

TOWN OF STERLING  
Board of Selectmen Meeting with Executive Session  
June 10, 2020

<i>MEETING:</i>	Vice Chairman, Cranson called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Roll Call: Selectman Cranson – Present. Select member Sonnenberg – Participated remotely. Also present were Town Administrator, Ross Perry and Executive Assistant, Kama Jayne.
<i>Executive Session</i>	<p>At 6:04pm, Selectman Cranson moved to adjourn public session and to enter into executive session for Reason 3, M.G.L. c.30 Sec. 21(a) Litigation. MacLeod Vs The Town of Sterling. The Board will return to public session. Select member Sonnenberg – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion Carried. Chairman Kilcoyne joined the meeting at 6:05pm.</p> <p>At 6:36 Selectman Cranson moved to adjourn Executive Session and to return to public session. Select member Sonnenberg – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne - Aye. Motion Carried.</p> <p>At 6:40pm. The Board reconvened in public session.</p>
Minutes	Select member Sonnenberg moved to approve the minutes of May 27, 2020 and June 4, 2020. Selectman Cranson 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried.
Congratulate Scholarship winners	Scholarship winners Mikayla Philbin, Jada Ormsbee and William Akerson joined the meeting, via Zoom. William Akerson will be attending Syracuse, Mikayla Philbin will attend St. Michaels and Jada Ormsbee will attend Fairfield. The Board wished them all the best.
Approve 1/12 <sup>th</sup> budget	In the event that the Town is unable to vote on a FY21 budget at Town Meeting, the Town would need a back-up plan. The back-up plan is a 1/12 budget approval for the month of July. After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to approve the 1/12 <sup>th</sup> budget of \$ 2,313,881.31 for the Omnibus budget and \$122,666.42 for the Enterprise Budget for the month of July. Select member Sonnenberg -2 <sup>nd</sup> . Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried. The Town Clerk will certify this vote and the certification will be submitted to the State.
Out of District placement letter	The Board discussed the approval of a letter by Select member Sonnenberg to State Representatives and Senator Tran. The letter requests funding assistance for out-of-district school placements that are pending in the Town. These school choice placements will cost extra for the taxpayers. The letter also supports legislation to place caps on spending for students who would opt to attend out-of-district schools. After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to approve the letter, as amended. Select member Sonnenberg – 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne - Aye. Motion Carried.
Transfer	After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to approve the request for an alternative year-end appropriation transfer for \$8000.00 from the Town Administrator's Wages to Salary budget line. Select member Sonnenberg – 2 <sup>nd</sup> . Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne - Aye. Motion Carried. The transfer will fund the recent increase in the employee contract for the Town Administrator.
Outdoor Seating permit	Both The Brick, 27 Main Street and Barber's Crossing, 175 Leominster Road submitted applications for approval of outdoor seating. Outdoor seating and take-out are the only options for restaurant service, at this time, due to COVID-19.

After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to approve The Brick Mexican's temporary outdoor permit for sale of alcohol, using the submitted patio seating proposal, which must conform to the ABCC, Board of Health and CDC requirements. Select member Sonnenberg – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- - Aye. Motion Carried.

After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to approve Barber's Crossing's temporary outdoor sale of alcohol, using the submitted parking lot seating proposal, which must conform to the ABCC, Board of Health and CDC requirements. Select member Sonnenberg – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- - Aye. Motion Carried

Common  
Victualler Stix  
and Pux

After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to approve the Common Victualler permit for Stix & Pux with the condition that the Board of Health must first approve the food license, the personal tax paperwork must be submitted to the Assessors (this has been done) and all taxes must be up to date. Select member Sonnenberg – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne- - Aye. Motion Carried

Entrance to  
Public Ways

The Board considered the approval of a curb cut for a private driveway on 164 Justice Hill Road. The application was approved conditionally by the DPW, Fire Department, and Planning Board. A \$5000.00 has been received and the Building Commissioner has approved of this request. After discussion, Selectman Cranson moved to approve the Entrance To Public Ways permit request for 164 Justice Hill Road. Select member Sonnenberg 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Motion Carried. All departmental conditions must be met.

TA Report

#### **Town Administrator Report 6/10/20**

##### **Town Hall Operations**

- Town Hall employees are back to work on normal schedules
- The Town Hall is open to the public, by appointment. Masks must be worn.

##### **Budget**

- FY 21 Budget adjustments since last meeting brought the 2.6% increase from FY 20 down to 2.19%. Total is Omnibus budget is \$24,323,887

##### **ATM:**

- Audio / Video, stage location and parking logistics continue for the ATM that will be held at the Sterling Airport, with everyone staying in their cars
- It looks the Town doesn't need to find a moderator as both the current and potential to new moderator will be available.

##### **Wekepeke Water Shed Discussion**

Notes for the May 21, 2020 discussion in Clinton with Chairman Bill Connolly, Town Administrator, Michael Ward, Sterling Select Board Chairman, John Kilcoyne, and Sterling Town Administrator, Ross Perry.

- Its' Clinton's total complete responsibility to maintain the dams. They want to be good stewards of the land.
- Clinton has completed an RFP for design services and permitting to remove the Lower Lynde Basin dams. The Heywood dam is not under any plans other than periodic inspections.
- They estimate 18 months to get through the permitting process. It will be multiple years before the actual (de)construction occurs.
- They still need funding for the actual removal work.

- Clinton is continuing with ongoing DCR dam inspections and their DPW is doing some routine maintenance, mostly brush removal. They want to fulfill their obligation to address the potential liability of these dams.
- Dam removal is reportedly better environmentally, reduces ongoing maintenance costs and cost less than repairs to bring the dam up to standards.
- Apparently, the State doesn't have funds for repairs, only removals.
- Clinton is open to support and assistance.
- Clinton is 'hanging onto' the land and water, because they might need the water in the future. Surface water has no value to either town without expensive water treatment.
- Clinton might make the water available, for a price.
- On their own (and at their expense) Clinton added the conservation restriction on this area as added protection.
- The previous PILOT payments to Sterling will not resume, while the current members are on the Board. The conservation restriction was their contribution.
- Not sure if all of the various permits for the dam removal require a public hearing, other than Sterling Cons Com permit. Clinton will notify all parties as required.

PSAs

The Senior Center will open in Phase III. There will be limited service and there will be strict adherence to CDC precautions.

Kudos to Facilities Manager Patrice Fullhart for helping out with the ATM at the Airport and for making sure that the buildings are sanitized.

Kudos to Kristen Dietel for continued hard work and creativity during this time of upheaval to all of her planned programming for the summer.

The Food is Love Program continues through the First Church. There is a great need and the program has been distributing hundreds of meals and food.

There will be a "stand out" for Black Lives Matter on Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> from 10-12 in the Town Common.

Adjourn

At 8:00 pm Selectman Cranson moved to Adjourn. Select member Sonnenberg – 2<sup>nd</sup>. Selectman Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chairman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion Carried

Materials: Agenda, Minutes, letter, transfer request, Common Vic. App., Entrance Permit, TA report