

TOWN OF STERLING

Select Board

April 28, 2021

MEETING:	Chair Cranson called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30pm. Roll Call: Chair Cranson – Present. Select member Sonnenberg – Present. Select member Kilcoyne – present. Also present were Town Administrator, Kellie Hebert and Senior Executive Assistant, Kama Jayne.
Minutes	Select member Kilcoyne moved to approve the minutes of April 14, 2021. Select member Sonnenberg 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select Member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.
Driveway Permits	The Board considered the approval of Entrance to Public Ways permit applications for driveways at 375 Upper North Row Road and 1 Roper Road. Both applications were approved by the DPW, Fire Department, and Building Inspector. After discussion, Select member Kilcoyne moved to approve the Entrance To Public Ways permit request for 375 Upper North Row Road. Select member Sonnenberg 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion Carried. Select member Kilcoyne moved to approve the Entrance To Public Ways permit request for 1 Roper Road. Select member Sonnenberg 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion Carried.
Affordable Housing	The Housing Initiatives Committees recommendations were considered by the board. Should the Town be placed into a position where they must develop more affordable housing units, the Committee recommended the following, municipally owned parcels of land as potentially developable, for that purpose; <b>Site # 1</b> Upper North Row Road (map 21, Parcel 15) Seventeen acres that are zoned as Rural Residential & Farming, <b>Site # 3</b> 38 Swett Hill Road (Map 134, Parcel 5) Fourteen acres that are zoned as Rural Residential & Farming, <b>Site # 4</b> 73 Chace Hill Road (Map 150, parcel 2) Twenty-five acres that are zoned as Rural Residential & Farming, <b>Site # 11</b> Leomister Road (Map 51, Parcel 7) 24 acres zoned as light industrial. Conservation agent, Matt Marro, informed the Board that Site # 3 was designated as Conservation land at an Annual Town Meeting. Should any of these lots meet further consideration, all constraints would need to be considered and the plan to convert these town owned parcels into affordable housing sites would need Town Meeting approval. Currently North Gate Meadows, on Leominster Road, is being developed and will contain apartments, which will be considered affordable housing by the State. It was suggested that this recommendation be forwarded to the Master Plan so that these parcels may be “ear marked” for consideration as sites for affordable housing, in the future. Select member Kilcoyne moved that the the Board support the designation of these parcels and forward the information to the Master Plan Committee for inclusion in their final Master Plan. Chair Cranson 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonneberg opposed as she disagreed with having the Board support this information, rather than just forwarding it to the Master Plan Committee. However, the motion carried.
Mosquito Control	Some citizens have been concerned about the possible health risk of aerial spraying for mosquitos. Conservation Commission agent, Matt Marro, explained to the Board that he had been in contact with the DCR. In the past, any aerial spraying for mosquitoes that may have occurred around the Wachusett reservoir or tributaries would have been completed by the State. The State resorts to spraying only when a public health emergency is declared, under regulations of the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB) of the Department of Agricultural Resources. DCR itself does not spray for mosquitoes on their watershed properties or near their water resources. However, if a deleterious count of EEE or other disease carrying mosquitos, is discovered, the State will spray the infected area. Mr. Marro reported that there is no intent to spray in Sterling, at this time.
Re-opening of Building	

Select Board Meeting Minutes

April 28, 2021

Scholarships

After discussion, Select member Kilcoyne moved to reopen all Municipal Buildings, to the public, on Monday, May 15 (Monday **May 17**), with appropriate protocols. Select member Sonnenber 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion Carried. Details of the re-opening will follow.

Wage  
Reommendations  
DPW

To fulfill the directives of the scholarship trust funds, Deacon Roy Lane, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Todd Chapman and Select Board member John Kilcoyne met as a Scholarship Advisory Team. Together, they considered the scholarship applications and made their recommendations to the Select Board. Select member Kilcoyne moved to approve the disbursement of the (3) \$500.00 scholarships from the Maria Houghton/Iaccabucci Funds to the following applicants; Abigail Gibson, Isabella Del Negro, and Quinn Kneeland. Select member Sonnenberg 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.

The Town Administrator recommended 7 retroactive payroll adjustments for the DPW staff, in part, because of the various licenses and certifications that the DPW staff have acquired over the course of the past year. These rates are in alignment with an initial market survey of comparative communities with similar titles. Kellie Hebert, with assistance and data gathering by Mr. Petrin, Senior Associate, Community Paradigm Associates, determined that these recommendations are appropriate. The information will be forwarded to the DPW Board for formal consideration. Any required changes to the Personnel by-law will be addressed at the ATM.

PSA

- A working session will be held regarding the warrant and logistics for the ATM on May 5.
- The Board wished to extend its thanks to Paul Lyons for his service to the Town as the DPW Supervisor/Water Foreman. They wished him all the best in his retirement.
- John Petrin will act as the interim DPW Supervisor from May 3 – May 7. Jeff Nutting will fill the position, starting on May 10.
- The Insurance Advisory Committee has approved a health care proposal which does not increase rates.
- The School budget assessment has been rejected by Rutland, Paxton and Holden.
- Special thanks to all who participated in the Town-wide Clean-up last Saturday. One hundred and thirty people registered for the event.
- Select member Sonneberg invited those, who may be interested, to participate in an MMA webinar entiteled Civil Discourse, on May 12 from 11:30 – 1:00. For those unable to participate at that time, a recording of the webinar will be made available.
- Chair Cranson sternly reminded the public that there is no need to ever be vulgar or disrespectful to Town Employees.
- The Board congratulated Town Planner, Domenica Tatasciore. In two and a half years, she has effectively worked with all boards and committees and is a driving force in assisting the Master Plan volunteers to achieve their goals. She has also brought in over \$550,000.00 in technical, as well as monetary grants.
- A presentation of the proposed new Earth Removal Bylaw will be held prior to the ATM.
- YAHOO volunteers are needed.
- The recreation department needs seasonal workers as does the DPW.
- There is still time to run for office. Please get papers from the Town Clerk.

Adjourn

At 7:59 Select member Sonnenberg adjourn the meeting. Select member Kilcoyne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select Member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.

Materials: agenda, minutes, Driveway permits, Housing options report, Scholarships, Pay Adjustment Proposal for DPW