

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
March 21, 2018

MEETING:	Chairman Cranson called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:32pm. Roll Call: Selectman Kilcoyne – Present. Chairman Cranson – Present. Selectman Lane – Present.
Minutes	Selectman Kilcoyne moved to approve the amended minutes of March 8th, 2018. Selectman Lane 2 nd . Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.
PUBLIC HEARING Oil Tanks	John Mazeika, Branch Manager for Osterman Propane addressed the Board regarding the request from Davis Farmland at 145 Redstone Hill Road for oil tanks on the property. 1,080 gallons in aboveground storage will accommodate the food station and 3330 gallons in underground storage will accommodate the Main Building. This request has been approved by the Fire Department. After discussion, Selectman Lane moved to approved the request for 1080 gallons of aboveground, propane storage and 3330 gallons of underground propane storage at Davis Farmland, 145 Redstone Hill. Selectman Kilcoyne 2 nd . Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.
Update Montachusett Regional	<p>Superintendent, Dr. Sheila Harrity addressed the Board. The following was included in her update:</p> <p>2017 – 2018 Accomplishments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Renovated Machine Tech shop with 4 new CNC machines and added a Metrology Lab – with a \$436,000 Capital Skills Grant• Renovated a Science Lab with a \$99,000 Mass Life Sciences Grant• Implemented STAY program that Supports Transition for At-risk Youth• Recognized savings, above projections, from energy management upgrades in 2014 – Total \$394,824 savings for the year• Raised \$2.6 Million from private sector, foundations, grants and in-kind labor for Monty Tec's Veterinary Science Program (first class began program in January) <p>The Goals for 2018 – 2019 are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Equip and furnish Veterinary Science training center• Second class will begin Veterinary Science Training vocational program in January 2019• Replace outdated equipment in Graphic Communications vocational program and redesign shop layout• Purchase new training equipment for Electrical, Automotive Technology, CAD/Welding/Metal Fabrication vocational programs <p>OTHER</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There are currently 66 Sterling students enrolled at Monty Tech, which is only slightly less than last year (2 students less)• ALL students may apply for admission. The criteria includes – grades, discipline, attendance, guidance recommendation and an interview• Monty Tech is one of the MOST efficient Vocational Schools in the state• Grants are often sought to alleviate the tax payers burden• Sterling's assessment has gone down this year• The dropout rate for 2017 was 0.3%• Superintendent Harrity commended Ken Williams, who recently resigned from the Monty Tech School Committee. MS Harrity stated that Dr. Williams had worked for MANY years to support the school. <p>The Board thanked Superintendent Harrity for a job well done.</p>

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2018

Public Session

Resident, Laura Ricci addressed the board. She is advocating for a town warrant article that would prohibit drop boxes. However, the cutoff date for warrant articles was last week. This issue may be addressed at a future town meeting. She also complained of run-off that is causing ice and slippery conditions at the junction of Bean and Mortimer. The Town Administrator, DPW Supervisor, Building Commissioner, and Conservation agent will visit the area to determine how best to address the issue.

Review Warrants
and Budget

The Board addressed the proposed Town Warrant for the May Annual Town Meeting.

Special Town Meeting - It was decided that all proposed Special Town Meeting articles can/should be addressed in the Annual Town Meeting or eliminated altogether. After discussion, Selectman Lane moved to forgo the Special Town Meeting, and to instead, begin the Annual Town Meeting at 6:30 pm. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.

Article 2 – Compensation for Elected Officers – The Board will further explore the reasons for the apparent compensation inequity between the boards, prior to voting on this article.

Article 3 – Set Salary of Municipal Light Board – This article was voted last year. Therefore, it will be deleted from the warrant.

Article 10 – Fiscal Year 2019 Capital Plan – Capital Investment Fund – After discussion, Selectman Lane moved to remove funding of \$150,000.00 for the Houghton School boiler conversion and instead to appropriate an additional \$100,000.00 to be used toward the necessary HVAC system upgrades for the Butterick Building. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried

Article 28 – Marijuana (prohibition) – Everett Heller of the Finance and Capital Committees reported to the Board that the Finance Committee voted not to support the prohibition article as they view the establishment of marijuana facilities as a means of acquiring additional revenue for the Town.

Article 29 – Marijuana (Regulation) – The Board thanked Pat Fox for creating this article which would regulate recreational marijuana establishments if the prohibition article does not pass.

Article 31 – Amend General Bylaws For Earth Removal – Selectman Lane is in favor of placing this article on a future Town Meeting warrant. The Board will consider the wording on the two available article drafts in order to make their determination as to whether or not the article is ready to be presented at the May Town Meeting.

Article 33 – Update Open Space and Recreation Plan – This article was voted at last year's meeting and therefore will be deleted from the warrant.

