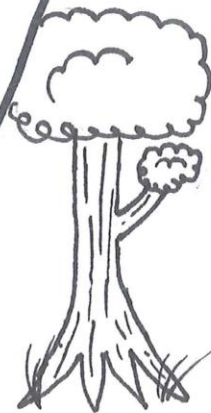


The Town of Sterling 2017



Jordan D'Amelio



We would like to thank and congratulate **Jordan D'Amelio** for the wonderful cover art for this year's Annual Town Report.

Jordan is a fifth grade student at the Chocksett School. Her cover design was chosen from over 100 beautiful submissions. Choosing a single Annual Report Cover from among so many marvelous drawings was a difficult job. In the end, we decided that Jordan's design is both beautifully drawn and a perfect interpretation of the heart of our Town. So much talent and thought went into all of the designs and we want to thank everyone for your hard work and for giving us the opportunity to see your art. We hope that you enjoyed this project, and we look forward to more of your art work next year!

TOWN OF STERLING

ANNUAL

TOWN

REPORT

2017



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STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALSInside Back Cover

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<p align="center">ELECTED OFFICIALS - TOWN OF STERLING</p>

TERM EXPIRES

BOARD OF ASSESSORS (3 year term)

Donlin K. Murray	2018
Richard A. Sheppard	2019
Robert F. Cutler	2020

BOARD OF HEALTH (3 year term)

Gary C. Menin	2018
Allen Hoffman	2019
Donna M. Clark	2020

BOARD OF SELECTMEN (3 year term)

Maureen Cranson	2018
Richard G. Lane	2019
John F. Kilcoyne	2020

CONSTABLES (3 year term)

Michael E. Pineo	2019
James E. Hartnett	2020

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS BOARD (3 year term)

Gregg W. Aubin	2018
Donald W. Harding	2019
Lawrence R. Favreau	2020

LIBRARY TRUSTEES (3 year term)

Alicia L. Emsley	2018
Edward R. Tatten	2018
Albert J. Carlin	2019
Sara Petullo	2019
Marion Mahar	2020
Alexandra Thomas	2020

MODERATOR (3 year term)

Mrithyunjaya K. Annapragada (Amrith Kumar)	2018
--------------------------------------------	------

PLANNING BOARD (5 year term)

Craig Miller (replaced Charles Hajdu in Nov., 2017)	2018
Michael E. Pineo	2019
Russell R. Philpot	2020
David J. Shapiro	2021
John J. Santoro	2022

STERLING HOUSING AUTHORITY (4 year term)

Robert E. Kneeland	2018
Karen Leclerc	2020
Elisabeth A. Earle	2021
State Appointee: Weymouth Whitney (<i>appointed by BOS, 2017</i>)	appointed every 3 years

TERM EXPIRES**STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD** (3 year term)

Matthew V. Stelmach	2018
Joseph Curtin	2019
Brian Pierce	2020

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL CMTE. (3 year term)

Sarah J. LaMountain	2018
Michael J. Rivers	2019
Susan T. Hitchcock	2020
Stephen Godbout	2020

<p align="center">APPOINTED OFFICIALS</p>

TERM EXPIRES

ACCOUNTANT (3 year appt)

Fred Aponte

A.D.A. COORDINATOR (1 year appt)

Matthew Marro

2020

A.D.A. ADVISORY COMMITTEE (1 year appt)

Clare Fisher

2018

Donald Harding

2018

Ronald Pichierri

2018

Kenneth Stidsen, Jr.

2018

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD (1 year appt)

Bridget Austin

2018

Ann Marie Catalano

2018

Karen Kase

2018

Cynthia Miller

2018

Keith Murray

2018

Theresa Sadler

2018

Frances Simonds

2018

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER (1 year appt)

Louis Massa

2018

Steven Jones, Alternate

2018

ANIMAL INSPECTOR (1 year appt by Board of Health)

Louis Massa

2018

David Favreau

2018

AUDITORS (3 year appt)

Roselli & Clark Associates

2018

BUILDING INSPECTOR/COMMISSIONER

Sarah Culgin

2018

Richard Breagy, Alternate

2018

BURIAL AGENT (1 year appt by Board of Health)

David Favreau

2018

Dawn E. Michanowicz, Town Clerk

2018

CABLE TV ADVISORY BOARD (3year appt)

Robert Bloom

2020

Gregory Billings

2020

Jay Brunetta

2020

Richard H. Maki

2020

Richard Smith

2020

Joseph Gunther, Alternate

2020

	TERM EXPIRES
<u>CAPITAL BUDGET COMMITTEE</u> (3 year appt)	
Cynthia Secord	2018
Arden Sonnenberg	2018
Robert Brown	2019
Elaine Heller	2019
Mary Cliett	2020
Gerald Kokernak	2020
Joseph Sova	2020
<u>CONSERVATION COMMISSION AGENT</u>	
Matthew Marro	2018
<u>CONSERVATION COMMISSION</u> (3 year appt)	
Joseph Curtin	2018
David Mosley	2018
Michael Pineo	2018
Scott Michalak	2019
Barbara Roberti	2019
Steven Pavlowich	2020
Susan Valentine	2020
<u>COUNCIL ON AGING</u> (3 year appt)	
Kevin Beaupre	2018
Susan Doucette	2018
Debra MacLennan	2018
Robert Bloom	2019
Barbara Foster	2019
Mary Higgins	2019
Charles Madden	2019
Nancy Castagna	2020
Elizabeth Pape	2020
Angela Richards, Associate Member	2019
<u>SENIOR CENTER BUILDING COMMITTEE</u>	
Kevin Beaupre	2018
Robert Bloom	2018
Ronald Cote	2018
Maureen Cranson	2018
Richard Maki	2018
Michael Padula	2018
John Kilcoyne, Associate Member	2018
<u>DPW SUPERINTENDENT</u> (appointed by DPW Board)	
William Tuttle	2020
<u>EARTH REMOVAL BOARD</u> (3 year appt)	
Michael Pineo, ConComm Rep.	2018
David Mosley, Alternate ConComm Rep.	2018
John Kilcoyne, BOS Rep.	2020
Russell Philpot, Planning Board Rep.	2020
Delores Rich	2020
Michael Rivers	2020

TERM EXPIRES**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE** (3 year appt)

Paul Cathcart, Jr.	2018
Maureen Cranson	2018
Richard Maki	2018
Roseanne Mapp	2018
Brian Kindorf	2019
James Patacchiola	2020
Michael Pineo, ConComm Rep.	2020

ELECTION OFFICERS (1 year appt, annually in August)

Barbara Bartlett	2018
Robert Bloom	2018
Jane Boquist	2018
Jane Brunetta	2018
Irene Camerano	2018
Robert Carruthers	2018
Melissa Chalmers	2018
Joyce Chestnut-Maloney	2018
Constance Cleary	2018
Florence Coughlin	2018
Lois Courville	2018
Frank Cummings	2018
Jo-Ann Cummings	2018
Gregory Dumas	2018
Steven Fuller	2018
Philip Gold	2018
Barbara Gould	2018
Kathleen Greenwood	2018
Utahna Hallet	2018
Elaine Heller	2018
Carmen Huntoon	2018
Judy Janda	2018
Marjorie Long	2018
Sandra McAllister	2018
Arlene McGuirk	2018
Anita McKenney	2018
Kathleen Mello	2018
Linda Mercier	2018
Judith Muckenstrom	2018
Robert Nickerson, Jr.	2018
Toby O'Reilly	2018
Yancy Pitman	2018
Bonnie Pulda	2018
Linda Racca	2018
Domenic Ricci	2018
Donna Salluce	2018
Cynthia Secord	2018
Rebecca Songer	2018
Ann Taylor	2018
Cassandra Tetu	2018
Judith Tetu	2018

	TERM EXPIRES
<u>ELECTRICAL INSPECTOR</u> (1 year appt)	
J. Bruce Dunn	2018
John Gary Harrington, Alternate	2018
<u>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIRECTOR</u>	
David C. Hurlbut, Jr.	2018
James Emerton, Assistant Emergency Management Dir.	2018
<u>ENERGY COMMITTEE</u> (2 year appt)	
Joseph Curtin	2018
Daniel (Chip) Hallet	2018
Sean Hamilton	2018
Ross Perry	2018
Tom Rutherford	2018
Matthew Stelmach	2018
William Tuttle	2018
<u>EXTENSION SERVICE</u> (1 year appt)	
Clare Fisher	2018
<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u>	
(3 year appt jointly by BOS, Moderator, Finance Cmte.)	
Cynthia Secord (retired, 2017)	2017
Barbara Bartlett	2018
Mary Cliett	2018
Joseph Sova	2018
Gerald Kokernak	2019
Steven Staudaher	2019
Everett Heller	2020
Elaine Heller, Associate Member	
<u>FIRE CHIEF</u>	
David C. Hurlbut, Jr.	
<u>GAS INSPECTOR</u> (1 year appt)	
Robert Janda	2018
<u>HEALTH AGENT</u> (1 year appt by Board of Health)	
David Favreau	2018
<u>HISTORICAL COMMISSION</u> (3 year appt)	
David Gibbs	2018
Catherine Harragian	2019
Philip Nash	2019
James French	2020
Vernon Gaw	2020
Robert Jones	2020
Lindsey Van Gieson	2020

	TERM EXPIRES
<u>INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE</u> (3 year appt)	
Robert Brown	2018
Ronald Furmaniuk	2018
Paul Austin	2019
Robert Bloom	2019
Amrith Kumar	2019
<u>INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</u>	
Michelle Braconnier	2018
James Emerton	2018
David Favreau	2018
Brian Foley	2018
Scott Johnson	2018
Tom Kokernak, Fire Dept. Rep.	2018
<u>LIBRARY DIRECTOR</u>	
Patricia Campbell	
<u>LOCAL AUCTION PERMIT AGENT</u>	
Dawn E. Michanowicz, Town Clerk	2020
<u>MEMORIAL AREA</u> (3 year appt)	
William P. Tuttle	2018
<u>MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL</u> (4 year appt jointly by Selectmen and Moderator)	
Kenneth I.H. Williams	2018
<i>Kenneth Williams retired this year. His position will be filled by William Brassard. We thank Mr. Williams for his dedication and nearly 30 years of service to the Montachusett Regional Technical School.</i>	
<u>MUNICIPAL COORDINATOR</u>	
David C. Hurlbut, Jr.	2018
<u>OPEN SPACE COMMITTEE</u> (Ad Hoc since 8/2001)	
Marion E. Larson	2018
Robert Protano	2018
Erin Rehrig	2019
James Wilkinson	2019
Jeffrey Keay	2020
Peder Pedersen	2020
Susan Valentine, ConComm Liaison	2020
<u>PERSONNEL BOARD</u> (3 year appt)	
Weymouth Whitney	2018
<u>PLUMBING INSPECTOR</u> (1 year appt by Board of Health)	
Robert Janda	2018
<u>POLICE CHIEF</u>	
Gary Chamberland	

	TERM EXPIRES
<u>POLICE MATRON / CELL MONITOR</u> (1 year appt)	
Michelle Johndrow	2018
Danielle Mallette	2018
Emma Massa	2018
Kendra Pomeroy	2018
Brian Ryder	2018
Kimberly Thebeau	2018
<u>PUBLIC WEIGHERS</u> (3 year appt)	
Jeff Henningson	2018
Edward Perkins, Jr.	2018
Heidi Lindgren	2020
<u>RECREATION COMMITTEE</u> (5 year appt)	
Jo-Ann Cummings	2018
Andrew Parker	2018
Heidi Grady	2019
Mark Hryniewicz	2019
Maureen Cathcart	2021
Kathleen Greenwood	2021
Bonnie Pulda	2022
<u>REGISTRAR OF VOTERS</u> (3 year appt. in March)	
Christine K. Arsenault	2018
Sheila M. Hudson	2019
Richard O. Barriere	2020
Dawn E. Michanowicz (Pro Tem)	2020
<u>RIGHT TO KNOW COORDINATOR</u> (1 year appt)	
David C. Hurlbut, Jr.	2018
<u>SIGN BYLAW COMMITTEE</u> (Ad Hoc since 8/2015)	
Lauren Demerjian	2018
Richard Lane	2018
Rosanne Mapp	2018
Mark Meola	2018
Michael Pineo	2018
Robert Protano	2018
<u>SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS</u> (Wachusett Regional School Dist.)	
Darryll McCall, Ed.D.	
<u>TOWN ADMINISTRATOR</u>	
Ross Perry	2018
<u>TOWN CLERK</u>	
Dawn E. Michanowicz	2020
<u>TOWN COUNSEL</u>	
Kopelman & Paige	2020

	TERM EXPIRES
<u>TREASURER / COLLECTOR</u> (3 year appt)	
Victoria Smith	2020
<u>TREE WARDEN</u> (1 year appt by DPW)	
William Tuttle	2018
<u>TOWN FOREST COMMITTEE</u> (3 year appt)	
Philip Nash	2018
David Mosley	2019
James French	2020
Michael Pineo	2020
<u>VETERANS' AGENT</u> (1 year appt)	
Richard Voutour	2018
<u>VETERANS' GRAVE OFFICER</u> (1 year appt)	
Robert Temple	2018
<u>ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS</u> (5 year appt)	
William Bird (resigned 12/2017)	2017
Joseph Curtin	2018
Jerry Siver	2019
Diana Baldarelli	2020
Matthew Campobasso	2020
Patrick Fox	2020
Richard Lane, Alternate	2020
<u>40B REVIEW COMMITTEE</u> (1 year appt)	
Clare B. Fisher	2018
Donald Harding	2018
Barbara Roberti, Alternate	2018
<u>1835 TOWN HALL COMMITTEE</u> (3 year appt)	
Robert Barwise	2018
Joann Drown	2018
Ronald Pichierri	2018
David Gibbs	2019
Robert Jones	2019
Carl Corrinne	2020
Christine McCarthy	2020
<u>1835 TOWN HALL ROOF PROJECT SUB-COMMITTEE</u>	
Robert Barwise	2018
John Chandler	2018
Carl Corrinne	2018
Richard Lane	2018

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

TERM EXPIRES

AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION (3 year appt)

Susan Phinney	2019
David Grinkis	2020
Hannah Miller	2020
Robert Nickerson, Jr.	2020
Michael Pineo	2020
Diane Melone, Alternate	2019

CULTURAL COUNCIL (3 year appt, not more than 2 consecutive terms)

Lisa Perry (served through November, 2017)	2017
Kerry Bart-Raber (served through November, 2017)	2017
Andrea Driscoll	2018
Margaret Spaulding	2018
Susan Crimer	2019
Susan Farr	2019
Helen Hill	2019
Richard Maki	2020
Patricia Thomas	2020

FAIR COMMITTEE (3 year appt; assoc. member is 1 yr appt)

David Agurkis	2018
Margaret Agurkis	2018
Philip Campbell	2018
Norman F. Clemence	2018
Judy Corbett	2018
Linda E. Davis	2018
Kevin Day	2018
Douglas Downey	2018
Carl Gronblom	2018
Daniel Hallet	2018
Terry Heinold	2018
Donald Jewett	2018
Robert Kneeland	2018
Nicholas Kronopolus	2018
Veronica Litterio	2018
Christopher O'Neil	2018
Joshua Pineo	2018
Michael Pineo	2018
Barbara Roberti	2018
Douglas Roberts	2018
Tina Robinson	2018
Gloria Rugg	2018
Raymond Rugg, Jr.	2018
Raymond Rugg, Sr.	2018
Joan Strang	2018

TERM EXPIRES**REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Gary Chamberland	2018
Jim Emerton, CERT rep.	2018
David Favreau, BOH rep.	2018
Donald Hamilton	2018
David C. Hurlbut, Jr., Emergency Management Dir.	2018
Mark Restuccia, M.D., Medical Dir.	2018
Peter MacDonald, Alternate	2018

WACHUSETT FUND COMMITTEE (1 year appt)

Gary Chamberland	2018
David C. Hurlbut, Jr.	2018
Peter MacDonald	2018

OFFICE OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Since February 13, 2017 I have had the privilege and honor of serving as Sterling's Town Administrator. Stepping in to the FY 18 budget and Town Meeting processes started by Anne Cervantes, Treasurer / Collector and interim Town Administrator was made easier by her professional work and the diligent involvement of the Finance and Capital Advisory Committees. Through everyone's combined efforts a balanced budget was presented to Town Meeting and supported by the voters.

With support from the Board of Selectmen, the Town negotiated new labor contacts with the Dispatch and Fire unions. During the summer, the Town and the Police union found resolution to the 2½ year expired labor agreement. This agreement included a one-year extension as neither party desired starting negotiations anew. The voters at the November 2017 Special Town Meeting agreed to fund the retro-pay associated with this agreement from free cash.

Following through with a previous Host Community Agreement Prime Wellness Centers Inc. paid the town \$25,000 as part of their medical marijuana facility planned off Chocksett Road. The Assessors negotiated and the Selectmen signed a PILOT (Payment In Lieu of Taxes) agreement with MA Solar Storage 1, LLC worth \$11,800 per year for 20 years for an innovative combination of solar generation and battery storage that is projected to provide lower cost electricity to Sterling electric customers.

The Town was accepted in the State's Community Compact Program which provided technical and financial assistance in achieving best practices in Financial Management, Economic Development and Master Plan, and ADA Compliance. Participation in this program enabled the Town to be successful in receiving a \$25,000 grant for Economic Development and the Master Plan as well as a \$85,000 grant towards ADA improvements at the 1835 Town Hall. A new financial policy manual was prepared and is currently under review by the Finance Committee and Selectmen.

Victoria Smith became the Town's Treasurer Collector in July and Kathy Farrell and Sally McClellan joined Sterling as part time Assistant Town Clerks in September. All three are filling existing full time positions.

An independent auditor reviewed the Town's financial records as of 6/30/17 and commented that the Town's reserve ratio (total general fund balance over general fund expenditures) is viewed as very strong by credit rating agencies and did not identify any deficiencies in internal control.

Overall, the Town's financial condition is healthy. The Town had a balanced budget without a proposition 2 ½ override or new borrowing for FY 18 and I expect the same for the still developing FY 19 budget. The Town's bond rating is the third highest at Aa2, and the savings accounts (Stabilization and Capital Investment funds) are healthy. The budget includes acceptable funding of the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) obligation.

Thank you to all department heads, Town Hall staff, Selectmen Cranson, Lane and Kilcoyne, and Executive Assistant Kama Jayne for their support and making Sterling an enjoyable place to work.

Respectfully submitted,

Ross Perry
Town Administrator

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

When reviewing the past year of accomplishments for our Board, it becomes obvious that little to nothing could be done if not for the support of our community. A forward thinking Town Administrator, our Town Hall Departments, Boards and Committees and our Volunteers, all share in any successes of the Select Board.

The Board began their year by developing their own set of goals. Not surprisingly, some were/are very lofty! We agreed on the importance of opening communications between Departments, Boards and Committees, as well as the general public. To that end:

- All Committees and Boards were, at different times, invited to our Wednesday meetings to update the public. They came with their ideas, their goals and updates regarding their visions.
- We assembled an all Boards meeting which highlighted where Boards crossed over in their goals. We encouraged all to recognize common ground, work together and keep Sterling moving forward.
- The meeting also highlighted some of the future wishes of these Boards and Committees.
- Each of your Select Board members increased our efforts in attending the meetings of our Boards and Committees.
- Select Board members have made efforts to become more involved in community endeavors by participating in events and services throughout Sterling.
- The general public encouraged us to make the Town website easier to navigate. An update came about to succeed in that endeavor.

The Select Board has fiscal responsibility on the top of their list. To that end:

- We reiterated the need to update our IT essentials. We signed with Guardian IT services who have a strong background in the municipal requirements regarding IT.
- Servers , PC's and back up programs are being updated. Our goal is to centralize all Departments.
- The Select Board remains steadfast with regard to use of costly Town Counsel guidance. We underscored the practice of funneling potential inquiries through the Town Administrator in order to keep our legal costs reasonable.
- Successfully signed contracts with Dispatch, Police and Fire and brought all within similar parameters of other Departments.
- The Board signed a Community Compact agreement with the State. This partnership sets Sterling up with better opportunities for grants and potential funding for future projects.
- Worked diligently to reign in some WRSD costs.
- Had WIFI installed at our elementary schools at a cost lower than region had predicted.
- The Board signed off on, and brought a solar project to a special Town Meeting with Sterling Municipal Light Department. The project comes in at no cost to the taxpayer and with a benefit by way of contained rates.
- Ongoing is the Buttrick lower level office space delegation and renovation.
- We worked with the 1835 Town Hall Committee in an attempt to complete the roofing project. An ADA grant was obtained to install a lift and access to the second level.
- As confirmed by Roselli, Clark & Company, our outside auditors, the financial position and fiscal operations of Sterling continue to improve. Moodys grades Sterling at Aa2 which is the third strongest rating. As in the past, the auditors have listed specific suggestions. Implementing these could produce an even higher rating. These being achieved would reduce the debt service to the Town on any future bonding projects.

The signing of the Community Compact agreement afforded us the ability to take a first step towards developing a Master Plan. Better than 30 volunteers stepped up when asked to participate in this project. A facilitator was hired and regional planners were engaged to guide us on this two plus year project.

This year the Select Board also took the time to recognize our youth...our future. Eagle Scouts, Girl Scouts and YAHOO were all invited in to be recognized and speak about their projects.

Personnel changes seem to be rampant this year. Retirement, family obligations and job opportunities gave way to new faces that will continue to serve the community and possibly even bring us new prospective!

The Select Board looks forward to another year of progress while remaining fiscally diligent. We thank you for your continued support.

Maureen Cranson/chair

Richard Lane/vice chair

John Kilcoyne/clerk

OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK

Being your Town Clerk has been a rewarding and challenging job but I have decided I must retire after two decades in municipal government. I will miss working with my staff, the employees at Butterick, Recreation, the Library staff, DPW, other department heads and my election officers. Thank you for making me a part of your town and accepting me as one of your own. I poured my heart and soul into this work and I loved every minute.

I am also retiring as the President of the Worcester County Clerk's Association and an Athenian Dialogue Facilitator with the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. Those honors would not have been mine without the support of successive Sterling Town Administrators and the townspeople working with me in the Town Clerks Office. Thank You!

The job of Town Clerk dates back 600 years to old England. It must adapt as technology changes and adjust to new demands such as *transparency laws*. It requires many skills: in-depth knowledge of local and state laws; computer software and database management; the ability to work with and support a variety of town departments, boards and committees. Most importantly, the Town Clerk must have integrity. If nothing else, I strived every day to meet those ethical standards as your Town Clerk.

For your future generations, this is what I was able to accomplish:

- Inception of new process for meeting postings -- Open Meeting Law mandate 2009
- Adopted minor precinct changes for Federal Census in 2010
- Vault - completed on time and under budget in 2011
- Computer index of all records filed in the vault -- ongoing
- Computer index of all Town Board/Committee members -- completed in 2012
- Remediation of records from the 1700's -- completed 2013
- Computer index of all Town fuel storage tanks -- completed in 2013
- Computer index of all Town DBA/Business Certificates -- completed in 2013
- Computer index of all ZBA permits/variances -- completed in 2014
- Training for all Election Officers -- new mandate in 2014 and continuing annually
- Discovery of baptismal documents from before the fire in 1794
- Purchased 10 new voting booths for elections -- 2015
- Appointed Records Access Officer -- new mandate for *transparency* of records
- Purchased new voting machines, replacing 30 year old machines -- 2017
- Purchased new cloud based software for dog licensing online; the option of a 2 or 3 year tag; and GPS detection for the Animal Control Officer to locate a lost or hurt animal.
- Began the process for a 3rd precinct to take effect in 2020

If it weren't for a small team of hard working senior volunteers over these years to help accomplish the myriad tasks required of this department, this office would not have been as efficient and responsive. They are the underappreciated back-bone of this office. This year they are:

- **Sheila Hudson** who processes more than 10,000 census forms annually. Every voter who changes their political party, signs up at the RMV or moves in or out of town is processed through the state *Voter Registration Information System*. This requires detailed data entry and Sheila does it with aplomb. In 2010 I asked her to serve on the *Board of Registrars*. She has decided to resign from the *Board* effective March 1, 2018.

- **Irene Camerano** is no stranger to hard work. She has been your *Warden* for state and local elections for almost 40 years in Sterling. She gives her time freely to sort the dogs' rabies certificates; files the burial permits and cemetery deeds. Her tasks may be mundane but necessary to keep records organized. Irene "*Gets it done!*"
- **Melissa Chalmers** has formatted the Town Report since 2010. She compiles all reports from the town's 84 boards and committee, uploads the election results, and updates term dates to produce a professional Annual Report. She also serves as an *Election Officer*.
- **Cynthia Secord** has persevered in transcribing the historical records. Since 2010, she has been diligently navigating through old boxes we keep finding in the 1835 Town Hall basement. This year we discovered warrants, tax and military records from the mid 1700's wrapped in ribbons. She is unpacking, reading and indexing them and carefully placing these into archival sheet protectors. They will soon be available to the public. This will be her last year. Her tenacity and attention to detail will be difficult to replace.

In the last nine years, I have hired and trained five Assistant Town Clerks: Evelyn McNamara, Kama Jayne, Jeanne Survell, Sally McLellan and Kathleen Farrell. Kama is now Executive Assistant to the Board of Selectmen, Jeanne is now the Town Clerk in Pepperell, and Kathy Farrell is Sterling's Assistant Town Clerk. As I retire, I wish all the best to the new Town Clerk and to Kathy Farrell. I want this office to succeed.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn E. Michanowicz, Master Municipal Clerk, with editing by the Town Administrator

Following is a three year comparison of annual statistics maintained by the Town Clerk:

	2015	2016	2017
Population as of Dec31	7536	7963	7778
Head of Household	3140	3264	3164
VOTERS	5621	5862	5615
Unenrolled	3558	3856	3594
Democrats	1027	1083	986
Republicans	991	1047	980
Libertarian	11	9	13
Green Rainbow	9	9	2
United Independent Party	19	29	33
Pizza Party	n/a	n/a	1
We the People	0	0	n/a
Veteran Party America	1	0	1
Inter 3 rd Party	1	1	1
Natural Law Party	1	0	0
Socialist	1	1	1
MA Independent Party	1	1	1
America First Party	1	1	1
American Term Limits	1	1	1
Other (BB)	1	0	3

VITALS			
BIRTHS	57	44	38
MARRIAGES	34	42	28
Marriage Intentions	36	43	29
DEATHS	103	104	101

Fuel Storage cert's	38	41	36
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DBA/Business cert's	230	211	130
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Boards, Committees and Departments	120	122	124
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Dog Licenses/unlicensed	1461 50	1510 31	1514 41
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As we say farewell to Dawn Michanowicz, we would like to welcome our new Town Clerk, **Barbara Bartlett**, who you may know from the Sterling Finance Committee. Barbara served on the Finance Committee for six years. Previously, Barbara served as Assistant Town Clerk in Lancaster for five years, and then as Lancaster's Acting Town Clerk.

Barbara has been a resident of Sterling since 2008. Her sons go to Wachusett Regional High School.

Kathleen Farrell is now full-time Assistant Town Clerk. Kathy, also a resident of Sterling, was formerly a member of the Stow Select Board and served as Sterling's Assistant Town Clerk, part time, since October, 2017.

