

Sterling Senior Center Design and Building Committee

Butterick Municipal Building - COA Room

March 28, 2013 - 6:30 pm

MINUTES

Present: Jack Chandler, Maureen Cranson, Ronald Cote, Richard Maki, Peter Watson, Weymouth Whitney. **OPM:** Frank Kennedy and Joseph Homyak. **Absent:** Ex Officio: Terri Ackerman, Karen Phillips.

Open Meeting: Co-Chairman Cranson opened the meeting at 6:35 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of March 21, 2013 were approved as written following a motion by Mr. Whitney and second by Mr. Watson. Vote: YEA = 4, NAY = 0, ABS = 2.

Public Session: No public comments.

Invited Guests: Members of the Finance Committee were unable to attend tonight.

Review of Warrant Articles: Ms. Cranson reported that the Board of Selectmen voted on 3-25-13 to unanimously support Warrant Article #12, requesting \$2.5M to construct a senior center. The BOS decided to report at the ATM regarding Article 13, calling for a construction cost of \$1.9M. The BOS voted 2:1 in support of Warrant Article 14, sought for equipment and furnishings for the new senior center.

Ms. Cranson will request that the Town Administrator add, "with community usage" to the Warrant summary. Also included would be the approximate building footprint of "6,450 SF" and deletion of the word "final" appearing in the summary paragraph.

There was discussion by the Committee about the difference in annual taxes resulting from construction costing \$1.9M and \$2.5M. Considering an average home in Sterling (\$289,000), and using a cost of .24/1000 valuation, the average annual tax could increase by approximately \$69.36. Ms. Cranson will send confirmation of the tax calculations to Mr. Kennedy.

Community Presentation: There will be two community presentations to be held in the COA room on April 3, 2012 at 2 pm and 7 pm. The core presentation will be made by OPM Frank Kennedy using a *PowerPoint* format. In final preparation of the community programs, Mr. Kennedy reviewed a revised version of his earlier presentation of last week. Committee members made several additional suggestions, foremost of them being the need to reduce redundant "slides" and expedite his presentation.

Mr. Kennedy provided an interactive handout that was intended for citizens attending the meeting. During the presentations, emphasis will be placed upon encouraging participation in the ATM, securing a positive vote for Article 12, and explaining the financial impact upon taxpayers.

Mr. Kennedy will also include a list of typical items to be included in Article #14 to better explain the need for support of this Article.

Next Steps: Cranson will send Kennedy the tax data
Maki will bring existing posters to the community meetings
Cranson will provide a portable screen for the community meetings
Cranson will post two Committee meetings on April 3, 2012, if required

Open Discussion: Other than the community meetings, no “regular” meetings are scheduled for the week of April 1st.

Adjournment: Following a motion by Chandler and second by Watson, the Committee adjourned at 9:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted by

Richard H. Maki

Richard H. Maki, Clerk