

TOWN OF STERLING
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 4, 2018

MEETING:	Chairman Cranson called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:36pm. Roll Call: Selectman Kilcoyne – Present. Chairman Cranson – Present. Selectman Lane – Present.
Minutes	Selectman Kilcoyne moved to approve the amended minutes of March 21st, 2018. Selectman Lane 2 nd . Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.
Public Hearing Thomas Lane	Selectman Lane moved to open the Public Hearing regarding the acceptance of Thomas Lane as a public way in accordance with the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 82, Section 21-23. At the Planning Board meeting held on March 14, 2018, the Planning Board voted to accept the As-Built Plan on the Thomas Lane Subdivision and recommends that the Road Acceptance Article for Thomas Lane be placed on the May 7, 2018 Town Meeting Warrant. No one wished to speak at this public hearing regarding this issue. Selectman Lane moved to accept article 36 as written for the acceptance of Thomas Lane as a Public Way. To be approved, subject Town Meeting vote. Selectman Kilcoyne – 2 nd . Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.
Assessor	<p>Assessor, Harald Scheid addressed the Board to help explain to citizens the increase in taxes. Some residents were confused as to how/why the tax “rate” went down, yet their tax liability had increased. Mr. Scheid was there to explain the basic premise that the function of homeowner/business taxes is to meet the financial obligations of the Town.</p> <p>Per State mandates, the Assessor’s office must set assessments on all property which reflect current market values. Then, using those assessed values, the Town Accountant and the Assessor work to establish a tax rate, per thousand dollars of value, which will support the financial obligations that were approved by the voters at the Special and Annual Town Meeting(s).</p>
Personnel	There were no candidates for appointment this evening.
Registrar Chair Appointment	Selectman Lane moved to appoint Barbara Bartlett as the chair of the Registrars for the duration of her employment. Selectman Kilcoyne – 2 nd . Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.
Open and Close Town Warrant	<p>Selectman Kilcoyne voted to open the warrant. Selectman Lane 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.</p> <p>Town Counsel has recommended that Sterling’s personnel bylaw be amended. Their recommendation is that under Section 1: Authorization and Disclaimer, the words <i>unless this requirement is waiver by Town Meeting</i> be inserted. So the last sentence in that section will read; No amendment shall be considered or voted on by Town meeting unless the proposed amendment has first been considered by the Personnel Board, unless this requirement is waived at Town Meeting. Selectman Lane moved to accept this article, as written in the Draft warrant. Selectman Kilcoyne – 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.</p> <p>A citizens petition has been brought forth that would require Notification of parties on agenda. The required signatures were certified by the Town Clerk’s office. Therefore, Selectman Lane moved to accept this proposed article as written, and to have it replace the article that was previously proposed for this</p>

same purpose. Selectman Kilcoyne – 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.

Selectman Lane moved to close the warrant. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.

Budget Update

Joe Sova, Chairman of the Finance Committee, joined the Board's discussion of the budget. There will be a working group on Friday to fine tune the proposed Town budget. Mr. Sova explained that the Finance Committee supports the new proposed positions and believes, as does the Select Board, that the proposed positions of Town Planner and Town Operations Manager will encourage industry and generate grants that will ultimately cover the cost of their employment in the town. The School Budget will become part of the Omnibus budget as it is hoped that this will provide greater transparency. The Finance Committee will hold another meeting on Monday, April 9th. On April 11 at 9:00 am, the board will meet to vote approval and sign the warrant.

A meeting to vote approval and sign warrant will be held on Wednesday, April 11 at 9:00am.

Approve and Sign Warrant

Selectman Lane moved to approve the one day alcohol request for Janice Gamache at The 228 from noon to 8pm for a baby shower on May 6, 2018. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion Carried.

One Day alcohol Licenses

Town Administrator Report 4-4/18
FY 19 Budget and Warrant Preparation - Continues

TA Report

The Fin Com has approved the individual budget line items. However, after all items were totaled up, they'd like to look at the budget again to see if the overall tax impact can be reduced. Thus, the warrant isn't ready for signing tonight. This is now planned for next Wednesday 4/11.

As was done last year, we are planning to print 850 copies (for a cost of \$1026.22) Copies will be available at Town Hall, Library, Post Office, and Senior Center. Anywhere else? Also posted on the web.

Public Safety:

Effective March 20th Chief Hurlbut was re-certified as a Credentialed Fire Chief by the Fire Service Commission. This is a three-year certification that includes meeting Fire Service standards for continuing education and other related activities. Congratulations to David.

Responding to a call from dispatch, EMT's Kevin Grebinar and Jim Emerton assisted a homeless person who was exhausted, hungry, and couldn't go any further after walking from Worcester. Officer Brian Ryder and Sargent Craig Pomeroy also assisted in providing a meal and arranging overnight lodging at the Leominster Motor Inn. These four people went 'above and beyond' and Sterling (and this individual) are lucky to have these dedicated first responders.

Economic Development:

A new company is considering moving to Sterling and has a pending purchase of the 78,000 sq. ft. SMC building on Chocksett Road. Biomedical Polymers Inc manufactures products used for medical diagnostic labs and the pharmaceutical companies. Their process will be very similar to SMC's, in fact may use some of the same equipment and thus they will not be changing anything on the exterior of the building. They are anticipating starting operations 1st quarter of next year with eventually as many as 60-70 employees covering a 24/7 operation. They said they don't store hazardous chemicals and won't have any water or air discharges.

The Sewer Feasibility study that was jointly funded by MRPC and the EDC was delivered by the consultant ABC Soils. The report examines three options for a sewer collection along Rt. 12 and Main Street and disposal through a connection to the MWRA Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant; the

Leominster Wastewater Treatment Plant; or an in-town treatment plant. Estimated cost are \$7 to \$9M. The EDC is hold a meeting to discuss this report and ask questions on Thursday April 19 at 6:00 in this room. All boards and interested residents are welcome to attend. The DPW found a sewer system study from September 1963 with estimated costs before any grants of \$424,000.

The EDC is organizing a Sterling Pride Day that will facilitate a town wide cleanup of road side trash. They are looking for volunteers as well as support from local companies. The DPW has agreed to pick up any collected trash the next business day. It is planned for the end of this month or early May. As final PSA, residents are reminded that they can receive email notifications on town Alerts, Public Hearings and Selectmen's agenda by clicking on the Subscribe tab on the Towns home web page.

Draft Future Agendas:

4/11/18

- Review FY 19 budget and sign warrants for ATM and Elections

4/18/18

- Pole Hearing – Princeton Road
- Discuss STM and ATM warrant articles and motions
- Discuss and vote agreement regarding usage of Town land.
- Approve Antique licenses;

4/19/18

- Joint meeting, Sewer Feasibility Study

5/2/18

- Open

Laura Ricci will forthwith get a citizen's petition together to amend the Town Bylaws, in order to prohibit collection bins. Her goal is to have this article ready so that it may be included in a future Town Meeting warrant.

Public service Announcements;

- The Sterling Light Department will celebrate the Kick-off of the State's 1st Community Solar Project on April 17.
- For the impending Elections, there are no contests. Potential candidates are reminded that they may still initiate a "sticker campaign".
- Y.A.H.O.O. begins on April 21. Drivers always needed.

Public session

At 8:05 Selectman Lane moved to adjourn. Selectman Kilcoyne 2nd. Selectman Lane – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Motion carried

Adjourn

Materials: Minutes, draft warrant, PH request, registrar appointment form, one day alcohol request, TA report, capital funding report