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
MAY 8, 2017**

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total
BOARD OF ASSESSORS (3 year term)			
Robert F. Cutler (candidate for re-election)	128	102	230
Write-ins	5	1	6
Blanks	24	25	49
TOTAL	157	128	285
BOARD OF HEALTH (3 year term)			
Donna M. Clark (candidate for re-election)	115	103	218
Write-ins	5	2	7
Blanks	37	23	60
TOTAL	157	128	285
LIBRARY TRUSTEES (2 seats; 3 year terms)			
Marion M. Mahar (candidate for re-election)	124	100	224
Alexandra Thomas	110	85	195
Write-ins	0	0	0
Blanks	80	71	151
TOTAL (double because of 2 seats)	314	256	570
BOARD OF SELECTMEN (3 year term)			
John F. Kilcoyne (candidate for re-election)	135	106	241
Write-ins	3	1	4
Blanks	19	21	40
TOTAL	157	128	285
CONSTABLE			
James E. Hartnett	12	7	19
Alan M. Bebka	10	5	15
Write-ins	21	6	27
Blanks	114	110	224
TOTAL	157	128	285
DEPT. OF PUBLIC WORKS BOARD (3 year term)			
Lawrence R. Favreau (candidate for re-election)	130	100	230
Write-ins	2	1	3
Blanks	25	27	52
TOTAL	157	128	285
PLANNING BOARD (5 year term)			
John J. Santoro (candidate for re-election)	125	104	229
Total Write-ins	2	0	2
Blanks	30	24	54
TOTAL	157	128	285

**ANNUAL TOWN ELECTION
MAY 8, 2017**

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total
STERLING HOUSING AUTHORITY			
(4 year term)			
Elizabeth A. Earle	127	102	229
Write-ins	0	0	0
Blanks	30	26	56
TOTAL	157	128	285

STERLING MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD			
(3 year term)			
Brian J. Pierce (candidate for re-election)	133	109	242
Write-ins	1	0	1
Blanks	23	19	42
TOTAL	157	128	285

WACHUSETT REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT COMMITTEE			
(3 year term)			
Stephen R. Godbout	131	102	233
Write-in: Susan T. Hitchcock	11	15	26
Other write-ins	1	3	4
Blanks	171	136	307
TOTAL (double because of 2 seats)	314	256	570

BALLOT QUESTION:			
Funding 1835 as debt exclusion			
(nullified at Annual Town Meeting)			
Blanks	31	20	51
Yes	71	66	137
No	55	42	97

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	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total
Total Registered Voters by Precinct	2,805	3,030	5,835
Total Votes Cast by Precinct	157	128	285
% Voter Turnout	5%		

**STATE PRIMARY ELECTION
NOVEMBER 7, 2017**

<u>DEMOCRAT BALLOT</u>	Precinct 1 169	Precinct 2 192	Total 361
SENATOR IN GEN. COURT			
Susan A. Chalifoux-Zephir	111	98	209
Michael P. Kushmerek	23	38	61
Michael A. Mahan	34	56	90
Write-ins	1	0	1
Blanks	0	0	0
TOTAL	169	192	361

<u>REPUBLICAN BALLOT</u>	80	90	170
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SENATOR IN GEN. COURT			
Dean A. Tran	78	89	167
Write-ins	2	1	3
Blanks	0	0	0
TOTAL	80	90	170

<u>LIBERTARIAN BALLOT</u>	1	0	1
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SENATOR IN GEN. COURT			
Write-ins	1	0	1
Blanks	0	0	0
TOTAL	1	0	1

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TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS:

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total
Democrats	494	538	1032
Republicans	485	539	1024
Libertarians	6	5	11
Unenrolled	1782	1944	3726
Other	19	24	43

Total Registered Voters each Precinct	2786	3050	5836
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Total Votes Cast by Precinct	250	282	532
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% Voter Turnout	9.12%
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**SPECIAL STATE ELECTION
DECEMBER 5, 2017**

		Precinct 1 424	Precinct 2 457	Total 881
SENATOR IN GEN. COURT				
Susan A. Chalifoux-Zephir	Democrat	193	209	402
Dean A. Tran	Republican	217	234	451
Charlene R. DiCalogero	Green Rainbow	2	5	7
Clair M. Freda	Unenrolled	12	9	21
Write-ins		0	0	0
Blanks		0	0	0
TOTAL		424	457	881

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TOTAL REGISTERED VOTERS:

	Precinct 1	Precinct 2	Total
Democrats	493	537	1030
Republicans	483	534	1017
Green Rainbow	2	0	2
Unenrolled	1776	1947	3723
All Others	22	30	52
Total Registered Voters each Precinct	2776	3048	5824
Total Votes Cast by Precinct	424	457	881
% Voter Turnout	15.13%		

SPECIAL AND ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

Monday, May 1, 2017

Emailed to AG June 11, 2017
Approved by Attorney General Sept. 11, 2017
Published Dec. 11, 2017
Uploaded to the website on Dec. 14, 2017

A true copy

Attest:

Dawn E. Michanowicz, Town Clerk

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

At 6:30pm on Monday, May 1, 2017, the Town Moderator, Amrith Kumar, opened the Special Town Meeting held in the Chocksett School on 40 Boutelle Road in said Town of Sterling. There was a quorum present; 51 voters attended the meeting.

Town Moderator Kumar mentioned those who have recently passed and have served the Town in various capacities, to include:

- Muriel Senter, served as Election Officer for over 29 years
- Richard Dell, served as a Senior Volunteer
- Anita Benware, served on the Council on Aging
- Nancy Kristoff, served as Warden for elections for over a decade
- Bertha Sanger, served as Senior Volunteer. Died at age 101, the oldest resident of Sterling in 2016
- Norman Clemens, served as Building Inspector and on the Fair Committee for many decades
- Terry Woodman, served on the Council on Aging and as Senior Volunteer
- Gloria Socia, served as Senior Volunteer

The Moderator requested a moment of silence to honor them as well as those who have served in the Armed Forces and passed away within this year.

All non-voters or non-residents of the Town were asked to stand, to be recognized by the Moderator:

Fred Aponte, Town Accountant
Robert Berlo, Deputy Superintendent of Wachusett Regional School District
Veronica Buckley, Senior Center Director
Anne Cervantes, Town Treasurer/Collector
Sarah Culgin, Building Commissioner
Kristen Dietel, Recreation Director
Sean Hamilton, General Manager of Sterling Municipal Light Department
Matthew Marro, Conservation Administrator
Joel Mongeon, Holden Landmark
Chris LeBreck, Principal Chocksett School
Dawn Michanowicz, Town Clerk
Michelle Randazzo, Esq. Town Counsel, Kopelman and Paige
Tom Rutherford, Facilities Manager
Jan Gottsman, The Item
Jeanne Survell, Assistant Town Clerk
Ross Perry, Town Administrator
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance, Wachusett Regional School District

The following tellers were appointed by the Moderator and sworn in by the Town Clerk:

Beth Sherman, 162 North Row Road Edward Andrade, 38 Wilder Road
Diane Fitch, 11 Redstone Hill Road Richard Sheppard, 5 Tanglewood Rd
Moderator Kumar, citing the Town bylaw Ch. 180-12, anything that requires a 2/3 vote, the count need not be taken [voted Art. 16 on 4Aug1997].

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Moderator Kumar noted the receipt of the posting of the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting by Constable, Michael Pineo.

**MOTION MADE to dispense with the reading of the Warrant.
MOTION PASSED AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR**

ARTICLE 1. Transfer Certified Free Cash to Capital Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Certified Free Cash to the Capital Investment Fund, as allowed by the bylaws of Sterling; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen will report at Town Meeting

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at Town Meeting

Summary: This article transfers funds from an available fund, Certified Free Cash, into the Capital Fund.

MOTION MADE to take no action.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 2. Transfer Certified Free Cash to Stabilization Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Certified Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 5B, General Laws, as amended; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen will report at Town Meeting

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at Town Meeting

Summary: This article transfers funds from an available fund, Certified Free Cash, into the Stabilization Fund.

MOTION MADE to take no action.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 3. Fund Animal Inspector Salary

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$250.00 to fully fund the salaried position of the Animal Inspector for FY17; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: During the FY 17 budget process, the Board of Health and Finance Committee approved an additional \$250.00 to its original annual salary compensation of \$1,000.00 for Animal Inspector. The Board of Health is requesting an additional \$250.00 to its original salary compensation to balance the FY17 budget for a salary shortfall for the position of the Animal Inspector. The approved budgeted amount was inadvertently omitted in the Warrant presented at town meeting in May 2, 2016 and not noticed until town meeting. Rather than amending the overall budget on the floor of the meeting, the Chairman of the Finance

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Committee, Chairman for the Board of Health, and previous Town Administrator agreed to defer this change in salary and present an article within the warrant for this shortfall during the next town meeting.

MOTION MADE to raise and appropriate the sum of \$250.00 to fully fund the salaried position of the Animal Inspector for FY17.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 4. Fund Deficit due to Snow and Ice

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund, or from other available funds, a sum of money, to the Snow and Ice Account to cover any deficit in the snow and ice budget for the current fiscal year; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: DPW Board / Town Administrator

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen will report at town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at town meeting.

Summary: This article transfers money from the Stabilization Fund into the DPW Snow and Ice Account to cover the deficit in the account caused by the snow and ice storms of this past winter and spring. At press time the account remains within budget. It is expected that this article will be passed over.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE to raise and appropriate the sum of \$61,537.43 and transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$21,801 for a total of \$83,338.43 to the Snow and Ice Account to cover any deficit in the snow and ice budget for the current fiscal year.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 5. AMI Water meter upgrades

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, the sum of \$160,000 to further convert the water meter system over to an automatic read AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) system and to authorize the Water Department to enter into such agreements and take other action as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: The Water Department, in conjunction with SMLD, has successfully replaced 1100 meters to date which are remote read by SMLD software. This \$160,000 will purchase another 800 meters bringing the total to 1900 meters on the AMI system.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE to transfer from the Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, the sum of \$160,000 to further convert the water meter system over to an automatic read AMI (Advanced Metering Infrastructure) system and to authorize the Water Department to enter into such agreements and take other action as necessary to effectuate the purposes of this vote, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

ARTICLE 6. Bills from Prior Fiscal Years

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, a sum of money to pay any outstanding prior fiscal year's invoices; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: This article authorizes the Town to pay bills from prior fiscal years.

MOTION MADE to take no action.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 7. Transfers within FY17 Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to transfer funds within the FY17 Operating Budget, from one account to another, or from available funds to the FY17 Operating Budget; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen will report at town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at town meeting.

Summary: This article authorizes the Town to transfer funds within the operating budget to cover anticipated shortfalls within specific accounts. At press time there are no pending requests. It is expected that this article will be passed over.

MOTION MADE to take no action.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

MOTION MADE to adjourn Special Town Meeting at 6:40pm.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

At 7:00pm on Monday, May 1, 2017, the Town Moderator, Amrith Kumar, opened the Annual Town Meeting held in the Chocksett School on 40 Boutelle Road in said Town of Sterling. There was a quorum present [quorum is 0]; 251 voters attended the meeting.

Anne Cervantes, Town Treasurer/Collector since 2010, was asked to stand and be recognized by John Kilcoyne, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and Amrith Kumar, Town Moderator for her exceptional performance. He stated, "She contributed many financial decisions to benefit the Town, served as Interim Town Administrator with help from her Department colleagues. On behalf of her fellow employees, we'd like to thank her for her dedication." Anne received a standing ovation from those in attendance.

Moderator Kumar, citing the Town bylaw Ch. 180-12, anything that requires a 2/3 vote, the count need not be taken [voted Art. 16 on 4Aug1997].

ARTICLE 1. FY18 Town Operating Budget

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$10,753,742.79 or any other sum, and to further appropriate, from the Ambulance Receipts Account, the sum of \$322,053.00 or any other sum, and to further appropriate, from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Account, the sum of \$5,000.00 or any other sum; for a total appropriation of \$11,080,795.79 for the payment of salaries and compensation, payment of debt and interest and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Town Departments, for the ensuing fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, as shown in the operating budget printed at the back of this Warrant; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This is the general budget article that funds the Town Departments for the coming fiscal year. A breakdown of the Town Department budgets can be viewed on the spreadsheet at the end of the warrant.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,753,742.79 and to further appropriate, from the Ambulance Receipts Account, the sum of \$322,053.00, and to further appropriate, from the Cemetery Perpetual Care Account, the sum of \$5,000, for a total appropriation of \$11,080,795.79 for the payment of salaries and compensation, payment of debt and interest and for charges, expenses and outlays of the Town Departments, for the ensuing fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2017 and ending June 30, 2018, as shown in the operating budget printed at the back of this Warrant.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 2. Compensation for Elected Officers

To see if the Town will vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 of the General Laws [MGL Ch 41:108], as amended, as presented in Article 1 of this Warrant; or take any action in relation thereto.

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

FY 18 Stipends

Assessor	1500.00 yr.
Selectman	1500.00 yr.
Health Board	103.00 yr.
Planning Board	100.00 yr.
DPW Board	600.00 yr.
Town Moderator	500.00 yr.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: The article fixes the salaries and compensation for all elected officials, except the Sterling Municipal Light Board, as presented in the general budget.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to fix the salaries and compensation of all elected officers of the Town as provided by Section 108 of Chapter 41 [MGL Ch 41:108] of the General Laws, as amended, and as presented in Article 1 of the Warrant.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 3. Set Salary of Municipal Light Board

To see if the Town will vote to set the salary of the Sterling Municipal Light Board members as follows: Chairman \$1,500; Clerk \$1,500; Third member \$1,500; said sum to be an expense of the Sterling Municipal Light Department; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Sterling Municipal Light Board

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This Article funds the salaries of the elected members of the Municipal Light Board. It is funded by Light Department revenues, and has no impact on the tax rate.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to set the salary of the Sterling Municipal Light Board members as follows: Chairman \$1,500; Clerk \$1,500; Third member \$1,500; said sum to be an expense of the Sterling Municipal Light Department.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 4. Reserve Fund for FY18

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100,000, or any other sum, for the Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2018 in accordance with the provisions of General Law Chapter 40, Section 6 [MGL Ch 40:06] as amended; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This article proposes an appropriation to fund the Reserve Fund, which is used by the Finance Committee to cover unexpected shortfalls in department budgets.

MOTION MADE to move that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 for the Reserve Fund for Fiscal Year 2018 in accordance with the provisions of General Law Chapter 40, Section 6 [MGL Ch40:6], as amended.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

ARTICLE 5. WRSD Net Minimum Contribution, Debt, & Interest

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,206,776, or any other sum, which is equal to Sterling's net minimum contribution, as provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, plus the cost of Sterling's share of WRSD transportation costs and our portion of the WRSD debt and interest costs, in accordance with Section 16B of Chapter 71 of the General Laws [MGL Ch 71:16B], as amended, and Section #4 of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as amended, for its share of operational costs and of debt and interest charges of the Wachusett Regional School District; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Wachusett Regional School Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen will report at town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This article proposes an appropriation to fund the Town's portion of the Wachusett Regional School District's annual budget equal to the net minimum contribution \$8,145,271, as directed by the State, plus the costs for transportation \$657,260, debt and interest for the high school \$389,709, and debt and interest for oil spill remediation \$14,536.

MOTION MADE to move that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$9,206,776 which is equal to Sterling's net minimum contribution, as provided by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, plus the cost of Sterling's share of Wachusett Regional School District (WRSD) transportation costs and our portion of the WRSD debt and interest costs, in accordance with Section 16B of Chapter 71 [MGL Ch71:16B] of the General Laws, as amended, and Section #4 of the Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, as amended, for its share of operational costs and of debt and interest charges of the Wachusett Regional School District.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 6. WRSD Above Net Minimum Contribution

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,145,662, or any other sum, above the net minimum contribution as requested by the Wachusett Regional School District, as Sterling's share of the WRSD annual budget, provided said budget does not exceed \$90,872,878 for the fiscal year 2018. By operation of law, said sum shall be reduced to reflect any decrease in the FY18 WRSD annual budget and associated assessment that is approved by the Wachusett Regional School Committee, without further action by Town Meeting; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Wachusett Regional School Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen does not recommend approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This article proposes an appropriation to fund the Town's portion of the Wachusett Regional School District's annual operating budget that is above the amount voted in Article 5 for fiscal year 2018. By operation of law, this appropriation shall be automatically reduced if the proposed budget is not approved by the member towns and the School Committee subsequently approves a reduced budget with a lower assessment

MOTION MADE to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,145,662 above the net minimum contribution for the Wachusett Regional School District, as Sterling's share of the WRSD annual budget, provided said budget does not exceed \$90,872,878 for the fiscal year 2018.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

ARTICLE 7. Montachusett Regional Vocational School Assessment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$842,182 or any other sum, in accordance with Section 16B of Chapter 71 of the General Laws [MGL Ch 71:16B], as amended, and Section #4C and E of the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District Agreement for its share of operational and capital costs of the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District, and to transfer, from the Capital Fund, the sum of \$12,227, or any other sum, for the purpose of paying the Town's portion of the debt and interest for the Montachusett Regional High School Building Project for a total appropriation of \$854,409; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Montachusett Regional School Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen will report at town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Capital Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This article proposes an appropriation to fund the Town's portion of the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District's annual budget and debt service.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$842,182 in accordance with Section 16B of Chapter 71 of the General Laws [MGL Ch71:16B], as amended, and Section #4C and E of the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District Agreement for its share of operational and capital costs of the Montachusett Regional Vocational School District, and to transfer, from the Capital Fund, the sum of \$12,227, for the purpose of paying the Town's portion of the debt and interest for the Montachusett Regional High School Building project for a total appropriation of \$854,409.

MOTION CARRIES BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 8. Transfer Balances from Old Warrant Articles to the Capital Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer remaining funds for previous Town Meeting Warrant articles as listed below to the Capital fund.

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Recapture</u>
01999-58001	FY08 #20 FOREST MANAGEMENT STUDY	2,670.00
01999-58002	FY17 ATM #19 OPEB ACTUARIAL	50.00
01999-58003	FY12 ATM #22 INFOTECH VARIOUS CAP ITEMS	6,685.99
01999-58004	FY14 ATM #21 IT VARIOUS CAPITAL	878.72
01999-58005	FY09 ATM #37 BUTTERICK BLDG VAULT	16,000.00
01999-58008	STM #6 REVIEW/WRITE REG & BYLAWS	19,848.70
01999-58015	AMBULANCE LEASE PAYMENTS	570.00
01999-58016	FY12 ATM #22 PD CAPITAL ITEMS	267.65
01999-58017	FY14 ATM #21 PD CAPITAL ITEMS	168.43
01999-58018	FY12 ATM #22 FD-VARIOUS CAP ITEMS	19,579.65
01999-58026	FY10 ATM #20 ENGINEER NEW SALT BARN	15,000.00
01999-58027	FY12 ATM #23 KENDALL HILL DRAINAGE	803.70
01999-58029	FY14 ATM #20 PICK UP TRUCK	159.56

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

<u>Account #</u>	<u>Account Description</u>	<u>Recapture</u>
01999-58032	FY12 ATM #22 LIBRARY CAPITAL ITEMS	2,700.00
01999-58033	FY13 ATM #35 LIBRARY CAPITAL	9,090.00
01999-58037	FY15 ATM 18C CONANT EX, WTR, LIG	7,000.00
01999-58038	FY15 ATM #3 FINANCIAL SOFTWARE	1,158.66
01999-58039	FY15 ATM #18F TELEPHONE SWITCH	19,000.00
01999-58047	FY15 ATM #34 WAHCUSSETT RECYCLING	2,985.00
01999-58051	FY16 ATM #11 POLICE CHIEF VEHICLE	262.00
01999-58058	FY16 ATM #29 VETERANS DISTRICT	20,000.00
01999-58061	FY16 ATM #38 STORM WATER COALITION	5,000.00
		\$ 151,973.06

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Recommendation: Capital Fund Committee recommends approval.

Summary: This article authorizes the Town to capture funds remaining from previous town meeting warrant articles, to close these accounts and to transfer these sums into the Capital Investment Fund. The projects listed are complete and these sums represent money not spent to complete these projects. The transfer into the capital fund allows the funding of new projects without increasing the tax rate.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from available funds the sum of \$151,973.06 funds remaining from previous Town Meeting warrant articles as printed in the warrant, to the Capital Investment Fund.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 9. Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Plan – Free Cash

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$368,586, or any other sum, to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Plan for the Town of Sterling, as recommended by the Finance Committee. This plan consists of the following items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Replace SUV	Fire Dept.	\$55,000
2. Replace Radio Equipment (5% grant match)	Fire Dept.	\$4,206
3. UHF Radio Improvements	Police Dept.	\$80,000
4. 3/4-Ton Truck	Public Works	\$45,000
5. Two Voting Machines	Town Clerk	\$14,000
6. Municipal IT Upgrades	Selectmen	\$47,336
7. Municipal E-mail Solution	Selectmen	\$31,070
8. Begin Replacing Computers	Selectmen	\$9,300
9. Purchase and Install Wireless Network at Chocksett and Houghton Schools	Selectmen	\$82,674
TOTAL		\$368,586

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Appropriated funds to be administered under the direction of the requesting department; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This article would provide funding for a portion of the Town Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2018. The Finance Committee has elected to combine all capital items into two articles based on funding sources to provide Town Meeting with a more complete picture of the Town's capital expenditures. The Moderator will address each item in turn during the presentation of the article. The Finance Committee recommends funding these capital items with a transfer from certified free cash.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$368,586 to be used to fund the Fiscal year 2018 Capital Plan for the Town of Sterling, as recommended by the Finance Committee, as printed in the warrant, such funds to be administered and expended under the direction of the requesting department.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 10. Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Plan – Capital Investment Fund

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Capital Investment Fund the sum of \$366,082, or any other sum, to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Plan for the Town of Sterling, as recommended by the Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee. This plan consists of the following items:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1. Paving Repairs	Facilities	\$20,639
2. Basement Build Out	Facilities	\$23,000
3. Paving Repairs	Library	\$11,943
4. Replace HVAC System	Library	\$300,000
5. Radar Speed Sign Project	Police Dept.	\$10,500
TOTAL		\$366,082

Appropriated funds to be administered under the direction of the requesting department; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Capital Committee recommends approval.

Summary: This article would provide funding for the Town Capital Plan for Fiscal Year 2018. The Finance Committee has elected to combine all capital items funded from the Capital Investment Fund into a single article to provide Town Meeting with a more complete picture of the Town's capital expenditures. The Moderator will address each item in turn during the presentation of the article.

The Finance Committee recommends funding these capital items with a transfer from the Capital Investment Fund.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from the Capital Investment Fund the sum of \$366,082 to be used to fund the Fiscal Year 2018 Capital Plan for the Town of Sterling, as

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recommended by the Finance Committee and the Capital Planning Committee, as printed in the warrant, such funds to be administered and expended under the direction of the requesting department.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 11. Water Dept. Operation Enterprise Fund

To see if the Town will vote to appropriate the sum of \$954,702, or any other sum, from water department revenue, and further to appropriate \$40,000 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, for extraordinary or unforeseen expense as determined by the DPW Board and approved by the Finance Committee, for a total appropriation of \$994,702 to operate the Water Department Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2018 under the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 5F1/2 [MGL Ch 44:53F 1/2], as follows:

Salaries/Wages	\$238,231	
Expenses	\$343,850	
Principle & Interest	\$248,451	
Indirect Costs	<u>\$124,170</u>	
Subtotal	\$954,702	from FY18 water charges and fees
Reserve Fund	<u>\$40,000</u>	from Retained Earnings
Total Appropriation	\$994,702	

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works Board

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: This article funds the Water Department budget solely from water revenue including charges, fees, and retained earnings; none is from taxation. This article includes a Reserve Fund for extraordinary or unforeseen expense. Use of this reserve fund will be only upon recommendation of the DPW Board and approval by the Finance Committee. The Water Enterprise will raise an additional \$124,170 from the ratepayers to reimburse the General Fund for indirect costs such as insurance. Total FY18 water revenue needed is \$954,702 plus \$40,000 from Retained Earnings, for a total of 994,702.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to appropriate the sum of \$954,702 from water department revenue, and further to appropriate \$40,000 from Water Enterprise Retained Earnings, for extraordinary or unforeseen expense as determined by the DPW Board and approved by the Finance Committee, for a total appropriation of \$994,702 to operate the Water Department Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2018 under the provisions of Chapter 44, Section 53F 1/2 [MGL Ch44:53F1/2], as printed in the warrant.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 12. Chapter 90 Funding

To see if the Town will vote to accept Chapter 90 funds in the amount of \$413,796, or any other sum, as funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway resurfacing and/or other related work or expenditures as allowed by the State Chapter 90 regulations, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, and in

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accordance with the DPW's 5-year Capital Plan reviewed annually by the Capital Plan Committee; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Department of Public Works

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at town meeting.

Summary: This article allows the Town to expend money under the guidelines of Chapter 90 for road maintenance, equipment purchases, and other Public Works projects which are then reimbursed by the Commonwealth. The House has approved a Chapter 90 bond authorization calling for Sterling to receive \$413,796 in this program during FY18. Funding will be finalized once it is approved by the Senate and signed by Governor Baker.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to accept Chapter 90 funds in the amount of \$413,796 as funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for highway resurfacing and/or other related work or expenditures as allowed by the State Chapter 90 regulations, said sum to be expended by the Department of Public Works, with approval of the Board of Selectmen, and in accordance with the DPW's 5-year Capital Plan reviewed annually by the Capital Plan Committee.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 13. Amendments to Personnel Policy Bylaw Compensation Matrices

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Personnel Policy Bylaw of the Town of Sterling, by updating Attachments C and E as follows:

**Attachment C – Compensation Schedule
Non-Union Regular Positions
(Effective July 1, 2017)**

Grade Level	Hourly Salary Range Minimum	Hourly Salary Range Mid-Point	Hourly Salary Range Maximum
I	\$13.44	\$16.14	\$18.82
II	\$14.55	\$18.19	\$20.36
III	\$16.73	\$20.91	\$24.26
IV	\$19.62	\$24.04	\$28.46
V	\$23.08	\$28.86	\$34.63
VI	\$33.93	\$42.41	\$50.90

Grade Level	Annual Salary Range Minimum	Annual Salary Range Mid-Point	Annual Salary Range Maximum
I	\$27,961	\$33,553	\$39,146
II	\$30,254	\$37,828	\$42,347
III	\$34,794	\$43,493	\$50,451
IV	\$40,821	\$50,007	\$59,191
V	\$48,011	\$60,020	\$72,028
VI	\$70,573	\$88,216	\$105,860

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**Attachment E – Compensation Schedule
Call Fire Force Positions
(Effective as of July 1, 2017)**

Grade Level	Hourly Salary Range Minimum	Hourly Salary Range Mid-Point	Hourly Salary Range Maximum
I	\$13.26	\$20.16	\$27.05

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee supports this article.

Summary: This article updates the compensation plan with a 2% cost of living increase.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to amend the Personnel Policy Bylaw of the Town of Sterling, by updating Attachments C and E as printed in the warrant.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 14. East Lake Waushacum Treatment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$10,100, or any other sum, to account 01999-58050, the East Lake Waushacum Treatment Account, said sum to be used for the study and treatment of the Lake, which is projected to cost \$20,200 during FY18. Remaining costs are to be financed by the East Lake Waushacum Association; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: The Conservation Commission

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Summary: The Conservation Commission and the East Lake Waushacum Association have worked for many years implementing the lake management program designed to address lake quality issues. While there has been much improvement documented, there is still work to be performed. Last year, monies were spent on herbicide treatment which helped to keep the town beach clear and open. This year the Commission is requesting \$10,100 towards total costs estimated at \$20,200 for the study and treatment of the lake. The remaining funds will be provided by the Lake Association. The Town will benefit from continued protection of water quality at the town beach, and continue to enjoy the programs organized by the town. These funds will also treat emergent vegetation for safety and lake quality.

MOTION MADE that the Town will vote to transfer from certified free cash, the sum of \$10,100, to account 01999-58050, the East Lake Waushacum Treatment Account. Said sum to be used for the study and treatment of the Lake, which is projected to cost \$20,200 during FY18.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 15. Fund Major 1835 Town Hall Repairs

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$610,000.00, or any other sum, to fund the roof and interior repairs to the Town Hall including the architectural design, project manager, construction, and all items and services related to the roof replacement and structural repairs, electric wiring and interior insulation and

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ceiling finish; provide design and connection to a septic system; provide design and installation of a wheel chair lift to make the building and second floor accessible and compliant with the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board; repair/replace the front columns; and design and install sprinkler system for the 1835 Town Hall; and that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c. 44, §20, thereby reducing by a like amount the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs. Said sum to be expended by the 1835 Town Hall Committee with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen, with any unused funds to be returned to the town upon completion of the project, however, no amount shall be borrowed or expended hereunder unless and until voters approve excluding the amounts required to repay any borrowing pursuant to the vote from the limitation on total property taxes contained in Chapter 59, Section 21C of the General Laws (also known as Proposition 2 ½); or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: Board of Selectmen defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: Finance Committee does not support spending the full amount this year, but recognizes this is a phased project and that it will be appropriate to spend this amount over a period of years. The Finance Committee recommends passage of this article only if the project is financed as excluded debt.

Recommendation: The 1835 Town Hall Committee does not support this article.

Summary: The Sterling Town Hall, built in 1835, is the oldest Town building in Sterling and one of the most important to our culture, history and heritage. Constructed on property donated to the Inhabitants of Sterling for the public use, it has been the center of our community for 182 years and in 2011 was reaffirmed by voters our Community Center. It is used as a Community Center for civic, organization and private meetings and events and it is home to the Recreation Department which uses every square foot for many children and adult programs. The slate roof dates back to the addition of 1893 and is badly in need of replacement. In 2005 and 2012, engineers provided structural recommendations and plans for roof replacement. This project includes architectural design project management, structural repairs, sheathing and underlayment, architectural asphalt shingles, insulation, finish carpentry, interior ceiling and walls, architectural elements sealed and stained, painting, electrical wiring and lighting. The wheel chair lift is required to bring the building up to code and is a requirement triggered by even modest renovations. The septic system upgrade is necessary to meet anticipated used plans and the existing columns are in need of repair. A sprinkler system is also recommended by the Fire Department. This list of repairs and renovations will return the building to its former stature and use. This article is intended to show the long-term cost of preserving the building without any grant funding.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$100,000 to fund (i) evaluation and analysis of the roof of the 1835 Town Hall to determine the scope, extent, and feasibility of repairs necessary and the costs therefore; (ii) the costs for removal of the existing second floor ceiling as may be required to conduct such roof evaluation; (iii) shoring or stabilization of the current roof, and/or any minor repairs necessary to ensure structural integrity of the building, if needed; (iv) evaluation and analysis of the septic system to determine the scope, extent, and feasibility of necessary septic improvements; (v) ascertain load ratio and

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costs for second floor design and upgrade to allow for assemblies; (vi) the costs of engineers, architects, other consultants (including attorneys) to perform said evaluations and prepare any necessary designs and plans; and (vii) any and all incidental and related costs. Said monies and coordination of this work to be under the control of the Board of Selectmen who will also appoint a committee to oversee this effort and report to the Selectmen.

