

TOWN OF STERLING
Select Board
February 14, 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. Senior Executive Assistant, Kama Jayne – Present. Select member Newman moved to approve the minutes of January 31, 2024. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
MART Appointment	<p>Select member Newman moved to approve the executive minutes of January 31, 2024, not to be released. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. After consideration, select member Newman moved to appoint Lisa Marrone to the Montachusett Area Regional Transport Advisory board (MART). Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. The board welcomed Lisa and thanked her for volunteering to represent the Town of Sterling.</p>
Kennel Bylaw	<p>At the 2022 ATM, the voters defeated the proposed table of uses for personal kennels. The Planning Board wants to address this omission at the 2024 ATM. They also propose restrictions on personal kennels. In order to proceed with this proposal, select member Newman moved to request that the Planning Board hold a public hearing regarding their proposed table of uses and restrictions on personal kennels. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Multi-family bylaw proposal	<p>The ZBA has submitted proposed changes to the multi-family bylaw. However, next year, the Planning Board will be working on residential zoning, across the board. At that time, all boards and the general public will be invited to participate in the process. This will include multi-family zoning. Therefore, with backing from the Planning Board, the Town Planner requested that the Select Board refrain from placing the ZBA multi-family proposal on this year’s warrant. Select member Newman moved to oppose the ZBA proposal for multi-family zoning. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.</p>
Potential General Bylaw Changes	<p>The board considered the following proposals;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="345 1493 1520 1734">1. Richard Lane requested that the board sponsor his proposed bylaw change which would require the Board of Health to mail notification to all Sterling taxpayers when considering regulations which would exceed the minimum requirements for subsurface disposal of sanitary sewage, as provided by the state environmental code. After consideration, select member Newman moved to sponsor this warrant article. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried. It will be forwarded to Town counsel for vetting.<li data-bbox="345 1776 1520 1913">2. The Finance Committee requested that the Town amend bylaw Section 180-8, regarding voting, as well as an amendment to Section 70-3 regarding committee recommendations on warrant articles. Since neither the Town Clerk, nor the moderator were contacted regarding the voting provisions, the chair suggested that this topic be revisited after the proposal has

been further discussed with appropriate parties. Both proposed bylaw changes will be considered at a later date.

Sign warrant and approve voting hours

Kathleen Farrell, Town Clerk requested that the board sign the Warrant for the Presidential Preference Primaries for March 5. Select member Newman moved to sign the Warrant. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

The Town Clerk has also requested that the Annual Town Election schedule for Monday, May 13, 2024 be set for 12:00 (noon) – 7:00pm. Select member Smith moved to approve the requested schedule. Select member Newman 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

Masterplan Update

Town Administrator, Bill Caldwell and Town Planner, Steve Wallace, discussed the masterplan developments.

The Planning Board is working toward an overhaul and modernization of the zoning, across the Board. They are also working toward updating the site plan regulations. The EDC will be holding public forums on March 6 and March 9 to encourage resident participation regarding allowable uses within performance zoning. Trail planning and land conservation efforts are being addressed. In short, approximately 70% of the masterplan is currently being addressed.



2024 2 14
Masterplan Land Us

Budget



2024 2 14 FY25
Budget Worksheet €

The board considered the current draft of the FY25 Omnibus Budget.

Police Contract MOU

The police union requested an increase in the detail rate. Based upon the formula, the rate would change to \$60.00 per hour this fiscal year and \$62.00 per hour next fiscal year. The proposed MOU agreement expires at the end of the current contract, at which time it will be renegotiated, as part of the new contract. Select member Newman moved to approve and sign the submitted Police MOU which increases the detail rates for the duration of the current contract. Select member Smith 2nd. Select member Smith – Aye. Select member Newman – Aye. Chair Cranson – Aye. Motion carried.

TA Report

Town Administrator Update

- Budget update:
 - Biggest drivers – Schools unknown, insurance, Worcester Retirement
- Finance/SB letter to legislators re: Chapter 70 Funding
- Shared Services:
 - Conservation: Current agent left. 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
- Beach and Athletic Fields
- Select Board Legislation

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

- Nomination papers are available.
- SLCT has donated it’s annual \$1,200.00 to the Town.

Adjourn

At 7:34 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, volunteer app., ZBA requests, Fincom requests, clerk’s letter and request for warrant and voting hours, kennel bylaw proposal, land use and development, budget draft, MOU