

TOWN OF STERLING
Select Board
March 30, 2022

MEETING:	Chair Cranson called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30pm. Roll Call: Chair Cranson – Present. Select member Sonnenberg – Present. Select member Kilcoyne – present. Interim Town Administrator, Kama Jayne was present and Fred Aponte participated remotely.
Minutes	Select member Kilcoyne moved to accept the minutes of March 16, as written. Select member Sonnenberg – 2 nd . Select member Kilcoyne - Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. Select member Sonnenberg moved to accept the minutes of March 23, as written. Select member Kilcoyne – 2 nd . Select member Kilcoyne - Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.
Butterick Roof Material	Paul Anastasi addressed the Board regarding the choices available for the materials to be used to repair the Butterick Building Roof. After discussion, Select member Kilcoyne moved that the architect bid PVC vinyl in the specifications for the Butterick roof repairs. Select member Sonnenberg 2 nd . Select member Kilcoyne - Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. A warranty extension will be considered in the bids.
Police contract	The police union agreed to ratify the proposed 3 year contract the terms of which were agreed upon by the Select Board. Select member Kilcoyne moved to sign off on the Police Memorandum of Understanding and to move forward with the completion of the contract. Select member Sonnenberg – 2 nd . Select member Kilcoyne - Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. After discussion, Select member Kilcoyne moved to have Ross Perry, who had served as the Town’s official negotiator for this police contract, make the appropriate, agreed upon, changes to the contract. Select member Sonnenberg – 2 nd . Select member Kilcoyne - Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Opposed. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.
SMLD Grant	SMLD Superintendent, Darren Borge, addressed the Board regarding the application for the FY2022 Municipal Fiber Grant Program. This is a matching grant program created to assist municipalities with the construction of Municipal Fiber Broadcast infrastructure. The matching funds will be provided through SMLD services, at no cost to the Town. After consideration, Select member Kilcoyne moved to endorse the grant application for the FY2022 Municipal Fiber Grant Program. Select member Sonnenberg – 2 nd . Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried. If this funding is awarded to the Town, it will allow the SMLD to increase availability of fiber connections for residents from 42% to 65%.
Longhill Lot off Clinton Road	Robert Gibson and Carol Smith wish to donate their land (a parcel of land northerly of Clinton Road – Assessor’s map 86, parcel 9, containing approximately 8.3 acres, known as “Longhill Lot”) to the Conservation Commission, under the provisions of G.L. c 40, Section 8C. After Discussion and consideration, the Board requests more information and will consider this matter at a future meeting.
Stipend Senior Ex. Assistant	Fred Aponte is no longer in the building during business hours. Therefore, Senior Executive Assistant, Kama Jayne has assumed more duties regarding Interim Town Administrator duties. After discussion, Select member Kilcoyne moved to increase the stipend for this position by \$200.00 per week. This additional stipend will end on April 22. Select member Sonnenberg 2 nd . Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Opposed. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.

