


TOWN OF STERLING
Select Board
January 17, 2024

	<p>Chair Cranson called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Roll Call: Chair Cranson – Present. Select member Smith – Present. Select member Newman – Present. Town Administrator, Bill Caldwell – present. Senior Executive Administrative Assistant, Kama Jayne - present.</p>
Minutes	<p>Select member Newman moved to approve the minutes of January 3, 2024. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Scholarship Disbursement	<p>After discussion, select member Newman moved that the board offer two \$500.00 scholarships this year. The funds will be disbursed from the Maria Houghton scholarship fund. If there is only one applicant, that applicant will receive the full \$1000. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Town Planner Update	<p>Steve Wallace, the Town Planner presented his proposed work plan for the 2024 calendar year.</p> <p> He stated that he hoped that all boards and committees will be able to pull together to make necessary changes in the town’s bylaws.</p> <p>2024 1 17 Town Planner Proposed W</p>
Permit for Entrance to Public Ways – 166 Justice Hill Road	<p>The Board considered a permit request for an entrance to public ways for 166 Justice Hill Road. The request has been approved by the Fire Department, Building Department, Conservation and conditionally by the Department of Public Works. The conditions are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A pipe will be required under the driveway to convey water under the driveway apron.• Plunge pools will be required to facilitate this pipe, excavated into the banking.• The DPW shall review the final design plans prior to installation. <p>After discussion, select member Newman moved to approve the Entrance to Public Ways permit for 166 Justice Hill Road, contingent upon the DPW conditions being met. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Newman – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Non-union COLA	<p>After consideration, Chair Cranson moved to support a 3% Cost of Living Increase for non-union employees in the FY25 budget. Select member Newman – 2nd. Select member Newman – Aye. Select member Smith – Abstained. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
TA Report	<p style="text-align: center;">Town Administrator Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget update:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Biggest drivers – Schools unknown, insurance, Worcester Retirement○ Benefits for this year• Monty Tech - Legislation• Governor 9C Cuts – MOTT Earmark cut• Chamber Press Release for sign, breakfast• MMA conference 1/19-20 - Voting• Shared Services:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Conservation: Current agent leaving. Looking to share services with another town to create FT benefitted position

- Building Commissioner: Starting discussions with additional towns to explore larger shared services agreement for succession planning and long-term staffing

Project updates:

1. Library Lift/Elevator – Otis for elevator modernization
2. School Security – Received quotes. American Alarm awarded bidder.
3. Storage Building – Exploring options
4. Town Beach – some drainage work has been completed, tree work
5. 1835 Building Septic – Will need bid documents. Documents sent to owners
6. 1835 – Suspended ceiling downstairs
7. 62/140 engineering – Green International – rotary design
8. Maple Street sidewalks – Contract extension requested to 6/30/2024
9. Downtown revitalization –
 - a. Design of sidewalks, road crossings, parking, water main, storm water

ARPA Funding – Project	Approved	Balance
SMLD Broadband	\$352,000	\$0
DPW Storage	\$212,000	\$212,000
62/140 Design	\$250,000	\$149,134.25
Library Lift	\$200,000	\$152,910
Watermain – Campground	\$18,550	\$16,450
Comcast Downtown	\$153,068	\$153,068
Playground – School	\$120,000	\$120,000 (returned state funds)
Building Commissioner Vehicle	\$30,000	\$1,798
Admin expenses	\$2,428.13	
Total	\$1,338,046.13	\$805,360.25
Total to Sterling	2,543,264.44	
Balance Designated to Downtown*	\$1,205,218.31	

Public Session

Richard Lane, spoke to the board regarding Town Counsel’s reply to his questions concerning the legality of the Board of Health’s deep hole testing regulation. He further advised the board that he intends to submit a warrant article for the ATM which would create a bylaw to regulate the authority of the BOH.

PSAs

The public was reminded that papers are now available at the Town Clerk’s office for Elections.

Adjourn

At 7:47 select member Newman moved to adjourn. Select member Smith – 2nd. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman - Aye. Motion Carried.

Materials: agenda, minutes, TA report, Scholarship info., Town Planner update. Entrance to Public Ways Application