

TOWN OF STERLING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
April 29, 2013

MEETING

Chairman Sushchuk called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Roll call established that Paul Sushchuk, Ron Furmaniuk and Brain Patacchiola were present. **VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to approve the agenda. Chairman Sushchuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.

The purpose of this meeting as stated by Chairman Sushchuk was to come to a resolution in order to present a unified front at Town Meeting.

SENIOR CENTER  
ARTICLES:

**ARTICLE 12. Fund Senior Center**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$2,500,000 to fund the architectural design, Owner's Project Manager, complete construction, and all items and services related to construction of a new Senior Center with community usage, to be built on the corner of Boutelle Road and Muddy Pond Road, identified as Town Assessor's Lot Number 11 on Town Assessor's Sheet Number 137, and listed in the Registry of Deeds Book Number 03588, Page Number 0132, said sum to be expended by the Senior Center Building Committee, with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen, with any unused funds to be returned to the town, or take any action relative thereto.

Frank Kennedy and Joe Homyak of Diversified Management were present to assist the Senior Center Building Committee in their presentation. Mr. Kennedy's power point presentation addressed the following:

- Why a 6,450 square foot facility is recommended?
- Why the cost of the new facility will be \$2.5 million?
- What will be operating costs be?
- How will the building be expandable?
- Why was the Location of Boutelle and Muddy Pond Road was selected?
- Which other towns, in the area, are planning new Senior Centers?
- How will this debt affect the tax payer?

Discussion ensued.

**ARTICLE 13. Fund Senior/Community Center**

To see if the Town will vote to borrow the sum of \$1,900,000 to fund the architectural design, owner's Project Manager and any and all other costs to construct a new Senior/Community Center to be built on the corner of Boutelle Road and Muddy Pond Road, identified as Town Assessor's Lot Number 11 on Town Assessor's Sheet Number 137, and listed in the Registry of Deeds Book Number 03588, Page Number 0132, said sum to be expended by the Senior Center Building Committee, with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen, with any unused funds to be returned to the Town.

John Kilcoyne, Chairman of the Finance Committee explained the reasoning for the Finance Committee's support for Article 13 as opposed to Article 12. In short, he stated that the purview of the Finance Committee is to keep the Town fiscally sound. Due to the lack of funds available in either free cash or the stabilization fund, the Finance Committee is concerned about increases in the tax rate.

**ARTICLE 14. Fund Equipment/Furnishings for Senior Center**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$250,000 to fund the monies needed for equipment i.e. life safety generator, table top kitchen appliances, furnishings and furniture, plantings and additional landscaping, signage, storage shelving, sound system, AV, telephone system, and related items for a new Senior Center with community usage, to be built on the corner of Boutelle Road and Muddy Pond Road, identified as Town Assessor's Lot Number 11 on Town Assessor's Sheet Number 137, and listed in the Registry of Deeds Book Number 03588, Page Number 0132, said sum to be expended by the Senior Center Building Committee, with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen, with any unused funds to be returned to the town, or take any action relative thereto.

Discussion ensued. Kevin Beaupre asked the Senior Center Building Committee if they would be willing to cap cost of the Senior Center at 2.5 million. The Senior Center Building Committee Representatives, as well as the COA Board members agreed that they would be willing to table Article 14 and to raise these funds through contributions and fundraising activities, if Article 12 passes.

The consensus of the Boards and Committees involved was that the proposed Senior Center will be made available to the Community, especially during the afternoon and evenings. The Select Board reminded everyone that the Council on Aging Board answers to the Board of Selectmen and therefore the Select Board will enact policies, relative to the usage of the building.

Recess was called at 8:17.

The meeting reconvened at 8:25.

**ARTICLE 26. Special Legislation - Form of Government**

To see if the Town will vote to petition the Massachusetts Legislature for special legislation to enact a so-called "special act" to establish a board of selectmen-town administrator form of government in the Town of Sterling.

Robert Dumont and Kathleen Mello were present to represent the Government Study Task Force. The Select Board commended the Government Study task force stating that they had acted as a Charter Commission and that all their time and effort was sincerely appreciated and their reported opinions respected.

Discussion ensued. John Dwyer and Pat Campbell were present to represent the Library Boards concerns about the proposed special Legislation. The Library Board

is concerned that the present wording of the article may infringe upon the library's ability to uphold the 1<sup>st</sup> amendment of freedom of speech and intellectual freedom.

Mr. Dumont made assurances that the goals of the Government Study group was to bring about administrative consistency within the Town. It was never their intent to challenge Chapter 78 of the MGL, regarding the liberties of the library. Therefore, Chairman Sushchuk will try to accommodate the concerns of the library by considering the possibility of rewording portions of the proposed article.

**ARTICLE 27. Special Legislation - DPW**

To see if the Town will vote to petition the Massachusetts Legislature for special legislation to enact a so-called "special act" to authorize the town of Sterling to re-organize the Department of Public Works.

The current DPW Board is autonomous and does not support the proposed change that would make the DPW Board an appointed, Advisory Board.

Mr. Dumont pointed out that in the vast majority of towns, within Massachusetts, the DPW departments are under the purview of the Board of Selectmen, as are the Police and Fire Departments. He explained that the intent of the Government Study's recommendation was to streamline the Town's Government and to provide consistent administration. It is the consensus of the Board of Selectmen that the current elected DPW board is very knowledgeable and it is the desire of the Select Board that they will continue to serve the community in the capacity of advisory board.

**ARTICLE 28. Special Legislation - Earth Removal / Planning Board**

To see if the Town will authorize and direct the Board of Selectmen to file with the Massachusetts Legislature a petition for special legislation providing that the planning board shall, if and when authorized by town meeting vote amending its earth removal bylaw, also serve as and perform the duties and responsibilities of the town's earth removal board.

Scott Michalak, chairman of the Earth Removal Board, was present. He stated that he personally supports this article. As yet, the Earth Removal Board has not met to vote upon this article. They will report at Town Meeting.

Adjourned:

Chairman Sushchuk made the motion to adjourn at 9:24. Selectman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. All in favor.