

**SPECIAL
TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

Monday, October 19, 2015

A true copy

Attest: _____
Dawn E. Michanowicz, Town Clerk

**Town of Sterling
Special Town Meeting October 19, 2015**

At 6:38pm on Monday, October 19, 2015, the Town Moderator, Amrith Kumar, opened the Special Town Meeting held in the Chocksett School on 40 Boutelle Road in said Town of Sterling. There was a quorum present; 92 voters attended the meeting.

The Town Moderator, mentioned those who have recently passed and have served the Town in various capacities, to include:

Karen Chick, Town Accountant from 2011-2014

Thomas Lanciani

Rosemarie (Santos) MacPherson, artist for the Town Reports from 1970-2013

John R. Woodsmall, Sterling's first full time Fire Chief hired in the mid 1980's

The Moderator requested a moment of silence to honor them as well as those who have served in the Armed Forces and passed away within this year.

All non-voters or non-residents of the Town were asked to stand, to be recognized by the Moderator:

Fred Aponte, Town Accountant

Anne Cervantes, Town Treasurer/Collector

Matthew Mauro, Conservation Administrator

Dawn Michanowicz, Town Clerk

Karen Phillips, COA Director

Michele Randazzo, Esq. Town Counsel, Kopelman and Paige

Tom Rutherford, Facilities Manager

Christine Smith, Holden Landmark

Jeanne Survell, Assistant Town Clerk

Michael Szlosek, Town Administrator

Moderator, Amrith Kumar, noted the receipt of the posting of the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting by Constable, Mike Pineo.

**MOTION MADE TO WAIVE THE READING OF THE WARRANT
MOTION PASSED AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

The following 9 articles were voted in a legal manner.

ARTICLE 1. Appropriate Bond Premium to Reduce Borrowing for Senior Center Project

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate net premium paid to the Town by the purchaser of bonds or notes issued for the construction of the Town's Senior Center (the "Senior Center Project") authorized under a vote of the Town passed May 3, 2014 (Article 5), excluded from Proposition 2 ½, so called, on May 20, 2014 (Question No. 1), and to use such premium to pay costs of the Senior Center Project, and to reduce by such premium the remaining amount authorized to be borrowed for the Senior Center Project, or to take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Treasurer

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

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Summary: At the May 3, 2014 Annual Town Meeting the Town authorized borrowing in the amount of \$2,710,000 to fund the construction of a new Senior Center. When the bonds for this project were issued, market conditions resulted in the Town realizing a premium on the sale of \$180,000. Consequently, the Town elected to reduce the principal amount issued by that amount. This reduction in principal, together with the \$30,000 reduction in borrowing for the Fire Engine, will save the Town approximately \$54,000 in interest costs over the life of the bonds. This article appropriates the \$180,000 bond premium to fully fund the project at the amount of \$2,710,000, as authorized by the 2014 Annual Town Meeting and rescinds a like amount of borrowing authority. It is necessary to appropriate these funds before the building is completed, so that the final payment(s) can be made on the construction contract using the bond premium to avoid having to issue the balance of the debt authorized by the 2014 Annual Town Meeting to meet such payments. This appropriation does not require any additional funds from the Town's General Fund.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to appropriate \$180,000, which sum represents the net premium paid to the Town by the purchaser of bonds or notes issued for the construction of the Town's Senior Center (the "Senior Center Project") authorized under a vote of the Town passed May 3, 2014 (Article 5), excluded from Proposition 2 ½, so called, on May 20, 2014 (Question No. 1), and to use such premium to pay costs of the Senior Center Project, and to reduce by such premium the remaining amount authorized to be borrowed for the Senior Center Project.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 2. Appropriate Bond Premium to Reduce Borrowing for new Fire Engine

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate net premium paid to the Town by the purchaser of bonds or notes issued for the cost of acquiring a fire engine for the Town (the "Fire Engine Project") authorized under a vote of the Town passed May 3, 2014 (Article 28), excluded from Proposition 2 ½, so called, on May 20, 2014 (Question No. 2), and to use such premium to pay costs of the Fire Engine Project, and to reduce by such premium the remaining amount authorized to be borrowed for the Fire Engine Project, or to take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Treasurer

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: At the May 3, 2014 Annual Town Meeting the Town authorized borrowing in the amount of \$590,000 to fund the purchase of a new Fire Engine. When the bonds for this project were issued, market conditions resulted in the Town realizing a premium on the sale of \$30,000. Consequently, the Town elected to reduce the principal amount issued by that amount. This reduction in principal, together with the \$180,000 reduction in borrowing for the Senior Center, will save the Town approximately \$54,000 in interest costs over the life of the bonds.

