


TOWN OF STERLING
Select Board
January 31, 2024

Minutes	<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.</p>
Earth Removal Renewal – 69 Leominster Rd	<p>Select member Newman moved to approve the minutes of January 17, 2024. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p> <p>At 6:33 select member Newman moved to open the Public Hearing. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p> <p>The board considered the application for the renewal of an earth removal permit for AF Amorello, 69 Leominster Road. The owner reported that there will be no changes to their operation. This site is not in constant use, they do not blast and they continue to abide by the engineer’s recommendations and town bylaws. After discussion, select member Newman moved to approve the annual Earth Removal Permit for AF Amorello, 69 Leominster Road. Select member Smith -2nd. Chair Cranson – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Select member Smith - Aye. Motion carried. It was noted that Mr. Amarello has granted an easement through the property for an extension of the Wachusett Greenways Trail system.</p> <p>At 6:42 Select member Newman moved to close the Public Hearing. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Facilities Update	<p>Chuck Goss, the Facilities manager presented his proposed work plan for the 2024 calendar year.</p>  <p>2024 1 31 Facilities update.pdf</p>
Finance and Capital	<p>The Finance and Capital Committee members informally attended the Select Board meeting to discuss updates to the preliminary FY25 budget. The Finance and Capital members were reminded that it is not within their authority to dictate departmental budgets and that safety and services are paramount as Department Heads prepare their proposed budgets.</p>
Monty Tech	<p>Legislation has been filed that would impose a lottery system for admissions to vocational schools in the Commonwealth, rather than through approved applications. This proposal is in the early stages. Therefore, select member Newman moved to not support this proposal until clarifications are made in the final draft. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
TA Report	<p style="text-align: center;">Town Administrator Update</p> <p>Budget update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Biggest drivers – Schools unknown, insurance, Worc. Retirement● Sen. Durant Letter – priorities<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Downtown project○ Others...● Shared Services:

- 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 complete, tree work
5. 1835 Building – Will need bid documents. Documents sent to owners for septic
6. 62/140 engineering – Green International – rotary design
7. Maple Street sidewalks – Contract extension requested to 6/30/2024. Spring construction
8. 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	

PSAs

The MART volunteer position is available. Please contact the select board office if you are interested in this position.

Nomination papers are available

Executive Session

At 7:54 Chair Cranson moved to convene in executive session, only return to public session to adjourn. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

Adjourn

At 8:16 the board reconvened in public session and 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, Facilities update, Monty Tech proposal, earth removal permit