

**TOWN OF STERLING  
SPECIAL TOWN MEETING  
MAY 12, 2008  
MINUTES**

Moderator called meeting to order at 6:37pm.

**ARTICLE 1.** Voted to transfer the sum of \$416,792 from Free Cash, and to transfer the sum of \$171,000 from an available fund, "Sale of Land Revenue received from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts", for a total of \$ 587,792, to the Capital Fund, as allowed by the bylaws of Sterling.

Mr. Robert Smiley read the words of the article, motion made and seconded. Mr. Smiley spoke on the article

**PASSED                      UNANIMOUS**

**ARTICLE 2.** Voted to transfer the sum of \$270,061 from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 5B, General Laws, as amended

Motion made and seconded to move on the words of the article

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 3.** Voted to transfer the sum of \$42,151.67 from Insurance recovery receipts to the Stabilization Fund.

Motion made and seconded

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERTOR**

**ARTICLE 4.** To see if the Town will vote to transfer from available funds, a sum of money to pay an outstanding fiscal year invoice.

Motion made to withdraw article as there are no outstanding bills, motion seconded.

2/3rds vote declared by Moderator to pass over article

**ARTICLE 5.** Voted to transfer from the Capital Fund the sum of \$10,000 to be added to ATM Fiscal 2008, Article 26, for the purchase, for replacement and upgrade of the Phone systems in the Town Hall, DPW Building and the Police Station.

Motion made and seconded to reword article by adding after the sum of 10,000, "to be added to ATM fiscal 2008, Article 26" motion seconded.

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 6.** Voted to transfer funds within the FY08 Operating Budget, amending article 1 of the may 2007 Annual Town Meeting as follows:

Transfer 15,000 from DPW Superintendent salary to DPW expenses  
Transfer 10,000 from Communications wages to DPW expenses  
Transfer 2,552 from Communication wages to Recreation expenses

**PASSED                      UNANIMOUS**

**ARTICLE 7.** Voted to accept the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5L of the Massachusetts General Laws, which provides that any taxes due under Chapter 59 by a member of the Massachusetts National Guard or Reservist or a dependent of a member of the Massachusetts National Guard or Reservist shall be deferred while that member is on active service outside the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and for the next 180 days after that service, and that no interest or penalties shall be assessed for any period before the expiration of those 180 days.

**PASSED                      UNANIMOUS**

**ARTICLE 8.** Voted to transfer from the Stabilization Fund the sum of \$ 27,000 to cover the costs associated with the negotiated agreement with the union representing members of the police department.

Motion made and seconded

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 9.** To see whether the town will vote to transfer from the Stabilization Fund, or from available funds, the sum of \$25,000, or any other sum, to cover the costs associated with a 3% step increase, effective January 1, 2008, for Non-Union employees of the Town who have successfully completed a performance review.

Paul Sushchik read article to add the following:

\$2,552 from FY08 Annual Town Meeting Article #28 for recreations buoys,  
\$6,880 from FY08 October Special Town Meeting Article #21 for Library Boiler.  
\$1,456 from FY08 Annual Town Meeting Article #20 for Fire SCBA,  
\$4,734 from FY08 May Special Town Meeting Article #5 for 2007 fire at Fire Station,  
\$ 191 from FY08 Annual Town Meeting Article #23 for photocopier,  
\$2,000 from FY08 Operating Budget line for Building Inspector training, and  
\$7,187 from FY08 Operating Budget line for Communications Wages  
For a total of \$25,000

Motion made and seconded

Motion made and seconded, to amend article to read- whether the town will vote to transfer from the accounts previously mentioned.

Motion made and seconded to move the question

Motion carried – motion made to vote on the proposed amendment. Proposed amendment defeated.

Further discussion on article 9 as written, Terri Ackerman spoke to explain plan. Attorney Jack Collins explained how it works -- cola compared to step increase.

Motion made to call the questions – motion passed 2/3rds vote declared by Moderator

Personnel Board does not support this article. Mr. Sheppard explained how the town is trying to change the pay system for employees by establishing a merit type of system for employees. They want the employees that are doing a good job are rewarded for that.

**DEFEATED                      UNANIMOUS**

**ARTICLE 10.** Voted to transfer from the Stabilization Fund, the sum of 156,269 to snow and ice expenses and 22,002 to snow and ice wages for a total of 178,271 to cover the deficit in the snow and ice budget for the current fiscal year.

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 11.** Voted to transfer from the Capital Fund the sum of \$38,335, for the purchase of the following capital items:

Building Inspector Vehicle	\$11,335
Purchase new Sound System	\$27,000

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 12.** Voted to transfer from the Stabilization Fund, the sum of \$18,754, to pay for tuition of a Sterling student attending the Norfolk County Agricultural School in Walpole, said sum to be expended by the Board of Selectmen.

**Motion made and seconded**

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 13.** Voted to create a Special Stabilization fund for Chocksett Crossing mitigation, and further, to transfer \$92,000 from the Stabilization Fund, \$41,400 from Free Cash, and \$9,200 from mitigation fees received during fiscal 2008, for a total of \$142,600, into this Chocksett Crossing Mitigation Special Stabilization Fund.

Motion made and seconded

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 14.** Voted to Transfer \$106,000 from the Chocksett Crossing Mitigation Special Stabilization Fund to pay for the design of traffic improvements at the intersection of Leominster Road and Chocksett Road.

Motion made and seconded, Paul Sushchuk spoke on the article

**Motion made to call the question – motion passed**

**PASSED                      2/3RDS VOTE DECLARED BY MODERATOR**

**ARTICLE 15.** Voted to approve the borrowing of \$2,000,000 by the Wachusett Regional School District as authorized by the vote of the Regional District School Committee on February 25, 2008 for the purpose of paying the costs for environmental remediation and cleanup of the oil contamination at the Jefferson School Building, including ongoing operating, assessment and remediation efforts as required by the Department of Environmental Protection or otherwise, and incurring debt by the issuance of bonds or notes under Chapter 214 of the Acts of 2007 and Section 15 of the Amended Wachusett Regional School District Agreement, and to that end the District Treasurer, with the approval of the Regional District School Committee, be authorized to issue bonds or notes therefor; and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into and execute all contracts necessary or otherwise material to such work and to act or do anything relative thereto.

Ballot vote is required for this article.

Motion made and seconded to reconsider article 9.

Vote taken to reconsider, motion defeated.

Motion made and seconded to vote on article 15. Ballot vote taken and counted.

PASSED      YES - 169   NO -46

Motion carried by 2/3rds vote

Motion made and seconded to dissolve the meeting at 9:22pm

Respectfully submitted

Melanie J. Clark  
Town Clerk