Recommendation: Board of Selectmen supports this motion.

Recommendation: Finance Committee supports this motion.

Recommendation: 1835 Town Hall Committee does not recommend passage of this motion.

2nd MOTION MADE to postpone Article 15 and address Article 16 first.

**2nd MOTION VOTED TO TABLE ARTICLE 15 CARRIED BY MAJORITY AS
DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.**

ARTICLE 16. Fund 1835 Town Hall Roof Repairs Only – Fully Funded

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$298,000.00, or any other sum to fund the roof repairs to the Town Hall including the architectural design, project manager, construction, and all items and services related to the roof replacement and structural repairs, electric wiring and interior insulation and ceiling finish for the 1835 Town Hall, said sum to be expended by the 1835 Town Hall Committee with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen, with any unused funds to be returned to the town upon completion of the project; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee supports this article with the conditions that the funding source will be raise and appropriate, quarterly progress reports will be provided by the 1835 Committee, and that the 1835 Committee will aggressively pursue grants and fundraising for all future projects. The Finance Committee recognizes that the potential total project cost is \$610,000.

Recommendation: The 1835 Town Hall Committee supports this article.

Summary: The Sterling Town Hall, built in 1835, is the oldest Town building in Sterling and one of the most important to our culture, history and heritage. The slate roof dates back to the addition of 1893 and is badly in need of replacement. In 2005 and 2012, engineers provided structural recommendations and plans for roof replacement. This project includes architectural design project management, structural repairs, sheathing and underlayment, architectural asphalt shingles, insulation, finish carpentry, interior ceiling and walls, architectural elements sealed and stained, painting, electrical wiring and lighting. This article will provide funds to complete the roof repair/replacement work entirely. This article would make the second floor “usable space.” This article would require further financial investment in the 1835 Town Hall, sometime in the future, in order to comply with state and federal accessibility laws due to the amount of funds expended. This project is the preference of the 1835 Town Hall Committee for fiscal year 2018. This article will be moved “No Action” if the town votes affirmatively on Article 15.

3rd MOTION MADE on ARTICLE 16 [by John Kilcoyne]: to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$298,000 to fund the roof repairs to the Town Hall including the architectural design, project manager, construction, and all items and services related to the roof replacement and structural repairs, electric wiring and interior insulation and ceiling finish for the 1835 Town

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Hall, said sum to be expended by the 1835 Town Hall Committee with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen, with any unused funds to be returned to the Town upon completion of the project.

Recommendation: Board of Selectmen not comfortable with any of the Articles.

Recommendation: Finance Committee supports this motion as this was their original motion and planned for funding through Certified Free Cash.

Recommendation: 1835 Town Hall Committee in favor of this Article 16.

4th MOTION MADE to postpone Article 16 to a time certain which is after consideration of Article 16.

4th MOTION TO POSTPONE FAILED.

5th MOTION MADE to move the question.

5th MOTION CARRIED.

VOTE on 3rd MOTION: Motion on Article 16 carries by majority vote as declared by the Moderator.

6th MOTION MADE to take no action on Article 15.

6th MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR.

ARTICLE 17. Fund 1835 Town Hall Roof Repairs Only – Partial Funding

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$150,000.00, or any other sum to fund the roof repairs to the Town Hall including the architectural design, project manager, construction, and all items and services related to the roof replacement and structural repairs for the 1835 Town Hall, said sum to be expended by the 1835 Town Hall Committee with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen, with any unused funds to be returned to the town upon completion of the project; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee does not support the passage of this article. If this article passes, the Finance Committee recommends raise and appropriate as a funding source.

Recommendation: The 1835 Town Hall Committee does not support this article.

Summary: The Sterling Town Hall, built in 1835, is the oldest Town building in Sterling and one of the most important to our culture, history and heritage. This project includes structural repairs, sheathing and underlayment, and architectural asphalt shingles. The work covered under this Article is intended to preserve the basic integrity of the building until further plans are developed and additional funding obtained. This Article would not provide the second floor as a “usable space.” This article would require further financial investment in the 1835 Town Hall, sometime in the future, in order to comply with state and federal accessibility laws due to the amount of funds expended. This article will be moved “No Action” if the town votes affirmatively on Article 15 or 16.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to take no action relative to Article 17.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

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ARTICLE 18. Fund 1835 Town Hall Maintenance and Conveyance

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$15,000.00 or any other sum to fund for necessary building stabilization and preservation for the 1835 Town Hall and to transfer the control of the building to the Board of Selectmen of Sterling for the purposes of conveyance and to authorize the Selectmen to take any and all actions reasonably necessary to effectuate the transaction; or take any action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee does not support the passage of this article. If this article passes, the Finance Committee recommends raise and appropriate as a funding source.

Recommendation: The 1835 Town Hall Committee does not support this article.

Summary: This article allows for minimal repairs to preserve the basic integrity of the Sterling 1835 Town Hall until the building and land are conveyed or sold and authorizes the Board of Selectmen of Sterling to enter into agreements for the sale of the property if it is deemed by the Selectmen that this would be the best course of action for the town. This article will be moved “No Action” if the town votes affirmatively on Article 16, 16, or 17.

MOTION MADE that the Town will vote to take no action relative to Article 18.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

9:44pm MOTION MADE to reconsider not accepted by the Moderator

ARTICLE 19. Authorize Treasurer to Borrow Money

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, [MGL Ch 44:4], and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17 [MGL Ch 44:17]; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Treasurer/Collector

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This article allows the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Selectmen to borrow money as needed.

MOTION MADE that the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Board of Selectmen, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, [MGL Ch44:4], and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 4, Section 17 [MGL Ch44:17].

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 20. Compensating Balance Agreements

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F [MGL Ch 44:53F], to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017; or take any action in relation thereto.

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Submitted by: Treasurer/Collector

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This article allows the Treasurer/Collector to enter into compensating balance agreements with banking institutions as needed for the operation of the department. A compensating balance is a way of paying for the services the bank provides by maintaining a specified, minimum balance in a non-interest or low interest bearing account.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53F [MGL Ch 44:53F] to authorize the Town Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements, for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

RECESSED FOR 5 MINUTES AT 9:46pm

ARTICLE 21. Fund Post-Employment Benefits

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$150,000, or any other sum, to fund the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund, as recommended under GASB 45; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: Retirement benefits, and especially retirement health insurance, are a large and growing liability to the Town. This article continues our gradual funding of this liability, as recommend by the Government Accounting Standards Board.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$150,000, to fund the Other Post Employment Benefits Trust Fund, as recommended under GASB 45.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 22. Fund OPEB Actuarial Valuation

To see if the Town will raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$5,700, or any other sum, to retain an actuarial firm or actuarial firms to update the actuarial valuation of Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) provided by the Town to existing and future retirees, said sum to be expended by the Board of Selectmen; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Treasurer/Collector

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends the passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: New standards of the Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB 75) require that every two years municipalities must identify the true cost of other post employment benefits which will be earned by employees over their estimated years of actual service. This article will allow the Town to update the last actuarial valuation dated 7/1/15. Before the new standards a town the size of Sterling was required to complete a valuation every three years; now all municipalities must complete a valuation every two years regardless of size.

MOTION MADE that the Town transfer from Certified Free Cash \$5,700 to retain an actuarial firm or actuarial firms to update the actuarial valuation of Other Post Employment Benefits

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(OPEB) provided by the Town to existing and future retirees, said sum to be expended by the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 23. Fund Wachusett Greenways Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$1,300, or any other sum, to be used to pay the expenses, including but not limited to pay for a portable toilet and trail maintenance on the MASS Central Rail Trail, of the Wachusett Greenways, a six town collaborative, said funds to be administered and expended by Wachusett Greenways; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: Wachusett Greenways is a six Town collaborative. The organization's volunteers preserve and maintain the Rail Trail in Sterling.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$1,300 to be used to pay the expenses including but not limited to pay for a portable toilet and trail maintenance on the MASS Central Rail Trail, of the Wachusett Greenways, a six town collaborative, said funds to be administered and expended by Wachusett Greenways.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 24. Fund Sterling Land Trust Expenses

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds or borrow the sum of \$1,300, or any other sum, to be used toward the payment of expenses incurred by the Sterling Land Trust, Inc. to preserve and manage various parcels of land within the Town, said funds to be administered and expended by the Trust; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends the passage of this article.

Summary: This article would provide financial assistance to the Sterling Land Trust which maintains various parcels of preserved open space land within the Town for passive recreational use and enjoyment by residents.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$1,300 to be used toward the payment of expenses incurred by the Sterling Land Trust, Inc. to preserve and manage various parcels of land within the Town, said funds to be administered and expended by the Trust.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 25. Disposition of 19 Hardscrabble Road

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Board of Selectmen, a certain parcel of land, with the improvements thereon, known as 19 Hardscrabble Road, shown as "Lot #1," containing 332,374 S.F. +/- 7.63 Acres +/-, on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Sterling, MA Owned by Town of Sterling," dated December 21, 2016, recorded with the Worcester South District

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Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 925, Plan 3, said parcel held for general municipal purposes, to the Board of Selectmen, for purposes of conveyance, and authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all actions reasonably necessary to effectuate the transaction; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends passage of this article.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Conservation Commission recommends passage of this article.

Summary: This article would transfer a parcel of land currently held by the Board of Selectmen, for general municipal purposes, to the Board of Selectmen, for the purpose of sale, which disposition will be done in accordance with Chapter 30B, the Uniform Procurement Act.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to convey a certain parcel of land, with the improvements thereon, known as 19 Hardscrabble Road, shown as "Lot#1," containing approximately 332,374 S.F. +/- 7.63 Acres +/- on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Sterling, MA Owned by Town of Sterling," dated December 21, 2016, recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 925, Plan 3, and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any and all actions reasonably necessary to effectuate the transaction.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 26. Transfer Hardscrabble Road Parcel to Conservation Commission

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from the Board of Selectmen, held for general municipal purposes, to the Conservation Commission, for conservation purposes, subject to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, a certain parcel of land shown as "Parcel A," containing 72,910 S.F. +/- 1.67 Acres +/-, on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Sterling, MA Owned by Town of Sterling," dated December 21, 2016, recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Plan Book 925, Plan 3; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen/Conservation Commission

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Conservation Commission recommends passage of this article.

Summary: This article would transfer a parcel of land currently held by the Board of Selectmen, for general municipal purposes, to the Conservation Commission, for conservation purposes, which parcel has been subdivided from other property owned by the Town, and which will provide access to other land under the care, custody and control of the Conservation Commission, and subject this parcel to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from the Board of Selectmen, held for general municipal purposes, to the Conservation Commission, for conservation purposes, subject to Article 97 of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, a certain parcel of land shown as "Parcel A," containing approximately 72,910 S.F. +/- 1.67 Acres +/- on a plan entitled "Plan of Land in Sterling, MA Owned by Town of Sterling", Dated December 21, 2016 recorded with the Worcester South District Registry of Deeds in Plan book 925, Plan 3.

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MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 27. Senior Center Facilities Maintenance Technician

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$15,065, or any other sum, to fund the wages of a Facilities Maintenance Technician for the Sterling Senior Center for fifteen (15) hours per week, said position currently classified at Grade IV in the FY 2017 Personnel Bylaw, and said sum to be expended by the Council on Aging; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Council on Aging

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: Monies for this part time position are presently included in the Senior Center Operating Budget. At the moment an outside vendor is used for custodial duties which involve basic cleaning only. This new position would give the Senior Center the opportunity to employ an individual who could expand on custodial duties and do light maintenance and oversight. For example, tasks such as changing a light fixture, faucet drips, toilet backups, touch ups to paint, shoveling, sweeping, overall cleanliness, basic knowledge and control of heating, cooling and alarm systems are not in the purview of the outside vendor. The monies expended would allow for better quality services for the dollars involved.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from Senior Center Operations the sum of \$15,065, to fund the wages of a Facilities Maintenance Technician for the Sterling Senior Center for fifteen (15) hours per week, said position currently classified at Grade IV in the FY 2017 Personnel Bylaw, said sum to be expended by the Council on Aging.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 28. Senior Center Facilities Supervisor

To see if the Town will vote to fund the wages of a Facilities Supervisor for the Sterling Senior Center on an as-needed basis to supervise the facility when it is rented by non-town government groups, said position to be classified as a seasonal laborer in the FY 2017 Personnel Bylaw, and said sum to be funded with rental fees deposited into the Senior Center Usage Revolving Account, account number 24000-57001, and said sum to be expended by the Council on Aging; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Council on Aging

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: The monies for this very part-time position are already included in the Senior Center/COA usage fees. It benefits both the 'renter' and 'rentee' to have an individual who is familiar with the facility overseeing outside events and assuring quality of usage.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to fund the wages of a Facilities Supervisor for the Sterling senior Center on an as-needed basis to supervise the facility when it is seasonal laborer in the FY 2017 Personnel Bylaw, said sum to be funded with rental fees deposited into the Senior Center Usage Revolving Account, account number 24000-57001, and to be expended by the Council on Aging.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

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ARTICLE 29. Temporary Moratorium on Non-Medical Marijuana Establishments

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw by adding a new Section 4.9A , **TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NON-MEDICAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS**, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section 4.9A, "Temporary Moratorium on Non-Medical Marijuana Establishments:

Section 4.9A.1 Purpose

On November 8, 2016, the voters of the Commonwealth approved a law regulating the cultivation, processing, distribution, possession and use of marijuana for personal use (new G.L. c. 94G, Regulation of the Use and Distribution of Marijuana Not Medically Prescribed). The law, which allows certain personal use and possession of marijuana, is effective on December 15, 2016 and (as amended on December 30, 2016; Chapter 351 of the Acts of 2016) requires a Cannabis Control Commission to issue regulations regarding the licensing of commercial activities by March 15, 2018 and to begin accepting applications for licenses on or before April 1, 2018. Regulations to be promulgated by the Cannabis Control Commission may provide guidance on certain aspects of local regulation of Marijuana Establishments for non-medical marijuana. The regulation of marijuana for personal use raises novel legal, planning, and public safety issues, and the Town needs time to study and consider the regulation of Marijuana Establishments for non-medical marijuana and address such issues, as well as to address the potential impact of the State regulations on local zoning and to undertake a planning process to consider amending the Zoning Bylaw regarding regulation of Marijuana Establishments for non-medical marijuana. The Town intends to adopt a temporary moratorium on the use of land and structures in the Town for Marijuana Establishments for non-medical marijuana so as to allow the Town sufficient time to address the effects of such structures and uses in the Town and to enact bylaws in a consistent manner.

Section 4.9A.2 Definition

"Non-medical Marijuana Establishment" shall mean a marijuana cultivator, marijuana testing facility, marijuana product manufacturer, marijuana retailer or any other type of licensed marijuana-related business as defined in G.L. c. 94G.

Section 4.9A.3 Temporary Moratorium

For the reasons set forth above and notwithstanding any other provision of the Zoning Bylaw to the contrary, the Town hereby adopts a temporary moratorium on the use of land or structures for a Non-Medical Marijuana Establishment and other uses related to personal use of marijuana. The moratorium shall be in effect through June 30, 2018 or until such time as the Town adopts Zoning Bylaw amendments that regulate Non-Medical Marijuana Establishments, whichever occurs earlier. During the moratorium period, the Town shall undertake a planning process to address the potential impacts of recreational marijuana in the Town, consider the Cannabis Control Commission regulations regarding Non-Medical Marijuana Establishments, and shall consider adopting Zoning Bylaw amendments in response to these new issues. This temporary moratorium shall not affect in any way the use of land or structures for Registered Marijuana Dispensaries, (for medical marijuana), which are governed by Section of this Zoning By-law. Or take any other action relative thereto.

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Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Planning Board recommends approval.

Summary: The Act passed by the voters in November, 2016 (Chapter 334 of the Acts of 2016), which legalizes the recreational use of marijuana, contains a number of ambiguities with respect to the scope of local controls and may be subject to amendment by the legislature over the next several months. The zoning moratorium freezes the application or permitting process, essentially preventing new commercial recreational marijuana establishments in Sterling before June 30, 2018. The moratorium provides time for the town to write zoning bylaws and regulations governing commercial recreational marijuana establishments within the Town and to comply with any new State laws and regulations that may be enacted later this year. This zoning moratorium will only apply to commercial marijuana establishments and will have no impact on the ability of individuals to lawfully possess, consume, or grow recreational marijuana for personal use in accordance with the Act.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to amend the Town's Zoning Bylaw by adding a new Section 4.9A, **TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON NON-MEDICAL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS**, that would provide as printed in the warrant, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section 4.9A, "Temporary Moratorium on Non-Medical Marijuana Establishments:

MOTION CARRIES BY 2/3RDS VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 30. Update Open Space and Recreation Plan

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, or borrow the sum of \$10,000, or any other sum, to update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan, or take an action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Open Space Implementation Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Conservation Commission recommends passage of this article.

Summary: To retain the eligibility status of access to certain grants, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts requires that a town's Open Space and Recreation plan be revised along specific guidelines every seven years. The last update to Sterling's plan was prepared by the OSIC during 2009-2010, and was conditionally approved the Commonwealth in November of 2010. An update is now due for submission in 2017. Agreement from three to five years.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$10,000 to update the Town's Open Space and Recreation Plan.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 31. Amend Chapter 92 of the General Bylaws, Licenses, Denial Of

To see if the Town will vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Sterling, Licenses, Denial of, Section 92-2, List of Delinquent Persons, by inserting the phrase "and may

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periodically,” and deleting the phrase “for not less than a twelve-month period.” The amended section shall read:

§ 92-2 List of delinquent persons.

The Tax Collector or other municipal official responsible for records of all municipal taxes, assessments, betterments and other municipal charges (hereinafter referred to as the "Tax Collector") shall annually, and may periodically, furnish to each department, board, commission or division (hereinafter referred to as the "licensing authority") that issues licenses or permits including renewals and transfers, a list of any person, corporation, or business enterprise (hereinafter referred to as the "party") that has neglected or refused to pay any local taxes, fees, assessments, betterments or other municipal charges ~~for not less than a twelve-month period~~ and that such party has not filed in good faith a pending application for an abatement of such tax or a pending petition before the Appellate Tax Board.

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Treasurer/Collector

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Summary: Recent legislation allows municipalities greater flexibility in requiring applicants for certain licenses and permits to be current on taxes before the licenses or permits are issued. The legislation eliminates the twelve month waiting period and further allows the municipal collector to periodically, rather than annually, certify to permitting or licensing authorities the names of persons, corporations or business enterprises that have outstanding unpaid taxes or other charges. In order to take advantage of the updated legislation, the Town must amend its bylaw to be in conformance with the updates.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to amend the General Bylaws of the Town of Sterling, Licenses, Denial of, Section 92-2, List of Delinquent Persons, by inserting the phrase “and may periodically”, and deleting the phrase “for not less than a twelve-month period.” The amended section shall read as printed in the warrant.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 32. Revolving Funds Bylaw

To see if the Town will vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, as most recently amended, to amend the General Bylaws by inserting a new bylaw establishing various revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as follows:

Chapter 143 Revolving Funds

143-1 There are hereby established in the Town of Sterling pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c.44, §53E½, the following Revolving Funds:

Program or Purpose	Representative or Board Authorized to Spend	Department Receipts
Recycling	DPW	Fees and charges received from recycling
Fuel	DPW	Fees and charges received from town departments

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Deputy Collector	Treasurer/Collector	Fees and charges received from deputy collector
Planning Board Expenses	Planning Board	Fees and charges received from applicants
Council on Aging Expenses	Council on Aging	Fees and charges received from programs
Sterling Fair	Fair Committee	Fees and charges received from fair activity
Hazardous Materials	Fire Chief	Fees and charges received from hazardous material disposal
Radio Master Box Fees	Fire Chief	Fees and charges received from monitoring and usage
Agricultural Commission Expenses	Agricultural Commission	Fees and charges received from projects and programs
Recreation Committee Programs	Recreation Committee	Fees and charges received from programs
Wiring Inspector	Inspectional Services	Fees and charges received from inspections

143-2 Expenditures from each revolving fund set forth herein shall be subject to the limitation established annually by Town Meeting or any increase therein as may be authorized in accordance with G.L. c.44, §53E½ [MGL Ch44:53E ½].

And further, to set FY 2018 spending limits for such revolving funds as follows:

Program or Purpose	FY 2018 Spending Limit
Recycling	\$5,000
Fuel	\$60,000
Deputy Collector	\$18,000
Planning Board Expenses	\$25,000
Council on Aging Expenses	\$50,000
Sterling Fair	\$135,000
Hazardous Materials	\$55,000
Radio Master Box Fees	\$4,000
Agricultural Commission Expenses	\$5,000
Recreation Committee Programs	\$155,000
Wiring Inspector	\$20,000

Or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Town Accountant

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at town meeting.

Summary: Recent legislation requires that revolving funds must now be established by bylaw or ordinance, and that the expenditure limits must be established annually and prior to

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July first. This article establishes the bylaw and sets the expenditure limits for FY 2018. In future years, the town will be required only to establish the annual expenditure limits.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote pursuant to the provisions of G.L. c. 44, Section 53E ½ [MGL Ch44:53F½] as most recently amended, to amend the General Bylaws by inserting a new bylaw establishing various revolving funds, specifying the departmental receipts to be credited to each fund, the departmental purposes or programs for which each fund may be expended, and the entity authorized to expend each fund, such bylaw to provide as printed in the warrant; and further, to set the FY 2018 spending limits for such revolving funds as printed in the warrant.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 33. Building Rental Revolving Fund

To see if the Town will vote to provide for any amounts collected for building rentals, other than rental of school buildings, to be credited to a separate account to be expended without further appropriation by the board, committee or department head in control of the building for building-related upkeep and maintenance, and further, to accept the proviso of the second paragraph of G.L. c. 40, §3 to allow any balance in such an account at the close of the fiscal year to remain available for expenditure without appropriation for such purposes in future years; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Accountant

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at town meeting.

Summary: Recent legislation allows a municipality to segregate revenues from rental of municipal buildings and to spend such funds without further appropriation for building-related maintenance, as well as allowing the monies to be available for such purposes in a future fiscal year.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to provide for any amounts collected for building rentals, other than rental of school buildings, to be credited to a separate account to be expended without further appropriation by the board, committee or department head in control of the building for building related upkeep and maintenance, and further, to accept the proviso of the second paragraph of G.L.c.40, section 3 [MGL Ch 40:3] to allow any balance in such an account at the close of the fiscal year to remain available for expenditure without appropriation for such purposes in future years.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 34. Acceptance of Homestead Lane as a Public Way

To see if the Town will vote to accept as a public way the roadway known as Homestead Lane, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen and shown on a plan entitled "Town of Sterling-Road Acceptance Plan, Homestead Lane, Sterling, Massachusetts," dated 2/2/17, prepared by GRAZ Engineering, LLC, which plan is on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain the fee to and/or easements in Homestead Lane for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Sterling, and any drainage, utility, access, and/or other easements related thereto, all as shown on the plan; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

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Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Planning Board recommends approval.

Summary: This article will convert a new subdivision road for care and maintenance as a public way.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to accept as a public way the roadway known as Homestead Lane, as heretofore laid out by the Board of Selectmen and shown on a plan entitled "Town of Sterling-Road Acceptance Plan, Homestead Lane, Sterling, Massachusetts", dated 2/2/17, prepared by GRAZ Engineering, LLC, which plan is on file with the Town Clerk, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire by gift, purchase, and/or eminent domain the fee to and/or easements in Homestead Lane for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Sterling, and any drainage, utility, access, and/or other easements related thereto, all as shown on the plan.

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 35. Acceptance of Thomas Lane as a Public Way

Vote to accept Thomas Lane as a public way in its entirety together with all drainage easements, as laid out and as shown on a plan on file in the Town Clerk's office; such acceptance will not be final until the plan and the deed(s) to the aforesaid have been recorded in the Worcester Registry of Deeds by the current owner(s) or their representative(s) and duly delivered along with clear title to the Board of Selectmen.

Submitted by: Citizens' Petition

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen does not recommend approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Planning Board does not recommend approval.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to take no action relative to article 35.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 36. Fund Medical Waste Disposal Kiosk

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds, the sum of \$2,900.00 to support the disposal of medical sharps (like diabetic's needles) and unwanted/expired medications in two Public Health Kiosks located at the Sterling Police Department for FY18; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Health

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee recommends approval.

Summary: During 2014, the Sterling Board of Health had received a Public Health Grant from the Health Foundation of Central Mass. Inc. to obtain a prescription Drug Take Back kiosk and a Used Hypodermic Needle Collection Kiosk. The original grant covered the cost to acquire two kiosks and a limited amount of disposal expense. Grant funds are no longer available to continue this service. Based on current use of the kiosks, the \$2,900.00 budget will allow for emptying the Kiosks four times per year. Maintaining this expense will ensure proper disposals. Without this service syringes may end up in the landfill and medications may end up in the water stream if disposed of by flushing down a toilet.

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MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer from Certified Free Cash the sum of \$2,900.00 to support the disposal of medical sharps (like diabetic's needles) and unwanted/expired medications in two Public Health Kiosks located at the Sterling Police Department for FY18.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 37. Sterling Fair

To see if the Town will vote to continue to sponsor an annual Town Fair to promote the history and heritage of the Town to occur on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday following Labor Day in each September. Through this article, the Town will affirm that the Sterling Fair Committee is a Town committee appointed by the Board of Selectmen and has the support of the people of Sterling and the town employees and all town departments.

Submitted by: Fair Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen recommends approval.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Summary: The Sterling Fair was started in the early 1800's and was run privately by the Sterling Cattleman's Association. The fair continued through the 1940's and early 1950's until sometime in the late 1950's the fair unfortunately stopped because of a lack of volunteers. The fair was reborn in 1981 for the Town of Sterling's bicentennial, becoming a municipal fair run by the town of the Sterling. In 1999 Jimmy Simpson of Sterling Air and airport owner Henry Ciborowski graciously agreed to let the fair use Sterling Airport to hold the fair and keep it alive. In 2016, the Sterling Fair continued to be was the largest free fair of its size in New England attracting between 30,000 and 40,000 fair-goers. The fair continues to run on a lean budget, run completely by volunteers, including the all-volunteer Fair Committee. Currently there are 20 Sterling Fair Committee members, but we need at least 10 more, along with another 50 plus volunteers that go non-stop the week before and week after the fair.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to continue to support an annual Town Fair to promote the history and heritage of the Town to occur on the Friday, Saturday, and Sunday following Labor Day in each September.

MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 38. Naming of the Courtyard in the Area of the Art Department at WRHS

To see if the Town will vote to name the courtyard in the area of the Art Department at the Wachusett Regional High School in honor of Mr. Ralph Caouette; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Summary: Per WRSDC Policy 7161 "The Wachusett Regional School District shall not name, or permit to be named, a room or building owned by a Member Town as a memorial to any person or organization except by the vote of the respective town at a town meeting." Mr. Caouette was a Wachusett teacher from 1982 until his retirement in the summer of 2016, teaching high school students all 34 years of his Wachusett career. Mr. Caouette served as the Art Department Liaison, and then as the Art Department Head for several years and was a very well respected and valued member of the high school faculty. This article seeks to allow the

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WRSDC to honor him by naming the courtyard in the area of the Art Department at WRHS in his honor.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to name the courtyard in the area of the Art Department at the Wachusett Regional High School in honor of Mr. Ralph Caouette.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 39. Naming of the Gymnasium at Chocksett Middle School

To see if the Town will vote to name the Gymnasium at the Chocksett Middle School in honor of Ms. Susan Lauder; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Wachusett Regional School District Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen defers to town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee defers to town meeting.

Summary: Per WRSDC Policy 7161 “The Wachusett Regional School District shall not name, or permit to be named, a room or building owned by a Member Town as a memorial to any person or organization except by the vote of the respective town at a town meeting.” Mrs. Lauder was a Physical Education teacher in Sterling from 1978 until her retirement in the summer of 2015 and the Chocksett community would like to acknowledge Mrs. Lauder’s dedication and commitment to Sterling students over the many years.

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to name the Gymnasium at the Chocksett Middle School in honor of Ms. Susan Lauder.

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 40. Apply Stabilization Fund to Stabilize the Tax Rate

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from the Stabilization Fund, to stabilize the tax rate; or take any action in relation thereto.

Submitted by: Finance Committee

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen will report at town meeting.

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at town meeting.

Summary: This article appropriates stabilization funds to reduce the FY18 tax levy. The Finance Committee will submit an amount at town meeting after consideration of the spending on previously approved articles.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE that the Town vote to transfer the sum of \$150,000 from the Stabilization Fund, to stabilize the tax rate.

