

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 23, 2015

MEETING:

Chairman Cutler called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. Roll Call: Vice Chairman Kilcoyne – Present. Chairman Cutler - Present. Selectwoman Cranson - present
At 6:35 pm Chairman Cutler made a motion to enter into Executive Session, pursuant to MGL 30A Section 21(a) Exemption 3 - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Police Union Contract Fire Union 3A Hearing. Litigation – Earth Removal Board/Zoning Board of Appeals, Appeal to Superior Court, 38 Clinton Road. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Roll Call VOTE: Selectman Cutler - Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson– Aye. Motion carried.
The Board proceeded to convene in Executive session.

The Board reconvened in Public session at 6:59. Roll Call: Vice Chairman Kilcoyne – Present. Chairman Cutler - Present. Selectwoman Cranson - present

Minutes

Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the minutes of September 9, 2015 be approved. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.

Energy Storage

Sean Hamilton, General Manager of the Sterling Municipal Light Department, appeared before the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Hamilton reported that the SMLD had applied for and recently received a Grant under the Commonwealth Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative. The grant money was awarded to fund the design, construction and maintenance of a 1 Megawatt solar battery storage that will support the Sterling Police and Communications Facility, located at 135 Leominster Road, Sterling. The Grant was awarded based on the SMLD application. However, when the Grant was awarded to the Town of Sterling. Mr. Hamilton requested that the Board vote to sign a letter that acknowledges that all funds received from the Department of Energy Resources, under this Grant, shall be administered exclusively by the Light Department and that the Light Department shall have full authority and control over the administration of the project. In exchange, the Light Department agrees to assume all responsibility and liability for the project and will release and hold harmless the Town of Sterling for all matters associated with the implementation and construction of this project, under the guidelines of this grant. The Light Department acknowledges that it and not the Town shall be responsible for all matching funds and other financial obligations required under the terms of the Grant. After discussion and expressed sincere appreciation for Mr. Hamilton' efforts and all that the Light Department has done and continues to do for the Town of Sterling, Selectwoman Cranson moved that the Board authorize the Chairman to sign the letter, as written. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Chairman – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.
After discussion Selectwoman Cranson moved that the Board authorize a letter, to be composed by the Town Administrator, to officially thank Mr. Hamilton and the SMLD for all their efforts and assistance to the Town. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd the motion "enthusiastically". Chairman – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

Chocksett School
Principal

Chris Labreck, the new Principal of the Chocksett Middle School introduced himself to the Board. He thanked the Town for his warm reception and assured the board and viewers that he intends to assist the Middle School pupils in being prepared for a smooth transition into progressive grades. He looks forward to being instrumental in establishing intergenerational programming with the new Senior Center and will address any difficulties with the gymnasium sound system that has plagued the Town meetings.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2015

Police Monthly
Report

Chief Chamberland reported the following for the month of August:

Personnel, Training and Equipment

- Landscaping done at the front of the station, thanks to the DPW for all their work.
- Police chief cruiser was delivered and placed into service.
- Pre-opening day meetings with school officials.
- School Safety Plan Emergency Response Plan implemented district wide.

Community Interaction:

- Rabies and Micro Chip Clinic Saturday October 3.

General Police Business:

- Fair meetings took place.
- Three arrests during the month. All three were outstanding warrants.
- Three house breaks during the month. (Mortimer, Flanagan, Wilder)
- Thirty-nine citations issued during sixty-seven MV stops.
- Thirteen crashes during the month, five at Chocksett and Leominster. Crash reports are included in your packet.

Appointments
Cable Designate

After discussion, Selectwoman Cranson moved to re-appoint Richard Maki as the Cable Board designate for a three year term. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Chairman – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

Recreation
Appointments

Jo-ann Cummings, Chairwoman of the Recreation Committee requested that the following people be appointed to the Recreation Committee;

- Bonnie Pulda – After discussion, Selectwoman Cranson moved to appoint Bonnie Pulda to the Recreation Committee. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Her term will expire 6/30/ 2017. Chairman – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.
- Andrew Parker - After discussion, Selectwoman Cranson moved to appoint Andrew Parker to the Recreation Committee. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. His term will expire 6/30/ 2018. Chairman – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.
- Maureen Cathcart - After discussion, Selectwoman Cranson moved to appoint Maureen Cathcart to the Recreation Committee. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Her term will expire 6/30/ 2016. Chairman – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

EDC – TIF

Brian Kindorf, of the Economic Development Committee recently attended a seminar presented by the Massachusetts Office of Business Development. He reported that, as of July 1, 2014, changes have been made in the laws that govern Tax Increment Financing. All towns are now eligible to participate in this practice to negotiate Tax Increment Financing, so as to encourage the growth of businesses in their communities. In short, incoming or established business may petition the Town to negotiate Tax Increment Financing. This means that the current paid taxes will not dramatically jump to reflect improvements on the property but rather increase over a number of years as per terms of negotiation. The lawful ability to delay/forgive enhanced property value may prove beneficial, in the long run, to encourage business within the Town. If the Town chooses to use this incentive, the Select Board will appoint someone to negotiate the terms.

