

TOWN OF STERLING
Select Board
October 25, 2023

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| | <p>Chair Cranson called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll Call: Chair Cranson – Present. Select member Newman – Present. Select member Smith – Present.</p> <p>Town Administrator, Bill Caldwell – present. Senior Executive Administrative Assistant, Kama Jayne - present.</p> |
| Minutes | <p>Select member Newman moved to approve the October 11, 2023 minutes, as written. Chair Cranson – 2nd. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Smith – Abstained. Motion carried.</p> |
| OML Complaint | <p>On October 5th, the board received an Open Meeting Law Complaint from Russell Williston regarding the Board’s decision to go into executive session on September 27th. Mr. Williston maintains that the executive session was not appropriate. After discussion, select member Newman moved that the board acknowledge receipt of the OML complaint concerning the Board’s September 27, 2023 executive session and to authorize Town counsel to respond on the Board’s behalf. Select member Smith – 2nd. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Motion carried.</p> |
| Housing Authority Appointment | <p>The Housing Authority has requested that the select board forward a recommendation for an additional person to be appointed, by the State, to the Sterling Housing Authority. Currently, the four-member committee results in instances of split votes. The board encourages anyone who may be interested in filling the position to contact the Select Board office.</p> |
| STM Results | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• At the Special Town Meeting, the voters, by vast majority, approved the citizen’s petition which urges the Board of Health to rescind their Dec. 8, 2022 revisions to Sterling’s Subsurface Disposal System Regulations. While they have no jurisdiction over any other elected board, the consensus of the select board was to support the voters in this matter. Therefore, select member Newman moved to send a letter to the BOH board strongly suggesting that they rescind their regulation. Select member Smith – 2nd. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Motion carried.• The citizen’s petition to audit the Board of Health also passed at the Town meeting. Therefore, the select board will appoint one of their members to participate in that audit.• The chair reiterated that although there were typos, in one of the citizen’s petition included in the warrant, they were simply human error. Once alerted to the mistakes, the errors were immediately addressed. The corrected article verbiage was posted on the website and hard copies of the corrected petition article were available at the Town Meeting. In the future, citizen petitions will need to be submitted in electronic format and warrants will have additional reviews prior to going to print.• The only article that did not pass at Town Meeting was the school article requesting changes to the school agreement which would impact membership in the school committee. |
| Sign Warrant TA Report | <p>Select member Newman moved to sign the warrant for the 2023 Special State Election. Select member Smith – 2nd. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Motion carried. That special election will be held on November 7th.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Town Administrator Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MT working on Memorial wall @ Peg’s Pond- nearing completion• MIIA grant – HVAC controls at PD |

- MVP Grant – expression of interest
- Community Compact Grant – best practices
 - Capital Improvement Plan
 - Budget Document
- Budget and Capital requests sent to departments
- Lt. Gov listening session, STAM 10/26
- Weekly check-in with Anne Gobi, Dir. Rural Policy
- RFP for field study from 2020. Due date 12/1/2023
- General Election State Senate 11/7
- Changes to Citizens Petition process
 - Electronic copy of final version from petitioner
 - Additional reviewers

Project updates:

1. Library Lift/Elevator – Otis for elevator modernization
2. School Security – Working with District
3. Storage Building – Exploring options
4. Town Beach – some drainage work complete, tree work
5. 1835 Building Septic – Will need bid documents. Documents sent to owners
 - a. New owner for 27 Main Street
6. 1835 – Suspended ceiling downstairs, window treatments 1st floor
7. 62/140 engineering – Green International – rotary design
8. Maple Street sidewalks – Bid opening 8/23
9. Downtown revitalization –
 - a. Design of sidewalks, road crossings, parking, water main, storm water

| ARPA Project | Approved | Spent/status |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Light Department Broadband | 352,000 | 352,000 |
| CLA ARPA Consulting | 1,325.63 | 1,325.63 |
| Building Commissioner Vehicle | 30,000 | 28,202 |
| Water Main Replacement | 74,750 | 8,350 |
| Library Elevator | 200,000 | 47,089.20 |
| Houghton Playground | 120,000 | Returned to ARPA – State \$ |
| Route 140 & 62 Design | 250,000 | 78,934.68 |
| COVID-19 Supplies | 4,435 | 4,435 |
| Comcast – Utilities | 153,068 | 0 |
| DPW Cold Storage | 212,000 | 0 |
| Total | \$1,397,578.63 | \$640,336.51 |
| 2,443,264 total to Sterling | 1,045,685.37 | |

PSAs

- The Veteran’s Day parade will gather at the Butterick Building at 10:30 on Nov.11th to proceed to Memorial Park.
- Senior Center Director, Veronica Buckley, is retiring. Please come to the Senior Center on October 27th to say “goodbye” and to wish her well. The pancake breakfast will be held from 7:30 – 9:00 and she will also be available from 12 – 2:00.
- The spooky walk took place on October 23rd. There was a great turnout. Over 600 children participated.
- Thank you to the DPW for recent mowing which improves sightlines.

Select Board Meeting Minutes
October 25, 2023

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| Public Session | <p>A resident requested that the appropriate steps to be taken, in order to file a citizen’s petition, be posted online.</p> <p>The board answered questions regarding an update on the town center revitalization project. The majority of the engineering, necessary to address the stormwater issues, should be finished by the end of the year. Then, funding for the work will need to be solidified before moving forward.</p> |
| Adjourn | <p>At 7:05, Select member Newman moved to adjourn. Select member Smith - 2nd. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p> |