Article 34 – Revolving Fund Bylaw – The 1835 Town Hall Committee had requested that their committee be reinstated in the revolving fund bylaw which specifies that departmental receipts be credited to the fund from which the committee would be authorized to expend. After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne move to exclude the 1835 Town Hall Committee from this article. (The Finance Committee had voted the same). Selectman Lane 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.

The Town Administrator will make updates to the warrant and the Board will vote on the warrant at their April 4th meeting.

Assessor Update

The Assessor will attend the April 4th meeting.

Approve Seasonal
License For
Sterling National

After discussion, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to approve the seasonal, all alcohol license for Sterling National Country Club. Selectman Lane 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried. This license is valid from April 1, 2018 to November 30, 2018.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

March 21, 2018

61A Release 1
Heywood Road

The Town Administrator reported that Town Council has determined that due the fact that 1 Heywood Road has not been subject to taxation under Chapter 61A for more than one year, the Town's right of first refusal has expired. The property owners will need to discuss roll back taxes with the Assessor's office. The Town Administrator will send a letter to the property owners, Charles and Patricia Pillsbury. However, no further action is required by the Town.

New Town Clerk

The Board received many qualified applicants for the Town Clerk position. Four of those candidates were interviewed last week by the search committee. After due consideration, the Committee wishes to recommend that Barbara Bartlett be appointed as the new Town Clerk. Barbara has served as a Town Clerk in Lancaster. She has also served as an election officer and volunteered on the Finance Committee within the Town of Sterling. After discussion, Selectman Lane moved that Barbara Bartlett be appointed as the Town Clerk. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried. Kathy Farrell will continue to serve as the full time Assistant Town Clerk.

Mr. Heller made an impassioned plea for volunteers to step forward to help on the Finance Committee as Ms. Bartlett will no longer be eligible to serve on that committee.

TA Report

Town Administrator Report 3/21/18

FY 19 Budget and Warrant Preparation :

Continues

Social Service Referrals:

Occasionally, Town Hall Staff receive calls from people looking for assistance for a range of problems. Although we are not set up to address many of these issues, we would like to provide some assistance. To address this need, Kama created a Where to Call for Assistance referral sheet and has them posted in multiple Town Hall offices.

Facilities:

According to the 1835 Committee, the design of the vertical lift is complete. The structural design for the lift and the roof repair should be done by the end of next week. After the 1835 Committee review and vote, they expect to issue an RFP for both the roof and vertical lift. It is their goal to close the bids in early May so that construction could start in June.

The Town Administrator will work with the 1835 Committee to send a letter to the State requesting an extension for the grant.

The basement project is moving ahead. The wall separating the large room from the new Facilities Manager office is up. The doorways have been framed and the doors and sliding glass panels for the 'customer' window are on order. If materials arrive on time, Mid-April is the target completion date.

Elections:

The last day to submit election papers with 39 valid signatures is Monday 3/26/18 by 5:00. Currently, no one has taken out papers for the Wachusett Regional School Committee position.

Insurance Advisory Committee:

The committee consists of representatives for all unions and most employee groups, and retirees. They give advice to the Treasurer Collector and the Town Administrator, regarding medical and dental insurance plans. The committee also helps communicate insurance plan issues and costs to the Town's employees. The committee is working with an insurance consultant to investigate different medical insurance companies and possible benefits changes to address the projected 8.61% increase in the Towns FY 19 insurance premium. It will facilitate their meeting process if they are appointed by the Town Administrator instead of being appointed by the Selectmen. After discussion, Selectman Lane moved that the Insurance Advisory Committee be appointed by the Town Administrator. Selectman Kilcoyne – 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.

Draft Future Agendas:

3/23/18

The Chocksett Inn is hosting the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce for their Annual Tourism Update. The Town Administrator will attend this event on Friday morning. Selectmen are also welcome to attend.

4/4/18

- Public Hearing for Thomas Lane as a public way
- Update from Assessor and explanation of tax rates and tax bills
- Budget update
- Sign Warrant, vote Board's position on articles and draft motions

4/18/18

- Pole Hearing – Princeton Road
- Discuss STM and ATM warrant articles and motions

PSAs;

- The Meetinghouse Hill News is back in business. A list of available scholarships is available in this issue.
- The Friends of Sterling Seniors held their annual Taste of Sterling Fundraiser last Sunday. It was very successful. Thank you to the Sterling National Country Club for hosting the event.
- The Easter egg hunt will be held on March 24th behind the Fire Station.
- The Recreation Department is holding their annual Road Race on April 14th.
- Y.A.H.O.O. will be starting shortly. Drivers are needed.

At 9:18 Selectman Lane moved to adjourn. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried

Materials: Minutes, draft warrant, LP Gas Application, TA report, retail seasonal license renewal form, Monty Tech update

Adjourn

