

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
September 12, 2013

MEETING

Chairman Furmaniuk called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. Roll call established that Selectman Furmaniuk, Selectman Patacchiola and Selectman Cutler were all present.

Chairman Furmaniuk declared that the Board would be convening into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining for a Police Grievance under Chapter 30A Section 21 (A) Reason # 2. The Chairman further declared that a discussion in open session may have a detrimental impact on the Town's litigating position. He then announced that the Board would be reconvening in open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion that the Board convene in executive session, for the purpose of discussing strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining for a Police Grievance under Chapter 30A Section 21 (A) Reason # 2. And further moved that the Board reconvene in open session at the conclusion of the Executive Session. The Chairman 2nd the motion. Roll Call VOTE: Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye.

The Board convened in Executive session and reconvened in Public session at 7:09.

VOTE: Selectman Cutler made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from Aug 28, 2013. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Cutler made a motion to approve the Executive meeting minutes from Aug 28, 2013. But not to be released until the issue has been resolved. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor

Joint Meeting with
Finance
Committee and
Moderator for
Appointments

Chairman Robert Brown was present to represent the Finance Committee. It was explained that the Finance Committee had held a meeting on Tuesday, September 10th and had voted to support the appointments of Gerald Kokernak, Cynthia Secord, Ed Sweet, Mary Cliett, and Arden Sonnenberg. Mary Cliett was unable to attend, however the other candidates were interviewed and explained their desire to serve.

Finance Committee:

Vote: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to appoint Gerald Kokernak to the Finance Committee, the term to expire in 2016. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Moderator Sheppard – Aye. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Robert Brown – Aye. Appointed.

Vote: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to appoint Cynthia Secord to the Finance Committee, the term to expire in 2014. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Moderator Sheppard – Aye. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Robert Brown – Aye. Appointed.

Vote: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to appoint Edward Sweet to the Finance Committee, the term to expire in 2014. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Opposed. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Moderator Sheppard – Aye. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Robert Brown – Aye. Appointed.

Capital Committee:

Vote: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to appoint Gerald Kokernak to the Capital Committee, the term to expire in 2014. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Opposed. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Moderator Sheppard – Aye. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Robert Brown – Aye.

Senior Center
Update

Appointed.

Vote: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to appoint Mary Cliett to the Capital Committee, the term to expire in 2014. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Moderator Sheppard – Aye. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Robert Brown – Aye. Appointed.

Vote: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to appoint Arden Sonnenberg to the Capital Committee, the term to expire in 2015. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Moderator Sheppard – Aye. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Robert Brown – Aye. Appointed.

Personnel:

At the last meeting of the Personnel Board, they had voted to endorse 2 candidates. Karen Gaylord and Melissa Chalmers. It was later decided that, as an election worker, Ms Chalmers is considered a part-time employee and therefore ineligible for this position, under the current by-laws.

Ms Gaylord was interviewed and explained her reasons for wanting to serve.

Vote: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to appoint Karen Gaylord to the Personnel Board, the term to expire in 2016. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Opposed. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Moderator Sheppard – Aye. Chairman of the Finance Committee, Robert Brown – Aye. Appointed.

Maureen Cranson gave an update on the Senior Center Building Committee: Senior Center Design & Building Committee Update:

- After seeking additional input from the Planning Board, the committee reviewed new and previously eliminated options:
 - Griffin Road and Muddy Pond (conservation limitations)
 - Lots on Griffin Road
 - Some DCR and a Ball field on Muddy Pond

These options were deemed not viable for a variety of reasons.

- A benevolent benefactor came forward with a proposal to purchase and re-build or retrofit the Sterling Inn with a lease situation afterwards.

This option was taken off the table because the Inn is already 'under contract' with another buyer.

- Sterling Light department approached the Building Committee with a potential Site @ the Webster Building per chance they moved forward in purchasing the building. The plan is in very preliminary stage and is contingent upon the Light Department getting a gas line contract.

- The Committee decided to move forward with preparations to create a Site Plan for the previously approved site at Muddy Pond and Boutelle Road. Jaime Rheault of Whitman & Bigham has agreed to assist in this endeavor.