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This article appropriates the \$30,000 bond premium to fully fund the project at the amount of \$590,000, as authorized by the 2014 Annual Town Meeting and rescinds a like amount of borrowing authority. It is necessary to appropriate these funds before the Town takes delivery, so that the final payment(s) can be made on the contract using the bond premium to avoid having to issue the balance of the debt authorized by the 2014 Annual Town Meeting to meet such payments. This appropriation does not require any additional funds from the Town's General Fund.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to appropriate \$30,000, which sum represents the net premium paid to the Town by the purchaser of bonds or notes issued for the cost of acquiring a fire engine for the Town (the "Fire Engine Project") authorized under a vote of the Town passed May 3, 2014 (Article 28), excluded from Proposition 2 ½, so called, on May 20, 2014 (Question No. 2), and to use such premium to pay costs of the Fire Engine Project, and to reduce by such premium the remaining amount authorized to be borrowed for the Fire Engine Project.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 3. Senior Center Operating Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$16,500, or some other sum, to Council on Aging Account#01541-57003, Senior Center Operating Expense for Fiscal Year 2016, said sum to support the operating expenses of the new Senior Center under construction at 36 Muddy Pond Road following its anticipated opening in the Spring of 2016, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: The Council on Aging

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: The new Senior Center at 36 Muddy Pond Road is currently expected to open in the Spring of 2016. During the development of the FY2016 budget it was not anticipated that the building would open until after the beginning of FY2017. Consequently, no operating funds were appropriated for the current Fiscal Year. This article appropriates \$16,500 to fund operating expenses during the final three months of Fiscal Year 2016.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to raise and appropriate \$16,500, and to add this sum to Council on Aging Account #01541-57003, Senior Center Operating Expense for Fiscal Year 2016, and that said sum be expended to support the operating expenses of the new Senior Center under construction at 36 Muddy Pond Road following its anticipated opening in the Spring of 2016.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 4. Senior Center Custodial Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$1,850, or some other sum, to the Custodial Services Account #01129-51200, for Fiscal Year

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2016, said sum to provide for Custodial Services at the new Senior Center under construction at 36 Muddy Pond Road following its anticipated opening in the Spring of 2016, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: The Council on Aging
Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.
Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.
Summary: The new Senior Center at 36 Muddy Pond Road is currently expected to open in the Spring of 2016. During the development of the FY2016 budget it was not anticipated that the building would open until after the beginning of FY2017. Consequently, no operating funds were appropriated for the current Fiscal Year. This article appropriates \$1,850 to fund custodial expenses during the final three months of Fiscal Year 2016.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,850, and to add this sum to the Custodial Services Account #01129-51200, for Fiscal Year 2016, and that said sum be expended to provide for Custodial Services at the new Senior Center under construction at 36 Muddy Pond Road following its anticipated opening in the Spring of 2016.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 5. AMI Water meter upgrades

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, the sum of \$100,000, said sum to be used to further convert the water meter system over to an automatic read AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) system, and to authorize the Water Department, acting through the Department of Public Works Board, to enter into such agreements and take other action as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works
Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.
Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.
Summary: The Water Department, in conjunction with SMLD, has successfully replaced 500 meters to date which are read remotely by SMLD software. This \$100,000 will purchase another 500 meters bringing the total to 1000 meters on the AMI system.

MOTION MADE to postpone indefinitely.

