



WARRANT

for

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING on Wednesday Nov. 12, 2014 at 7pm

To either of the Constables of the **Town of Sterling:**

GREETINGS: In the name of the Commonwealth, you are hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town who are qualified to vote in the Special Town Meeting at: **CHOCKSETT SCHOOL GYM - 40 Boutelle Road on Nov. 12, 2014** from 7pm to approximately 8pm for the purpose of voting said Town Meeting as follows:

Article 1: Creation of a Sterling Municipal Light and Gas Department

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

Submitted by: Sterling Municipal Light Department Board

Recommendation: The Sterling Municipal Light Department Board recommends this article.

Summary: The SMLD has been exploring the possibility of bringing natural gas to the town of Sterling. The first formal step in this process is to be legally designated as the utility of record and franchise holder for gas distribution within the town. This process involves having town voters approve the above article at two (2) separate Special Town Meetings (STM) held at least two (2) months apart, but not more than thirteen months (13) apart. The first STM was held on December 16, 2013, and the article passed with an 87% vote in favor.

A **YES** vote at this second meeting shows that the town is interested in having us move forward with the planning process. It also gives us the legal

right to negotiate contracts and terms that are in the best interests of the residents and businesses of Sterling. A yes vote **does not commit us** to following through with construction in the unlikely event that it is determined that the project is not financially or practically feasible.

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

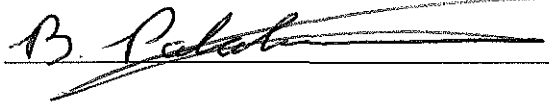
If it's determined that's the most beneficial option is to transfer the gas franchise rights to another entity either in part or in full, the Light Board will have the legal right to negotiate the most preferable terms for the people of Sterling.

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

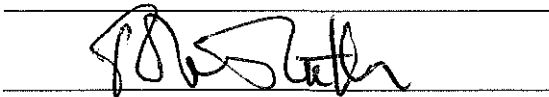
And you are directed to serve this Warrant by posting up attested copies thereof, one at each of the locations listed below at least fourteen (14) before the time for holding said meeting: Hereof fail not and make due return of this Warrant with your doings thereto to the Town Clerk at the time and place of meeting as a foresaid.

Given under our hands this day of 22 October 2014 (date)

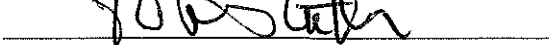
By the Sterling Board of Selectmen:



Brian J. Patacchiola, Chairman



John F. Kilcoyne



Robert F. Cutler

This signed Warrant will be posted on the Town Website by the Town Clerk. I hereby certify that I have posted the foregoing Warrant by hand at the following locations:

Butterick Municipal Building,
Conant Free Library,
Sterling Post Office,

Sterling Police Station,
Sterling Municipal Light Building (annex-due to construction)
and the Department of Public Works building.

By Hand Michael P. [Signature] 10-28-2014..
Method of service of Warrant by CONSTABLE on (date)
No later than October 29, 2014, per MGL Ch39:10.

A true copy
attest: _____
Town Clerk