

TOWN OF STERLING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
October 17, 2013

MEETING

Chairman Furmaniuk called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Roll call established that Selectman Furmaniuk and Selectman Cutler were present. Selectman Patacchiola was absent.

At 6:02 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 Cutler 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 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Roll Call VOTE: Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye.

The Board convened in Executive session at 6:02 pm and reconvened in Public session at 7:33pm.

**VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk moved a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 25, 2013. Selectman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

**VOTE:** Selectman Furmaniuk moved a motion to approve the Executive meeting minutes from September 25, 2013, however, not to be released until the issue has been resolved. Selectman Cutler 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Vault Building  
Committee  
Dissolution

Donlin Murray, Mike Padula and Town Clerk, Dawn Michanowicz met with the Selectmen. It was reported that the vault has been completed. The Finance committee has determined that the Town Clerk's request for \$5,890.00, to clean permanent documents that are compromised due to mold and mildew, will come from a reserve fund transfer. Therefore, the vault committee can be dissolved. The Board thanked all of the people who have been involved in the vault project, Mike Padula, Russell Philpot, Donlin Murray and Dawn Michanowicz and the Vault Building Committee was commended for bringing the vault to completion under budget. VOTE: Selectmen Cutler made a motion to dissolve the Vault Building Committee. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Government  
Study  
recommendations  
Next steps

Robert Dumont and Jeff Donaldson attended as members of the former Government Study Committee. The Board stated that they support the action of bringing the Government study recommendations back to the Annual Town Meeting, in May, in order to allow the citizens to vote upon them. Last year the articles were tabled, resulting in no vote being taken.

The consensus of the Selectmen is to have more discussion about these articles at future meeting and to invite members of the former Government Study Committee to participate, in order to share information and to educate the public as to why the committee made the recommendations. Selectman Cutler made the suggestion that the topics be addressed via cable programs, in order to reach more of the population.

October 17, 2013

Police Report:  
August

**Training, personnel and equipment:**

- Police received training from the Mass State Police Stop team in active shooter response. Representative Naughton sent a letter, commending the department on the training.
- Scheduled the sergeants written test for October 8<sup>th</sup>. Copies of policies and procedures and rules and regulations delivered to testing company to include questions in the customized test.
- Detective Johnson received training on Quick Clot.

**Community interaction:**

- Public service announcement on senior scams was released and has been aired on local SLCTV. Will be aired around the region.
- Met with the faculty and staff of the Chocksett and Houghton Staff on opening day and gave a brief presentation on our emergency response plan.
- Next hand gun safety class will be held Oct 15th at the police station.
- Began our school patrol assignments.
- Directed patrol assignments stepped up at Route 12 and Chocksett Rd.

**General Police Business:**

- Thirteen accidents during the month, two at Leominster and Chocksett Rd. One of those was a significant crash where a vehicle was making a left turn.
- There were sixty motor vehicle stops during the month and 31 citations issued. There were four arrests during the month.

September

**Personnel, training and equipment:**

- Certificate of training for chief annual training received.
- Chief and admin assistant attended harassment training put on by MIA
- Ryan Ferguson was re-certified as a taser instructor
- Sgt. Gaudette completed Suicide Prevention training
- Sgt Gaudette attended a Sergeants Leadership Conference
- Department started its annual training. Required courses for officers are excited delirium and police ethics.
- Officer Lane Pomeroy attended a school on social media.
- A traffic counter we obtained from a grant approximately six years ago is not working. Contacted company and they stated it is possibly battery issue. Research these and similar counters and purchased a replacement.

**Community interaction:**

- Initiated safety measures at Route 12 and Chocksett and Leominster Rd. Placed message board signs, speed trailers and police vehicles to monitor and enforce traffic laws and maintain high visibility.
- Submitted check for \$440.00 to Jimmy Fund from our canister drive.
- Officers worked the Sterling fair and from a public safety standpoint it went very well. I received many compliments from fair goers about the professionalism of the officers.
- Assisted the Fire Dept with a fire drill and evacuation at the schools.
- Maple St paving is done. We will perform a speed analysis and once we determine if there is a speeding issued and when speeding is most prevalent we

- will deploy officers to conduct radar enforcement.
- Set the Halloween hours for 4-8 PM.

