

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
December 4, 2013

MEETING

Selectman Furmaniuk called the meeting to order at 7:01. Selectman Cutler and Selectman Patacchiola were present. Chairman Furmaniuk participated remotely.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve the minutes of November 14, 2013. Selectman Cutler 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve the minutes of November 20, 2013. Selectman Cutler 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve the Executive minutes of November 20th, 2013, not to be released until the matter is resolved. Selectman Cutler 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Cutler made a motion to table the Agenda item pursuant to the discussion and vote on the 1 year extension of the Stillwater IT contract until a future meeting in March. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Cutler made a motion to table the Agenda item pursuant to the discussion of the Town Government Study recommendation to amend the bylaws to include/define all Boards/Committees until the next meeting. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

VOTE: Selectman Cutler made a motion to table the Agenda item pursuant to the discussion of the Town Government Study recommendation to amend the Special Legislation regarding the Department of Public Works. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. All in favor.

Inspections regarding the Annual Alcohol licenses are not quite complete. Therefore, the Annual Alcohol Licenses will be voted upon at the next meeting.

Discuss and take
position of Special
Town Meeting
Article

After discussion, the Board **VOTED:** Selectman Patacchiola moved a motion that the Board of Selectmen support Article 1 of the Special Town Meeting, to be held on December 16, 2013. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola abstained because he will not be able to attend the Special Town Meeting. Motion carried.

Discuss/Vote
Cordish
Surrounding
Community
Agreement

The Board has received notification that the State Gaming Commission has denied the Town of Sterling's petition to be declared a "Surrounding Community". However, the denial shall not preclude the Town of Sterling from applying to and receiving funds from the Community Mitigation Fund, the Transportation Infrastructure and Development Fund and the Public Health Trust Fund.

The Board of Selectmen in tandem with the Town Administrator and Town Counsel have been working toward an amicable solution/agreement with PPE to help mitigate the anticipated negative impact upon the Town finances due to:

- Mutual aid requests from Leominster
- Increased traffic on local infrastructure and Route 190
- Increased accidents and service calls, due to increased traffic volume
- Noise and environment impacts
- Increased demand upon community/regional water and sewer systems
- Impacts on community due to storm water run-off, associated pollutants and changes in drainage patterns
- Stresses on community housing including decreased appraisal values
- Negative impact on local, retail, entertainment and service establishments
- Increased social service requirements
- Impact upon public education

Resident, Rosanne Mapp attended the meeting about the Casino that was held at City Hall

	<p>in Leominster. She reported that the Master Plan, that PPE Resorts submitted to the Gaming Commission is different from the original Master Plan that was shown to communities. The new plan includes a hotel and depicts the proposed facility as being much closer to wet lands.</p> <p>The consensus of the Board was to have Town Counsel approach PPE Resorts and ask them to honor the agreement that was offered prior to the State Gaming Commission's decision.</p>
Discuss/Vote Town Administrator	<p>After Discussion, VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to nominate Carter Terenzini to the position of Town Administrator. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Opposed. Chairman Furmaniuk – Opposed.</p> <p>VOTE: Chairman Furmaniuk made a motion to nominate Jeff Ritter to the position of Town Administrator. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Opposed. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye</p> <p>VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to nominate Michael A Szlosek to the position of Town Administrator. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Selectman Patacchiola – Opposed. Selectman Cutler – Aye. Chairman Furmaniuk – Opposed.</p>
Discuss Support of Town Fair	<p>Chairman Furmaniuk will contact the candidates regarding the outcome of tonight's vote and will initiate contract negotiations with Jeff Ritter.</p> <p>Douglas Downey, Chairman of the Fair Committee and Terry Heinhold were present to represent the Fair Committee. Terry Heinhold acknowledged and thanked all the volunteers who assist in making the Fair a reality each and every year. He also acknowledged and thanked the DPW for all the assistance that has been provided throughout the years. He told the Board that the Fair Committee understands that the DPW has a stringent budget and realizes that the man hours that are afforded the Sterling Fair are substantial. Mr. Heinhold then stated that the Fair Committee will be holding Public Hearings, prior to the Annual Town Meeting in May. It is the intention of the Fair Committee to submit a Town Meeting Article that will request funding in order to purchase 50 + acres of cleared land, in order to establish a permanent "home" for the Sterling Fair. The Fair Committee estimates that they could save approximately \$40,000 per year if they did not have to rent equipment that is necessary due to their "Gypsy" existence.</p> <p>Other Issues that may assist in making the Fair go more smoothly;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Fair Committee may consider admission fees, by way of a set charge, per each (out of town) car load.• The DPW reports that they plan to "level fund" the man power that was made available to the Sterling Town Fair last year, provided their budget can absorb the cost.• Karen Chick, Town Accountant addressed the issue of small denomination prize checks that are issued per the Town Fair. This practice ultimately costs the Town hundreds of dollars in administrative costs. She also reported that the majority of the hundreds of \$1.00, \$2.00 and \$3.00 checks, that have been awarded annually, are not cashed. By law, these funds then go to the State. She respectfully requests that these small checks not be issued as prizes. Barbara Roberti, stated that it is the intent of the Fair Committee to eliminate this practice.• The Selectmen's office will get the signed insurance paperwork to the Fair Committee in early July so as to allow Mr. Ciborowski ample time to sign the lease, prior to the Fair.
TA update	<p>School request for election date 2015</p> <p>Anthony Gasparo, Interim Superintendent of the Regional School District sent a letter thanking the Select Board for previously voting to coincide the Sterling election dates with</p>

