

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 4, 2015

MEETING:	Chairman Cutler called the meeting to order at 7:17 PM. Roll Call: Vice Chairman Kilcoyne – Present. Chairman Cutler - Present. Selectwoman Cranson - present
Minutes	Selectman Kilcoyne moved to approve the minutes of October 21, 2015 as written. Selectwoman Cranson 2 nd . Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.
IT Issues	Mr. Roy of Spaulding Hills was unable to attend the meeting. The Town Administrator has been having dialogue with him regarding some difficulties with emails on the server. Spaulding Hill will submit a proposal that will include moving the system back up and emails to the Cloud. The proposal will be considered by the Board. The Level I technician, that had previously been assigned to the Town, will be replaced by a Level II Technician, in order to address issues that have presented themselves.
Gov Study Implementation	The Board discussed the option of enacting a Town Charter as per the recommendation of the Government Study Committee. They will also take the dissenting opinion, which was offered by Doris Bennett, into consideration. Should the Board decide to move forward with a Charter, a committee would be appointed to formulate a draft Charter. A Town Charter would need to be approved at Town Meeting and then by the Attorney General's office. The process would take approximately two years. This topic will be discussed at a future meeting.
One day Alcohol Lic	After discussion, Selectwoman Cranson moved to approve the request for a one day alcohol license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club, on November 14 th from 4pm to midnight. Chairman Cutler 2 nd . Selectwoman Cranson – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Abstained. Motion carried.
Holiday Party	Selectwoman Cranson investigated the options for a Holiday party that would be held outside of the Municipal Building. Two options were most viable. They included the 1835 Town Hall or Meadowbrook Orchard. Selectwoman Cranson explained that Meadowbrook orchard was willing to work with the limited funds available and to provide the food at cost. Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the Holiday party be held at Meadowbrook Orchard on Thursday, December 10 th from 5pm – 7pm. Selectwoman Cranson 2 nd . Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson - Aye. Motion Carried.
Blighted Buildings	<p>The blighted building initiative has been discussed with the Economic Development Committee. The EDC is enthusiastic about the initiative and are anxious for it to move forward. The signatures on the letter to be sent out to the owners of these properties will include the Select Board members, as well as the EDC Chair, James Patacchiola.</p> <p>The Town Administrator has taken pictures of blighted property on Route 12, from the center of Sterling, South to West Boylston. Photos of Route 12, North to Leominster will be provided at the next Selectmen's meeting. After the entire Route 12 corridor has been evaluated for blighted buildings, the letter to the property owners will be dispatched.</p>
Town Election 2017	The School Superintendent has requested that the District Towns approve the annual Town Election date for 2017 so that the school may develop their 2016-2017 calendar. After discussion, Selectwoman Cranson moved that the Board accept the school's request to have the Town Election held on May 8, 2017. Selectman Kilcoyne 2 nd . Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson - Aye. Motion Carried.
Future Meeting Discussion	Selectman Kilcoyne recently attended a MRPC (Montachusett Regional Planning Commission) meeting and spoke to the transportation Director, Mr. Brad Harris, who is familiar with the following agencies: Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee, Montachusett Planning Organization, Montachusett Authority Regional Transit and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission. He has offered to attend a

BOS meeting to explain to our officials and residents the purpose and mission of those non-profit agencies. He would describe how these agencies interact, advocate and in some cases assist with the implementation of various transportation projects and other community projects on behalf of the Town.

The Town Administrator will contact Mr. Harris to set up a date for him to attend a Selectmen's meeting.

TA Report

Electronic Access System

The electronic access has been installed and training on the software program will begin. During night hours the handicapped entrance will be the entrance that is accessible. The door can be programmed to open and lock automatically. The front entrances will be open only during normal business hours.

19 Hardscrabble Road

The Conservation Commission advocates for selling a portion of 19 Hardscrabble Road in order to recoup some of the funds used to purchase the property. The easements will be surveyed and recorded prior to putting the remaining land for sale.

Oil was reported to have spilled in the house located on 19 Hardscrabble road. Upon inspection, it was determined that it was a "no-reportable" event with an estimate of about 1 gallon of spillage on the concrete basement floor. The oil tank will be removed from the property. The burner has already been removed.

FY 2017 School Budget

Selectman Kilcoyne and the Town Administrator attended a meeting regarding the foreseeable FY 2017 School budget. It is anticipated that the next school budget will be even more difficult to pass next year, as the school has implemented as many money saving alternatives as possible, some of which will not be available next year. Therefore, the School Board is advocating that the Towns join together in a committee forum to brainstorm on how to alleviate the budget strain for all towns involved in the Regional District. The Board would like to invite Susan Hitchcock on the School Committee to speak to the Board regarding the School Committee budget process and what may be done to implement positive changes. The Board would also like a joint meeting with the School Committee, Finance Committee and Capital before the end of the year.

Cadillac Tax

The MMA (Massachusetts Municipal Association) has joined with the National League of Cities, the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the AFL-CIO, and major corporations across the nation in calling for the repeal of the Cadillac Tax. This broad coalition of public and private employers and employees would negatively impact on workers, retirees, taxpayers and businesses across the country.

Here's a brief summary: beginning on Jan. 1, 2018, the ACA will establish a cap on the allowable cost of family and individual health plans that public and private employers can offer to their employees and retirees without triggering a massive tax penalty. The federal government will impose a 40 percent excise tax on employers for the amount that their health insurance plans exceed \$27,500 for families and \$10,200 for individual coverage. Over time, the tax burden will become heavier and heavier because the threshold will only be adjusted by about 2 percent per year, but health costs are projected to increase at a far higher rate, especially in Massachusetts. The Board will keep apprised of this Cadillac tax and consider joining the MMA by lobbying Legislators for change.

Public Session

Adjourn

Personnel Handbook

The Personnel Handbook has been submitted to the Personnel Board. That Board would like some changes to be made. When those changes have been implemented in the handbook, the Select Board may invite the chairman of the Personnel Board to a meeting to discuss finalizing the handbook.

1835 Town Hall

Mr. Jones has submitted data regarding the usage of the 1835 Town Hall. He requests that he be allowed to address the Board at an upcoming meeting.

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Cell Tower

Chief Hurlbut will be asked to the next meeting to discuss the proposed cell tower on Kendall Hill Road.

Parade

The Veteran's Day Parade will be held at 1pm on Sunday, November 8. The Municipal Building will be closed on Wednesday, November 11th.

Planning Boards request for outside counsel

The Town Administrator reported that the request for outside counsel actually came from the applicant for the ANR. The applicant had placed the stipulation that they would only pay for the Attorney whose firm had previously dealt with the project, feeling that it would be less expensive than Town Counsel. The Board has not given permission for the outside counsel to handle the question regarding the validity of the ANR.

No one chose to speak at Public Session.

At 8:50 Selectwoman Cranson moved to adjourn the meeting. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd.

Chairman Cutler - Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectwoman Cranson– Aye. Motion carried.

Materials: Minutes, 1 day alcohol applic., School Election day request, 2009 Sterling Town Gov report, advertisement for sale of 33 Main