

TOWN OF STERLING  
Select Board  
November 8, 2023

Minutes	<p>Chair Cranson called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll Call: Chair Cranson – Present. Select member Smith – Present. Select member Newman – Present.</p> <p>Town Administrator, Bill Caldwell – present. Senior Executive Administrative Assistant, Kama Jayne - present.</p> <p>Select member Newman moved to approve the October 25, 2023 public session minutes. Select Member Smith – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Select member Newman – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Tax Classification	<p>At 6:31, select member Newman moved to open the public hearing for Tax Classification. Select Member Smith – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Select member Newman – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p> <p>In attendance for the Assessors were; Donlin Murray, chair of the Board of Assessors, Dick Shepard, member of the Board of Assessors, and Robert Heckman, Associate Assessor.</p> <p>Prior to the mailing of the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter tax bills, the Select Board must hold a hearing to determine the percentage of the Town’s property tax levy to be borne by each major property class, per Chapter 40, Section 56 of the Massachusetts General Laws.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Assessors have recommended that the tax rate be reduced from \$14.30 to \$13.31. However, valuations have risen. So, despite the reduction in the rate, the average annual tax bill is expected to increase approximately \$338.00</li><li>• The levy to be raised is estimated to be \$22,825,301.72</li><li>• The Assessors recommended that the Town continue to support the single rate, as has been the practice, in order to continue to encourage business.</li></ul> <p>After discussion select member Newman moved that the Sterling Board of Selectmen vote in accordance with MGL Chapter 40 Section 56, as amended, the percentage of local tax levy will be borne by each class of real and personal property relative to setting the Fiscal Year 2022 tax rates and set the Residential factor at 1.000, with a corresponding CIP shift of 1.000, pending certification of the Town’s annual tax recap by the Massachusetts Department of Revenue. Select member Smith 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Motion carried.</p> <p>At 6:58, select member Newman moved to adjourn the public hearing and to reconvene in public session. Select member Smith– 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Appoint Board of Health Audit member	<p>After discussion, select member Smith moved to appoint Chair Cranson to the BOH Audit Committee. Select member Newman – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Select member Newman – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
TA Report	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Town Administrator Update</b></p> <p>MT Letter – Peg’s Pond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MVP Grant – expression of interest</li><li>• Community Compact Grant – best practices<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Capital Improvement Plan</li><li>○ Budget Document</li></ul></li></ul>

- Budget and Capital requests sent to departments
- Weekly check-in with Anne Gobi, Dir. Rural Policy
- RFP for field study from 2020. Due date 12/1/2023
- Holiday schedule - closed after Thanksgiving, use 4 hours
  - Wednesday before close at 1pm
- MRPC Trails Grant regional trail vision (\$1,000 match per town)
- BOH vacancy
- Thanks to election staff

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
6. 1835 – Suspended ceiling downstairs
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 begin at 10:30 outside the Butterick Building on November 11.
- The Library Craft Fair will take place on November 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Thank you to the Town Clerk and election workers regarding the November 7<sup>th</sup> election.

Executive session

At 7:15, select member Newman moved to enter into executive session pursuant to MGL c. 30A, s. 21(a) (3) to discuss litigation with respect to the Hebert lawsuit. Select member Smith – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Select member Newman – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. Public session to resume only to adjourn.

Adjourn

At 7:40, the board returned to public session and Select member Newman moved to adjourn. Select member Smith – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Motion Carried.