

TOWN OF STERLING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
March 31, 2016

MEETING:

Chairman Cutler called the meeting to order at 8:03 AM. Roll Call: Selectwoman Cranson - absent. Selectman Kilcoyne – Present. Chairman Cutler – present.

Regional Dispatch discussion

A survey was recently sent to the Chief of Police and the Town Administrator, regarding regionalization of Dispatch services. The Chief requested guidance for the Board in regard to whether or not they wanted him to answer the survey and if they wanted to pursue information on regionalization. Chief Chamberland stated that the move to regionalization of Dispatching service would impact citizen convenience. However, he also stated that the State strongly supports regionalization of these services and ultimately, it may not only prove to be the most fiscally sound course of action, but the State may force the issue in the not too distant future. Changing the dispatch service to an out of town, regionalization service requires an article to be passed at Town Meeting. After discussion: Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the Chief of Police, Fire Chief and the Town Administrator collaboratively fill out the survey and to begin gathering information regarding this issue. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Motion carried. The Board requested that they initiate Regional Community forums to answer questions regarding this issue.

ATM/ STM Warrant

Previously HELD articles, that have been researched/amended, were discussed.

**STM Article 8. Transfer from 2016 WRSD Assessment**

After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the Board make their recommendation at town meeting. Chairman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Motion Carried. The Board is concerned that the approval of this article will cause the Town to bear a disproportionate amount for technology infrastructure in the schools. Since this goal is part of the schools 5 year tech plan, the Town would be paying a portion of the cost for updating all of the schools in the near future after funding its own. Therefore, the Board wishes to have input from the School Committee.

**ATM Article 6. WRSD Above Net Minimum Contribution**

The article has been amended to reflect that appropriated taxes that exceed the final School assessment will be returned to the town. In the future, the tax rate will reflect the reduced assessment. Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the Board include and endorse this article. Chairman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Motion Carried.

**ATM Article 13. Amendments to Personnel Policy Bylaw Classification and Compensation**

The Personnel Policy Bylaw has been updated to reflect current realities. Selectman Kilcoyne suggested that information in the warrant be watermarked “current” and “updated” to alleviate any confusion at Town Meeting. Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the Board endorse this article as written. Chairman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Motion Carried.

**Article 20. Revolving Accounts**

The recycling appropriation in the revolving account has been reduced to \$5000.00. It may be removed from the revolving accounts next year and placed as a raised and appropriated expense. The Radio Master Box fees have been increased by \$1000.00 due to increased costs for the service. The Wiring Inspector's stipend has been added as an additional revolving fund that may be paid as per each fee charged for his inspectional services. Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the Board endorse this article as written/adjusted. Chairman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Motion Carried.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 31, 2016

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| <u>OML</u>  | <p>Mr. Whitney, a member of the Personnel Board, filed an OML complaint against the Board. His complaints stem from the February 16, 2016 BOS meeting in which the Board interviewed the Senior Center Director in regard to the plans for services and programming to be made available through the new Senior Center. Mr. Whitney's allegations were that the Director, Karen Phillips was "aggressively questioned" with intent to "embarrass and humiliate a Town Employee". He felt the matter was inappropriately addressed in public and was better suited for executive session.</p> <p>Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to respond in writing to Mr. Whitney's complaint. Chairman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Motion Carried.</p> |
| <u>MPO Dinner meeting</u>   | <p>The Town Administrator will attend the Montachusett Metropolitan Planning Organization Sub region Representative Selection meeting. The nominees for representative in Sub region 4 are James LeBlanc and Stanley Starr Jr. After discussion; Selectman Kilcoyne moved that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to vote for Mr. Starr as the representative for Sub region 4. Chairman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Motion Carried.</p>  |
| <u>Town Administrator Report</u>  | <p>The Town Administrator has received a plan for Hardscrabble Road. He will record the plan and will then be able to move forward with the sale of the Hardscrabble property.</p>  |
| Public Session  | <p>No one spoke at Public Session.</p>  |
| Adjourn   | <p>Selectman Kilcoyne moved to adjourn at 9:18. Chairman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cutler – Aye. Motion Carried.</p>  |
| <u>Materials: MPO Dinner email, OML Complaint, Regionalization survey email, amended articles</u> |   |