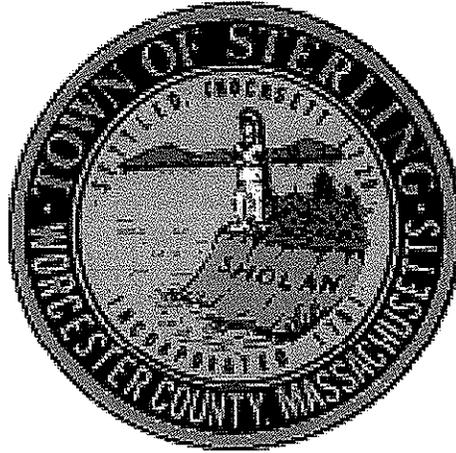


Attention – Voters and Taxpayers



**Town of Sterling**  
Warrants, Summary  
and Recommendations

**December 16, 2013**

FY 14 Special Town Meeting 7:00pm

Chocksett Middle School Gymnasium

40 Boutelle Road

**THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
TOWN OF STERLING  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
DECEMBER 16, 2013**

Worcester, ss.

To the Warrant Officer or either of the Constables of the Town of Sterling in the county of Worcester:

GREETINGS:

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify and warn the Inhabitants of the Town of Sterling, qualified to vote in elections and Town affairs, to meet at the Chocksett School on Boutelle Road, in said Sterling on

**MONDAY EVENING, THE SIXTEENTH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2013**

at seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening, then and there to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1.**

To see if the town will vote to authorize the creation and operation of a municipal gas plant as allowed by Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 164, section 36, and place such municipal gas plant under the authority of the Sterling Municipal Light Department Light Board. Upon such authorization, the municipal gas plant shall be combined with the Sterling Municipal Light Department to form the Sterling Municipal Light & Gas Department, which shall do business as "Energy Sterling".

**Submitted by:** Petition

**Recommendation:** The Finance Committee will report at Town meeting on this article.

**Recommendation:** The Board of Selectmen will report at Town meeting on this article.

**Summary:** The SMLD has been exploring the possibility of bringing natural gas to the town of Sterling. The first formal step in this process is to be legally designated as the utility of record and franchise holder for gas distribution within the town. This process involves having town voters approve the above article at two (2) separate Special Town Meetings held **at least** two (2) months apart, but **not more than** thirteen months (13) apart.

A **YES** vote at this meeting shows that the town is interested in having us move forward with the planning process so that more detailed information can be made available in the future. It also gives our future negotiations enhanced credibility if the town is strongly in favor of the idea.

A yes vote **does not** commit us to following through with construction in the event that it is determined that the project is not financially or practically feasible.

During this complex planning and negotiation process we will work with gas suppliers, legislators, regulators, vendors, customers, and financial partners to plan more detailed budgets, construction and operation plans, and project timelines.

A **NO** vote would indicate that residents of Sterling **do not want** natural gas throughout the town and would effectively end the SMLD's efforts to do so. If both articles fail at the Special Town Meetings, the process **cannot** be presented again for **at least two years**.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof, one at each of the following locations in Sterling, fourteen (14) days at least before the time for holding said meeting:

- Mary Ellen Butterick Municipal Building
- Conant Public Library
- Sterling Post Office
- Sterling Police Station
- Sterling Municipal Light Building

Hereof fail not and make due return of this warrant with your doings thereto to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this 26th day of November 2013.

**Sterling Board of Selectmen**



Ronald Furmaniuk, Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Patacchiola



\_\_\_\_\_  
Robert Cutler

Poste by hand at the above-mentioned locations:



\_\_\_\_\_  
Constable

11-27-2013 ,  
date