**General Police Business:**

- Set up procedure for a rotational tow list, added two tow companies to the rotation Ricky's and Quality out of Leominster.
- Serious motorcycle crash on Chocksett and Leominster on 5 September.
- There were one hundred and one motor vehicle stops made, primarily in the Route 12 corridor.
- There were thirty- six (36) citations issued.
- There were seven arrests (7) made.
- There were seven crashes investigated during the month.

Prime Wellness  
Proposal:

Mr. John Glowik, CEO of Prime Wellness, Inc had requested letters of support from the Board of Selectmen, the Board of Health and the Town Administrator in regard to the proposed growing facility for Medical Cannabis. The deadline for the application process is October 31, 2013.

The Town Administrator reported that there had been questions concerning a moratorium. She stated that the moratorium was intended for dispensaries not cultivation facilities. She further stated that the Board of Health had unanimously voted to support the project and have mailed their letter of support. VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved a motion to support the letter from the Board of Selectmen. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Update of Cordish  
Company Slots  
Proposal

Cordish Company has presented a draft agreement to Sterling and other surrounding communities to designate these communities as "surrounding communities" in accordance with Massachusetts Gaming Commission Regulations in order to mitigate the costs that may be associated with the proposed slots parlor, on Jungle Road in Leominster. However, the Select Board has many unanswered questions in regard to the proposed agreement and the Chief of Police, as well as the Fire Chief are concerned about the process of reimbursement that is outlined in the agreement. They anticipate increased services for fire, emergency medical and policing issues if the slots parlor goes in. While the Board is willing to admit that the proposed agreement is a step in the right direction, they intend to weigh all options, including petitioning the State to be named as a surrounding community. The Town Administrator will continue to proceed in her efforts with the State to receive funding for specialists who will assist the Town in determining the impact that the slots parlor may have on the community and the how best to mitigate those negative impacts.

Oil Bid

The Facilities Technician, Tom Rutherford, duly published an RFQ for #2 fuel oil to be delivered to town buildings. The Town received 1 bid. That bid came from Radio Oil with 3 options;

- Margin over cost - \$.10 over cost
- Fixed price/ Pay as delivered - \$3.219 per gallon
- Capped price

After consideration, VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved a motion to accept the fixed price option. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Community  
Preservation Act

Selectman Cutler stated that this act had already been defeated twice at Town Meeting. After discussion, the Board decided that this topic should be further explored at a future meeting.

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
October 17, 2013

Town  
Administrator's  
Update

- Town Administrator, Terri Ackerman, informed the Board that she has sent in her paperwork regarding retirement.
- The 1835 Town Hall masonry repairs began on October 16<sup>th</sup> and are scheduled to be completed before Thanksgiving.
- Meeting House Hill Road will be closed, in front of the church, from 9:00am – 3:30 pm to ensure safety, during the Church craft fair, to be held on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- A map of Formal Trail inventory has been submitted by the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission.

Business and  
Correspondence

After Discussion, VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved a motion to appoint Richard Farrar to the position of police cell monitor/matron. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

After Discussion, VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved a motion to approve a 1 – day alcohol license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club on October 25, 2013 from 4:00 – Midnight. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved a motion to approve a 1 – day alcohol license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club on October 26, 2013 from 6:00 – Midnight. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the process for the upcoming Town Counsel Interviews. The consensus was that it would be best to ask the same questions of all candidates. Each of the Selectmen will pose 3 questions to all candidates.

After consideration, VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved a motion to approve the disbursement of Neighbor to Neighbor funds in the amount of \$1,183.00 to be appropriated, as determined by the Neighbor to Neighbor representative. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.

Adjourned:

VOTE: Selectman Cutler moved a motion to adjourn at 8:48 pm. Chairman Furmaniuk 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion carried.