



STERLING BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S EXECUTIVE MINUTES

September 25, 2013

At 6:30 pm, Chairman Furmaniuk declared that the Board would be convening into executive session for the purpose of meeting, with the Sterling Municipal Light Board, per their request, per Chapter 30A Section 21 Reason 10, under Ch 164 with respect to Propriety information. - To discuss trade secrets or confidential, competitively-sensitive or other proprietary information provided in the course of activities conducted by a governmental body as an energy supplier. The Chairman further declared that a discussion in open session may have a detrimental impact on the Town's position. He then announced that the Board would be reconvening in open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

VOTE: Selectman Patacchiola moved the motion that the Board convene in executive session, for the purpose of meeting, with the Sterling Municipal Light Board, per their request, per Chapter 30A Section 21 Reason 10, under Ch 164 with respect to Propriety information and that the Board would 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 at 6:30 and reconvened in Public session at 7:15.

Present: Matthew Stelmach, Michael Rivers, George Pape, Sean Hamilton

The Light Board informed the Select Board that the Municipal Light Board would like to apply to the Department of Public Utilities for the gas company franchise for the Town of Sterling. In order to apply, the Light Board needs to get the initial approval from the voters at a Special Town Meeting, which must be called specifically for that purpose.

Further, they explained that while specific details regarding costs and infrastructure would not be available to the public at this initial Special Town Meeting, a vote of approval would grant the Municipal Light Board permission to pursue the franchise rights and to address costs and finite details such as proposals as to where and how the gas would be brought into town.

The Light Board reported:

- They are considering bringing the gas lines in from Clinton or Leominster.
- Gas availability would save town residents a substantial amount of money on their heating costs and positively influence established and in-coming businesses.
- Gas and Electric would be completely separate enterprises with separate accounting
- Bonding is currently available for long term endeavors, such as this
- Fixed betterment charges are extremely unlikely. The residents who will bear the cost are those who decide to hook up to the gas main
- The Light Dept will bear the cost of the requested Town Meetings

The Select Board wants to see a feasibility study and is concerned with how this endeavor might negatively impact Pandolph Perkins, who is in the process of bringing in a gas line from West Boylston to their place of business on Rte. 12. Pandolph Perkins is shouldering the tremendous cost of this project and

is concerned about how this proposed Gas Company franchise might affect their pending efforts. After discussion, the Select Board **VOTE:** The Chairman made a motion to decline approval of a Special Town Meeting

at this time but to schedule a meeting with Sean Hamilton to further discuss the costs and feasibility study, as well as the impact on Pandolph Perkins. Selectman Patacchiola 2nd. Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye.

VOTE: At 7:15, the selectman Patacchiola made a motion to adjourn and reconvene in open session. Selectman Cutler 2nd. Roll Call **VOTE:** Chairman Furmaniuk – Aye. Selectman Patacchiola – Aye. Selectman Cutler – Aye.
