

**Sterling Board of Assessors**  
**Room 109, Butterick Municipal Building, 1 Park St., Sterling MA 01564**  
**EXECUTIVE Minutes of Meeting December 3, 2015**

**Present: Donlin Murray (Don), Chairman**  
**Michael Rivers (Mike), Vice Chairman**  
**Robert Cutler (Bob), Clerk**  
**Becky Boucher (Becky), Associate Regional Assessor**  
**Debbie Dreyer (Debbie) Assistant to the Assessor**

**7:45 EXECUTIVE SESSION Vote Executive Session**

Chairman Don Murray made a motion that the Board convene in executive session under M.G.L. Chapter 39: Section 23B, Clause(7) To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law: ~for the purpose of reviewing Chapter applications and their supporting documentation so that personally identifiable confidential information shall not be subject to disclosure as public records.

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to enter into executive session for the reason stated

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Rivers aye, Cutler aye, Murray aye – The Board is enacting the Rule of Necessity

**Discussion of Chapter Applications with possible issues** – There were 70 applications with no issues – these can be voted on as a group. Each board member will note on the master list which ones they might have a conflict of interest with so the Rule of Necessity will be invoked for any questionable application that any two members might have a conflict of interest with.

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to move forward & approve the 70 with no problems, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob, all in favor aye.

The applications with issues are divided into 4 groups. Becky handed out a draft letters that will be sent to these owners. The concern with the first group of 13 is that they have a majority of their acreage listed as woodland & we could not find a forest management plan in their file & they're applying for 61A. If you have woodland in 61A, you're supposed to have a forestry management plan unless it's a small enough amount that it fits in as accessory necessary to related land. The letters being sent out make suggestions on how to better classify their land & adjust their applications – everyone will be given a year to come into compliance.

**MOTION:** Mike made a motion to approve the 13 forestry letters being sent out, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob, all in favor

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Rivers aye, Cutler aye, Murray aye

The second group of 3 consists of reversed productive/non-productive land – it will be suggested that they bring their land into compliance or remove some land from classification. Mike made a motion to send these letters, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob, all in favor

**ROLL CALL VOTE:** Rivers aye, Cutler aye, Murray aye

The third group of 3 consists of farming income issues. These people were sent letters earlier concerning lack of no income verification & there was no response. Another letter will be sent requiring income verification by the end of this month – if they don't submit it, they will be taken out of Chapter.

The fourth group consists of miscellaneous questions and/or issues. Two of these do not comply & will be sent letters of denial. The third application was complex & unusual – we need more clarification of the income - Becky will draft a letter for the Board's review at our next meeting. Mike made a motion to send the 2 denial letters – 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bob, all in favor aye

**ROLLCALL VOTE:** Cutler aye, Rivers aye, Murray aye

Mike made a motion to exit executive session at 9:12am

**ROLLCALL VOTE:** Cutler aye, Rivers aye, Murray aye

*Reference: RRG Chapter list*

Respectfully Submitted by Debbie Dreyer / Assistant to the Assessor