MOTION CARRIES BY 2/3 VOTE AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

ARTICLE 41. Annual Town Election

To elect by ballot on Monday, May 8, 2017 from 7:30am to 8:00pm at the Houghton Elementary School gym on 32 Boutelle Road, the following officers:

- (1) seat for Board of Assessors – 3 year term
- (1) seat for Board of Health – 3 year term
- (2) seats for Library Board of Trustees – 3 year term each
- (1) seat for Board of Selectmen – 3 year term

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- (1) seat for Constable – 3 year term
- (1) seat for Department of Public Works Board – 3 year term
- (1) seat for Planning Board – 5 year term
- (1) seat for Sterling Housing Authority –to fill a vacancy of 4 year term
- (1) seat for Sterling Municipal Light Board – 3 year term
- (2) seats for Wachusett Regional School District Committee –3 year term each

Also to choose by ballot or otherwise, such other officers as may be necessary. The polls shall be opened on Monday, May 8, 2017 at seven thirty o'clock in the forenoon (7:30am) and shall remain open until eight o'clock (8:00pm) in the evening.

At 10:26pm MOTION MADE to adjourn the Annual Town Meeting, only to reconvene on May 8, 2017 for the purpose of conducting the Annual Town Election and then to dissolve.
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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Account Description	2016 Actual	2017 Final	FY18 Dept Request	FY18 \$ Change	FY18 % Change
Moderator					
MODERATOR SALARY	0.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
MODERATOR EXPENSE	0.00	150.00	150.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	0.00	650.00	650.00	0.00	0.00%
Selectmen					
SELECTMEN SALARY	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	0.00%
SELECTMEN EXPENSE	2,500.00	2,500.00	2,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	7,000.00	7,000.00	7,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Town Administrator					
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR SALARY	92,636.15	93,840.00	97,410.00	3,570.00	3.80%
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR WAGES	76,131.74	77,284.38	79,264.00	1,979.62	2.56%
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR EXPENSE	50,853.38	72,000.00	72,000.00	0.00	0.00%
COA SENIOR TAX WORK OFF PROGRAM	9,832.68	15,217.00	15,217.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	229,453.95	258,341.38	263,891.00	5,549.62	2.15%
Finance Board					
FINANCE BOARD SALARY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
FINANCE BOARD EXPENSE	176.00	280.00	280.00	0.00	0.00%

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Finance Board: Department Total	176.00	280.00	280.00	0.00	0.00%
Accountant					
ACCOUNTANT SALARY	30,150.17	29,376.00	29,963.00	587.00	2.00%
ACCOUNTANT EXPENSE	649.20	7,750.00	7,750.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	30,799.37	37,126.00	37,713.00	587.00	1.58%
Audit					
AUDIT EXPENSE	19,500.00	20,500.00	21,500.00	1,000.00	4.88%
Department Total	19,500.00	20,500.00	21,500.00	1,000.00	4.88%
Assessor					
ASSESSOR SALARY	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,500.00	0.00	0.00%
ASSESSOR WAGES	39,749.75	44,007.90	44,847.00	839.10	1.91%
ASSESSOR EXPENSE	51,603.00	54,672.00	56,700.00	2,028.00	3.71%
ASSESSOR REVAL		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	95,852.75	103,179.90	106,047.00	2,867.10	2.78%
Treasurer/Collector					
TREASURER/COLLECTOR SALARY	58,837.60	59,978.00	61,158.00	1,180.00	1.97%
TREASURER/COLLECTOR WAGES	90,463.15	92,695.00	94,539.00	1,844.00	1.99%
TREASURER/COLLECTOR EXPENSE	29,075.67	42,566.00	47,566.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	178,376.42	195,239.00	203,263.00	3,024.00	1.55%

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Legal Services					
LEGAL SERVICES	47,959.13	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	47,959.13	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Human Resources					
HUMAN RESOURCE SALARY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
HUMAN RESOURCE EXPENSE	64.29	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
HUMAN RESOURCE TRAINING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	64.29	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
Information Technology					
IT PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	40,274.22	40,000.00	76,800.00	36,800.00	92.00%
IT EXPENSE	20,169.24	57,270.00	28,720.00	(28,550.00)	-49.85%
IT WEB HOSTING	2,700.00	5,400.00	0.00	(5,400.00)	-100.00%
IT GIS HOSTING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Department Total	63,143.46	102,670.00	105,520.00	2,850.00	2.78%
Personnel Board					
PERSONNEL BOARD TRAINING	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
PERSONNEL BOARD EXPENSE	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00%
PERSONNEL BOARD MERIT PAY	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	0.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00%

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Town Clerk					
TOWN CLERK SALARY	63,728.98	65,776.00	67,093.00	1,317.00	2.00%
TOWN CLERK WAGES	42,316.66	43,163.00	44,026.00	863.00	2.00%
TOWN CLERK EXPENSE	11,264.22	17,400.00	10,975.00	(6,425.00)	-36.93%
ELECTION WAGES	12,218.64	11,000.00	4,700.00	(6,300.00)	-57.27%
ELECTION EXPENSE	17,774.33	15,500.00	12,500.00	(3,000.00)	-19.35%
Department Total	150,788.06	156,339.00	142,794.00	(13,545.00)	-8.66%
Conservation					
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE WAGES	23,240.00	23,705.00	24,179.00	474.00	2.00%
CONSERVATION COMMITTEE EXPENSE	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00%
CENTRAL MASS STORMWATER COALITION	0.00	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	24,240.00	29,705.00	30,179.00	474.00	1.60%
Planning					
PLANNING SALARY	200.00	500.00	500.00	0.00	0.00%
MRPC EXPENSE	2,431.47	2,640.00	2,772.00	132.00	5.00%
PLANNING WAGE EXPENSE	13,832.83	16,997.00	17,337.31	340.31	2.00%
Department Total	16,464.30	20,137.00	20,609.31	472.31	2.35%
Board of Appeals					
BOARD OF APPEALS WAGES	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

BOARD OF APPEALS EXPENSE	6,552.38	8,887.00	7,000.00	(1,887.00)	-21.23%
Department Total	16,552.38	8,887.00	7,000.00	(1,887.00)	-21.23%
Agriculture/Forestry					
AGRICULTURAL EXPENSE	100.00	750.00	750.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	100.00	750.00	750.00	0.00	0.00%
Economic Development					
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE EXPENSE	0.00	13,500.00	13,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	0.00	13,500.00	13,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Open Space					
OPEN SPACE EXPENSE	746.57	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	746.57	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Facilities					
FACILITIES WAGES	27,352.25	31,598.00	32,229.96	631.96	2.00%
FACILITIES EXPENSE	65,597.34	71,576.00	71,576.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	92,949.59	103,174.00	103,805.96	631.96	0.61%
ADA Coordinator Stipend					
ADA COORDINATOR STIPEND	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	1,500.00	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Police					
POLICE SALARY	126,156.00	128,820.21	131,396.00	2,575.79	2.00%
POLICE WAGES	1,136,753.55	1,172,493.00	1,173,793.00	1,300.00	0.11%
POLICE EXPENSE	107,085.48	105,320.00	106,300.00	980.00	0.93%
POLICE CRUISER	38,762.00	39,000.00	40,000.00	1,000.00	2.56%
Department Total	1,408,757.03	1,445,633.21	1,451,489.00	5,855.79	0.41%
Dispatch					
COMMUNICATION WAGES	237,570.43	257,392.00	262,550.00	5,158.00	2.00%
COMMUNICATION EXPENSE	78,882.76	90,362.00	93,958.00	3,596.00	3.98%
Department Total	316,453.19	347,754.00	356,508.00	8,754.00	2.52%
Fire					
FIRE CHIEF SALARY	93,558.00	95,429.00	97,338.00	1,909.00	2.00%
FIRE WAGES	452,291.58	503,804.00	544,733.00	40,929.00	8.12%
FIRE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT STIPEND	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00	0.00	0.00%
FIRE EXPENSE	117,803.70	119,900.00	132,700.00	12,800.00	10.68%
FIRE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT EXPENSE	1,477.95	1,500.00	1,500.00	0.00	0.00%
FIRE EQUIPMENT LEASE	0.00	62,148.05	62,148.05	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	675,131.23	792,781.05	848,419.05	55,638.00	7.02%

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Ambulance					
AMBULANCE CHIEF SALARY	12,199.93	12,200.00	12,200.00	0.00	0.00%
AMBULANCE WAGES	285,231.97	304,530.00	314,427.00	9,897.00	3.25%
AMBULANCE EXPENSE	67,188.80	69,750.00	73,000.00	3,250.00	4.66%
AMBULANCE LEASE	0.00	38,867.20	38,867.20	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	364,620.70	425,347.20	438,494.20	13,147.00	3.09%
Inspectional Services					
BUILDING INSPECTOR SALARY	53,730.56	58,815.00	59,992.00	1,177.00	2.00%
INSPECTION WIRE INSP SALARY	13,720.00	15,300.00	0.00	(15,300.00)	-100.00%
INSPECTION PLUMBING INSP SALARY	10,000.00	10,200.00	10,404.00	204.00	2.00%
INSPECTON GAS INSP SALARY	5,500.00	5,610.00	5,723.00	113.00	2.01%
BUILDING INSPECTOR WAGES	20,120.92	37,918.00	38,000.00	82.00	0.22%
INSPECTION EXPENSE	5,379.41	5,550.00	5,550.00	0.00	0.00%
SEALER OF WEIGHT & MEASURES EXPENSE	1,200.00	1,200.00	1,200.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	109,650.89	134,593.00	120,869.00	(13,724.00)	-10.20%
Police-Animal Control					
ANIMAL CONTROL WAGES	19,668.18	20,748.00	21,163.00	415.00	2.00%
ANIMAL CONTROL EXPENSE	3,798.86	4,000.00	4,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	23,467.04	24,748.00	25,163.00	415.00	1.68%

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Animal Inspector					
ANIMAL INSPECTOR SALARY	1,000.00	1,250.00	1,500.00	250.00	20.00%
ANIMAL INSPECTOR EXPENSE	549.00	900.00	900.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	1,549.00	2,150.00	2,400.00	250.00	11.63%
DPW					
DPW SALARY	65,312.00	66,626.00	67,959.00	1,333.00	2.00%
DPW BOARD SALARY	1,800.00	1,800.00	1,800.00	0.00	0.00%
DPW WAGES	556,441.21	598,870.00	610,847.00	11,977.00	2.00%
DPW STREET LIGHTS	30,613.00	30,613.00	30,613.00	0.00	0.00%
DPW HYDRANT RENTAL	26,675.00	26,675.00	26,675.00	0.00	0.00%
DPW TRASH PICKUP	557,868.00	527,000.00	542,000.00	15,000.00	2.85%
REGIONAL RECYCLING	0.00	4,335.50	4,186.00	(149.50)	-3.45%
LANDFILL MONITORING	0.00	16,500.00	16,500.00	0.00	0.00%
DPW EXPENSE	303,145.90	319,420.00	319,420.00	0.00	0.00%
DPW EQUIPMENT LEASE	0.00	29,692.00	29,692.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	1,541,855.11	1,621,531.50	1,649,692.00	28,160.50	1.74%
DPW Snow & Ice					
SNOW & ICE WAGES	25,226.77	60,000.00	60,000.00	0.00	0.00%
SNOW & ICE EXPENSE	97,716.07	116,000.00	116,000.00	0.00	0.00%

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Snow & Ice: Department Total	122,942.84	176,000.00	176,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Board of Health					
BOH SALARY	309.00	309.00	309.00	0.00	0.00%
BOH INSPECTOR SALARY	78,495.28	82,000.00	88,130.00	6,130.00	7.48%
BOH WACHUSETT HOME HEALTH CARE	0.00	1,500.00	0.00	(1,500.00)	-100.00%
BOH MONTACHUSETT PUBLIC HEALTH	3,675.00	4,500.00	3,200.00	(1,300.00)	-28.89%
BOH EXPENSE	4,387.09	4,530.00	4,530.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	86,866.37	92,839.00	96,169.00	3,330.00	3.59%
Council on Aging					
COA WAGES	121,887.01	123,933.00	133,800.00	9,867.00	7.96%
COA HOME CARE	400.00	400.00	400.00	0.00	0.00%
COA TITLE VII NUTRITION AND WHEAT	4,300.00	4,500.00	4,300.00	(200.00)	0.00%
COA EXPENSE	14,992.41	16,050.00	16,050.00	0.00	0.00%
SENIOR CENTER OPERATIONS	4,748.38	31,000.00	31,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	146,327.80	175,883.00	185,550.00	9,667.00	5.50%
Cultural Council					
CULTURAL COUNCIL	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00%
Department Total	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00%

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Veterans					
VETERANS EXPENSE	6,652.89	22,200.00	22,200.00	0.00	0.00%
VETERANS BENEFITS	20,633.44	30,000.00	30,000.00	0.00	0.00%
Veterans: Department Total	27,286.33	52,200.00	52,200.00	0.00	0.00%
Library					
LIBRARY SALARY	73,468.39	74,941.00	77,189.00	2,248.00	3.00%
LIBRARY WAGES	193,534.31	202,511.00	207,341.00	4,830.00	2.39%
LIBRARY EXPENSE	110,626.04	115,017.00	119,581.00	4,564.00	3.97%
Department Total	377,628.74	392,469.00	404,111.00	11,642.00	2.97%
Recreation					
RECREATION SALARY	48,200.84	49,155.00	50,138.10	983.10	2.00%
RECREATION WAGES	33,269.24	37,341.00	40,242.17	2,901.17	7.77%
RECREATION EXPENSE	6,500.00	7,650.00	7,800.00	150.00	1.96%
Department Total	87,970.08	94,146.00	98,180.27	4,034.27	4.29%
Historical Commission					
HISTORICAL EXPENSE	539.86	1,000.00	1,250.00	250.00	25.00%
Department Total	539.86	1,000.00	1,250.00	250.00	25.00%
Extension Service					
EXTENSION SERVICE	510.00	510.00	510.00	0.00	0.00%

**Special and Annual Town Meeting
May 1, 2017**

Extension Service: Department Total	510.00	510.00	510.00	0.00	0.00%
Memorial & Veterans Day					
MEMORIAL AND VETERANS DAY	4,375.60	5,600.00	5,600.00	0.00	0.00%
Memorial & Veterans Day: Department Total	4,375.60	5,600.00	5,600.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service					
DEBT - LONG TERM PRINCIPAL	1,550,000.00	1,590,000.00	1,606,000.00	16,000.00	1.01%
DEBT - LONG TERM INTEREST	389,136.34	336,665.00	278,025.00	(58,640.00)	-17.42%
DEBT - SHORT TERM INTEREST	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
Department Total	1,939,136.34	1,926,665.00	1,884,025.00	(42,640.00)	-2.21%
BENEFITS (Health,Med,Unem,Liab)					
BENEFITS (Health,Med,Unem,Liab)	1,254,631.13	1,417,929.40	1,485,468.00	67,538.60	4.76%
Department Total	1,254,631.13	1,417,929.40	1,485,468.00	67,538.60	4.76%
Worc County Retirement					
RETIREMENT	570,018.00	616,567.00	668,846.00	52,279.00	8.48%
Department Total	570,018.00	616,567.00	668,846.00	52,279.00	8.48%

11,080,795.79

Final	Fin Com Rec	Change	Change
10,869,174.64	11,080,795.79	206,621.15	1.90%

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2017

Approved by Attorney General – n/a
Uploaded to the website on 13 February 2018

A true copy

Attest:

Dawn E. Michanowicz, Town Clerk

**Special Town Meeting
November 14, 2017**

At 6:30pm on Tuesday November 14, 2017, the Town Moderator, Amrith Kumar, opened the Special Town Meeting held in the Chocksett School on 40 Boutelle Road in said Town of Sterling. There was a quorum present; 285 voters attended the meeting.

Town Moderator Kumar mentioned those who have recently passed and have served the Town in various capacities, to include:

- ☐ (William) Doug Day, Capt. at Sterling Fire Department
- ☐ Donald Myles Mitchell, Medical Doctor at the school
- ☐ Mary Louise Higgins, Senior Center volunteer and dedicated worker
- ☐ Peter Tosi, Volunteer Service for the Town
- ☐ Marilyn Morgan, retained a retail business in Town for 33 years

The Moderator requested a moment of silence to honor them as well as those who have served in the Armed Forces and passed away within this year.

All non-voters or non-residents of the Town were asked to stand, to be recognized by the Moderator:

Joe Curtin, Member Municipal Light Board
Ryan Ferguson
Jan Gottsman, The Item
Sean Hamilton, General Manager Sterling Municipal Light Department
Brian Johnson
Chris LeBreck, Principal Chocksett School
Dawn Michanowicz, Town Clerk
Steve Mucci
Sachin Patel
Michelle Randazzo, Esq. Town Counsel, Kopelman and Paige
Josh Teigiser, Origis Energy
Tara Turley
Ross Perry, Town Administrator
Joseph Scanlon, Director of Business and Finance, Wachusett Regional School District
Mary Vocino
Jeff Willman

The following tellers were appointed and sworn in by the Town Clerk:

Jim French, 19 Johnson Road
Tim Tunney, 9 Olde Parish Lane
Ron Furmaniuk, 3 James Road

Moderator Kumar, citing the Town bylaw Ch. 180-12, anything that requires a 2/3 vote, the count need not be taken [voted Art. 16 on 4Aug1997].

Moderator Kumar noted the receipt of the posting of the Warrant for the Special Town Meeting by Constable, Michael Pineo.

MOTION MADE to dispense with the reading of the Warrant.

MOTION PASSED AS DECLARED BY THE MODERATOR

**Special Town Meeting
November 14, 2017**

ARTICLE 1. Approve Payment in Lieu of Taxes for Solar Company

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into Structured Tax Agreements or agreements for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H (b), and Chapter 164, Section 1, or any other enabling authority, for a term of years for both real property and/or personal property, as applicable, associated with solar photovoltaic facilities, including but not limited to facilities to be located on land known as 15-23 Chocksett Road and shown as parcel 21-22 on Assessors' map 66, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town, and to take all action necessary to implement such agreements; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Sterling Municipal Lighting Department

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen supports this article

Finance Committee: will report at town meeting/Finance Committee voted to recommend this article

Summary: Origis Energy is entering into a Lease agreement with Rock Breakers, LLC (i.e. Vincent Campobasso) to place solar panels on the roof of the warehouse building. Origis has entered into a 25-year Power Purchase Agreement with the Sterling Municipal Light Department for the capacity and energy from the one (1) megawatt (MW) Solar Array plus 1 MW/2MWH Energy Storage System.

The PILOT agreement covers the solar and battery equipment. It does not change the tax payments for the land and buildings.

MOTION MADE: that the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to negotiate and enter into Structured Tax Agreements or agreements for payments-in-lieu-of-taxes (PILOT) pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 38H (b), [MGL Ch 59:38H(b)] and Chapter 164, Section 1, [MGL Ch 164:1] or any other enabling authority, for a term of years for both real property and/or personal property, as applicable, associated with solar photovoltaic facilities, including but not limited to facilities to be located on land known as 15-23 Chocksett Road and shown as parcel 21-22 on Assessors' map 66, upon such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen shall deem to be in the best interest of the Town, and to take all action necessary to implement such agreements.

MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 2. Fund Police Union Contract

To see whether the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds the sum of \$300,701 or any other sum to fund and implement certain provisions of the new collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Sterling and the Sterling Police Union, FOP, Lodge 44, for Fiscal Years 2016-2018, including retroactive pay increases; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen supports this article.

The Finance Committee will report at town meeting

Summary: The labor contract with the Police expired on June 30, 2015. Before and after the expiration there were several negotiations and mediation sessions. On the day of the arbitration, the Union and the Town reached an agreement. This article funds the agreed changes for a three-year period retroactive to July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018. The contract settlement also

**Special Town Meeting
November 14, 2017**

includes a one-year extension for FY 19, thus avoiding new contract negotiations in a few months. The funding for the extension to FY19 will be voted in May 2018 annual town meeting.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE: that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$300,701 to fund and implement the cost provisions of the collective bargaining agreement between the Town of Sterling and the Sterling Police Union, FOP, Lodge 44, for Fiscal Years 2016-2018, including retroactive pay increases.

MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 3. Marijuana Establishments

To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town's Protective Bylaws by adding a new Section 4.9B, **MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENTS**, that would provide as follows, and further to amend the Table of Contents to add Section 4.9B, "Marijuana Establishments".:

Section 4.9B Marijuana Establishments

Consistent with General Laws, Chapter 94G, Section 3(a)(2), all types of non-medical "marijuana establishments" as defined in General Laws, Chapter 94G, Section 1, including marijuana cultivators, independent testing laboratories, marijuana product manufacturers, marijuana retailers or any other types of licensed marijuana-related businesses, shall be prohibited within the Town of Sterling.

Or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Planning Board

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at town meeting

Summary: The Planning Board recommended article will prohibit non-medical marijuana establishments from coming to Sterling.

MOTION MADE: to take no action on article 3.

MOTION CARRIES by MAJORITY VOTE as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 4. 1835 Town Hall Septic Design

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, or transfer from available funds \$2,020, or any other sum, and transfer the sum of \$3,580.35 from the Article 10 of the May 16, 2011 annual town meeting warrant to an 1835 Town Hall Septic Design Account. The total sum of \$5,600.35, or any other sum, to fund the Phase II 1835 Town Hall Septic Design. Said sum to be expended by the 1835 Town Hall Committee with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: The 1835 Town Hall Committee

Recommendation: The Finance Committee will report at town meeting/Finance Committee voted to support this article.

Summary: The 1835 Town Hall requires an engineering design to complete the connection between the 1835 Town Hall septic and the Fire House leaching area as planned when the Fire House was built in 2001. A circa 1945 drainage pipe was put in by the Town of Sterling between Maple Street and Waushacum Avenue. The total project will survey the route and furnish the design, construction layout, construction observation and construction as-built services for a proposed sewer force main running from the 1835 Town Hall Building to the existing Town

**Special Town Meeting
November 14, 2017**

absorption field off Waushacum Ave. in accordance with Sterling Board of Health and Mass Department of Environmental Protection Regulations.

Phase I was completed in 2016 and provided a horizontal control survey along the proposed route and a search to locate easement documents. Phase II of this three phase engineering plan will yield profile plans that will utilize the path of this drainage pipe to be used for the design of the proposed force main, including property lines and easements and preparation of recordable easement sketch plans & easement legal descriptions for proposed easement acquisitions. Phase III will provide the actual layout of the force main components for construction and furnish construction observation as required and make as built measurements of the system components along with as-built plans of the system.

Completion of phase II at a total cost of \$5,580 will permit the Town to seek easements for the land that the 1945 drainage pipe occupies. Such easements for the specified property have not been found to exist.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE: that the Town transfer from Free Cash the sum of \$2,020, and to transfer the sum of \$3,580.35 from Article 10 of the May 16, 2011 annual town meeting warrant, for a total appropriation of \$5,600.35, to the 1835 Town Hall Septic Design Account, for the purpose of funding the Phase II 1835 Town Hall Septic Design, such sum to be expended by the 1835 Town Hall Committee with the advice and consent of the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION CARRIES UNANIMOUSLY as declared by the Moderator.

ARTICLE 5. Butterick Building Lower level Office Space Build Out

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$20,000, or any other sum, to be used to continue the conversion of the basement in the Butterick Building to new office space; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Town Administrator

Recommendation: The Selectmen support this article.

The Finance Committee will report at town meeting/Finance Committee supports this article

Summary: Multiple offices in the Town Hall are very cramped and in need of more space. The plan is to finish dividing the former Council On Aging area in the basement and move the Board of Health, the Facilities Manager, and Recreation Director into the refurbished offices. This will enable with minimal disruption, the Town Clerk's and Building Commissioner's offices on the first floor to expand laterally.

The initial estimate for this project approved at the May 1, 2017 Annual Town Meeting included funds to build one large office in the basement. These plans changed and now the plan is to build one medium sized office and 4 smaller offices to provide more overall space and more flexibility.

REQUIRES 2/3 VOTE

MOTION MADE: that the Town transfer the sum of \$20,000 from Free Cash, for the purpose of continuing the conversion of the basement in the Butterick Building to new office space.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE as declared by the Moderator.

**Special Town Meeting
November 14, 2017**

ARTICLE 6. Repairs to the Houghton Playground Structure

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds \$4500, or any other sum, to be used to repair the playground climbing structure at the Houghton School. Said sum to be expended by the Town Administrator with the consent of the Board of Selectmen; or take any other action relative thereto.

Submitted by: Board of Selectmen

Recommendation: The Board of Selectmen supports this article.

The Finance Committee will report at town meeting/Finance Committee supports this article

Summary: This structure was purchased several years ago. There are two sections, tunnel slide and chain ladder, that need replacement. If approved, the Town will purchase the replacement components and the Department of Public Works will handle the installation.

2/3 VOTE REQUIRED

MOTION MADE: that the Town transfer from the sum of \$4,500 from Free Cash for the purpose of funding repairs to the playground climbing structure at the Houghton School, said sum to be expended by the Town Administrator with the consent of the Board of Selectmen.

MOTION PASSED BY 2/3 VOTE as declared by the Moderator.

