

**SPECIAL TOWN MEETING
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 20, 2004**

At a legal meeting of voters of the Town of Sterling qualified to vote in town affairs held on Monday the Twentieth day of September at seven (7:00) o'clock in the evening at the Chocksett School on Boutelle Road, the registrars checked in 106 of the 5211 registered voters of the town. The Moderator, Peter Monaghan called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

ARTICLE 1. Voted to amend article 40 of the May 17, 2004 Annual Town Meeting by changing the amount to be borrowed from \$360,000 to \$660,000 which will still be used to install a new 12 inch water line from Taft Road to the intersection of Main and Cross Street, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works and all costs associated with this borrowing are to be paid back with funds from the Water Enterprise Account.

Lou Manring of the DPW apologized to the town for making an error when he first proposed the amount of at the annual town meeting. The project was originally proposed as a two or three phase project that came with the water tank. When the water tank came in more than expected that had to use the pipeline portion of it. Had put in a request for funding through the state revolving loan fund program for a portion of the project, about \$360,000.00. Inadvertently that is the number he used during the budget process. Then the bids came in and it is significantly more than they have money for. They have \$360,000 and the low bid came in at \$558,295.00 with \$28,000 in engineering fees it leaves them a shortfall of \$20-26,000.00. The engineers also recommend that they have at least 10-12% contingency just for the amount of ledge that was found. The engineers recommend that they ask for another \$300,000 for the project.

PASSED

MODERATOR DECLARED 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 2. Voted to transfer from the stabilization fund the sum of \$32,500.00.00 to paint the 1835 Town Hall exterior, said sum.to be used in conjunction with \$5,000.00 raised for maintenance in the May 2004 Town Meeting. Said sum is to be expended by the Old Town Hall Committee.

Vern Gaw of the 1835 Town Hall Committee spoke on this article. Norman Clemence of John Dee Rd. questioned what exactly would be done with this money. Mr. Gaw explained that it would cover pressure washing, sanding, caulking and replacing broken clapboards. Mr. Clemence asked if all clapboards should be replaced and Mr. Gaw said he does not believe that should be done, they are trying to keep as much of the original as possible. Mr. Clemence also asked if the town hall would be sprayed, Mr. Gaw said no it will not be sprayed it would be done by hand. Mr. Clemence was very emphatic that the town hall not be sprayed and Mr. Gaw assured him that it will not be sprayed. Don Murray asked about lead paint, Mr. Gaw stated that there was lead paint and will be handled properly. This too is covered by this amount.

PASSED

UNANIMOUS BY A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 3. Vote to transfer from Article 32 of the May 15, 2000 Town meeting (to study the reutilization of the old town hall) the sum of \$9,458.00, and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,542.00 and to transfer from the stabilization fund \$5000.00, said sums contingent on receipt of a total \$10,000.00 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Said sums are to be used with \$10,000.00 voted in Article #29 of the May 12, 2003 Town meeting, to perform a Historic Structures report and prepare preliminary design drawings for restoration and accessibility improvements to the 1835 town hall. Said sums to be expended by the Historical Commission with the design input of the 1835 Town Hall Committee.

Bob Heppe of the Finance Committee made a motion to amend article by changing the "raise and appropriate" to "transfer from stabilization" a total amount of \$20,542.00. Motion made on the amendment.

Amendment carried.

Article amended as follows:

Voted to transfer from Article 32 of the May 15, 2000 Town meeting (to study the reutilization of the old town hall) the sum of \$9,458.00, and to transfer from the stabilization fund the total amount of \$20,542.00, said sums contingent on receipt of a total \$10,000.00 grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. Said sums are to be used with \$10,000.00 voted in Article #29 of the May 12, 2003 Town meeting, to perform a Historic Structures report and prepare preliminary design drawings for restoration and accessibility improvements to the 1835 town hall. Said sums to be expended by the Historical Commission with the design input of the 1835 Town Hall Committee.

Ken Williams questioned Mr. Gaw on the total amount of the project, whether it was \$40,000 or \$50,000. Mr. Gaw stated that the total project would be \$40,000 and that the grant money will not be given to us until the project is finished.

Vote was taken on Article 3 as amended.

PASSED

MODERATOR DECLARED A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 4. Voted to authorize the Board of Selectmen to obtain the permanent right and easement from Robert E. Ephraim of 7 Waushacum Avenue, Sterling, Massachusetts 01564. The easement is to be a strip of land situated on the southerly sideline of Waushacum Avenue, in the Town of Sterling, County of Worcester, Commonwealth of Massachusetts being twenty (20) feet wide lying twenty (20) feet southeasterly of and parallel with the northwesterly property line of Robert E. Ephraim as described in Book 8229 Page 184 and is further described on documents that can be reviewed in the Town Clerk's office. The associated costs of obtaining this easement including the filing at the registry of deeds is to be borne by the Town and will be paid through funds appropriated for the construction of the new fire station.

PASSED

MODERATOR DECLARED A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 5. Voted to transfer the sum of \$9,917.00 from the capital fund as a 10% match of the cost of upgrading the department's emergency communication system for which the Fire Department has received a Fire Act Grant in the amount of \$89,258.00.

PASSED

MODERATOR DECLARED A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 6. Voted to acquire by gift, purchase, or eminent domain the real property described as follows: Hardscrabble Road, a.k.a./p.k.a. North Nelson Road, with all improvements therein, for a distance of 700 feet +/- northerly of the residence of Leonard Morrijs for a total road length of 1040 feet from the northerly side of Justice Hill Road; and to transfer \$2,950.00 from the stabilization fund, for the purposes doing the necessary survey work; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate, deliver, and execute on behalf of the Town such agreements and other documents as it deems necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.

PASSED

MODERATOR DECLARED A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 7. Voted to raise and appropriate \$44,654.00 to cover step increases for non-union employees for Fiscal Year 2005.

PASSED

MODERATOR DECLARED A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 8. Voted to amend Article 1 of the May 17, 2004 Annual Town Meeting by changing the Debt and Interest portion of the town budget from \$2,101,888.00 to \$2,245,888.00 thus changing the amount in article #1 by raising and appropriating an additional \$144,000 and creating a new total of article #1 (\$6,910,907.00).

PASSED

MODERATOR DECLARED A 2/3RDS VOTE

ARTICLE 9. Voted to transfer from Water Enterprise Funds the sum of \$17,918 to the Water Budget to pay for the remaining portion of the Water Disinfecting Plant.

PASSED

MAJORITY VOTE

Meeting adjourned at 7:52pm

Respectfully submitted

Melanie J. Clark
Town Clerk