selectman Cutler 2nd. All in favor.</p> <p>VOTE: Chairman Furmaniuk moved that the Town Administrator, in consultation with legal counsel, be authorized to submit a petition to the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to be designated as a "Surrounding Community" to the proposed slot parlor</p> |

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| | <p>in Leominster Massachusetts and to file an application for community disbursement funds, and to file such other documents and take such other action as may reasonably be necessary and appropriate in connection with such petition. Selectmen Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.</p> <p>The Board requested that a meeting be posted for Wednesday, October 30th at 7:00 pm to discuss a proposal which may be offered by Cordish Companies, prior to the October 31st deadline for application to the State. If no agreement is forth coming by close of business on Tuesday, October 29th, the meeting shall be cancelled and the Town shall pursue the option of petitioning the State.</p> |
| Interview Law Firm – Collins & Weinberg | <p>Both Stan Weinberg, Esq. and Jack Collins, Esq. were present to represent their firm. Collins and Weinberg have represented the Town of Sterling for 30 years. Attorney Collins reports that they have not received negative feedback regarding the work that they have done for Sterling in the past. They stated that if cost is the primary issue for the Town to consider a change, then the firm will make adjustments in their fee. However, they did remind the Board that all requests to engage Town Counsel need to be funneled through the Town Administrator.</p> |
| Business and Correspondence | <p>Holiday Hours. After discussion, the consensus of the Board was that the Town Hall Building will be closed on Friday, November 29th. Employees have the choice of working or taking personal time.</p> <p>After discussion, the consensus was that the Town Hall building will close at 11:30 on Tuesday, December 24th. Employees will not need to take personal time.</p> <p>Selectman Robert Cutler moved the motion to accept the resignation of Beth Stuermer , with regrets from the 1835 Town Hall Committee. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.</p> |
| Public Session: | <p>Elizabeth Updike voiced her concern for the Town regarding the proposed slots parlor in Leominster. She voiced her appreciation for the efforts of the Board and Town Administrator in pursuing an agreement with the Cordish Company and/or the State in order to provide protection from the negative impact that may, consequentially, befall the Town.</p> |
| Adjourned: | <p>VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved a motion to adjourn at 9:12 pm. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. Motion carried.</p> |