At 7:05pm motion made and passed to dissolve Special Town Meeting in record time.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS,
BOARD, COMMITTEE &
DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

2017

BOARD OF ASSESSORS

Fiscal Year 2017 Assessments and Property Tax Revenue Summary

<u>Property</u>	<u>Class Levy %</u>	<u>Valuation by Class</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>
Residential	86.1463	849,217,529	18.03	15,311,392.05
Commercial	4.1431	40,842,571	18.03	736,392.56
Industrial	5.3888	53,121,700	18.03	957,784.25
Personal Property	4.3218	42,603,592	18.03	768,142.76
TOTALS	100.0000	985,785,392		17,773,710.62

Valuation and Tax History

<u>Fiscal</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>Total Valuation</u>	<u>Accounts</u>	<u>Tax Levy</u>	<u>Change%</u>
2017	18.03	985,785,392	3,726	17,773,710	1.505
2016	18.33	955,209,193	3,720	17,508,985	7.439
2015	17.29	942,550,134	3,797	16,296,692	3.756
2014	16.93	927,916,388	3,780	15,709,624	3.413
2013	16.35	929,121,078	3,753	15,191,130	1.763

Abstract of Assessments

<u>Property Class Code & Description</u>	<u>Accts</u>	<u>Class Valuation</u>	<u>Avg. Value</u>
101 Residential Single Family	2,512	758,104,300	301,793
102 Residential Condominiums	167	32,362,400	
Miscellaneous Residential	18	5,911,100	
104 Residential Two Family	92	24,226,000	
105 Residential Three Family	6	2,244,700	
111-125 Apartments	8	2,781,400	
130-132 & 106 Vacant Land	379	20,601,500	
300-393 Commercial	69	34,135,600	
400-452 Industrial	115	53,033,100	
501-552 Personal Property	148	42,603,592	
600-821 Chapter 61, 61A, 61B	133	3,172,700	
012-043 Mixed Use Properties	18	6,609,000	
TOTALS	3,726	985,785,392	
Exempt	264	138,122,700	

Assessors' Account for Exemptions and Abatements

<u>Description</u>	<u>FY2017</u>	<u>FY 2016</u>	<u>FY2015</u>
Assessors' Overlay	\$109,896.62	\$103,964.51	\$106,119.16
Charges through 6/30	\$ 72,542.58	\$82,588.67	\$57,401.16
Overlay Balance as of 01/01/2016			\$209,698.45
Potential ATB Liability			\$35,000.00

New Growth Revenues

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Added Valuation</u>	<u>Tax Rate</u>	<u>New Revenue</u>
2017	9,728,642	18.33	178,326
2016	12,489,161	17.29	215,938
2015	10,770,237	16.93	182,340
2014	7,248,501	16.35	118,513
2013	6,330,000	15.65	99,064

**REPORT OF THE TREASURER/COLLECTOR
EMPLOYEE GROSS WAGES - CALENDAR YEAR 2017**

Last Name	First Name	Department	Gross Wages
Agurkis	Peter	Recreation	\$2,068.32
Alcock	Alexzandra	Public Works	\$1,666.00
Allen	Chad	Light Department	\$147,721.66
Annapragada	Mrithyunjaya	Moderator	\$500.00
Aponte	Alfredo	Accountant	\$29,657.49
Ares	Erik	Fire	\$87,006.43
Arsenault	Christine	Light Department	\$59,839.78
Ash	James	Council on Aging	\$6,494.22
Aubin	Gregg	DPW Board	\$600.00
Baker	Charles	Fire	\$1,680.38
Baker	Christopher	Fire	\$3,559.64
Barriere	Richard	Election Worker	\$384.00
Belair	Jacquelyn	Recreation	\$2,468.01
Bellizzi	Andrew	Fire	\$159.75
Boardman	Nickole	Council on Aging	\$17,446.76
Bonnell	Edward	Assessor	\$633.15
Boquist	Jane	Election Worker	\$280.50
Borge	Darren	Light Department	\$94,615.40
Bourque	Brian	Police	\$94,095.71
Braconnier	Michelle	Dispatchers	\$50,872.79
Breagy	Richard	Building	\$35.00
Bristol	Lisa	Fire	\$43,472.80
Bristol	Mark	Recreation	\$1,088.44
Brodrick	Ian	Library	\$28,286.73
Brosque	Steven	Fire	\$23,253.20
Brunetta	Jane	Election Worker	\$126.50
Buckley	Veronica	Council on Aging	\$52,292.00
Cabrera	Luis	Public Works	\$2,792.25
Calderon	Cristian	Light Department	\$3,678.25
Camerano	Irene	Election Worker	\$1,352.00
Campbell	Patricia	Library	\$75,733.00
Carroll	Virginia	Senior Tax Workoff	\$650.75
Casey	Connor	Recreation	\$7,908.40
Cassata	Melissa	Council on Aging	\$13,283.99
Cawley	Paul	Town Hall	\$14,395.59
Cervantes	Anne	Treasurer/Collectors	\$27,454.06
Chalmers	Melissa	Election Worker	\$2,635.00
Chamberland	Gary	Police	\$133,344.95

Chaples	Joshua	Fire	\$908.96
Chapman	Emily	Recreation	\$2,079.69
Chestnut-Maloney	Joyce	Election Worker	\$71.50
Clark	Donna	Board of Health	\$103.00
Cleary	Constance	Election Worker	\$253.00
Conley	Brian P.	Fire	\$378.98
Constantino	Paul C.	Police	\$159,514.07
Cote	Angela	Library	\$29,582.07
Coughlin	Denis	Council on Aging	\$5,803.22
Coughlin	Florence	Election Worker	\$49.50
Courville	Lois	Election Worker	\$192.50
Cranson	Maureen	Board of Selectmen	\$1,500.00
Culgin	Sarah	Building	\$59,157.44
Cullinane	Erin	Fire	\$11,438.36
Cummings	Jo-Ann	Election Worker	\$99.00
Curtin	Joseph	Light Department	\$2,250.00
Cutler	Robert	Assessor	\$1,500.00
Czajkowski	Doris M.	Public Works	\$24,703.58
Dame	Benjamin	Dispatchers	\$1,114.75
Day	Deane	Fire	\$2,011.62
Day	Devin	Public Works	\$14,297.71
Day	W. David	Fire	\$15,174.07
DeCiero	Lisa	Public Works	\$47,540.16
Dell	Pamela	Council on Aging	\$19,331.69
d'Entremont	Phil	Fire	\$72,129.51
Dietel	Julie	Recreation	\$154.00
Dietel	Kristen	Recreation	\$49,433.20
DiPietro	Andrew	Fire	\$40.59
DiReda	Gianna	Recreation	\$2,507.44
DiVirgilio	James	Fire	\$27,331.96
Donohue	Geoffrey	Public Works	\$46,716.97
Downey	Jacob	Recreation	\$2,850.13
Dreyer	Deborah	Assessor	\$42,738.00
Dunn	James	Electrical Insp.	\$11,865.00
Dupuis	Deborah A.	Election Worker	\$198.00
Emerton	James	Fire	\$81,053.84
Emsley	Connor	Recreation	\$2,663.11
Farrell	Kathleen	Town Clerks	\$6,422.00
Favreau	David	Board of Health	\$59,322.00
Favreau	Lawrence	DPW Board	\$600.00
Ferguson	Ryan	Police	\$110,758.73

Finizio	Nicholas	Fire	\$19,729.51
Fisher	Clare	Senior Tax Workoff	\$954.50
Fitzgerald	Brian	Public Works	\$44,425.20
Flynn	Heidi	Library	\$21,570.94
Foley	Brian J.	Light Department	\$117,472.40
Forgione	Nancy	Light Department	\$59,358.70
Fugere	Steven	Police	\$95,807.09
Fuller	Steven	Election Worker	\$110.00
Gagne	Michelle	Police	\$45,074.81
Gamblin	Caroline	Senior Tax Workoff	\$374.00
Gaudette	Sean W.	Police	\$112,128.19
Gauld	David	Public Works	\$4,840.00
Gerardi	Paul	Public Works	\$60,460.78
Gianos	Sarah	Fire	\$12,426.93
Gillis	Jeremy	Town Clerks	\$4,217.50
Glasier	Judith	Election Worker	\$192.50
Glow	Madeline	Recreation	\$4,563.58
Gold	Marjorie	Library	\$15,051.56
Gold	Philip	Library	\$11,242.22
Golen	Saige	Recreation	\$1,815.88
Gould	Barbara	Election Worker	\$264.00
Grady	Dylan	Recreation	\$1,518.76
Gray	Timothy	Light Department	\$165,786.31
Grebinar	Alexandra	Library	\$46,427.61
Grebinar	Kevin	Fire	\$17,745.90
Greenwood	David	Fire	\$14,972.86
Greenwood	Kathleen	Election Worker	\$236.50
Hallet	Utahna	Election Worker	\$269.50
Hamilton	Brandon	Fire	\$2,608.77
Hamilton	Sean	Light Department	\$189,380.56
Hanchett	Benjamin	Recreation	\$4,727.07
Harding	Donald W.	DPW Board	\$600.00
Harragian	Cathy	Senior Tax Workoff	\$608.00
Harrington	John	Electrical Insp.	\$35.00
Hartnett	James	Election Worker	\$384.00
Harvey	Mary	Recreation	\$2,557.20
Harvey	William	Recreation	\$2,622.13
Healey	Johnathan	Fire	\$493.58
Hehir	Daniel	Fire	\$3,352.31
Heller	Elaine	Board of Health	\$4,903.86
Hendley	Meggin	Light Department	\$51,633.65

Hewson	Denise	Election Worker	\$120.00
Hoffman	Allen	Board of Health	\$103.00
Holmquist	Margaret	Recreation	\$6,856.06
Horning	Sean	Public Works	\$51,842.32
Hougham	Brianna	Recreation	\$3,477.01
Hudson	Sheila	Election Worker	\$2,694.50
Huntoon	Carmen	Election Worker	\$176.00
Hurlbut	Florine	Election Worker	\$912.50
Hurlbut Jr.	David	Fire	\$126,352.24
Janda	Judith	Recreation	\$13,223.62
Janda	Robert	Gas/Plumb Insp.	\$15,901.51
Jayne	Kama	Executive Secretary	\$47,319.13
Johnson	David	Fire	\$7,684.99
Johnson	David	Police	\$111,776.71
Johnson	Scott	Police	\$109,465.14
Kazan	Betty	Planning Board	\$15,351.17
Kelly	Julia	Library	\$2,971.84
Kilcoyne	John	Board of Selectmen	\$1,500.00
Kimball	Linda	Fire	\$190.90
Kinahan	George	Fire	\$1,838.05
Kirkpatrick	Robert	Fire	\$12,808.02
Kokernak	Thomas	Fire	\$110,491.32
Laitala	John	Fire	\$8,738.23
Lanciani	Alexis	Dispatchers	\$9,733.10
Lane	Richard	Board of Selectmen	\$1,500.00
Leclerc	Karen	Treasurer/Collectors	\$43,157.36
Lein	Barry	Senior Tax Workoff	\$919.50
Long	Marjorie	Election Worker	\$275.00
Lyons	David	Public Works	\$59,962.20
Lyons	Paul	Public Works	\$69,381.56
Macarthur	Debra J	Dispatchers	\$69,908.60
MacArthur	Garrett	Dispatchers	\$59,512.24
Mallette	Danielle	Police	\$3,250.00
Maloney	William	Fire	\$1,310.85
Mammone	Karen	Public Works	\$13,603.68
Marro	Matthew	Conservation	\$25,340.24
Martin	Craig	Fire	\$1,930.57
Mason	Christine	Senior Tax Workoff	\$30.00
Massa	Emma	Police	\$587.50
Massa	Louis	Animal Control Officer	\$36,854.62
Matthews	Edmoth	Fire	\$595.82

McAuliffe	John	Fire	\$1,761.26
McCarthy	Johanna	Recreation	\$3,678.76
McGrath	Emma	Recreation	\$5,757.77
McGuirk	Arlene	Election Worker	\$242.00
McLellen	Sally	Town Clerks	\$3,211.00
McNamara	Edward	Fire	\$1,995.09
Menin	Gary	Board of Health	\$103.00
Mercier	Jacob	Fire	\$514.00
Mercier	Linda	Election Worker	\$176.00
Metcalf	Dawn	Building	\$33,572.04
Michanowicz	Dawn	Town Clerks	\$65,166.52
Moulton	Kara	Recreation	\$2,249.13
Mucci	Steven	Police	\$121,442.97
Muckenstrom	Judith	Election Worker	\$236.50
Murray	Donlin K.	Assessor	\$1,500.00
Murray	Theresa D.	Treasurer/Collectors	\$54,127.20
Nickerson	Kathleen	Board of Health	\$19,639.08
Nickerson III	Robert	Fire	\$13,965.53
Nickerson Jr	Robert	Election Worker	\$236.50
Norberg	Michael	Police	\$93,306.23
Nordquist	John E	Light Department	\$134,654.94
Nutter	Alivia	Light Department	\$9,107.50
O'Connor	Emma	Recreation	\$2,250.38
O'Connor	Michael	Recreation	\$2,581.89
O'Reilly	Toby	Election Worker	\$60.50
Orr	Deborah S.	Library	\$47,001.98
Parker	Jason	Public Works	\$48,082.55
Parkinson	Abbi	Dispatchers	\$4,068.65
Patterson	Jason	Fire	\$1,034.53
Perez	Ezekiel	Light Department	\$3,113.00
Perry Jr	Edward	Town Administrator	\$83,547.90
Peterson	Ross	Light Department	\$69,761.62
Philpot	Russell	Planning Board	\$100.00
Pierce	Brian	Light Department	\$1,500.00
Pierce	Jeremy	Gas/Plumb Insp.	\$315.00
Pineo	Joan	Election Worker	\$220.00
Pineo	Michael	Planning Board	\$704.00
Pitman	Marilyn	Election Worker	\$247.50
Plouffe	Timothy	Police	\$96,156.06
Pomeroy	Craig	Police	\$122,057.37
Pomeroy	Kendra	Police	\$650.00

Pomeroy	Lane	Police	\$107,896.98
Protano	Robert J.	Council on Aging	\$7,243.79
Provonsil	Brian	Light Department	\$109,406.82
Racca	Linda	Election Worker	\$82.50
Ricci	Domenic	Election Worker	\$82.50
Ripa	Charles	Public Works	\$83,947.26
Rugg	Gloria	Council on Aging	\$333.99
Rugg Jr	Raymond	Public Works	\$30,164.36
Russell	Nicholas	Recreation	\$4,807.50
Rutherford	Charles	Town Hall	\$28,965.50
Ruziak	Cameron	Public Works	\$5,145.00
Ryder	Brian	Dispatchers	\$22,785.73
Sabourin	Roger J	Public Works	\$42,242.47
Salluce	Donna L	Election Worker	\$93.50
Santos	Felipe	Fire	\$3,613.20
Secord	Cynthia	Election Worker	\$871.50
Serewicz	Beatrice	Dispatchers	\$3,245.40
Shapiro	David	Planning Board	\$100.00
Shea	Timothy	Fire	\$1,909.81
Shea	Jamieson	Fire	\$71,832.88
Shepard	Walter	Public Works	\$51,818.35
Sheppard	Richard A.	Assessor	\$1,500.00
Shosey	Corey	Fire	\$365.46
Smith	Daniel	Fire	\$10,273.99
Smith	Victoria	Treasurer/Collectors	\$33,103.44
Smith	Brendan	Fire	\$509.50
Somma	Enid	Senior Tax Workoff	\$1,000.00
Sparks	Thomas	Light Department	\$44,150.76
Sparks	Timothy	Light Department	\$61,701.12
Spinazola Jr	Joseph	Senior Tax Workoff	\$992.75
Stelmach	Matthew	Light Department	\$1,500.00
Sullivan	Kristen	Library	\$7,443.35
Survell	Jeanne	Town Clerks	\$26,080.66
Tamulen	Joshua	Fire	\$12,371.64
Tata	Eric	Public Works	\$56,474.43
Tetu	Cassandra	Election Worker	\$181.50
Thebeau	Kim	Dispatchers	\$3,794.95
Todorov	Shawn	Fire	\$3,629.07
Turner	James	Fire	\$139.20
Tuttle	Michael	Public Works	\$10,964.00
Tuttle	William	Public Works	\$93,107.95

Valentino	Paul	Town Hall	\$16,031.10
Wallace	Kathryn	Fire	\$946.96
Warner	Sherilyn	Election Worker	\$643.50
Wilder	Christopher	Dispatchers	\$41,364.80
Wood	Leo	Public Works	\$43,513.15

TOTAL GROSS WAGES \$6,240,431.48

Gross wages excludes police detail and clothing allowance.

Gross wages includes all other earnings such as base pay, overtime, shift differential, sick, personal, holiday, vacation, longevity, sick and vacation buyout, bonus, injured on duty, severance, and retroactive pay.

Senior tax workoff earnings are applied to the senior's tax bill.

TOWN OF STERLING
REPORT OF THE TREASURER/COLLECTOR
TAX COLLECTIONS - 12/31/17

Real Estate Taxes	TAXES COMMITTED	ABATE/ EXEMPT	TRANSFER to TAX TITLE	COLLECTIONS less Refunds	BALANCE
Levy of 2018	\$ 17,831,670.04	\$ 31,502.50	\$ -	\$ 8,983,510.57	\$ 8,816,656.97
Levy of 2017	\$ 17,113,786.30	\$ 71,962.28	\$ -	\$ 16,883,339.72	\$ 158,484.30
Levy of 2016	\$ 16,760,234.35	\$ 83,114.74	\$ 71,376.53	\$ 16,586,648.40	\$ 19,094.68
Levy of 2015	\$ 15,576,819.78	\$ 55,401.16	\$ 69,080.96	\$ 15,452,325.61	\$ 12.05
Levy of 2014	\$ 15,005,223.52	\$ 58,478.46	\$ 129,228.60	\$ 14,817,136.63	\$ 379.83
Levy of 2013	\$ 14,586,299.93	\$ 55,500.37	\$ 124,619.44	\$ 14,404,548.27	\$ 1,631.85
Levy of 2012	\$ 14,339,236.77	\$ 59,784.49	\$ 96,665.40	\$ 14,182,786.88	\$ -
Levy of 2011	\$ 14,077,243.42	\$ 75,384.60	\$ 83,838.00	\$ 13,918,020.82	\$ -
Levy of 2010	\$ 14,082,290.52	\$ 60,062.05	\$ 68,711.35	\$ 13,953,517.12	\$ -
Levy of 2009	\$ 14,116,679.40	\$ 51,584.01	\$ 58,470.21	\$ 14,006,625.18	\$ -
Levy of 2008	\$ 13,461,501.69	\$ 44,339.99	\$ 39,432.99	\$ 13,377,728.71	\$ -
Levy of 2007	\$ 12,709,130.84	\$ 43,202.82	\$ 30,136.98	\$ 12,635,791.04	\$ -
Levy of 2006	\$ 12,567,052.89	\$ 52,248.07	\$ 36,848.81	\$ 12,477,625.70	\$ 330.31
Levy of 2005	\$ 11,416,727.35	\$ 35,263.94	\$ 46,155.08	\$ 11,335,033.39	\$ 274.94
					\$ 8,996,864.93
Personal Property Taxes	TAXES COMMITTED	ABATE/ EXEMPT	COLLECTIONS less Refunds	BALANCE	
Levy of 2018	\$ 729,422.54	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 729,422.54	
Levy of 2017	\$ 768,382.98	\$ 580.53	\$ 764,887.13	\$ 2,915.32	
Levy of 2016	\$ 799,941.37	\$ 1,054.05	\$ 795,359.59	\$ 3,527.73	
Levy of 2015	\$ 727,451.88	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 722,687.11	\$ 2,764.77	
Levy of 2014	\$ 722,268.09	\$ 2,941.59	\$ 715,766.67	\$ 3,559.83	
Levy of 2013	\$ 604,838.65	\$ 7,473.56	\$ 591,019.11	\$ 6,345.98	
Levy of 2012	\$ 592,766.33	\$ 7,402.20	\$ 583,176.49	\$ 2,187.64	
Levy of 2011	\$ 538,892.36	\$ 8,318.69	\$ 528,355.75	\$ 2,217.92	
Levy of 2010	\$ 455,688.60	\$ 5,625.59	\$ 448,331.14	\$ 1,731.87	
Levy of 2009	\$ 422,388.42	\$ 38,404.38	\$ 382,564.91	\$ 1,419.13	
Levy of 2008	\$ 372,158.68	\$ 3,212.84	\$ 366,809.99	\$ 2,135.85	
Levy of 2007	\$ 307,746.94	\$ 230.93	\$ 306,660.55	\$ 855.46	
Levy of 2006	\$ 301,777.76	\$ 143.48	\$ 300,884.55	\$ 749.73	
Levy of 2005	\$ 352,972.23	\$ 452.74	\$ 351,989.08	\$ 530.41	
				\$ 760,364.18	

Motor Vehicle Excise	TAXES COMMITTED	ABATE/ EXEMPT	COLLECTIONS less Refunds	BALANCE	
Levy of 2017	\$ 1,456,451.82	\$ 39,067.04	\$ 1,373,755.66	\$ 43,629.12	
Levy of 2016	\$ 1,356,733.43	\$ 34,304.66	\$ 1,311,392.71	\$ 11,036.06	
Levy of 2015	\$ 1,280,992.50	\$ 26,533.91	\$ 1,250,322.80	\$ 4,135.79	
Levy of 2014	\$ 1,252,073.05	\$ 27,581.89	\$ 1,221,280.59	\$ 3,210.57	
Levy of 2013	\$ 1,160,670.44	\$ 28,140.97	\$ 1,130,723.52	\$ 1,805.95	
Levy of 2012	\$ 1,100,575.28	\$ 24,761.61	\$ 1,073,658.77	\$ 2,154.90	
Levy of 2011	\$ 1,062,844.18	\$ 25,947.54	\$ 1,033,975.50	\$ 2,921.14	
Levy of 2010	\$ 1,028,070.80	\$ 25,374.38	\$ 1,001,278.71	\$ 1,417.71	
Levy of 2009	\$ 1,052,796.65	\$ 25,655.84	\$ 1,024,452.58	\$ 2,688.23	
Levy of 2008	\$ 1,096,483.60	\$ 27,230.14	\$ 1,066,977.31	\$ 2,276.15	
Levy of 2007	\$ 1,126,533.83	\$ 31,007.97	\$ 1,092,905.13	\$ 2,620.73	
Levy of 2006	\$ 1,157,273.74	\$ 28,087.25	\$ 1,126,413.98	\$ 2,772.51	
Levy of 2005	\$ 1,154,167.25	\$ 31,563.01	\$ 1,119,502.03	\$ 3,102.21	
Levy of 2004	\$ 1,151,250.39	\$ 34,035.76	\$ 1,114,462.76	\$ 2,751.87	
				\$ 86,522.94	
Taxes Liens/Tax Title			\$ 257,422.95		
Tax Foreclosure/Tax Possessions			\$ 90,803.71		



THE 1835 TOWN HALL COMMITTEE

It was a very good year for our Town Hall and the community of supporting voters should be very proud. The Committee is thankful to all the people that supported the 1835 Town Hall throughout the year.

Universal Access: The year began with a meeting with the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board Executive Director Thomas Hopkins. Universal Access is needed at the Town Hall for full utilization and will be a legal requirement triggered by the amount of money spent on the building in the roofing project. Mr. Hopkins visited our Town Hall in February and presented eye-opening opportunities. Later in the year, we applied for an \$85,000 grant from the Massachusetts Office on Disability for the construction and installation of LULA – Limited Use, Limited Access elevator in the Town Hall.

Septic System: We are still moving forward with a plan for connecting our facility to the septic system behind the firehouse. This has been the plan for many years and we moved a bit closer this year. In November, the Town voted to fund phase II of the septic design which will deliver a clear path for our connection. We met with property owners and discussed our plan with great results. We will continue to move forward and will be looking to create the final engineering plan in 2018.

Roofing Project: In May, the Town voted to proceed with roof and structural repairs. \$298,000 was requested and approved for the project. A bid package was prepared for the designer/project manager and the firm JMBA+ Architects was selected to handle the project. Demolition of the ceiling to clear the way for in depth engineering review was put out to bid. A single bid was received and ultimately rejected by the Committee as it was too costly. Ultimately, only a selected exploration of beam connections was required allowing thorough engineering review. The project is moving forward. Additionally, a grant application was prepared seeking \$200,000 in capital funding from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund for the restoration and renovation of the Great Hall of the Town Hall.

Media: Our Town Hall was in the news a great deal in 2017. With the controversy surrounding multiple repair options and Town Meeting Articles, the Committee created the website <http://www.sterling1835townhall.org> to provide history, documents and articles surrounding the Town Hall. The site is a holding place for historical documents, studies and articles. We also created our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Sterling1835TownHall> to allow many people to voice their support of the Town Hall and help us communicate.

The Committee would like to thank many people for the progress we experienced in 2017. It sets the stage for a great deal of work to be accomplished in the coming year. Were it not for the dedication and support of so many volunteers and Town employees, progress would not be possible.

Many thanks to our Town Administrator, Ross Perry, for his honesty, experience and dedication. The Committee could have no better partner and greatly respects and appreciates his counsel, support and open-door.

The Committee thanks Barbara Bartlett, liaison to the Finance Committee. Barbara worked closely with the Committee providing experience and advice which proved instrumental in our pursuit of funding. Our appreciation extends to the entire Finance and Capital Committees.

Sincere thanks to Selectman Rich Lane, our liaison to the Board of Selectmen. Rich continues to champion the causes of the 1835 Town Hall Committee and we value his courageous support of our Town Hall.

The Chair appreciates a long and arduous year of dedication and support the members of the 1835 Town Hall Committee have given; Joann Drown, Ron Pichierri, David Gibbs, Rob Barwise, Carl Corrinne, Christine McCarthy and Jack Chandler.

Respectfully Submitted,

Robert McKay Jones
Chair

ANIMAL CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD (ACAB)

The Sterling Animal Control Advisory Board is comprised of three to seven members who are appointed annually by the Selectmen. The Board represents a cross section of residents with knowledge and experience in animal husbandry, training, farming, kennel management, wildlife, public service and law enforcement. It meets monthly at the Police Station and more often when needed. This year the ACAB consisted of seven members who met twelve times.

The Animal Control Advisory Board evaluates animal control problems and recommends solutions or actions necessary when requested by the Animal Control Officer (ACO), which if not resolved satisfactorily at the level of the advisory board, will be brought to the Board of Selectmen. It also recommends appropriate rules and regulations for the care and control of animals and facilities covered by the bylaw and reviews budgets and contracts for animal control. Gary Chamberland, Chief of Police, is the department head for Animal Control in Sterling.

The board works closely with Animal Control Officer Louis Massa who reports to the ACAB, domestic animal and wildlife incidents in the town. The ACAB holds appointments with residents and interested parties addressing animal control incidents to circumvent the need for Selectmen involvement. The ACAB also supports Sterling's fall (October) and spring (March) rabies and microchip clinics hosted by VCA Sterling Animal Hospital with the ACO and Town Clerk's office available to issue licenses.

During 2017, the ACAB together with the ACO offered suggestions to the Town Clerk's office to clarify requirements to upgrade Sterling's dog licensing software.

In 2017, the ACAB continued to review and research the Town's kennel licensing provisions and is seeking solutions to inconsistencies between zoning bylaws and state statutes. The ACAB has tabled these efforts pending the BOS' progress on its master planning project.

ACAB member Anne Marie Catalano continued to work with ACO Louis Massa and the Emergency Management Division of Sterling's Fire Department to document a disaster animal response plan.

The ACAB conducted several appointments with residents and interested parties for various animal control issues and/or bylaw violations, fielding concerns about animal control issues in Sterling.

Together with the ACO, the ACAB monitors and discusses issues which may affect the welfare of animals in Sterling, such as Massachusetts' 2016 legislation regarding Tethering of Dogs Outside. With the insight of the ACO, the members contemplate the need to take action related to such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen L. Kase, Chairperson
Animal Control Advisory Board



Town of Sterling

ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER

135 Leominster Rd., Sterling, MA 01564

Phone: 978-422-7331

In 2017, the Town of Sterling had just fewer than three hundred animal control calls that came in through our dispatch center. This total does not include follow-up phone calls to residents for unlicensed dogs or any other necessary phone calls such as court cases.

The following statistics represent the incidents that I, as Animal Control Officer, was involved with during this past year:

Dogs at Large	117
Nuisance	25
Hit Dogs/Cats by Vehicles	5
Feral/Stray Cats	27
Dog/Cat Bites Sterling residents	7
Farm Animal Calls.....	22
Wildlife Calls.....	65
Dead Animals Picked Up	4
General questions	20
Court Cases	6 / 4 still pending

The Town of Sterling licensed 1,518 dogs in 2017, which is the greatest number of dogs licensed in the past 13 years, since I have been Animal Control Officer. This number of licensed dogs appears to be a direct result of more people moving into Sterling, new roads and more people having more than one dog. The total dollar amount of citations I issued in 2017 was \$850.00, which includes citations for unlicensed dogs after April 15, 2017. This total does not include the late fees from the Town Clerk's office of \$25.00 per dog for not being licensed by April 15. The total number of dogs not licensed by April 15, 2017 was 293, totaling \$7,325.00 dollars in late fees.

The Municipal Impound was implemented in 2010 and is utilized as a holding facility for animals picked up from a call – it is not utilized as a shelter -- and it is a great asset for the Town of Sterling.

In 2018, I will continue to assist the residents of Sterling in any way I can to understand the animal control by-laws. My hope is that by doing this, the violations that occur will decrease even more than they have this past year. I also hope to get more dogs licensed in 2018 before the April 15 deadline. I plan on achieving this goal by doing even more advertising than I usually do. Having more licensed dogs in Sterling will be beneficial in any emergency situation. In times of crisis, having a licensed dog will make the process of obtaining animal information faster with the ID tag assigned.

In October 2010, I started an Animal Control Officer newsletter to help educate the residents of Sterling on animal happenings, facts within the town, tips to ensure animal safety plus other topics. This newsletter is continuing to obtain very good responses by Sterling residents. It has lead residents to ask me questions when they see me around town. The newsletter is distributed monthly in designated locations around town. It is available at the Library, Recreation Department, VCA Sterling Animal Hospital, Light Department, Town Hall, Village Pizza, Champion Kennels, Police Station and Senior Center. It is also available online at the sterling-ma.gov website on the Animal Control page.

Wildlife calls were a little less in 2017 than they were in 2016 which is a good thing, showing that residents are understanding how to keep wildlife out of their yards and in the woods where they belong. Getting this type of information out in my newsletters and the other articles I do helps a lot. In addition, my constant interaction with Massachusetts Wildlife has been a contributing factor in controlling wildlife issues.

On October 4, 2017, I passed the Massachusetts Animal Fund Animal Control Officer Core Competencies Certification Course in Chelmsford Massachusetts. This three day course covered topics from state laws to hands on training. In 2012 the law was passed that all animal control officers have to be certified by the state, and in order to keep your certification other courses need to be taken during each calendar year. My original certification was in May, 2005 through the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts. My second certification was in 2007 through the National Animal Control Officers Association. The National Animal Control Association course was 40 hours, and the Animal Control Officers Association of Massachusetts course was 96 hours, providing me with 136 hours of educational and beneficial information. On October 4, 2012 I attended a seminar at Tufts Veterinary School of Medicine in North Grafton pertaining to the law changes that took affect October 31st of 2012 in chapter 140 (state law) for animal control officers. It was an all day seminar and I was granted a diploma. On October 16, 2014 I took a training course through CMDART, which stands for Central Massachusetts Disaster Response Team. This means I am trained to respond to a man-made or natural disaster in Sterling or Central Massachusetts. We also had a shelter simulation at the first church in Sterling on October 19, 2014 which went very well. In 2016, I took a few different courses pertaining to large animals. This training showed me how to properly handle a situation if a horse, cow or any other large animal goes down.

My goal for 2018 is to take additional seminars and courses throughout the year to improve my education, which will in turn not only be beneficial for myself but will benefit Sterling residents as well.

Over the past several years the Town of Sterling has offered two rabies clinics open to all towns, one in the spring and one in the fall, held at the VCA Sterling Animal Hospital. Both of these clinics have been very successful. Therefore, both will continue yearly. In the fall of 2012, the town started to offer Microchips at both the spring and fall clinics and this has done very well and will also continue yearly. The town does offer dog licensing at the spring clinic to make it convenient for town residents to license their dogs once they get a rabies shot. The Assistant town clerk attends the rabies clinic to issue the dog licenses for Sterling residents only.

I do want to thank all the Veterinarians and Staff at VCA Sterling Animal Hospital for all their support and help with these rabies/micro chip clinics.