As the EDC engages the MRPC for assistance, they will encourage the participation of town boards and committees in order to facilitate a common goal of encouraging and assisting businesses within

	<p>the Town.</p> <p>As an alternate member of the Economic Development Committee, Richard Maki has been attending Massachusetts Development meetings. These meetings pertain to State assistance in assisting in the development of businesses within Central MA. Mr. Maki will keep that board apprised of information and opportunities that are gleaned from those meetings.</p>
Blighted Buildings Discussion	<p>The consensus of the Select Board is that they would like to establish a fair and effective course of action for dealing with the problem of "blighted buildings". The Board wishes to solve the problem without causing undue hardship to the current owners or discouraging acquisition of a property. To that end, they encouraged the EDC to provide input at a future meeting. The EDC will address zoning issues and request additional input from the Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission in regard to the problem. This issue will be discussed at a future meeting.</p>
Town Charter Discussion	<p>Chairman Cutler requested the Board consider a Town Charter. Adopting a Town Charter was one of the recommendations made by the Town Government Study Committee. Their report reads "The Town does not have a functioning Town Charter. The Town has Articles of Incorporation that were filed to create the Town in 1781; however, the Articles are perfunctory and provide no guidance in terms of organization and structure of the Town. The Committee recommends that special legislation be sought that will establish a Town Charter and codify structural changes as required by law." The subject will be further discussed at a future meeting.</p>
STM Article Recommendations	<p>The Special Town Meeting will be held on October 19, 2015. The following Special Town Meeting Articles were reviewed by the Board.</p> <p><u>ARTICLE 1. Appropriate Bond Premium to Reduce Borrowing for Senior Center Project</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Finance Committee supports this article. After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support Article 1. as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. <p><u>ARTICLE 2. Appropriate Bond Premium to Reduce Borrowing for new Fire Engine</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Finance Committee supports this article. After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support Article 2. as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. <p><u>ARTICLE 3. Senior Center Operating Expenses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Finance Committee supports this article. After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support Article 3. as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. <p><u>ARTICLE 4. Senior Center Custodial Expenses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Finance Committee supports this article. After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support Article 4. as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. <p><u>ARTICLE 5. AMI Water meter upgrades</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Finance Committee supports this article. After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support Article 5. as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. <p><u>ARTICLE 6. Fund DPW Loader</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Finance Committee supports this article with the provision that the article read "Raise and Appropriate funds". They do not support the funds coming from other sources. After

discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support Article 6. with the Finance Committee's recommendation of "Raise and Appropriate" for the funds. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 7. Conservation Commission Trust Fund Reimbursement

- The Finance Committee supports this article. After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support Article 7. as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 8. Closeout of 19 Hardscrabble Road Article

- The Finance Committee does not support this article. The Committee believes that the money should be returned to the Stabilization Fund. The Town Administrator reported that there had been an error in the draft warrant. The total of the remaining sum had been written as \$17,212.21, when in fact, the total remaining sum is \$17, 1112.21. The correction has been made. After discussion, Selectwoman Cranson moved for non- support of Article 8. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

ARTICLE 9. BOARD OF HEALTH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

- The Finance Committee supports this article. After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support Article 7. as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler– Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

TA Report

The Town Administrator reported the following;

- The Sterling Municipal Light Department just completed revisions of the Control box at the Police Station at no charge to the Town. The Board was most appreciative.
- A grant has been received through MIIA to put in a security system for the Municipal building. It has been a concern that too many people have keys for the building. With the card access, Committee Chairmen will be given cards that will open the side door. Key cards will be activated or deactivated according to need in order to ensure security.
- Dawn Metcalf has been appointed as the new Assistant in the Building Department and will start on September 28th.
- The Town Administrator will be attending a Development of Local and Municipal Law seminar on October 1st.
- The Town Administrator and Select Board are invited to attend a Legislative Breakfast, in Holden on October 2nd.

Public Session

No one chose to be recognized.

Adjourn

At 9:02 Selectman Kilcoyne moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectwoman Cranson 2nd. Chairman Cutler - Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson– Aye. Motion carried.

Materials: Minutes, August Police report, Energy Grant info., Appointment Applications, STM Warrant, TIF Info., Local Incentive EDIPC Process