the other 4 Towns in the District. This ensures that all regional schools will be closed on that day. Now the school district is looking ahead and requests that the Select Board hold the Town Elections on May 11, 2015. The Board will discuss this calendar request at a future meeting.

SPARC Grant

The Recreation Department has received a grant for Maintenance and Surfacing for the play-area at Muddy Pond Road.

Neighbor to Neighbor

Residents were reminded that their donations to the Neighbor to Neighbor Fund are used to give struggling Sterling families a "hand-up" in these financially challenging times. All donations should go to the Treasurer's office.

The Town administrator reminded the Board that they may sign up for the MMA Annual Meeting and Trade show.

GOALS

The Town Administrator emphasized the progress that has been made in the Selectmen's Goals during the last quarter;

- Senior Center – Board has met with the Senior Center Building Committee
- Gov. Study Recommendations – Board met with former members of the Government Study Committee and have been discussing Town Meeting Articles regarding Gov. Study recommendations

An episode of THE FACES of STERLING, cable program, regarding these Government Study issues, is scheduled to be filmed next week.

- Economic Development – The Board met with the Department of Public Works and the Board of Health to assess infrastructure in the Town
The Board met with the Economic Development Committee as well as the Industrial Committee to discuss the Ambassador programs and the collection of data
- Improvement in Communication/Cooperation – Board met with the Finance Committee, Personnel Board, Economic Development Committee, Industrial Development Committee, Department of Public Works, Fair Committee and Board of Health
- Road Work- Good progress has been made in the Chocksett Crossing Project. Board met with a representative from the DOT on Nov. 6th. On November 19, in Worcester, the Town Administrator, Chairman Furmaniuk, Fire Chief, Police Chief and DPW Superintendent attended a meeting, regarding the progress and process for Chocksett Crossing.

Business and
Correspondence

1 Day Liquor Lic. Request

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola made a motion to approve the 1 day alcohol license for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club for December 15, 2013 from 12:00 noon – 6:00 pm for a Christmas Party. Selectman Cutler 2nd. All in favor.

Budget

The consensus of the Board was to level fund the budget for Fiscal Year 2015. The matter will be revisited, if the finance committee deems it necessary for all Departments to consider cuts in funding.

Special Municipal Employee status

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

December 4, 2013

Currently, all Finance Committee Board members are designated as "Special Municipal Employees". This designation allows volunteer members to accept and/or bid for municipal contracts, without violating State ethics standards. The Board has been asked to consider designating the members of the Board of Assessors as "Special Municipal Employees". The Board will consider this request at the next meeting.

Adjourned:

Selectman Patacchiola moved a motion to adjourn at 9:27. Selectman Cutler 2nd. All in favor.