

**Town of Sterling
Joint Finance Committee/Capital Committee
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2019
Butterick Building, Room 205**

Chairman Sova called the Finance Committee meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
Capital Committee Chairman Heller called their meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

In Attendance for the Finance Committee:

Joe Sova, Mary Cliett, Everett Heller, Todd Chapman, and Steve Staudaher

In Attendance for the Capital Committee:

Everett Heller, Bob Brown, Mary Cliett, Todd Chapman, Joe Sova, Arden Sonnenberg and Elaine Heller

Attendees:

Selectman Maureen Cranson and Town Administrator Ross Perry

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Tabled until next meeting

Review/Discuss Budget Hearings:

Capital Committee Chairman Heller noted four capital requests were deferred by the Capital Committee: Historical Commission, Town Center Improvement Project, West Sterling Sports Courts, and the 1835 Town Hall.

1. The Historical Commission initially requested \$28,000 for continued repairs at Chocksett Cemetery (\$8,000) and updates on West Sterling Schoolhouse (\$20,000). The Commission chose to defer these items and are now asking for \$1,500.00 for a Facilities Assessment Plan for the West Sterling Schoolhouse.

After discussion, Arden Sonnenberg made a motion to recommend support of \$1,500.00 for the Assessment Plan. Mary Cliett seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

2. A subcommittee of the Recreation Department is requesting \$132,623.00 to refurbish the West Sterling Sports Courts. Arden Sonnenberg made a motion that the Capital Committee discuss this capital request, and the motion was seconded by Joe Sova. All in favor, motion carried. After discussion, Mary Cliett made a motion that the Capital Committee defer the article to Town Meeting floor. Arden Sonnenberg seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

3. \$20,000.00 is being requested by Administration for the Town Center Improvement Project. Mary Cliett made a motion that the Capital Committee recommend support of this article and the motion was seconded by Elaine Heller. All in favor; motion carried.

4. The 1835 Town Hall Committee submitted a capital request for \$120,000.00 for a sewage disposal system. Upon recommendation from the Board of Selectmen, \$125,00.00 was added to the Capital Plan for a sprinkler system in the building, the total capital request being \$245,000.00. After discussion, Mary Cliett made a motion to recommend support of both capital

items with sponsorship by the Board of Selectmen. Joe Sova seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Capital Committee member Joe Sova made a motion that the Capital Committee recommend to the Finance Committee \$1,123,585.00 in capital requests. Mary Cliett seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

Adjourn - Capital Committee:

Mary Cliett made a motion to adjourn the Capital Committee and Todd Chapman seconded the motion. All were in favor and the Committee adjourned at 7:18 PM. The Finance Committee continued with their meeting.

Review/Discuss Budget Hearings (continued):

Member Joe Sova noted the Planning Board has requested an increase in the Planning Board stipend. Everett Heller commented that all Boards should receive the same amount, which is currently not the case. It is his belief this issue should be addressed by the Board of Selectmen. He then made a motion that the Finance Committee not recommend support of this increase. Steve Staudaher seconded the motion. Unanimous vote.

All Committee members are, at this point in time, in agreement with the FY20 Omnibus Budget, as prepared by TA Perry.

Member Mary Cliett left the meeting at 7:41 PM.

Discussion of Revenue Projections, Tax Recap and Debt Schedule:

The FY20 Budget Prep Recap Worksheet that Mr. Perry prepared was reviewed and discussed by Committee members. Local Receipts are estimated at \$2,775,000.00 at this time, which is less than the actual receipts received in FY18. Todd Chapman made a motion to estimate Local Receipts at \$2.9 million, which should be more in line with actual receipts, in order to potentially reduce the tax burden on residents. Steve Staudaher seconded the motion. All in favor.

Ambulance Receipts were also reviewed. Everett Heller made a motion to take excess ambulance funds and count as revenue. Steve Staudaher seconded the motion. All in favor, motion carried.

Reserve Fund Transfers, if necessary:

None

Other Committee Business:

None

Set Next Meeting Date:

Chairman Sova scheduled the next meeting for March 18, 2019, at 6:00 PM in Room 201 of the Butterick Building.

Adjourn:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Staudaher and seconded by Everett Heller. All members were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.