Select Board Meeting Minutes

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Electricity at Gibbs Little League Field	<p>Jay Labrack addressed the Board to ask that Gibb's Little League organization be allowed to place an electrical outlet at the Town's West Sterling field, so that the games may be broadcast via live-stream. The cost of this endeavor will be shouldered by the organization. After discussion, Select member Kilcoyne moved to allow the Gibbs Little League to install an electrical outlet at the West Sterling Fields. Select member Sonneneberg – 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.</p> <p>Mr. Labrack also questioned the possibility of adding field lights, in the future. The Board instructed him to talk to the neighbors regarding the installation of the lights because a few years back, when the topic was addressed, there was acute opposition from the neighbors.</p>
1835 fees and insurance	<p>Sharie Gonsorcik, Recreation Director, reported that there has been a lot of push back regarding the fees and insurance for the usage of the 1835 Town Hall. MIIA has suggested that private citizens, who wish to rent the hall, may use their home owners insurance. However, since this topic requires considerable debate, the chair suggested that the topic be addressed when multiple involved parties may sit down together to decide the best course of action.</p>
ACO fees and citations	<p>Kelly Jones, the Animal Control Officer, addressed the Board regarding the proposed amendments to the current Animal Control bylaw. She explained that the proposed increases to the current pricing of fines, fees, and citations would bring the Town in line with the State mandates. She acknowledged that she is able to make judgement calls as to whether a warning or a citation is warranted, depending upon the situation. A warrant article regarding these increases will voted at town meeting.</p>
Interim/advisor to Interim TA	<p>Select member Sonnenberg proposed that an Interim Town Administrative Advisor be employed for the 3 weeks before Bill Caldwell takes over his position as the new Town Administrator. The Board discussed this proposal and asked for Kama Jayne's input, since neither she nor Fred Aponte had been advised prior to the meeting. Both she and Fred agreed that the assistance was most probably not necessary and that they are capable of handling most things for the few weeks that remain. Select member Kilcoyne was amenable to making someone available only on an "as needed basis". Therefore, Select member Sonnenberg moved that the Board move forward to see if they can set up assistance on an "as needed" basis. Select member Kilcoyne – 2nd. Chair Cranson – Opposed. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried. Select member Sonnenberg will check with John Petrin and Ross Perry to see if they might be available on an "as needed basis".</p>
Inter-municipal Agreement	<p>The Board considered the inter-municipal agreement for the shared services of the Building Commissioner, Tony Zahariadis, between Sterling and Boylston. The agreement was previously used for the shared services of the Building Commissioner, Mark Brodner, between West Boylston and Sterling. The dates will be included to reflect that the agreement will run between July 1, 2021 and June 30, 2024. Select member Sonnenberg moved to authorize the agreement and send it to Boylston for consideration. Select member Kilcoyne – 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
DOT Letter	<p>Select member Kilcoyne suggested a letter be sent to officials at the Massachusetts Dot requesting that DOT mow the medians on Route 12 more frequently until the tall weeds can be eradicated. Select member Kilcoyne moved to sign the proposed letter. Select member Sonnenberg – 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Warrant Articles	<p>The articles to be considered for support follow:</p> <p>Article on Municipal Liens: Select member Kilcoyne. Unanimous.</p> <p>Article on Credible Service for On-Call Firefighters: Select member Kilcoyne. Unanimous.</p>

	<p>Article on Animal Control Bylaw: Select member Sonnenberg. Unanimous.</p> <p>Article on Nitrogen Off-set: Select member Kilcoyne. Unanimous.</p> <p>Article on Water Corrosion: This article was supported at the previous meeting. However, there was a typo in the required funds, (\$50,000 is necessary instead of \$5,000), so it was re-voted. Select member Sonnenberg. Unanimous.</p> <p>Member Kilcoyne moved to request a Planning Board Hearing for the citizen’s petition calling for zoning changes in the current Earth Removal bylaw. Unanimous.</p>
ARPA funding for Police Station HVAC	<p>The Police HVAC system has an emergency situation and needs attention immediately, so that the dispatch equipment is not adversely affected by the impending heat of summer. It was suggested by Fred Aponte that the cost of the HVAC project, \$40,000.00, be funded through ARPA rather than wait for approval of the funds at the Town Meeting. Select member Sonnenberg suggested that the Town might also consider using a reserve fund transfer. After discussion, Select member Sonnenberg moved address the HVAC system, at the police department, immediately and that the funding will be determined. Select member Kilcoyne – 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried. The Finance Committee will be asked to consider the best funding source for this necessary and high priority project.</p>
PSAs	<p>The Arts Collaborative will hold a Photo Show at the 1835 Town Hall on Saturday, April 2 from 2-4 and on Sunday, April 3 from 12-3. This is a free event.</p>
Adjourn	<p>At 8:59 Select member Kilcoyne moved to adjourn. Select member Sonnenberg – 2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Sonnenberg – Aye. Select member Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
	<p>Materials:minutes, roofing materials info., grant application, deed for longhill, insurance info for 1835, AC bykaw, appointments, Intermunicipal agreement, ltr to highway division, warrant articles</p>