

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 4, 2015

MEETING: Roll Call: Selectman Cutler - Present. Selectman Kilcoyne – Present. Selectman Patacchiola – Present. At 7:05pm, Selectman Patacchiola called the meeting to order.

The purpose of this meeting was to interview the two candidates for the Town Administrator's position.

Interviews: **Michael Slosek** (Currently employed by the Town of Sterling as the Interim Town Administrator)

Prior Municipal Experience:

- Town Manager – Athol MA September 2012 – February 2014
- Town Manager – Uxbridge MA February 2019 – July 2011
- Town Administrator – South Hadley, MA July 2008 – October 2008
- Town Administrator – Ludlow, MA Jan 2004 – July 2008

Other Relevant Experience:

- Municipal Hearings Officer (Ludlow) 2006 - 2013
- Member Finance Committee (Ludlow) 2011 - 2013
- Member Zoning Board of Appeals (Ludlow) 2011 2013
- Member Planning Board (Ludlow) 2003 - 2004
- Chairman, Personnel Board (Ludlow) 1996 – 2004
- Licensed MA School Business Officer
- MA Certified Public Purchasing Official
- Member- ICMA, MMMA, MMPA

Member of the Massachusetts Bar Association - 1992

Mr. Szlosek reported that he would continue to address the following pertinent issues:

- 2016 Budget
- 1835 Town Hall Building needs
- Professionalizing Veteran's services through the development of a Veteran's District, in conjunction with Lancaster
- Procurement of services for the Assessors and IT
- Establishment of a long range IT plan for procuring necessary hardware
- Help establish the Signage Committee and assist in addressing signage issues in Town

Mr. Szlosek stated that the biggest challenge has been to get all entities to work together toward the common good.

He believes that it is the Town's best interest to further explore the possibility of a Town Charter.

He describes himself as a "manager" rather than a "charismatic leader".

He states that some of his strength lies in his ability maintain a calm demeanor and to navigate disputes by being an impartial civil mediator.

He is a firm believer in accountability of employees but believes that it is in the best interest of the Town to rehabilitate whenever possible.

Although he has limited time, he believes that he should be available to the public and if not able to solve a problem, at least be empathetic to the situation.

He has no preference between a 3 or 5 member Board of Selectmen.

His desire is to preserve the character of the Town of Sterling.

He thanked the Board for allowing him to serve the Community, as the Interim Town administrator.

At 7:35pm Chairman Patacchiola called a recess.

At 7:43 public session was reconvened.

Michael Coughlin (Currently practicing law)

Prior Municipal Experience:

- Town Manager – Cohasset, MA August 2011 – March 2012
- Town Administrator - Westport, MA 2007-2011
- Town Manager – Northbridge, Ma 2003-2007
- Town Manager - Southbridge, MA 2000 – 2003

Other Relevant Experience:

- Legislative Coordinator 1993 – 2000
- Chairman Quinebaug –Shetucket Heritage Commission, Southbridge 1997 – 2003
- General Counsel Center for Advanced Fiber Optic Applications, Southbridge 1994 – 2000
- Assistant District Attorney, Worcester County 1986 – 1990
- Parliamentary Assistant, House of Commons, London, England 1980- 1984
- Captain, Judge Advocate general Corps., U.S. Army Reserve 1986 – 1994

Member of the Massachusetts Bar Association - 1985

Mr. Coughlin reported :

His major strength is that he is very comfortable with small town government and wishes to become part of the "fabric of the Town".

If chosen, he will move to Sterling so that he will have "skin in the game". He believes in making decisions about spending tax dollars, that include his own.

He believes in an open door policy and a cabinet style of government.

He advocates for Department Head meetings to enable an exchange of ideas and knowledge.

His greatest accomplishments during his Municipal tenure include:

- Dredging of the Westport Harbor
- The revitalization of town of Northbridge
- An 89 Million dollar training center in Southbridge

He explained that he was terminated from Cohasset due to an inherited financial crisis in the water department. He reportedly did not think it in the best interest of the Town to sell their water rights, to a private water provider for a period of 20 years, without due diligence. His insistence to get more information prior to bringing the question to Town Meeting, cost him his job.

He left Southbridge after a change in the political environment.

His desire to work in Sterling co-insides with his desire to live in the community.

He would like to ask the Department of Revenue to assess the Town's financial status.

He is cognizant of the fact that the Sterling position is that of a "weak" Town Administrator (the Select Board directs Town Administrator and makes most decisions). He would present options to the Board, so that they can make informed decisions.

In 2008, he cut his own salary so that he could use it as an example when asking Department Heads and Unions to accept freezing salaries, for the year and to find ways to make cuts within their own budgets. He believes that the Town's most valuable asset is it's people and he would like to encourage new people to become involved.

He recognizes that the biggest friction is usally between the Town and the School.

Wishes to provide stability and continuity to the Town.

He commended the Search Committee doing a good job.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola moved to adjourn at 8:44pm. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Kilcoyne - Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Motion Carried

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
March 4, 2015