I also would like to thank the following town departments for their assistance and support throughout this past year: The Town Clerk's Office, The Sterling Police Department and Dispatchers, Fire Department, Animal Control Advisory Board, Board of Health, the Light Department, DPW, and all other Town Departments. I look forward to being your Animal Control Officer for 2018, making positive changes for the town of Sterling's animal community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Louis Massa

Animal Control Officer
Town Of Sterling

BOARD OF HEALTH

Massachusetts Boards of Health are responsible and have statutory obligations under Mass General Laws, for state and local regulations, disease prevention and control, health and environmental protection, and promoting a healthy community. The main purpose of the Board of Health (BOH) has been to enforce Title 5 of the State Environmental Code, which is considered the minimum standard for the design and installation of subsurface disposal systems for sanitary sewage in the Town of Sterling. In addition, the Sterling Board of Health has issued supplemental regulations to the Title 5 Code (Sterling Board of Health Subsurface Disposal Regulations) as well as to local Well Regulations. The intent of these regulations is to protect and improve the public health and welfare of the citizens.

The Sterling Board of Health consists of a three-member board that meets the second Thursday of each month in the Butterick Municipal Office Building at 1 Park Street. The Department consists of the Health Agent, David Favreau and the Associate Health Agent, Kathleen Nickerson who, between them, handle the day-to-day activities. Additionally, Louis Massa performs the duties of the Animal Inspector. They may be reached through the BOH office at 978-422-8111 X2305.

In 2017, all operations of the Sterling Board of Health were carried out as required. Results from all permits and licenses issued include the witnessing of 82 percolation tests, 164 deep hole tests (soil testing), 102 Title 5 inspections, 53 food establishment inspections performed twice annually, 3 pool inspections, 1 camp inspection, 10 samples taken from the public beach for water testing and inspections, etc. Animal inspections in 2017 associated to rabies consisted of 18 dog quarantines, 14 cat quarantines; 3 negative state lab tests for possible rabies; 2 out-of-state cow inspections; and 40 barn inspections. In addition, the BOH is also responsible for responding to nuisance complaints and housing complaints which amounted to 30 complaints in 2017.

Actual Permits/Licenses issued by the Board of Health for 2017 were: Camp Permits 1; Septic Construction Permits 57; Food Establishment Permits 85; Funeral Home Permit 1; Septic Hauler Licenses 15; Septic Installer Licenses 39; Pool Permits 3; and Private Well Permits 6.

Public Health Emergency Preparedness is a major part of the Board's responsibilities, working alongside the Fire Department, the Police Department and DPW to be prepared for emergency situations which have a health-related component. Barry Lein is Sterling's "Coordinator, Sterling Public Health Volunteers". There were a number of related activities in 2017:

- The Board of Health is host to Massachusetts Department of Public Health regional assets: a satellite phone for emergency communications and an AM Advisory Radio Station. The latter is housed in the Emergency Operations Center at the Fire Station. This equipment is made available if requested by other local boards of health.
 - The satellite phone capability is tested monthly.
 - The AM Advisory Radio station is tested annually. It can be used to transmit emergency or advisory information to the public during emergency or public safety incidents. It broadcasts on AM radio channel 1670 (MHz).
- Our cache of 2-way, handheld radios was loaned to the Sterling CERT for possible use during the Sterling Fair when directing traffic.
- The Sterling Board of Health has a cache of pet crates and a pet-shelter set-up kit from the PHEP Coalition. The supplies are housed with the Sterling Fire Department and can be used when an emergency pet shelter is needed near a human shelter.
- The Sterling public health volunteers participated in a deployment call-down drill with the Wachusett Medical Reserve Corps, operated out of Hubbardston.

- The Sterling members of the Wachusett MRC and Board of Health members staffed a booth at the Sterling Fair.
- Some staff, board members, and volunteers participated in the following trainings and exercises:
- “Demystifying Incident Command System”, tabletop exercise to test “Region 2 HMCC Emergency Coordinating Plan Template”, “Region 2 Jurisdictional Risk Assessment”, “Red Cross in Houston”, “Animal Sheltering in Houston”, “Mass Gatherings and Impact on Public Health and Healthcare”, “Cultural Diversity in the setting of an Emergency Event”, “Spiritual Care for those with Dementia”, “2017 Mass All Hazards Emergency Preparedness Conference’ (MEMA) (2 days), “Introduction to Active Shooter Incident”.
- Flu shots were provided for 55 seniors/employees and 11 public safety personnel.

Sterling Board of Health is a member of the Montachusett Public Health Network (MPHN) consisting of 11 towns. The services performed through the MPHN are nursing and some inspectional services.

The program for obtaining kiosks, housed at the Police Station, for sharps and medications which was started in 2016 in conjunction with MPHN has been well received by Sterling residents and was successfully continued in 2017.

Please contact the Board of Health if you wish to learn more about either the Board of Health Office or being a volunteer to assist during health related emergencies, 978-422-8111 X2305.

Sterling Board of Health

Allen Hoffman

Gary Menin

Donna Clark, Chairperson

BUILDING, ELECTRICAL, GAS, AND PLUMBING INSPECTORS

Report of the Building Inspector

During the year of 2017, the Building Department issued 314 building permits for various projects. The Department received a sum of \$ 207,928.55 for building permits and annual inspections, which was deposited into the Town Treasury.

Sarah Culgin

Building Commissioner

Report of the Electrical Inspector

During the year of 2017, the Electrical Inspector issued 182 electrical wiring permits and received a sum of \$17,805.00 for the electrical permits, which was deposited into the Town Treasury.

J. Bruce Dunn

Electrical Inspector

Report of the Gas Inspector

During the year of 2017, the Gas Inspector issued 83 gas permits and received a sum of \$6,960.00 for the gas permits, which was deposited into the Town Treasury.

Robert Janda

Gas Inspector

Report of the Plumbing Inspector

During the year of 2017, the Plumbing Inspector issued 83 plumbing permits and received a sum of \$8,804.00 for the plumbing permits, which was deposited into the Town Treasury.

Robert Janda

Plumbing Inspector



Mission

The Conant Free Public Library provides residents with broad access to library materials for enrichment and enjoyment in an environment that is welcoming to everyone. The library offers space and opportunities for people to gather and connect, knowledgeable, friendly staff to help, and the tools to grow and thrive in an increasingly digital world.

Governance

The citizens of Sterling elect a 6-member board of trustees to govern the town free public library, as outlined in Massachusetts General Law. Two members are elected each year in rotation. The trustees meet the second Tuesday of every month and welcome everyone to attend.

At their June meeting, Marion Mahar was elected chairman and Lex Thomas was elected secretary. Marion Mahar was re-elected as trustee in May and Lex Thomas was elected to her first term. Lex is the managing editor of the Sterling Meetinghouse News. She filled the position left by John Dwyer, who served the library for many years, most as chairman. John also chaired the building committee for the library renovation from 2004-6. His many contributions to library services in Sterling are recognized and appreciated by the trustees and staff of the library. The other volunteers serving as elected trustees are Al Carlin, Alicia Emsley, Ray Tatten, and Sara Petullo.

Services

The town library is open 45 hours a week – Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. From the 4th of July to Labor Day the library is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. We are located at 4 Meetinghouse Hill Road in the center of Sterling.

In addition to books in print form, the library provides recorded books, popular movies and full-season TV series, and high speed Internet (direct and wireless) - all at no charge. The library also offers copy, fax, scanning and printing services to the public for a small donation. A “Hot Spot” where people can send documents wirelessly to the printer from a computer or hand held device is also available to the public.

Our website, www.sterlinglibrary.org, offers online access to library services at any time. People can order or renew books and movies, download audio and E-books, and videos. Through the website cardholders can use extensive information databases, research ancestors, or find what new books and movies just came in.

In response to information generated through the library’s 2014 long range planning process, the library continues to add programming for both children and adults, and is providing more information to the community on all the free services offered by the library. The staff will also assist members of the public in using new technologies. Working with Nickole Boardman, outreach coordinator at the Council on Aging, the library provides books and movies to Sterling seniors who are homebound.

Annual Benchmarks

Library Cards

At year-end Sterling had 5,110 active library cardholders, 65% of the entire town.

Programs

The library held 228 programs for children and young adults, a 10% increase over 2016, with a total attendance of 1,876. In addition to the annual Summer Reading Program, children’s programming

included weekly story hours, music circles, and a new Lego club as well as monthly drop-in craft days, family movie nights, half-day school and week-long vacation programs. In 2017, youth services added book clubs for picture book fans, middle schoolers, and a parents' night out book club.

Adult programming has increased again in 2017 – up 82% over last year. The library ran 191 programs for adults, with a total attendance of 2,297. Adult programming includes a day and evening book club, a knitting group, a Cook Book Club and a Coloring Club for adults. There were also speakers, a meditation program, a folk music concert, author talks and local history programs. Residents Kate Blehar and Meredith Tufts managed the annual Project Linus blanket-making event.

In addition in 2017, the library offered a special summer reading program, magician Scott Jamieson, funded by the Friends of the Library.

Circulation

A total of 89,621 items circulated to the public and library users downloaded 6,433 E-books in print or audio. In 2017 the library was visited 52,647 times.

In the coming year, the library will be updating the aged HVAC system, and focusing on the goals of the Long Range Plan: to create more quiet and comfortable areas to read, study, and use the library's wireless network; to continue to add interesting programs; and to provide information on how to access library services. As always, the library strives to offer the latest books, movies, TV series, along with print or audio downloads. The staff and trustees thank all the town departments who have worked with us as a team to allow us to provide the best library services we can to the townspeople of Sterling. A special thank you this year to the Senior Center for allowing us to use a program room for larger library programs in the evening.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Board of Trustees of the Conant Free Public Library

Marion Mahar, Chairman
Lex Thomas, Secretary
Al Carlin

Sara Petullo
Alicia Emsley
Ray Tatten

Patricia Campbell, Library Director
Alex Grebinar, Assistant Director



Town of Sterling Conservation Commission

1 Park St, Butterick Municipal Bldg- Room 207
Sterling Massachusetts 01564
Tel 978 422 8111 ext 2321
Email mmarro@sterling-ma.gov

Respectfully Submitted By: Barbara Roberti, Michael Pineo, Sue Valentine, Steve Pavlowich, Scott Michalak, Joe Curtin, David Mosley, Matthew S. Marro as Agent

The Sterling Conservation Commission is a seven-member municipal authority dedicated to the protection of Sterling's Wetlands and other natural resources. The Commission enforces the Massachusetts Wetland Protection Act MGL Ch 131 s 40 as amended. The Commission processed Notices of Intent, request for determinations as well as pursued enforcement and continued its efforts on storm water regulation.

The Commission also was active on other agencies as well with members serving on the Earth Removal Board, The Open Space and Recreation Committee and the Chapter 40 B review Committee. The Commission works hand in hand with the Board of Selectmen, the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals. The Commission is also working with the Planning Board in regulation review.

The Commission's office agent also conducted site inspections for building permit applications and compliance inspections for existing conservation permits.

The Conservation Commission, in 2016, completed a 12,000-dollar trails grant and is implementing construction of a loop trail and parking area on the former Mudgett Orchard on Swett Hill Road. This area is now known as Waushacum Meadow. This year, use of the meadow area increased with residents generally giving favorable reviews. The Commission also facilitated an eagle scout project for the construction of a pollinator habitat and plan to enhance this style of projects. The Commission continues its planning for the implementation of a trails system to promote the use of the land in a manner consistent with the goals of open space and recreation and is pursuing further funding for a second phase of trails work in the Swett Hill/Hall Ave area.

The Commission has completed forest stewardship planning with the goal of managing conservation-controlled forest land for ecosystem health and examination as a sustainable source of some revenue via lumber harvesting. Planning and bidding for lumber management at the Commission property at 19 rear Hardscrabble Road due to be implemented for calendar year 2018. This has been facilitated by the retention of Gary Gouldrup, certified forester to aid the commission in planning and bidding.

The Commission looks forward to another productive year in working towards the continued implementation of the open space plan and the implementation of its recently completed forest stewardship plan.

COUNCIL ON AGING

The mission of the Council on Aging is to maintain the health and well being of the Sterling seniors and to assist them with preserving their independence. We achieve our mission by providing a variety of programs, services and support available to over 2100 residents over the age of 60, their families and their caretakers. Additionally, the Senior Center serves to support residents of any age with disabilities or with social support needs.

2017 marked the first complete year in the new Senior Center location at 36 Muddy Pond Road. Growth of the number of Senior Center participants showed no signs of stopping! Over 879 seniors participated in 22,619 events at the Center. On any given day, the Center hosted an average of 70 seniors, marking a 40% increase over 2016.

Volunteerism is alive and well at the Senior Center; 84 volunteers logged 8856 hours of service during 2017. Volunteers staff the kitchen, the dining room and the front desk. Volunteers deliver meals on wheels, they teach classes, they facilitate programs, they serve on our board and our committees. In short, our volunteers perform a myriad of functions that keep the Center humming. They are an inspiration to the community and they give new meaning to seniors helping seniors; 80% of our volunteers are seniors themselves!

The COA Board provides policy guidance and assistance with goal achievement. In 2017, the Board developed working committees to meet the increased demands of the Center. The Program Committee, Marketing and Communications Committee, Evening Dinner Committee, Art Committee and Decorating Committee all work with the Board and the Director to fulfill our mission. The Board and Committees have embraced the challenge of providing diversified quality programs to meet the needs of our senior population.

The following is a brief description of key programming offered in 2017.

Exercise: Chair Yoga, Strengthening Yoga, Chair Pilates, Mat Pilates, Tai Chi, Senior Cardiovascular Fitness, Line Dancing, Zumba, Stepping Out and Senior Strong balance, strength and flexibility classes, Pickleball, Walking Clubs and Partnership Program with the Greendale Y.

Health Promotion: Blood Pressure Clinics by Sterling EMT, Elder Keep Well Clinics by VNA, Flu Clinic, Foot Care Clinics, SHINE Counseling, Durable Medical Equipment loans and Meditation programs.

Nutritional Support: Meals on Wheels, Breakfast Options, Congregate Lunches including home-cooked meals, Special Event Fare, Evening Dinners, assistance with applications and access to food pantries and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

Recreational and Socialization Programs: Bingo, Wii Bowling, Game Day, Coloring, Mahjong, Cribbage, Knitting and Crocheting, Free Wifi, Pool and the Dull Men's Club.

Educational Programs: Book Club, Library, Computer Classes, Ukulele Club, Art Classes, Art Display, Quarterly "Lunch and Learn" for Staff and Volunteers and Inter-Generational Programming.

Outreach Services: Home Visits, Office Consultations to provide Application Assistance, Advocacy, Case Management, Crisis Intervention, Family Support, Links to Programs and Services, Well-Being Checks and Assessments, Friendly Visiting program

Transportation: COA/ MART Accessible Vans operate daily Monday through Friday. Services provided to seniors or residents with disabilities include rides to the senior center, grocery stores, pharmacies,

doctor appointments, physical therapy appointments, social engagements and more. 4204 rides were provided in 2017. Van drivers' salaries are reimbursed to the Town of Sterling through MART.

Newsletter: 12-page monthly color publication of events, topics of interest and resource information is mailed to 1500 senior households and is also available online at www.sterling-ma.gov/seniorcenter. Newsletter is largely funded by advertisements and a grant from the Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

Supplemental Programming: Veteran Service Office hours; Programming with Community Resources such as Fire, Police, Sheriff's Department, Executive Office of Elder Affairs; Special Event Programming.

The Sterling Senior Center has a usage policy that allows the building to be used for free by town boards, committees, and Sterling community organizations. Other businesses and individuals are charged a usage fee. The Recreation Department, the Library, the Garden Club, the Grange and the Farmer's Market were among those who utilized our facility this past year.

The Council on Aging would like to thank the Friends of Sterling Seniors, FOSS, for their fund-raising efforts and generous financial assistance in 2017. The quarterly lunch and learns for staff and volunteers, the newsletter, theme lunches, programming, coffee hours, organizational tools, kitchen appliances and more were supported by FOSS. FOSS also sponsors the very popular monthly pancake breakfasts.

Seniors, their caregivers and families are encouraged to take advantage of the programs and services offered at the Senior Center. Telephone consultations and home visits are available. We are committed to being a volunteer driven organization, so consider joining our volunteer team. Whether you are a participant, a volunteer or both, we welcome you into our Senior Center community.

Respectfully submitted,

Veronica Buckley
Senior Center Director

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

We herewith submit our 2017 annual report of the Department of Public Works.

HIGHWAY – Town vehicle repairs, roadside cleanups, patching, sweeping, brush cutting, drainage maintenance, plowing and sanding was performed during the year as our budget allowed. If you know of a particularly serious maintenance situation, please call the Department of Public Works at (978) 422-6767.

CEMETERIES – There were 31 new lots sold and 26 burials in 2017. Normal maintenance as required was performed during the year.

PARKS – All athletic fields were maintained and put to full use by many young people as well as many adults.

We would also like people to know that there is a permanent basketball court and volleyball court at Sholan Park. You must bring your own basketball and volleyballs to use these facilities.

STICKERS FOR SHOLAN PARK – Any resident wishing to use this facility must stop by the Recreation Department and pick up a sticker or permit. They will only be available at the Recreation Department during their hours of operation. You will need your car registration and if you have a leased car, proof of residency.

SANITATION – Trash collection went well, with few complaints. We are currently picking up trash at well over 600 households each Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. A reminder to the residents: if your pick up day falls on a holiday or is cancelled due to a snow storm, all pick-ups will be delayed by one day. Please refer to your trash and recycling information brochure mailed to your residence for the holiday schedule. If you have any problems with your pickup please contact Casella Waste System at 1-888-532-2735.

RECYCLING - The drop-off recycling center at The Department of Public Works closed permanently July 1, 2015. Residents are encouraged to utilize the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center listed below.

RECYCLING –Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center – Location is 131 Raymond Huntington Highway, West Boylston, MA. P.O. Box 593, Holden, MA 01520 For hours/days of operation please refer to Wachusettearthday.org site or call 978-464-2854.

On July 1, 1999, we began a curbside recycling program. It has been moderately successful. We strongly encourage all residents to utilize this service because doing so saves the Town a significant amount of money in tipping fees.

If you have any questions on recycling, stop by or contact the Department of Public Works Office at (978) 422-6767, Monday through Friday, from 7:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

<u>WATER:</u>	Total Water Sales:	\$ 1,005,080.09
	Hydrant Rental:	\$ 26,675.00

There were 14 new services added this year making a total of 2401 customers who are presently being served.

TREES – Normal maintenance was performed during the year, taking down dead or dying trees and trimming as our budget allowed. If you have a roadside tree that may need attention, please let us know.

In closing, we would like to thank the men and women of this department for their efforts towards making the town a safer and better place to live.

Respectfully submitted:

Gregg Aubin, Chairman,

Donald Harding, Vice Chairman,

Lawrence Favreau, Clerk

William P. Tuttle, Superintendent

STERLING FIRE DEPARTMENT & FIRE DEPARTMENT AMBULANCE
STERLING EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

I am pleased to submit the annual report for the Sterling Fire Department and Sterling Emergency Management Agency for calendar year 2017.

The Department

The Sterling Fire Department is a combination department with both fulltime and on-call personnel. Currently the department has seven fulltime personnel including the fire chief and our administrative assistant Lisa Bristol who manages the office, EMS Billing, incident reporting and schedules inspections. In addition, there are thirty-two on-call and per-diem personnel that provide response to the community throughout the year based on their availability with job, school and family commitments. Four fulltime firefighter/paramedics work twenty-four-hour shifts and one fulltime fire prevention lieutenant works weekdays to supplement the on-call force particularly during the weekdays when there are a limited number of on-call personnel available to respond. We operate out of a single fire station built in 2005, located downtown at 5 Main Street. Our response apparatus includes two command vehicles, two engines, one aerial ladder, one rescue, two advanced life support ambulances, three forestry trucks, a boat, and two support trailers for hazardous materials and emergency management response. In addition, we host a regional mass casualty trailer and a regional off-road response vehicle. We also have members that respond as part of the Fire District Regional Dive Team and Technical Rescue Response Team. Sterling is a member of Mutual Aid Fire District 8 which encompasses 33 cities and towns within Central Massachusetts.

Mission Statement

The Sterling Fire Department is committed to providing the highest level of public safety services for our community. We protect lives and property of our residents and visitors through fire suppression, emergency medical response, disaster management, fire prevention and public education.

Vision Statement

Deliver a quality, high level service to our customers. Promote the personal and professional growth of our members. Minimize the impact of loss through our prevention efforts including; inspections, code enforcement and pre-fire planning. Provide public safety education to our community and promote the health and safety of our citizens. Work seamlessly with our public safety partners.

Emergency and Service Calls

Fire Department personnel responded to a total of 1,230 incidents (*calls for service*) in calendar year 2017. Of this, 741 incidents were medical emergencies. The department responds to a variety of incidents including; medical emergencies, alarm investigations, brush fires, carbon monoxide investigations, motor vehicle accidents, chimney fires, structure fires, mutual-aid and service calls including house and vehicle lock-outs. Significant responses for the year included a house fire on Rowley Hill Road in January, a house fire on Princeton Road in April, a full response to a multi-alarm fire at the former Princeton Inn in Princeton in May, and our paramedics delivered a baby in August. Department personnel also provide coverage throughout the year for significant weather events, such as major snow storms, thunderstorms, etc.

In addition to incident response, there are many hours spent conducting training. Fire department personnel train on the first, second and third Wednesdays of each month. Additional training drills are scheduled on weeknights and weekends throughout the year and do not include the additional training that our dive and tech rescue team members participate in.

Department personnel provide details that support emergency response including sporting event coverage, fireworks and other special event detail coverage, including the primary safety response for the annual Sterling Fair.

Permits and Inspections

The Fire Department Inspection and Code Enforcement Bureau is headed by Lieutenant Thomas Kokernak. The Fire Department issued 564 permits in 2017 and performed numerous on-site inspections. Inspection types include; smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, oil burners, oil tanks, LP gas tanks, tank removals, blasting, and fire suppression systems with many of them requiring a minimum of one site visit to confirm that the work has been done properly and installed per fire and life safety codes, and to verify the equipment operates safely. In addition to daily permit inspections, annual inspections are conducted at commercial and industrial sites as well as annual liquor license inspections completed in conjunction with the building inspector. Sterling Fire Prevention developed and maintains the online open burning permit system for several towns in Central Massachusetts.

Any questions regarding permits, fees, or for scheduling an inspection call the fire department business line or access the information on-line via our website.

Fire Prevention and Public Safety Education

Fire prevention and public safety education continues to be a large priority of the department. In 2017, these efforts were coordinated by Firefighter Charlie Baker. Firefighter Baker and Firefighter Fil Santos conduct most of these programs in the grammar school. Several members of the department also assist with delivering fire safety programs at different venues throughout the year. The department conducts several educational programs supported by the S.A.F.E. (Student Awareness of Fire Education) program. In addition to the educational programs conducted in the elementary and pre-schools the department also provides station tours, site visits, Public Safety Weekend at Davis' Farmland, and other public safety events as requested.

Community Service Activities

Department members and volunteers from our C.E.R.T. (Community Emergency Response Team) assist with medical standby and rehabilitation for road races, the Berkshire to Boston Bike Ride, Orange Drag Strip Reunion, and other community and civil functions. Several members of the department are certified to teach Community C.P.R. and First Aid and over a dozen programs were offered in 2017 including certifying Library, Town Hall, and Senior Center employees.

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

The largest percentage of fire deaths in the home occurs at night while people are asleep. Therefore, a working smoke alarm can provide an early warning that can make the difference between life and death. A smoke alarm should be part of an overall home fire safety strategy that also includes preventing fires by adopting fire safe behavior and developing and practicing a home fire escape plan. In a fire, escape time may be very limited. Therefore, escape plans are a critical aspect of a home fire safety strategy.

Carbon monoxide (CO) alarms have been required since March of 2006. What is Carbon Monoxide (CO)? ***Carbon Monoxide*** is a colorless, odorless and tasteless poison gas that can be fatal. ***CO*** can be produced when burning fuels such as gasoline, propane, natural gas, oil or wood. ***CO*** is the product of incomplete combustion. If you have fire, you have ***CO***. A ***carbon monoxide detector*** is a device that detects the presence of the ***carbon monoxide (CO)*** gas to prevent ***carbon monoxide*** poisoning.

Special consideration should be given to the fact that smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors do have effective lives to them – like a car battery. It is recommended that a smoke detector be replaced every ten years and a carbon monoxide detector every five to seven years. Requirements for replacing

your detectors can be found on our website or more information can be obtained by calling the fire station.

Here are some things you need to know to stay safe in your home;

- A closed door may slow the spread of smoke, heat and fire. Install smoke alarms in every sleeping room and outside each separate sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home
- Smoke alarms should be interconnected. When one sounds, they all sound
- Test your smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working
- Today's smoke alarms will be more technologically advanced to respond to a multitude of fire conditions, yet mitigate false alarms
- When a smoke alarm sounds, get outside and stay outside, have a common meeting place that all family members know about

Please note that even if you have electric hard-wired detectors in your home, there is still a 9-volt battery back up in them. A good rule of thumb is; **“When you Change your Clocks – Change your Batteries”**.

If you do not currently have a working smoke or carbon monoxide detector in your home and would like information on obtaining or installing them in your home, please contact the fire department.

Emergency Management

Emergency Management continues to play a vital role in town, especially with the continued challenges of weather-related and Homeland Security events. Often times our emergency management functions are activated as a result of severe weather. Whether it is sandbagging operations to divert water or preparing shelter activations due to impending major storms, Sterling's Emergency Management is the liaison to the State and Federal agencies that provide assistance to our community.

One of our most active missions within emergency management is that of our Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). The CERT Program, managed and coordinated by Assistant Emergency Management Director Jim Emerton, educates people about disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact our area and trains them in basic disaster response skills, such as fire safety, light search and rescue, team organization, and disaster medical operations. Using the training learned in the classroom and during exercises, CERT members can assist others following an event when professional responders are not immediately available to help. CERT members consist of a group of volunteer citizens including; students, teachers, retirees, ex-military, engineers, and business professionals. The team trains on a regional level along with volunteers from Boylston, Holden, and West Boylston.

In addition to a regional CERT team, Sterling continues to be part of a Regional Emergency Planning Committee (REPC) along with Boylston, Holden, and West Boylston. The South Wachusett Regional Emergency Planning Committee has representation from all four communities and represents the major disciplines of emergency planning working closely with M.E.M.A. (Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency) regarding hazard mitigation.

Notifications

In an effort to keep our citizens informed, the fire department in conjunction with our fellow public safety departments, emergency management and the board of health have developed several means of communicating messages.

At the Emergency Operations Center at the fire station there is an AM radio transmitter used to transmit emergency or advisory information to the public. It is capable of broadcasting informational messages on

a variety of safety topics. During emergency or public safety incidents it will broadcast appropriate messages to the public. It broadcasts on AM radio channel 1670.



Since 2012, the Town of Sterling has contracted with Emergency Communications Network (now OnSolve) to deliver Emergency Notification Messages (previously known as *Reverse 911*) through the CodeRED high-speed notification solution. The CodeRED system provides town officials the ability to quickly deliver messages to specific targeted areas or the entire town. If your phone number is not in the database, you will not be called. One of the reasons the CodeRED system was selected is it gives individuals and businesses the ability to add their own phone numbers directly into the system's database.

If you have not already done so, you can access the CodeRED Database to sign up by clicking the link on the Town of Sterling or Sterling Fire Department websites, and follow the link to the "CodeRED Community Notification Enrollment" page.

In addition, for our Smartphone and Internet users, the Fire Department issues periodic informational and safety messages via Facebook and Twitter. There you will find updates on historical events that have happened throughout our fire departments' history in addition to current reports of significant events and incidents happening with the fire department.

Be Prepared

Plan to protect yourself and your family. Your family may not be together when a disaster strikes so it is important to plan in advance: how you will get to a safe place; how you will contact one another; how you will get back together; and what you will do in different situations. Refer to the Town's Emergency Response Planning Guide that can be found on-line at www.sterlingfd.net. For additional reference on personal and family preparedness you can log in to www.ready.gov.

Closing Narrative

In closing, I would like to thank the members of the Sterling Fire Department for their continued commitment and dedication to the department and the community. We are fortunate in that our firefighters and emergency medical technicians are committed to providing dedicated service to their community and are well-trained and outstanding at what they do. The citizens of Sterling should be proud of our dedicated responders.

We are fortunate to have strong and valuable working relationships with all the public safety departments in town and as a result work seamlessly at major incidents that occur. Several times throughout the year, incidents will require several of the public safety departments to work in a coordinated manner to resolve the issue at hand.

On behalf of the entire department, I would like to thank the residents of Sterling for their continued support of the fire department and its mission. Because of your support, we're able to maintain the apparatus and equipment that is vital to our emergency response, especially the safety equipment and gear worn by the firefighters and emergency medical technicians. In 2017 we placed in service Engine 7, a multi-purpose utility and brush fire response vehicle. In addition, we placed in service a new Car 1, a fire department SUV that serves the fire chief. The old SUV has been repurposed to Car 2, a secondary administrative vehicle for use by fire prevention, training and all other fire department needs.