The Building Committee will continue to meet with various Department Heads and to encourage their input, regarding the site. To date they have elicited input from the Police Dept., Fire Dept, DPW and Planning Board.

- The beginnings of a traffic study (a count) has been completed by MRPC. A condensed version was forwarded to concerned parties.

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Curb Cut request 31 Squareshire	<p>The Board was asked to make a decision regarding the curb cut permit for 31 Squareshire Road. The builder had submitted an application for a curb cut on Squareshire Road. The permit was approved by the building inspector, the fire department, and the DPW. Mr. Kenneth Williams, Chairman of the Planning Board was opposed to the cut on Squareshire and therefore recommended that the cut be made on Melindy Road. Kathleen Valeri of 29 Squareshire Road opposed the cut on Melindy. She has safety concerns and stated that Melindy is a very narrow road and is used frequently by parents who are awaiting the school bus. Vote: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to approve the Curb Cut permit for Squareshire Road. Selectman Cutler 2nd. All in favor.</p>
Berkshires to Boston Bike Tour	<p>Gary Briere, a representative of the Mass Bike Association, requested that the participants in the Berkshires to Boston, cross state ride, be allowed to use the center of Sterling as a rest stop. After discussion, and input from Chief Chamberland regarding safety and common sense: VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion to allow the usage of the back portion of the Town Hall parking lot on September 20, 2013 by the Berkshires to Boston Bicycle Tour, with the stipulation that the organization follow the recommendations of the Chief of Police and that they either provide a portable toilet or pay the custodians to allow building access. Selectman Cutler 2nd. All in favor.</p>
Legal Bids	<p>The bid for legal services was sent to 14 firms. Nine firms replied. The consensus of the Board was that the best course of action would be to consider all bids while each selectman decides upon 2 or 3 best choices. Next meeting the Board will reveal their choices and decide which firms to interview.</p>
Town Administrator's update:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Young's Landscaping, under the Adopt an Island Program, will begin work on the front of the Butterick building within a few days. They will clear the area, replant and maintain it.• The Town Administrator reviewed and proposed the timetable for Chocksett Crossing State project. Ultimately, if everything stays on track, construction via 2015 TIP funding will begin in Autumn of 2014, to be completed by September 2015.• The Town Wide Yard Sale will take place on September 21. Discuss ensued. VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved the motion to close the section of Meetinghouse Hill Road, directly in front of the church, to traffic from 6:30 am – 11:30 am on September 21. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.• The legal purchase of the property on Hardscrabble Road has been recorded. The Town will vote to resell portions of the property at the next Town Meeting.• The bids for the masonry project for the 1835 Town Hall are due on September 18, 2013.• Oil bids are due October 2, 10:00, 2013.• The bid for the Other Post Employment Benefits analysis was awarded to the lowest bidder, KMS for \$4,500.00. The report will be completed 8 – 10 weeks after the firm has collected all necessary data.• A meeting, regarding the water of the Wekepeke, has been scheduled between Town Administrator, Terri Ackerman, Clinton Town Administrator, Mike Ward, Sterling Selectman Patacchiola and Clinton Selectman Michael Dziokonski. The meeting will take place on Monday September 16.• The Town has received a letter from the Cordish Company in regard to the proposed casino in Leominster. The President of the Cordish Co. has been invited to speak at the next selectmen's meeting.• The fall conference for the Selectmen is October 5th, 2013. The conference will be held in Franklin.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

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Business and
Correspondence:

Sterling Village has applied under the Adopt an Island program to plant and maintain the area in front of the Conant Library. After discussion, **VOTE:** Chairman Furmaniuk made a motion to approve the request by the Sterling Healthcare to maintain the area in front of the Conant library, under the Adopt and Island Program. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

After discussion, **VOTE:** Selectman Cutler moved the motion to approve the 1-day liquor license requests by FISHCO Co, for the 228 Car Cruise to be held on September 14, 2013, September 21, 2013 and September 28, 2013 from 3pm – 7 pm. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Chairman Furmaniuk – Opposed.

Adjourned:

Selectman Patacchiola announced that the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm.