

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MARCH 7, 2012

MINUTES

MEETING: Selectman Sushchuk called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Roll call established that Selectman Furmaniuk and Selectman Sushchuk were both present. Chairman Philpot was unable to attend the meeting.

7:05 PM

CHIEF HURLBUT: Chief Hurlbut and Peter MacDonald met with the Board members to discuss the expenditure of \$59,425.80 from the Wachusett Fund for 2 Physio-Control Lifepak-15 Cardiac Monitors/Defibrillators, one for each ambulance. Mr. MacDonald informed the Selectmen that the present unit is 10 years old and upgrading the monitors will not only increase the capabilities of the Sterling Fire Department Ambulance but will improve the patient care during transportation to the hospital for the citizens of Sterling. Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to approve the expenditure of \$59,425.80 for the monitors, 2nd by Selectman Sushchuk. Two in favor, one absent.

Chief Hurlbut reported a human interest story, informing the Board about John McAuliffe receiving the 2011 hero award for performing Heimlich on a choking individual in a restaurant. The Board members congratulated Mr. McAuliffe for a job well done.

POSITION ON

ARTICLES:

#16 OUTREACH

WORKER:

Karen Phillips, director of the Council on Aging, informed the Board that seniors need more help that they are presently receiving and would like to see an outreach worker position created to do home visits and develop relationships with the seniors so that the center can be pro-active and put out fires before real issues develop. The Board members discussed the outreach position and the option for the person filling that position being a volunteer versus a hired individual. Selectman Furmaniuk supported the position as a hired position needing a professional to take on the paper work, time and experience collecting confidential information in helping seniors during difficult times. Ms. Phillips informed the Board members that the position would pay under \$10,000 a year and the senior center would contribute \$4000 of grant money to offset the salary. Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to support the article/position, 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk.

#45 Fund Sterling

Land Trust Expense:

Mr. James French, member of the Sterling Land Trust, met with the Board to answer any questions they would have with regards to the article. He started out by informing the members that the Land Trust serves the public by providing and maintaining open space in Sterling for the use of the general public for passive recreation. There are two facets to the trust, one to keep informed on the

conservation and preservation restrictions with committee members offering one-stop professional land conservation advice and knowledge to land owners. In addition the Trust maintains properties for Sterling residents to enjoy, hiking, nature study, wildlife habitat and recreation. Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to support the article for \$1300 stating the Land Trust offers worthwhile efforts and support the land owners of Sterling. 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk.

#46 Hold tax payments

For Active Duty

Personnel: The Board of Selectmen reviewed the request from the Veteran's Agent, Roland Nelson, to hold tax payments exempt for military and active duty personnel. Selectman Sushchuk agreed with the request and made the motion to support the article/Clause 56, 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

#42 RECORDS

PRESERVATION: Mr. Pat Fox requested that the Board of Selectmen support the \$7000 to preserve the town records. He informed the Board that there were 3 forms of preserving, book, micro fiche and CD and reminded the Board that if no action was taken the records would deteriorate. Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to support article #42, 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk.

7:25 PM

SCHOOL

REPRESENTATIVES: The Selectmen met with the school representatives, Norman Plourde, James Mason, Lance Harris and Joseph Sova. The Board asked the representatives what their thoughts were in regards to the proposed revenue sharing suggested by the superintendent of schools. The committee informed the Board that they approved of the formation of the task force to explore the idea of revenue sharing but was not ready to endorse the model but only to start a dialogue. Mr. Sova stated that the present assessment was not working and they needed to find a better way to fund the schools. The Selectmen agreed to make appointments to the task force at their March 28th meeting.

PERSONNEL BOARD: Amrith Kumar, Chairman of the Personnel Board, met with the Selectmen to discuss various letters and correspondence. Mr. Kumar spoke about the job descriptions, exempt and non exempt employees and how they compare to what each individual actually does in their position in relation to the pay scale. He proposed a review of the job descriptions and classifications be done by the Human Resource Officer. Mr. Kumar also asked that there be a standard employment agreement, alleviating multiple agreements already in the system.

Mr. Kumar questioned the requests for new positions, Outreach Worker and Assistant Accountant, and the motivations of the Board of Selectmen in approving the positions.

The discussion continued with regards to Scanlon and Haynes and their agreement to look in to the liability issue of compensated time for hours worked over the 40 hour week to the town employees. Each individual needs to provide how much unused time is owed; to which the auditors will determine the cost to the town. A form needs to be formatted by the auditors showing the time, date, comp time earned since June 30, 2010.

A joint meeting will be scheduled with the Personnel Board and the Board of Selectmen.

APPOINTMENT

POLICY:

Selectman Furmaniuk reported that he included the comments from the Chairman as well as correcting minor typos and presented the final draft to the Board. Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to adopt the appointment policy for the volunteer boards and committees with vacancies, 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk.

CELL MONITOR:

Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to appoint Charles Kevin Lowe as cell monitor as requested by Chief Chamberland, 2nd by Selectman Sushchuk.

COMMON VICTUALLER

LICENSE:

Selectman Furmaniuk made the motion to approve the common victualler license for the Sterling Ice Cream Bar, 2nd by Selectman Sushchuk.

GOVERNMENT STUDY

COMMITTEE:

The Board members discussed the date of April 25, 2012 for a joint meeting chosen by Chairman Dumont of the Government Study Committee. Selectman Sushchuk informed Furmaniuk he was unable to meet that night. He asked that Ms. Ackerman work with Mr. Dumont on choosing another date that both Selectmen and the Government Committee can agree to.

ADJOURNMENT:

Selectman Sushchuk made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 PM, 2nd by Selectman Furmaniuk. All in favor.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED

RONALD A. FURMANIUK
CLERK