The department remains diligent in applying for and receiving grant money to help offset town operating expenses. This year, grants were utilized to update door entry systems at the station, purchase bullet

proof vests and helmets for the ambulances, a necessity for the environment of incidents that we may be required to respond to, and training for C.E.R.T. recruitment.

We continue to maintain a strong on-call firefighting and E.M.T. force that is well trained and ready to respond to your needs. In order to do this effectively, we need people who are willing to join the department and be trained as on-call personnel. Our success is based on the dedication and commitment of our call members who respond to incidents over and above their fulltime jobs and family commitments. Many of these call member move on to become fulltime firefighter and emergency medical technicians and paramedics.

Please feel free to visit our website at www.sterlingfd.net to learn more about the Sterling Fire Department, our history, our equipment or as a reference to fire codes and regulations. This site also provides real time updates for major events involving public safety. There is also a photo link, which has pictures of incidents and trainings that we respond to throughout the year that is maintained by our dedicated photographer Tina Gianos.

The public is always welcome to stop by the fire station to visit. The Sterling Fire Department is located at 5 Main Street in the center of town, and is staffed daily.

Wishing everyone a safe and healthy 2018!

Respectfully submitted,

David C. Hurlbut, Jr.

Fire Chief / Emergency Management Director

STERLING HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Sterling Housing Authority was founded in 1968, and is chartered to oversee, manage and develop State-aided housing within the Town. Within this charter, the Authority, in participation with other community leaders, also has responsibility to assure adequate sources of affordable private housing for Sterling. The Authority currently manages 40 subsidized apartments under Chapter 667, known as Sholan Terrace Housing for the Elderly.

The Sterling Housing Authority is currently managed under a Management Agreement with the Leominster Housing Authority. Under this agreement the Sterling Housing Authority utilizes the staff of the Leominster Housing Authority with the exception of a local Maintenance Mechanic who is a direct employee of the Sterling Housing Authority. The relationship has been in place since 1998.

The Authority has maintained its membership in the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). Participation in NAHRO helps assure that the Authority is up-to-date with programs and funding sources available for use within Sterling

Applications for state-aided housing may be obtained at 41 Sholan Terrace, going to ncmhousng.org or by calling (978)-537-5300. To be eligible for elderly housing, applicants must be at least 60 years old at the time of application or be a qualified disabled applicant and at least 18 years of age. The Authority will grant a preference for applicants that are Sterling residents or employed in Sterling. Veterans that qualify will also receive a preference. Rent is based on your household's annual adjusted gross income. Elderly residents will pay 30% of their adjusted income.

STERLING OPEN SPACE IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Sterling Open Space Implementation Committee (OSIC) had another active year in 2017. We were able to stimulate interest in *Sterling Trails* by making the trail brochures more widely available, adding new trails and building and installing additional trailhead kiosks. In addition, the groundwork was laid for the state mandated update of the 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan and the necessary budgetary resources were obtained.

Current Board Structure - Peder C Pedersen, chair; Marion Larson, vice chair; Robert Protano, secretary; James Wilkinson, treasurer; Erin MacNeal Rehrig and Jeff Keay, at large.

Letters of Support for External Grants – During 2017, OSIC wrote one letter in support of a grant application from Sterling Conservation Commission to the DCR Trails Program, entitled *Hall Avenue Interpretive Linkage Trail*. The requested amount was \$14,831.

Communication with Board of Selectmen – On July 26, 2017, OSIC Board members Marion Larson and Peder Pedersen gave a presentation on current OSIC activities to Sterling Board of Selectmen.

OSIC Activities - Trails

Permission from DCR to publicize trails on DCR Land – After more than a year of negotiations, involving elected officials, deputy commissioners and, in particular, the Director of Governmental Affairs, Michael Harris, we were granted permission from DCR's Watershed Division to describe Sterling trails located on DCR land in our trail brochures.

Expansion of Sterling Trails – In 2017, we expanded the number of *Sterling Trails* from 5 to 7, by adding the *Stillwater Basin Trail* and *The Hog Hill Trail*. These two trails had been awaiting permission from DCR's Division of Watershed Protection.

New trails under development – Three new *Sterling Trails* were proposed and two were mapped during 2017: *The Three Reservoirs Trail* (5.7 miles) covering Lynde Basins, Fitch Basin and Heywood Reservoir; *Wekepeke Long Trail* (4.5 miles) traversing the extent of the Wekepeke watershed; and *The Waushacum Trail*, linking Waushacum Overlook with Town Beach and Mudgett Orchard.

Trail Blazing and Clearing – The first trail blazing took place on June 10 along *The Lynde Basins Trail*. Several trail clearings took place in 2017, including 3 miles of the Heywood Reservoir Trail by Sterling Cub Scout Pack 34 and den leaders Ryan Iarrobino, Chris Tetreault and Ron Turgeon. Another significant clean-up effort, requiring extensive chain sawing, targeted *The Butterick Nature Trail*. In the fall, the remaining Sterling Trails were cleared of fallen debris and trash by members of the OSIC Trail Crew.

Distribution of Maps and other Information – In 2017, OSIC printed around 100 copies of each of the 7 trail brochures. Subsequently, sets of all seven *Sterling Trails* brochures were placed in display racks at the Senior Center, at the Conant Free Public Library and in the Butterick Town Hall building. In addition, we prepared and distributed a map of Sterling, indicating trailhead locations of each of the 7 *Sterling Trails*.

Trail Kiosk Manufacture and Installation – In early spring 2017, using our sturdy and attractive trail kiosk design, we built an additional kiosk (two kiosks were built in 2016) in the garage/work shop of board member Robert Protano. In early summer, with the help of Sterling DPW, we installed a kiosk at the trailhead for *The Lynde Basins Trail*, located on Heywood Road. Finally, in late summer a kiosk was placed behind the Butterick Building, at the entrance to *The Butterick Nature Trail*. The kiosks were painted and a large trail map added to the front of each kiosk. For the back of each, we developed a large

poster depicting and describing representative examples of flora and fauna that may be found near trails in Sterling.

Coordination with Princeton OSIC – OSIC chair Pedersen met with Kelton Burbank, chair of Princeton OSIC, and Rick Gardner, trail coordinator, Princeton OSIC. We discussed ideas regarding interaction with DCR, web site design and guided trail hikes.

Guided hikes starting summer of 2018 – The OSIC board voted late in 2017 to begin leading advertised hikes on a regularly scheduled basis, beginning summer of 2018.

OSIC Activities – Update of the 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan

Budget for update of plan, with the help of external consultant – OSIC requested and was provided a \$10K budget for the update of the 2010 Open Space and Recreation Plan, based on having MRPC update the maps and consultant Amanda Amory assist with the updates and revisions.

Survey development, paper and online formats – We first development a paper format survey that was available as a handout at the Town Hall meeting on May 01, 2017. Given the limited number of responses, we produced an on-line version of the same survey, using the software application Survey Monkey. OSIC promoted the survey by placing ads in ‘Sterling Meetinghouse News’ and ‘The Landmark,’ and by reminding residents of the survey through the Sterling Light Department bill.

PLANNING BOARD

The Planning Board reviewed and approved site plans for the following:

- Chacharone Properties, LLC., 96-102 Leominster Road & 49 Laurelwood Road, Site Plan Modification (formerly Sterling Crossing) for a 26,000 square foot medical office building.
- New England Power, Off Pratts Junction Road for a public utility storage garage facility.

As-Built Plans were received for the following:

- BTB, LLC, (Site Plan) 180 Pratts Junction as the project has been completed.
- Homestead Lane (Subdivision)

At the Annual Town Meeting held on May 1, 2017 the Town voted to accept as a public way the roadway known as Homestead Lane. This article will convert a new subdivision road for care and maintenance as a public way.

After a duly called and properly posted public meeting on June 19, 2017, the Planning Board voted to invoke the Automatic Rescission of the approval of the Definitive Subdivision Plan known as Primrose Lane.

The Planning Board endorsed seven (7) ANR plans. (Plans for which Approval under the Subdivision Control Law is **Not Required**.)

No new subdivisions were brought before the Planning Board in 2017; however, Redstone Heights (Chad Lane), a six lot subdivision approved in 2005, continues with its development that began in 2010.

Craig Miller was appointed to the Planning Board to fill the remaining term of Charles Hajdu who resigned earlier this year.

The Board would like to extend their appreciation and gratitude to Charles Hajdu who resigned his position on the Planning Board after serving many years.

The Board held a Public Hearing in early 2017 for the purpose of amending the Town of Sterling Protective By-Laws for the Adoption of Prohibition on the Use of Land For Non-Medical/Recreational Marijuana and for a Temporary Moratorium on Non-Medical or Recreational Marijuana Establishments. While both amendments were voted and approved by the Planning Board, only the Temporary Moratorium on Non-Medical or Recreational Marijuana Establishments was put on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and was approved at the Annual Town Meeting of May 1, 2017.

The Board held a Public Hearing earlier this year to update their ANR application, Subdivision Rules & Regulations and Fee Schedule. All updates are available on the Planning Board's webpage at <http://www.sterling-ma.gov/planning-board>.

Several Board members have given their time to various endeavors; Russell Philpot serves on the Earth Removal Board, Michael Pineo serves in an elected position as Town Constable; and appointed positions as: Agricultural Commission, Conservation, Economic Development Committee, Fair Committee and Special Police Officer. Also as a Board of Director on the following: Massachusetts Association of Agricultural Commissions and Worcester County Farm Bureau Federation. Planning Board's Representative on the Montachusett Joint Transportation Committee (Alternate), and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC) and Sterling Land Trust.

Board members are actively researching and holding discussion about a document conversion process. The Board is researching the potential of hiring a Town Planner as one of the elements of Economic Development.

Board members continue to keep abreast of changes and trends through participation in various endeavors, attendance of informational programs and educational opportunities. They are also investigating mechanisms to improve customer service.

Respectfully submitted,

John Santoro, Chairman
Russell Philpot, ANR Agent

Michael Pineo, Vice Chairman
Craig Miller, Member

David Shapiro, Clerk
Betty Kazan, Admin. Assistant

POLICE DEPARTMENT AND DISPATCH CENTER

On behalf of the staff of the police department I am please to submit the 2017 annual report. Our mission is to serve the citizens of Sterling. We do this with a full time staff of thirteen officers, one chief, three sergeants, one detective and eight patrol officers. The department is manned twenty-four hours a day seven days a week, including all holidays. We are here when you need us.

In support of our mission we employ one administrative assistant, and a staff of four full time dispatchers and a varying amount of part-time dispatchers. We experienced our first vacancy in the full time dispatch ranks in approximately ten years; Chris Wilder resigned to take a position in a regional dispatch center. Our part-time staff is not as stable as the full time staff. The emergency call takers are required to obtain and maintain certain state mandated standards. Once an individual is certified they become very marketable and can seek out higher paying positions. Brian Ryder, one of our part-time dispatchers took the full-time position vacated by Chris Wilder. Benjamin Dame was hired to fill the part-time position. All other positions in the department were unchanged. At the end of the year several personnel changes are anticipated. The start of 2018 we are going to see the departure of several long time employees.

Training is an integral component of our department. We strive to keep up to date with the latest trends techniques, and procedures in our field. All officers attend four days of mandated training at the Boylston Police Academy. This year's training consisted of:

- Defensive tactics
- First Responder (CPR/First aid)
- Violent Extremism Awareness
- Stress (Stigma and Survival) for Law Enforcement
- Procedural Justice
- Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Legal Update

In addition to the above, officers are required to qualify annually with our firearms that include Smith and Wesson M&P. 45, AR-15 patrol rifle and Remington 12 gauge shot gun. Officers must also qualify with our less than lethal weapons including our electrical weapons (Taser) and chemical spray.

All dispatchers including part-time are required to attend sixteen hours of training on various topics. In addition to the mandated topics officers are encouraged to attend trainings that will benefit the department and town. Officer Ferguson attended a two semester course at the University of Rhode Island and obtained certification as a crime scene technician. Sterling now has a certified crime scene examiner who can process crime scenes without us having to rely on other agencies.

Below is a partial list of trainings that officers participated in during the year:

- Crime Scene Processing
- New Public Records Law
- S&W Pistol Armorer Course
- Sex Offender Registry
- Bomb Explosive
- Evidence Room Procedures
- On duty injuries
- FBI Law Enforcement Executive Training
- Instructor Level Defensive Tactics
- Emergency Vehicle Operators Class
- Taser Instructor Level Class

- MILO Simulated shooting range system Instructor level
- Responding to gas line leaks

We are fortunate to work in a community that supports our department. The support is shown in various ways. We receive countless letters, cards, food donations (especially around the holidays), and donations to the Sterling Police Association. Support is also provided to us via the town budget process where we obtain updated and needed equipment. During the year we replaced one front line police vehicles. The process of moving to a fleet of entirely Ford Explorer SUV's is almost complete. These vehicles have turned out to be reliable and up to the rigors of police service.

There was one issue that came about during the year pertaining to these vehicles. An elevated carbon monoxide level was identified. We obtained a grant from our insurance carrier and all the cruisers were outfitted with detectors. We also had cruisers that were identified as having issues rectified.

All officers had their bullet proof vests replaced. This was funded 100% utilizing a combination of state and federal grants.

The town voted to approve a speed sign board project at the annual town meeting. These signs were delivered and have been utilized around the town. They have received good reviews from citizens. Several request for information as to where they were obtained were received from various towns.

The police union and town settled negotiations of the long expired contract. The contract was retroactive to FY-16. A new contract was enacted and is valid until June of 2019. A special town meeting was held to fund the retroactive years of the contract and funding for the current year. The article passed without discussion.

Often times members of our department interact with the general public. These meetings can be as a result of a call for service, a routine traffic stop or just an everyday encounter. Other times our interaction comes about from our involvement in the community. We look forward to participating in many of the events that take place during the year.

Probably the event where we interact most is with our presence at the Sterling Fair. Every year we plan and execute these plans over the weekend. Sterling entertains thousands of fair goers in a safe and fun environment.

We often enjoy our interaction with our senior citizens. This year we held a class on chemical spray (mace) at the senior center. Members of the department acted as servers at the monthly breakfast at the center.

Some of the other community events we participated in were:

- Opening day Sterling Little League and softball leagues.
- Orange Drag Races
- Work with SMLD on video presentation
- Assist with Promenade walk
- Worked with Wachusett Greenways on Rail Trail security
- Traffic control at Memorial Day Parade and Veteran's Day Ceremony.
- Support Yahoo event at fire department
- Assisted Recreation Department with road race
- Coordinate with pre-school on the Spooky walk

The area where we interact most in the community is with the schools. In addition to our daily school patrols, our school liaison officer meets often with the staff and students at the school.

This year we participated in the school rock garden project, the Flag Day ceremony, and the community reader program.

The safety of the students in our schools is our top priority. We hold a number of lock down drills during the school year. The police chief meets monthly with a security and safety team and the superintendent of school and his staff and they discuss matters of safety.

At the start of the school year the chief meets with the school faculty and staff makes a safety presentation.

On January 26th of 2017 our dispatch center switched over to the “NexGen” system. This update offered us enhanced dispatching capabilities. However, we did lose twenty-six days of statistics during the switch over. The following numbers do not include those twenty six days.

We had six thousand six hundred six (6606) calls for service, seven hundred eighty two (782) were 9-1-1 calls. We responded to three hundred and forty (340) burglar alarm calls. There were one hundred and thirty seven (137) crashes investigated a reduction of thirty eight (38) from last year.

There were two roundabouts installed on Leominster Road. These roundabouts were intended to reduce crashes as well as the severity of any crashes that may occur. I am pleased to report that that there has been a decrease in crashes.

In 2016 there were thirty eight (38) crashes on Leominster Rd, eleven (11) of those were with injuries. In 2017 there were twenty six (26) crashes on Leominster Rd and six (6) of those were with injuries. Unfortunately, in 2017 Sterling experienced its first homicide in recent memory. A suspect has been charged and is awaiting judicial proceedings. The incident was not a random act of violence, and the victim and suspect were not strangers to each other.

Other crimes occurring:

Sexual Assaults	2
Aggravated Assault	8
Simple Assault	20
Arson	1
Burglary & Breaking and entering	20
Theft from vehicle	31

There were forty-seven (47) individuals arrested during the year. Fifty eight (58) individuals were referred to various courts for action.

I want to extend my appreciation and thanks to the many town departments that have supported us throughout the year. We work closely with the Fire Department, the Department of Public works and the Municipal Light Department. The cooperation we receive from these departments makes our jobs easier. We are also fortunate to have a supportive Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator. Personally, I can say that having the support of the BOS and TA is based upon mutual respect. The relationship we have makes my job easier.

To both the sworn and civilian men and women of the police department, I appreciate your dedication and service to our community. We have the honor of serving this great community and I feel honored to be able to lead such a fine organization.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary M. Chamberland
Chief of Police

THE RECREATION DEPARTMENT: HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2017

Throughout the year the Recreation Department has remained committed to its mission. The Recreation Department is dedicated to providing affordable, quality recreational programs that will enhance the quality of life for all residents. We achieve these goals by providing year-round programs that include active and passive recreational activities. The department strives to promote our programs and offer safe, accessible and well-maintained recreation facilities. We improved our facilities this year with the help of local Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops, and wonderful resident volunteers. New programs & activities implemented in 2017 and the modification of existing activities, proved to be a success for the Recreation Department with increased enrollment.

The community had an opportunity to participate in over fifty programs which were provided year-round and are self-funded. Child oriented programs included, basketball, cooking, music, archery, swimming lessons, art, sewing, sports adventure, multi-sports, yoga, skiing/snowboarding, and Zumba. One of our longest running programs, Sterling Rec Basketball, had over 200 players. We were able to connect with Rutland Recreation to add some additional competition for our female teams. We also added more competitive components to our High School Pick-Up league. We are very fortunate to have so many wonderful coaches who volunteer their valuable time and expertise. Our after school programs saw a lot of action this year with kids lining up to learn how to make slime, build a robot, or make candy. Adults had the continued opportunity to participate in exercise programs that were offered all year, such as several types of yoga, basketball, and weight training. Bruins fans were able to take advantage of the opportunity to get tickets to a game versus the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Our largest adventure this year was the Sterling Road Race, which we hope to make an annual event. The race featured a 5K run, 10K and 5K walk. While the event took tremendous effort to put together, the outcome was amazing. We saw nearly 100 runners on race day, most of which were from the community. We teamed up with Sterling Fire, Sterling Police and Sterling DPW to make this event happen. We are so thankful to the many volunteers who helped us put on a successful event. We hope to see everyone out there again in 2018!

The Recreation Department enjoys offering a variety of free community-oriented events throughout the year. This is an opportunity to give back to this great community who support our programs and activities. These free events included: *Holiday Tree Lighting*, *Holiday House Lighting Tour*, *Annual Easter Egg Hunt*, and *Summer Concert Series 2017*. Many of these events would not be possible without the generosity of local businesses such as Evergreen Farms, Charlie Madden, Village Pizza, DMH Electrical, Don-Jo Manufacturing, Hendrickson Advertising, Leominster Credit Union, Pandolf-Perkins, Clinton Savings Bank, Rota Springs, Aubin Trucking, Sterling Deli & Chinese Takeout, Century 21, Groundwater Supply, and Rafferty Wholesale. ***Sterling Lancaster Cable*** filmed many of the concerts and ran them on the local cable channel for viewers to enjoy all year long. In addition, the Sterling Recreation Department received a grant for \$1,200.00 from ***The Sterling Cultural Council*** for the Summer Concert Series 2017. The Cultural Council is committed to building a central place for the arts, sciences, and humanities in the everyday lives of communities across the Commonwealth.

The Recreation Department funded repairs on equipment that was broken or missing at the Sterling Greenery Community Park. We are thankful to the volunteers who took the time to repair and replace equipment, and cleaned up the landscape. We strive to make this a fun safe play area for children.

The Recreation Department is a vehicle for volunteers that are willing to help and, as a result, we have the opportunity to improve and expand activities. We were lucky enough to see one of our most popular programs, the Summer Lake Program, enrollment numbers double from the beginning to the end of the summer. The full day option has really added to the program and we were able to add some new field trip

locations this year like Mulligans Mini Golf and Ultimate Obstacles. It was just what we needed to complete a great summer day. In addition to adding to and improving upon existing programs, we also tried to incorporate some new and exciting programs into our offerings. For the first time we offered an after school archery program for children in middle school and it was a huge success! The program was completely full and all of the participants really enjoyed themselves while learning the basics of a very exciting new sport!

As always, we are extremely thankful for the support of the community and the dedication of the many volunteers who give a helping hand in numerous ways. We continue to appreciate the time and dedication of other town departments, program instructors, summer staff, lifeguards, volunteer ski chaperones, volunteer basketball coaches, school administrators, school custodians, and sponsors. With this network of supporters we are able to provide top notch events for the community. Close to 4,100 individuals participated in the Recreation Department's events and programs in 2017, and we thank you for your constant support throughout the year.

The Recreation Department will continue to work to improve the quality of Recreational facilities, programs, and services. Your feedback is important to us, please contact the Recreation Department at 978-422-3041, e-mail recreation@sterling-ma.gov or stop in at our office currently located at 1 Park St. For listings and descriptions of programs and events, visit the web site: SterlingRec.com or sterling-ma.gov/recreation

Recreation meetings are held each month in the Recreation Office, Room 1, and 1835 Town Hall.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Dietel - Recreation Director
Jo-Ann Cummings - Chairperson Recreation Committee
Heidi Grady
Kathleen Greenwood
Mark Hryniewicz
Andrew Parker
Bonnie Pulda

SCHOOLS:

MONTACHUSETT REGIONAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

The 2016-2017 school year marked my third year as Superintendent-Director of Montachusett Regional Vocational Technical School District, and in my short tenure here, I am proud to say I have seen the school reach new levels of academic excellence, technical proficiency, and student engagement. Perhaps the most exciting aspect of my role here is bearing witness to the creativity and innovation at work every day in our classrooms and shops. Our students and instructors work collaboratively to explore scientific concepts, designing experiments that are conducted aboard the International Space Station; they study automation and additive manufacturing through the use of robotic arms and 3-D printers; and even build new educational facilities that students will grow and learn in for years to come. Monty Tech is a school unlike any other and I am honored to serve the students, faculty and staff here.

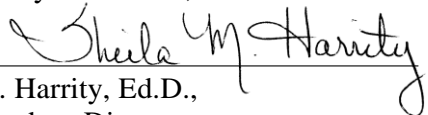
In many respects, 2016-2017 was a banner year at Monty Tech. We launched a whole school 1:1 Chromebook initiative, providing all students with increased access to instructional technology, and improving communications between teachers and students beyond the traditional school day. We received more than \$645,000 in competitive grants, and have been able to provide students with remarkable field trips to connect their learning to STEM career pathways that spark imagination and creativity. We provided high quality professional development opportunities to support the school's new biomedical courses, bringing innovative new science coursework and curriculum to students with an interest in biomedical and biotechnology career pathways. Construction of the Monty Tech Veterinary Science Training Center and Community Clinic continued throughout 2016-2017, providing tremendous hands-on learning opportunities to students in our Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, Cabinetmaking, HVAC, Masonry, and Welding trades. School administrators launched an unprecedented fundraising campaign, and successfully raised more than \$2.5M in donations and in-kind matching services to support this project. And finally, thanks to an extremely generous Skills Capital Grant, we were able to renovate the Machine Technology shop, and purchase state-of-the-art machinery for students to train on, earning more industry recognized credentials than ever before.

We recognize that students attending Monty Tech have chosen a high school experience that, to many, may seem complex and even daunting. Our students are required to pass the same statewide standardized tests as students in a comprehensive high school. They take English, mathematics, science, social studies and foreign language courses, just as high school students in your community might. A Monty Tech student, though, must also balance all of that with a rigorous vocational-technical education, specializing in one of our twenty programs. For four years our students work and learn in vocational settings that replicate industry standards. They train on the latest equipment, and, through the school's popular Co-operative Education Program, our students may even spend time working and learning in area businesses during their Junior and Senior year. It is a great responsibility to provide each and every student with high-quality, vocational-technical instruction, and we are honored to serve approximately 1,400 students each year.

This work is only possible because of our talented educators and administrators, who remain focused on delivering the highest quality academic and vocational-technical education possible. Working closely with post-secondary colleagues, we aim to ensure our students graduate prepared to enter college pathways of their choosing. Similarly, relying on our expansive

network of industry partners, we strive to improve upon each of our vocational programs to ensure that every graduate is not only prepared for entry-level careers in related pathways, but are also creative, independent thinkers, capable of solving complex, real-world situations that present themselves in today's workplaces. On their behalf, I am delighted to present the District's 2016-2017 annual report to you, providing a snapshot of the wonderful experiences happening on a day-to-day basis here at Monty Tech.

Respectfully submitted,


Sheila M. Harrity, Ed.D.,
Superintendent-Director

SCHOOLS:

Wachusett Regional School District
Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling

January 2018

Dear Residents of Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, and Sterling,

We have had an eventful 2017-2018 school year thus far. Over the past several months, the District continued to work toward the completion of the goals associated with the WRSD Strategic Plan. Our school district remains one of the strongest in Central Massachusetts as we create educational programming for our students that will prepare them for their future endeavors.

The WRSD Strategic Plan provides the Wachusett community with a sense of purpose as we define priorities and set budgets. Each school has developed a School Improvement Plan that ties directly back to the Strategic Plan and will help define budget priorities at both the building level and the District level. Goals that have been set by administrators and teachers have common themes connected to the five learning domains, helping to bring our five town district toward common educational outcomes. This year we have focused on many areas including technology, improved instructional support, social emotional learning, and more.

In early November, the District and Member Town officials held the annual Budget Roundtable at the Holden Senior Center. This meeting is the opportunity to discuss budget issues associated with the upcoming fiscal year. As always, the meeting was well attended by town representatives, officials from the state, and members of the Wachusett Regional School District Committee. An important area of focus during the discussions was the recent report completed by the State Auditor's Office concerning the funding issues facing regional school districts throughout Massachusetts. Working together as a unified community, our five towns and the District have made a commitment to seek 100% reimbursement for regional transportation by lobbying our representatives to support our request. Grassroots organizations and our teachers union have been vocal in their support of more state funding for all regional school districts. Funding at the state level remains a major issue associated with the budget woes we have faced as a district and continues to be an area of concern for both local and state officials. As state funding continues to decline, we are even more dependent upon our local tax base to support our educational endeavors. If we all continue to advocate on behalf of the District to support the recommendations made not only by the State Auditor but also by the Foundation Budget Review Commission, it would help to ease the financial burden placed on both schools and towns.

Last year, the five towns that comprise the Wachusett District supported a budget that has permitted us the opportunity to increase support for our students. We look forward to continuing the forward progress made this past year as we look to create a budget that supports the Strategic Plan.

Thank you for your continued support of students, faculty, and staff of the WRSD.

Sincerely,

Darryll McCall, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Sterling Municipal Light Department

50 Main Street

Sterling, Massachusetts 01564-2129

Tel: (978) 422-8267

Fax: (978) 422-8054

www.energysterling.com

Respectfully submitted is the one hundred and seventh report of the Sterling Municipal Light Department (SMLD).

POWER

The SMLD's customer base has 3,851 accounts as of December 31, 2017 that include 3,473 Residential, 7 Large General Service (LGS), 139 Medium General Service (MGS), 230 Small General Service (SGS), 1 Wholesale and 1 Streetlight.

A total of 56,134,885 kilowatt hours (kwhs) of electricity were sold during the calendar year 2017. This represents a decrease of 2,101,263 kwhrs from calendar year 2017. Sterling's hourly peak demand was 10.956 MW set in June of 2017, a decrease of less than 1% from the 2016 peak.

The SMLD uses reliable indices to monitor the performance of our distribution system and measure our response time to system interruptions. The 2017 *Average Service Availability Index* (ASAI) of electricity for Sterling residents was 99.999%. The 2017 *Customer Average Interruption Duration Index* (CAIDI) numbers represent the average time required to restore service to a customer per sustained outage was 70.443 minutes.

As our transmission costs continue to rise we have been able to mitigate these increases with the use of our new battery storage system (see below) and using locally produced solar energy from the E.H. Perkins and the Wiles Road solar facilities. To date, these facilities combined have provided us with 23,176,044 kwhrs which is enough energy to power 2,575 average residential customer homes for a year.

Energy Storage

We are happy to report that in April of 2017 the SMLD working with NEC Energy Solutions completed our scale battery storage project. This 2.0 mega-watt/3.9 mwhour provided \$411,565 in savings to the rate payers of Sterling. This was accomplished by lowering the monthly and annual peak demands. This project is the first of its kind in Massachusetts and the largest in New England and received the Grid Edge Tech Award for being one of the top energy projects in the world. The Town of Sterling and the SMLD also received the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Leading by Example Award and was runner up to receive the Energy Storage North America award that is voted by the public. This project was presented twenty-two times through webinars and/or conferences for different organizations throughout the country. Some of the webinars/conference included the MA DOER, Department of Energy, Energy Storage Program in Washington, The Clean Energy States Alliance (CESA), Clean Energy Center (CEC), Smart Energy Power Association (SEPA), Solar Power International (SPI), American Public Power Association annual conference and others. The battery storage project has been a model for others and has been visited by representatives from nine different countries including Japan, Brazil, Sweden, Germany, Russia, Denmark, England, Malaysia and Taiwan, along with electrical industry representatives from 25 different municipal and investor owned utilities.