MOTION PASSED

ARTICLE 6. Fund DPW Loader

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Department of Public Works (DPW) Board to enter into an agreement to lease-purchase a new loader at a total cost not to exceed \$154,000, and further to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds the sum of \$30,736.69 in order to fund the first year's payment, said sum to be expended by the DPW Board, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

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Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.
Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.
Summary: This article proposes the Town enter into a lease-purchase agreement for a new loader and to trade an existing loader with 10,000 hours on it.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to authorize the Department of Public Works (DPW) Board to enter into an agreement to lease-purchase a new loader at a total cost not to exceed \$148,460, and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$29,692.00 in order to fund the first year's payment, said sum to be expended by the DPW Board.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 7. Conservation Commission Trust Fund Reimbursement

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the sum of \$14,100 from account #01999-58006 (Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article #51, Purchase of 19 Hardscrabble Road) to the Conservation Commission Trust Fund, to reimburse the Trust Fund for a \$10,000 loan made to the Town in 2008 to purchase land at 73 Chace Hill Road, and to further reimburse the fund the sum of \$4,100 for expenditures related to the purchase of 19 Hardscrabble Road by the Town of Sterling, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: The Conservation Commission
Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.
Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.
Summary: This article proposes that the Town reimburse the Conservation Commission Trust Fund for certain expenditures using excess funds from the FY12 Town Meeting article for the acquisition of 19 Hardscrabble Road. The Conservation Commission advanced \$10,000 for the purchase of 73 Chace Hill Road, which is not under the control of the Commission. The Commission also provided \$1,200 for an initial environmental hazard survey and \$2,900 for survey work completed at 19 Hardscrabble Road. The Article for acquisition of 19 Hardscrabble Road still has a remaining balance of \$31,212.21

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$14,100 from account #01999-58006 (Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article #51, Purchase of 19 Hardscrabble Road) to the Conservation Commission Trust Fund, to reimburse the Trust Fund for a \$10,000 loan made to the Town in 2008 to purchase land at 73 Chace Hill Road, and to further reimburse the fund the sum of \$4,100 for expenditures related to the purchase of 19 Hardscrabble Road by the Town of Sterling.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 8. Closeout of 19 Hardscrabble Road Article

To see if the Town will vote to transfer the remaining sum of \$17,112.21 from account #01999-58006 (Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article #51, Purchase of 19 Hardscrabble Road) to the Conservation Commission Trust Fund. Said sum is to be used to maintain trails in the Town, or take any action relative thereto

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Submitted by: The Conservation Commission
Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends disapproval.
Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends disapproval. The Finance Committee recommends that funds remaining in FY 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article #51 be returned to the Stabilization Fund.
Summary: This Article transfers funds remaining in Article 51 of the Fiscal Year 2012 Town Meeting Warrant to the Conservation Commission Trust Fund to be used for maintenance of trails. The amount in the Article represents the balance remaining in Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article #51, (Purchase of 19 Hardscrabble Road) if Article 7 is adopted.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$17,112.21 from account #01999-58006 (Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article #51, Purchase of 19 Hardscrabble Road) to the Conservation Commission Trust Fund, said sum to be used to maintain trails in the Town.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION: that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$17,112.21 from account #01999-58006 (Fiscal Year 2012 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, Article #51, Purchase of 19 Hardscrabble Road) to the Town Stabilization Fund.

AMENDMENT: PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE

MOTION WITH AMENDMENT: PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 9. Board of Health Administrative Assistant

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Classification Plan, Regular Non-Union Positions, to add an Administrative Assistant position for the Board of Health, at Grade Level II, and further, to vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,500.00, said sum to be added to Board of Health account number 01510-51100, for administrative services, to fund the hiring of a part-time Administrative Assistant for the Board of Health in FY2016, or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: The Board of Health
Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.
Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.
Recommendation: The Personnel Board will provide a recommendation at Town Meeting.

Summary: This article proposes that the Town permit the Board of Health to hire a part time administrative support position. This position would address the need to provide administrative support during BOH meetings by taking meeting minutes. Additionally, this position would be cross trained in office coverage to fulfill BOH administrative duties as necessary.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to amend the Classification Plan, Regular Non-Union Positions, to add an Administrative Assistant position for the Board of Health, at Grade Level II, and further, to raise and appropriate funds the sum of \$1,500.00 to be added to Board of Health account number 01510-51100, for administrative services, to fund the hiring of a part-time Administrative Assistant for the Board of Health in FY 2016.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

At 7:17pm motion made and passed to dissolve Special Town Meeting.