

TOWN OF STERLING  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
November 29, 2017

MEETING:

Chairman Cranson called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:33 am. Roll Call: Selectman Kilcoyne – Present. Selectman Lane - Present. Chairman Cranson – Present.

Minutes

Selectman Kilcoyne moved to accept the executive minutes of the November 21, 2017 minutes, as amended. Selectman Lane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried. The minutes are not to be released until the matter is resolved.

Selectman Kilcoyne moved to accept the minutes of the November 15, 2017 public BOS, as amended. Selectman Lane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.

Public Session

Laura Ricci addressed her concerns about a collection box that is situated at #1 Bean Road. She reports that the collection box is not maintained and has become a nuisance and is concerned about road safety due to the box's proximity to route 12 traffic. According to Ms. Ricci, the owners of the property had previously agreed to the collection box site but have moved and are unable to reach the organization that owns the receptacle. Ms. Ricci proposes a town bylaw that would prohibit collection boxes such as these. The Board will consider the bylaw and suggests that the person who made the original arrangement with the collection box company is responsible to take action. The Board warns the public to beware of those offering remuneration for allowing these receptacles on private property.

Pole Hearing

At 6:47 Selectman Lane moved to open the public hearing regarding the placement of 4 new poles on Swett Hill Road in Sterling. Selectman Kilcoyne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.

Darren Borge of the Sterling Municipal Light Department attended the meeting. He explained that the poles will be located on Swett Hill Road and span approximately 650 feet Northwest of existing pole 13 on Swett Hill Road and continuing until pole #9 at the corner of Swett and Hall Ave. The purpose of the new poles is to improve the reliability of power in the area and to improve resiliency during outages. Selectman Kilcoyne moved to approve the SMLD request to place the 4 poles on Swett hill as proposed. Selectman Lane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.

At 6:53, Selectman Kilcoyne moved to close the public hearing. Selectman Lane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.

The Board took the opportunity to thank the Light Department and the fire department for placement of the Christmas lights in Town.

School  
Committee  
Update

Susan Hitchcock and Stephen Godbout came before the Board to represent the School Committee. They reported the following;

- They continue to negotiate contracts with multiple unions and hope to reach successful conclusions within the next couple of months
- They continue to review policies and budgets
- They are rallying for 100% Transportation Funding for Regional School Districts, with the support of State Auditor, Suzanne Bump and strongly urge everyone to support this endeavor.
- They reported that if 100% State funding was achieved, the budget will have been enhanced by an additional 12 million dollars, in 10 years.

- They are currently pursuing a benefactor to replace the Track Field. The materials have a 10 year life span and it has been 12 years since it was replaced.
- They continue to examine the state averages of cost per student, reporting that WRSDs rate is lower than other district schools
- They continue to pursue funding through the circuit breaker to help defray the cost of high end service requirements for special needs students
- They wish to dispel the rumor that there is an overabundance of administrators within the school system

The Board thanked the School committee for their commitment to the Town and to the students.

Appoint Miller to  
Planning Board

John Santoro, Chairman of the Planning Board, presented Craig Miller as the Planning Boards candidate for appointment to fill Charles Hajdu's seat until the election in May. Mr. Miller explained that he is in the construction business and understands the requirements to appropriately represent the best interests of the Town while making sure that developers get "a fair shake". The consensus of the Board was that they are pleased that Mr. Miller has the knowledge and experience that may assist applicants in avoiding pitfalls and in helping them with the process. Selectman Kilcoyne moved to support the Planning Boards recommendation to appoint Mr. Craig Harris to fill the position for Mr. Hajdu until the election on May 14, 2018. Selectman Lane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried. The Board thanked Mr. Miller for stepping forward to fill the position.

Review HVAC  
eval and Design  
proposal

Don Aube of D-E Corporation has submitted a cost estimate of \$14,500.00 to do the following;

- Generate AutoCAD drawings of the building
- Produce building drawings for the HVAC design
- Evaluate the building and the building heating/cooling requirements by calculating loads for each area of the building
- Design and create contract bid specifications for a new HVAC system
- Not included in the proposal:
- Evaluation of existing systems
- Cost estimates for removal of old equipment, pipe removal, asbestos removal
- Cost estimate to patch holes left in roof after equipment removal
- Removal of ceiling A/C units located in each office
- Energy savings calculations
- Project management of new HVAC equipment installation

The Town Administrator proposes a reserve fund transfer of \$15,000.00 to fund this design stage of the HVAC system replacement and his goal is to have accurate cost projections in time for budget review and the Annual Town Meeting. The Finance Committee will formally vote on this proposal. Selectman Lane moved to approve the Butterick Building HVAC Design Proposal as presented. Selectman Kilcoyne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried.

1 day license

After discussion, Selectman Lane moved to approve the 1 day alcohol request for the Eight Point Sportsmen's Club on Saturday December 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3:00 – 9:00 pm for a family event. Selectman Kilcoyne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Abstained. Motion carried.

Town  
Administrator's  
Report

Town Administrator Report

**Schools:**

Montachusett Regional Vocation Technical School sent the Town a revised FY 18 Regional Assessment \$853,782. This a decrease of \$627.

The parts to repair the Houghton School playground structure are on order. When we have a delivery date, I'll update the Board.

**Town Common:**

The Light and Fire Departments have done nice job decorating the trees on the Town Common.

**Legal:**

The case of LCM Realty vs the Town has been moved to Federal Court, thus there will not be a hearing at the District Court tomorrow. The Town's insurance carrier MIIA will handle this case, with assistance from Town Counsel as appropriate

**FY 18 Goals**

As soon as the Board provides a cover letter, the list of goals discussed at the joint meeting are ready to be sent to all Boards and Committees.

**Meetings:**

The Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee meeting will be held here on February 14<sup>th</sup>.

A meeting will be held on Monday morning, December 4<sup>th</sup> to consider an application for a curb cut on Jewett Rd.

Adjourn

PSAs –

The next meeting of I Am Wachusett, will take place on Wednesday Dec. 6th at 7pm in the First Church of Sterling. The mission of IAW is to promote and maintains the well-being of the Wachusett Regional School District and to promote communication and cooperation among its member towns through an engaged and informed population. Their website is [lamwachusett.org](http://lamwachusett.org)

This weekend the following events will take place in town:

- The Boy Scouts Christmas Tree sale
- The Garden Club Greens sale at the Historical Society
- The cookie sale for the Friends of the Senior Center at the Houghton School

Chairman Cranson and Superintendent Sean Hamilton will attend an award ceremony in Boston tomorrow to receive a recognition award from the State for the recent energy project that was completed in Sterling.

At 7:54, Selectman Lane moved to adjourn. Selectman Kilcoyne 2<sup>nd</sup>. Chairman Cranson – Aye. Selectman Lane – Aye. Selectman Kilcoyne – Aye. Motion carried

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
November 29, 2017