At a cost of \$2.7M this project was funded in part from a grant of \$1.463M from the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), Community Clean Energy Resiliency Initiative Program, under the direction of Commissioner Judith Judson and a grant of \$250,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Energy Storage Program, under the direction of Dr. Imre Gyuk with technical support for

the project provided by Sandia National Labs. The SMLD's Operations crew provided much of the labor for the outside infrastructure and interconnection work, as well as the inside work in the substation. This eliminated the need to hire additional vendors to do the work and provided a great savings to the project. The work was performed under the direction of our Project Manager, Scott Reynolds with engineering designs provided by Mike Barrett of PLM. After only 33 working days the batteries were manually up and operating and allowed us to capture (and reduce) the December 2016 peak, realizing a savings to the SMLD ratepayers. This project will have less than a 2-year payback to the ratepayers of Sterling.

OPERATIONS

The following list summarizes the projects completed and in progress for the Operations Department:

Underground Residential Distribution (URD) Projects

- In 2017 we continued work on Honey Crisp Lane off Redstone Hill Road.

Overhead Distribution Projects

- *Leominster Road* - Through a borderline agreement with National Grid, the SMLD started preparations for electrical service to the Southgate Commercial and Industrial Park located at the Sterling/Leominster town line. We installed over 2,800' of underground cable and 128 different splices to bring power to the new park and energize the new Registry of Motor Vehicles. This project was completed well ahead of the expected date.
- *190 Underground Termination Replacement* - At each bridge crossing in Sterling (along I-190) the cables for our distribution system go from overhead to underground then rise again on the other side. Over the years the road salt has been slowly eroding the terminations and before they began to fail we performed a complete change out of all 63 terminations.
- *In 2017 we continued changing out porcelain cut-outs (fuses) throughout the distribution system.* The porcelain cut-outs have a history of forming hairline cracks that fill with water, freeze and then crack. This leads to eventual failure causing outages and creating a dangerous situation for our line crews. This project will continue until all porcelain cut-outs are changed.
- *Leominster Road* - Upgraded 25 sections of 3 phase bare copper and a bare neutral with 3-phase 8,730 feet 477 Hendrix and 2 ,910ft 1/0 bare neutral.
- *Leominster Road* - Replaced 25 poles.
- *P.111 Leominster Road* - Installed new S&C air-brake for Southgate Park for better switching and isolation capabilities.
- *Clinton Road* - Reliability upgrade of 11 sections of single phase wire by removing bare copper and open secondaries and replacing with 1/0 tree-wire and triplex.
- *Clinton Road* - Replaced 9 poles.
- *Mortimore Road* - Replaced 12 sections of single phase bare copper and open secondary with 1/0 tree-wire and triplex for better reliability.
- *Mortimer Road* - Replaced 11 poles and 1 push brace.
- *Princeton Road* - Replaced 14 sections of single phase bare copper and open secondaries with 1/0 tree-wire and triplex for better reliability.

- *West Princeton Road* - Replaced 13 poles in single phase section.
- *West Princeton Road* - Installed 2,940ft 1/0 bare neutral and removed 700' #6 bare CU in 3 phase sections.
- *Swett Hill Road* - Added 4 sections of tree wire and 4 poles, creating loop feed and redundancy for area.
- *P.56 Chace Hill Road/Kendall Hill Road* - Replaced 3 individual tie fuses with one S&C gang operated air-brake for better switching and isolation capabilities.
- *P.89 Squareshire Road* - Replaced 3 single underslung disconnects with one gang operated S&C air-brake for better switching and isolation capabilities.
- *Southgate Industrial Park* - Through a borderline agreement with National Grid, we designed and Installed 18,000 feet of 3-phase 1/0 URD CU with express loop feed to provide electric service to commercial and industrial customers located in Leominster.
- *Installed 1,829ft of 1/0 URD AL primary for new condominiums on Shamrock Way.*
- *Replaced 700ft of 1/0 URD primary that failed due to ice on Ryan Way.*
- *Installed 37 new customer meters.*
- *In April of 2017 we completed the resiliency/commissioning test of the new 2MW/3.9 MWhrs Battery Storage Project at the substation for the Police and Dispatch Center.*
- *Completed engineered risk assessment of substation with Zurich Insurance.*
- *Installed new S&C single phase recloser for Holden Rid to offer better protection.*
- *Create Set-up and install new Schweitzer SCADA.*
- *In 2017 we continued work on our GIS/Outage Management and Notification System.* Upon completion of our system host upgrade the system will allow us to receive real time information. This is expected to be completed in mid-2018.

AWARDS

- *Safety Award* – This is the most important award that we received in 2017. For the seventh consecutive year SMLD had no workers' compensation claims or lost time. This not only lowered our workmen's compensation insurance premiums from a high of \$28,000 a few years ago to below \$10,000 today, but also qualified the SMLD to receive the American Public Power Safety Award. This award recognizes Public Power Utilities across the country that achieve this milestone. Our improved safety record and reduced premiums also provide savings to our ratepayers.
- *RP3 Platinum Award* – The SMLD received this award from American Public Power Association. This award is based on a review by peers in our industry of the SMLD including our financial, operation and safety programs and policies.
- *Grid Tech Edge Award* – We received this award as recognition for being the first Utility Scale Battery Storage Project in New England.

- *Smart Energy Power Alliance* – Out of 2,000 public power utilities across the US the SMLD was recognized as having the most storage watts per customer.
- *Energy Storage North America* – Voted by the public for the North American Continent the SMLD's Battery Storage Project was runner up for being the top project.
- *The SMLD and the Town of Sterling received the Leading by Example Award* from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. This award was presented to the Town for working together with the Energy Committee to perform energy efficiency improvements in the municipal buildings. Improvements included HVAC and lighting change outs to improve efficiency and lower overall operating cost. This award also recognized the new Battery Storage Project.

POWER SUPPLY

In effort to diversify our power resources and stabilize purchased power costs, we buy electricity through fixed contracts and the open market. These costs reflect the generation and delivery of electricity to the Town of Sterling. There are many circumstances beyond our control that make the cost of electric energy fluctuate, such as, periods of peak power demands during extreme temperatures, unexpected plant shutdowns and spikes in fuel prices. Changing costs are triggered by unpredictable events from the fluctuating fuel commodity markets to global unrest. Natural gas prices have remained steady over the last few years, but we remain challenged with the uncertainty of the delivery during cold spells. In December 2017 the temperatures remained below zero for a period that caused constraints on the gas transmission lines. This leads to curtailments at the generating plants that require them to switch to oil, a costlier alternative. Energy produced from natural gas has risen from 5% in 2000 to 60% in 2016 and is expected to continue to rise until new gas transmission pipelines can be put in place. Despite these concerns in 2017 our power costs have remained stable.

Our transmission and capacity cost continue to rise even while energy prices decline. The driver behind these costs is a capacity market in New England that does not provide the lowest possible rate to the consumers. Since our region has the second highest rates in the continental U.S. we will continue to ask our Legislators to review this market. Another area of concern is that transmission owners are receiving large returns (between 11-14%) on their multi-billion dollar investments in transmission line upgrades in New England. According to Forbes this includes \$22 billion spent in 2016. Over \$91 billion was spent on transmission projects between 1980 and 2008 and there is expected to be another \$23 billion in 2017 when transmission investments are expected to peak. The SMLD along with other municipal light plants and associations continue to contest these charges in Washington with our Legislators and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The outcome of these meetings resulted in the filing of various bills that brought some relief. The returns were lowered from 11.4% to 10.54, however we will continue to contest that the returns be closer to the industry average of 9.2%.

Our power portfolio is 70% carbon free. We receive hydro power specifically from Baltic Mills, Mechanicsville Hydro, Energy Stream Hydro, Methuen Falls Hydro, Public Authority State of New York Hydro (PASNY) and Centennial Falls Hydro Electric Facility. In 2017 over 27-35% of our power was received from renewable energy sources that includes the Berkshire Wind project located in Western MA. The Hancock Wind project located in Hancock ME and the Princeton Wind Project, located on Wachusett Mountain in Princeton. We also receive power from the Millstone III Nuclear Plant, located in Millstone Conn. and the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant in New Hampshire. Other sources of our power supply come from the MMWEC Stony Brook Plant, combined cycle units I & II and the Carbolon Generating Facility. In November we signed a Power Purchase Agreement with Origo Energy to provide the first Community Solar Project with energy storage in New England. This 1mw solar with 1 mw /2mwhr project is expected to be online by April of 2018.

We continue to offer the following assistance programs to our Residents:

- HELPS Home Energy Audit (no cost to residents)
- Energy Star® Rebate Program, www.munihelps.org
- Kill-A-Watt™ Electricity Usage Monitor
- TESCO Surge Arrester
- Customer Data/Billing Portals
- Multiple Payment Options

Other community activities/contributions sanctioned by the SMLD Light Board:

- *Our Annual Open House, normally held the 3rd Thursday in April.*
- Install and Pay for the Town Common Lighting
- Sterling Fair (provision of power)
- Town Street Lights – Working with the Town of Sterling Energy Committee and a municipal Light Plant grant, the SMLD replaced all the streetlight fixtures in Sterling and lower the operating cost from \$36,000/year in 2010 to \$18,000 in fiscal 2018/2019.
- Provide funds for annual inspection and maintenance for all town owned generators.
- Offer the Round-Up Program to our customers to benefit the Sterling Neighbor-to-Neighbor (N-2-N) Program, since the program's inception we have collected over \$9,000 for the Neighbor to Neighbor fund because of your generous contributions.
- Working with the Energy Committee the SMLD provided funding to replace the Fire Dept and Sr. Center lighting with LED, the new lighting uses 67% less energy to operate.

CHANGES AT SMLD

In May of 2017, Brian Pierce was re-elected to a three-year term on the Light Board Commission.

In 2017 we replaced our 2004 1-ton dump truck with a new Ford F350 1-ton Dump Truck at a cost of \$51,322.00

In 2017 we purchased a small enclosed trailer to keep our underground air blower system, manhole racks, and water removal pumps together for easier dispatch and set up when working in underground vaults.

The 2013 Ford Explorer was traded and replaced with a new 2017 Ford Explorer at a net cost of \$20,937.00

50 Main Street Garage - We removed the oil tank and furnace in this building that will be used for cold storage eliminating the need to heat an unoccupied garage. During the reconstruction we removed the back-loading dock area and wall leading to the building addition, increasing the indoor storage capabilities for our equipment and stock. We also renovated, insulated and installed a small heater the single restroom in the garage.

2 Leominster Road building - We removed the oil furnace and oil tank and installed a propane infra-red heater for the truck bay garage area.

NATURAL GAS

SMLD to discontinue pursuit of natural gas franchise rights in Sterling (see next page).

Sterling Municipal Light Department
50 Main Street
Sterling, Massachusetts 01564-2135
Tel: (978) 422-8267
Fax: (978) 422-8054
www.energysterling.com

December 21, 2017

SMLD to Discontinue Pursuit of Natural Gas Franchise Rights in Sterling

Many residents have inquired about the status of the Sterling Municipal Light Department (SMLD) bringing natural gas into the Town of Sterling. At two town meetings in 2014, the SMLD received the town's support to pursue the franchise rights for the natural gas in Sterling.

After the town meetings, SMLD requested the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) grant exclusive rights to the SMLD to provide natural gas service to the Town of Sterling. The DPU performed a detailed search to determine if any franchise rights were previously granted in the town of Sterling. The DPU's search revealed that on September 20, 1929 an order for exclusive rights, including Sterling, was granted to the Worcester Gas and Light, now called Eversource.

For over 80 years, Worcester Gas, now called Eversource, took no action in providing natural gas service to the town, except for the pipeline installed in 2013 in the southern corner of Sterling. This pipeline serves one industrial customer and homes along Bean Road, Boutelle Road, Muddy Pond Road, and Jewett Road. The SMLD took the position that Eversource's inaction in serving the Town of Sterling caused them to abandon their franchise rights, however to obtain the franchise rights from Eversource, the SMLD would have to initiate litigation against Eversource which could be a lengthy and expensive process.

Simultaneous to the DPU's review, the SMLD engaged Tri-Mont Engineering to design a preliminary natural gas distribution system with estimated construction costs. Deficiencies in the existing natural gas supply and transmission system were also reviewed and examined. During two public presentations it was demonstrated how the first phase of construction would provide service to approximately 52% of our projected load, including the industrial customers. The cost to complete the first phase was estimated by Tri-Mont Engineering to cost \$25.2 million dollars that would be assumed by the new natural gas customers only.

At the time of the study, the cost of heating oil was \$4.00/gallon and natural gas was substantially lower. Since the study was conducted, oil has dropped to \$2.00/gallon and natural gas has risen eliminating the previous attractive cost savings. Due to the spacious rural character of Sterling the existing homes and business are separated by large tracts of undeveloped land. This rural character that attracted many of you to move here makes the creation of an underground gas distribution system expensive and cost prohibitive.

Therefore, after extensive study and legal review it has been determined that the prohibitive construction costs for a gas distribution system and the uncertainty of litigation costs would not be a logical or practical investment at this time. The SMLD expended \$68,000 for the legal, engineering and design work costs associated with the investigation of the franchise rights. Should conditions in the future change that would make natural gas a viable option for our rate payers, the SMLD would revisit the issue at that time. The SMLD has and continues to strive to be a progressive, customer focused service provider to our rate payers.


Matt Stelmach - Chairman

Brian Pierce - Clerk


Joseph Curtin - 3rd Member

Sean Hamilton - General Manager

TREE TRIMMING SERVICES

Tree trimming continued throughout 2017. By using a competitive bid process for tree trimming the work is primarily performed by outside contractors. Additional tree trimming is also performed by the SMLD line crew that involves a 5-year rotating cycle in areas that we see an increased growth or system problem.

UTILITY SCAM

Be aware of utility scams that continue taking place in our area. Scammers are making calls after business hours at night and throughout the weekends. They identify themselves as a “utility” and demand that a payment be made over the phone or the service will be disconnected. ***Do not make a payment to this request.*** Hang up and call our office at 978-422-8267 (Mon. - Thurs. 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Fri 7:30 to 11:30 am) or call the Sterling Police Department at 978-422-7331. Also, if anyone stops by your home claiming to be an SMLD employee and you do not have a pre-arranged appointment, ***do not let them in.*** All SMLD employees have photo I.D.’s and will only be at your home for a scheduled appointment. Again, call our office or the Sterling Police Department if this incident should occur.

In 2017 we continued to work with the Water Department on the installation of their metering equipment. Since this project began over 1800 new meters have been installed. We also installed software for electronic readings and monitoring utilizing our new Advanced Meter Infrastructure (AMI) for their water meter readings.

During the construction of our new Battery Storage project it was necessary for us to reach out to multiple departments in the town of Sterling for their help in completing this project. This involved the Select Board for their help in receiving the \$1,463M grant from MA DOER, the Fire Department for their support as we designed and approved the proper fire suppression system, the Building Inspector for help with the review of the system structures and site lay out, the DPW for their quick response in getting the site ready for delivery after unexpected rains and allowing us to stay on schedule and the police Department for their assistance with traffic control while we put the new battery structure into the substation.

We also want to extend a special thank you to the Wiring Inspector for his continued support during the multiple inspections for the conduits and cables this project required. It is with the cooperation and support of all these departments, the SMLD Commissioners and the entire SMLD staff that a project like this gets built. After one year of operation the battery storage has provided over \$434,000 in benefits to the ratepayers of Sterling. I would like to offer a special thank you to everyone who assisted us in this project or other ways throughout the year.

We thank the DPW personnel for their assistance throughout the year by providing maintenance to our vehicles and assisting us during roadway excavations.

We thank the Water Department for their contribution in lowering our peak power demand by shedding loads during peak periods. This helps to reduce our transmission costs, thus creating a savings that benefit all ratepayers.

Congratulations to the SMLD employees on another accident free year. Once again, we were awarded the American Public Power Safety Association 2017 Safety Award of Excellence. It is quite an honor to be recognized nationally and clearly demonstrates the commitment of the SMLD employees.

Respectfully Submitted by,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sean Hamilton".

Sean Hamilton
General Manager

For the Sterling Municipal Light Board Members:

Matthew Stelmach, Chairman
Brian Pierce, Clerk
Joseph Curtin, 3rd Member

WACHUSETT GREENWAYS

Connecting our Communities

Wachusett Greenways (WG) is grateful to all who help connect the community with trails and greenways. The Mass Central Rail Trail (MCRT) is a treasured resource for health, recreation and transportation. Year round neighbors and visitors benefit from the MCRT between Sterling and Barre. Wachusett Greenways and partners including eight Towns have completed and continue to maintain nearly 20 miles of the central 30 miles of the MCRT. The Commonwealth and others are constructing new sections of the MCRT along the 104-mile corridor to the east and west of us between Northampton and Boston.

20th Birthday of the MCRT!

On October 1, 2017, WG hosted the 20th birthday party of the MCRT in West Boylston where the first section of the trail was dedicated in October 1997. The birthday party featured more than twenty birthday cakes baked by friends. Twenty representatives from an amazing cast of partners and supporters over the last 20+ years helped cut the ribbon to commemorate the beginning of this wonderful community trail. The annual Springdale Mill Celebration followed the birthday dedication.

23 Years of Partnerships Growing Stronger

In 2017, every Select Board member of each of eight towns voted to support Town contributions to WG to assist with annual operating expenses. Six of the eight towns committed modest operating fund support in FY 18, and the remaining two towns will seek support in FY 19. WG Towns include Barre, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling, Oakham and West Boylston.

Major partners are the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), eight central Massachusetts Towns, the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife, Mass Office of Travel and Tourism, each legislator, many local foundations and businesses. Each WG member, donor and volunteer is also central to continued success.

MCRT Construction and Restoration

Restorations and improvements accomplished this year through a DCR Recreational Trails Program grant with WG match included:

1. Restore the embankment at the Parker Brook bridge east of the Route 122 crossing in Oakham. A large beaver dam under the bridge, heavy rain and a partial breach of the dam caused serious erosion. This project repaired the embankment and improved the stability of the bridge abutment.
2. Expand the parking lot at Muddy Pond outlet, Route 122, Oakham. WG expanded the parking lot from three cars to hold eight cars including one handicapped space and improve visibility.
3. Restore two culverts and embankments and add one step way in Rutland near Watson Lane. One repair included using large stone to stabilize the embankment. The second culvert require repair and rebuilding the headwalls. The contractor restored the surface with gravel and stone dust.
4. Complete one corner of the asphalt paving at the River Street, Holden parking lot.
5. Restore the parking lot at Sterling center. This improvement included regrading the entry drive and parking to improve drainage, and installing and compactor rolling additional gravel with a top coat of asphalt grindings.
6. Remove hazardous trees and branches overhanging the Charnock cut in Rutland with a professional tree company.
7. Purchase materials to complete MCRT restorations including gravel, stone dust, rip rap and plastic culvert pipe.
8. Purchase thirteen new granite benches for the MCRT between Barre and Sterling. These benches are a durable trail amenity, which visitors and donors appreciate.

9. WG developed new signs for trail entrances and for street direction along the Barre to Sterling MCRT corridor. The new signs improve the visibility and recognition of the MCRT.

Looking ahead to 2018. WG will complete additional MCRT restorations in Rutland and Sterling in 2018. The design for the new MCRT connection at the Route 140/ Beaman Street causeway in West Boylston is scheduled. Construction funds are committed for the trail approaches at each end of the causeway for 2018.

MCRT Stewardship

Partners stepped up to help maintain the MCRT. West Boylston Light Department pruned high dead branches on stately oaks. A community service crew scheduled by Sheriff Lew Evangelidis, the West Boylston Fire Department, West Boylston DPW, Nal's Paint and WG volunteers all helped prepare for the MCRT 20th birthday party in West Boylston. They provided paint and supplies, painted the 'train car' fire training station, repaired the bulletin board, removed invasives and refurbished entry landscaping.

Sterling DPW conducted extensive shoulder mowing and WG volunteers removed invasive saplings in Sterling. West Boylston DPW scheduled regular shoulder mowing. Holden DPW mowed the trail. Several towns and the DCR plowed parking lots. Rutland assisted in removing three hazard trees.

WG trail patrollers kept their rounds, checking for downed branches, removing parking lot litter, checking portable toilets, assisting with tree removals, and mowing. These steadfast volunteers deserve our thanks.

Other WG volunteers and visiting community groups painted picnic tables, removed hundreds of dead trees, and cleaned ditches...many ditches. WG also installed new benches and added new portable restrooms with increased service.

Members and Volunteers Count

Greenways grew to 932 donors in 2017 including 98 new members. 474 generous donors contributed to Wachusett Greenways' MCRT Construction Fund. A total of nearly 2780 friends have contributed to WG, and some have been loyal members since 1997. More than 200 volunteers of all ages help each year.

Reaching Out

WG volunteers attended the Massachusetts Annual Trails Conference, UMass Med School's Earthday Celebration and Holden Days. Greenways directors continued to share our experience with others working on rail trails around the Commonwealth. Greenways held hospitality days and removal. Sentry Oil makes generous oil contributions.

21 Miles Road Welcome Center

One volunteer installed railings on the accessible ramp at 21 Miles Road, Rutland. Another completed surveying for the MCRT connection as we prepare to open the building in 2017. Greenways' vegetable garden produced a bountiful crop shared by volunteers and visitors. Landscaper Doug Hagman continued to donate mowing and leaf removal. Neighbor Everett Reynolds and others continue with snow removal. Sentry Oil makes generous oil contributions.

Outdoor Events

WG offered year round outdoor events on trails throughout the region. Volunteers led walks, bicycling, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, canoeing or other outdoor adventure.

A warm welcome for volunteers, members and supporters!

You are invited to contribute at www.wachusettgreenways.org. Wachusett Greenways, P.O. Box 121, Holden 01520. Members receive the *Wachusett Greenways* guide, which includes a map for the regions' trails and greenways. Volunteers welcome.

Wachusett Greenways Board of Directors:

Colleen Abrams, Chair
Christy Barnes
Stephen Chanis

Troy Milliken, Treasurer
Michael Peckar, Secretary
(Retired 5/17 Jeff Keay)



Mass Central Rail Trail 20th Birthday!

WACHUSETT WATERSHED REGIONAL RECYCLE CENTER
WACHUSETT EARTHDAY, INC.

Supported in part by the seven member towns of Boylston, Holden, Paxton, Princeton, Rutland, Sterling and West Boylston, the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) and the MA Department of Environmental Protection, Wachusett Earthday Inc strives to provide a local solution for difficult-to-dispose of household hazardous products, bulk household debris, as well as to offer a space for citizens to share gently used, but still serviceable items. Usage of the facilities and services provided by the volunteers at the Regional Recycle Center continues to grow and expand.

In 2017 the Recycle Center altered its hours slightly to accommodate a smoother flow for materials coming into the Reuse Building: new hours are Tues (9-11), Wed (2:30-4:30), Thurs (5-7) and every third Saturday (8-11). The Board voted to continue the practice of closing on Thursday evenings for the months of December, January and February, (opening on the first Saturdays of those months as well as the third) due to generally inhospitable temperatures and dark evenings. Increased usage has brought an increased number of cars and amount of materials into the site:

	2016	2017
Total cars	26,456	28,007
Total gallons HHP	11,930	11,265 (1 less collection)
Total lbs Debris	1,633,388 (817tons)	1,806,578 (903 tons)
Tires	1,202	1,116

Thanks to a mattress recycling initiative grant through Mass DEP and the Town of Sterling, WEI sent 1,435 mattresses for recycling in 2017, keeping them out of landfills (in 2016, we recycled 838). This grant has been extended through January of 2019 which will greatly assist WEI in its efforts to continue waste reduction. After the grant terminates, WEI will be required to pay a fee to recycle mattresses.

Wachusett Earthday continues to work with numerous local and regional social service organizations. Working relationships established with Habitat for Humanity, the Montachusett Veterans Shelter, Veterans Inc, Abby's House, Andie's Attic (South High School/Worcester), the Department of Child/Family Services, Sterling Animal Shelter, Worcester Animal Rescue League, Nu-Day Syria, Refugee Artists of Worcester and numerous others continue to prove mutually beneficial.

Volunteers of Wachusett Earthday hail from all seven towns as well as several out-of-region towns. Volunteers, scout groups, the WPI Alpha Phi Omega service organization, students from Bancroft School and members of the Sheriff's Community Service Program all work towards the common goal of waste reduction, recycling and reuse. While the Site is open to the public for just over 6 hours each week, on average, hundreds of additional hours are put in during non-open times. Volunteers come in to organize and clean up several hours before and after each open shift as well as for three to four hours on non-open days.

Six household hazardous products collections were planned for 2017 and five were held: the first one in April was cancelled due to heavy snowfall. Three free document shredding days were held. The same number of collections is planned for 2018.

Holiday closings in 2018 will be: July 4, November 21, 22 & December 25, 26.

The Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center Town Representative Team includes designated representatives of the seven Wachusett Towns, the MA Department of Conservation & Recreation and Wachusett Earthday, Inc. The Team meets annually to review operations. The board of directors of

Wachusett Earthday, Inc, meets monthly to manage operations. After careful review of Wachusett Earthday's financials, the Board of Directors voted to hire it's first employee, an Operations Manager who oversees the day to day activities at the site and who, in conjunction with the Volunteer Coordinator and Executive Board, assists in the management of the organization.

2017 Members of the Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycle Center Town Representatives:

Boylston–Martin McNamara/Lori Esposito	Rutland-Sheila Dibb
Holden–Pam Harding/Robin Farrington	Sterling-Ross Perry/Kama Jayne
Paxton–Carol Riches	West Boylston-Anita
Princeton–Arthur Allen/Nina Nazarian	Scheipers/Mike Kittredge/Nancy Lucier
WEI – Helen Townsend	
MA Department of Conservation & Recreation – John M. Scannell	

2017 Board of Directors, Wachusett Earthday, Inc:

Connie Burr, Norma Chanis (Clerk), William Cronin, Susan Farr, Tim Harrington (Treasurer), Michael Kaprzicki, Mark Koslowske (Vice President & Operations Manager), Patt Popple, Vanya Seiss, Helen Townsend (President), and Robert Troy.

Retired in 2017: Joan Dunn, George Dvorak, Eric Johansen

We regret the passing of a long time member of the WEI family, John Lewis in August of 2017.

OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Links to all the above officials may be found on the Town's website.

TOWN INFORMATION

www.sterling-ma.gov

Main phone number at the **Butterick Municipal Building -- 978-422-8111**

Assessors _____	ext. 2313	Planning _____	ext. 2320
Board of Health _____	ext. 2305	Recreation _____	978-422-3041
Board of Selectmen _____	ext. 2316	Town Administrator _____	ext. 2315
Building/Inspections _____	ext. 2301	Town Clerk _____	ext. 2308
Senior Center _____	978-422-3032	Treasurer _____	ext. 2311
DPW and Water Dept _____	978-422-6767	Collector _____	ext. 2310
Municipal Light Dept. _____	978-422-8267	Zoning Board _____	ext. 2317

Annual Town Meeting is voted by the Board of Selectmen. Dates for 2018 are as follows:

Annual Town Meeting - May 7 at the Chocksett School Auditorium

Annual Town Election - May 14. Polls are open from 7am – 8pm at the Houghton School

Complete lists of Board and Committee members' names are included on the Elected and Appointed Officials pages at the beginning of this Report.

DOGS

Dog Licenses are sold at the **Town Clerk's Office between January 1st and April 15th** of each year. (When April 15 falls on a weekend, the deadline is extended to the next business day.) A Penalty of \$25.00 per dog will be added as of April 16th for dogs that were not licensed by the due date. You may remit payment by mail (include an extra \$2 to cover postage for each dog tag) or in person. Town Clerk's office hours are 7:30-5:00 pm Mon-Thur and 7:30-11:30 on Friday.

Dog License Fees

Intact Male _____	\$12.00	Kennel Fees: Up to and incl. 4 dogs _____	\$40.00
Intact Female _____	\$12.00	5 and up to 10 dogs _____	\$50.00
Neutered Male — \$	8.00	11 or more dogs _____	\$60.00
Spayed Female — \$	8.00		

If you are over the age of 70, there is no charge to license your dog(s).

If you have a problem with a dog or if you need to speak with the **Animal Control Officer**, please call **978-422-7331**.

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Fishing, hunting, trapping and sporting licenses are no longer available at the Sterling Town Clerk's Office. Licenses are available **online** at www.sport.state.ma.us and at **WalMart in West Boylston**. For information, call ActiveOutdoors Help Desk at 1-888-773-8450 or e-mail mahfwebmaster@als-xtn.com.

NEED A RIDE? Any handicapped or elderly person is entitled to use the **MART Van** for doctor, dentist or therapy appointments. Call the **Council on Aging**, 24 hours in advance of your appointment, at **978-422-3032** (direct)