

March 5, 2014

Item I: Call to Order: The special meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 5:30 p.m. with Russell Gray, Lincoln Cooper, John Firlik, Judy Lincoln, Penny Keith, Joyce Gustavson, Heather George, Kara Fishman, Rosalind Choquette, and Sharon Chvick present.

Item II: Discussion on FY 2014-2015 Selectmen's Budget Proposal: R. Gray stated that we have an early markup of the proposed FY 2014-2015 Selectmen's Budget. Staff requested that we begin on page #5 Wages. R. Choquette asked why wage increases range from zero percent to 22.78 percent. She also questioned why the Wetlands Agent and the Zoning Enforcement Officer are paid as part-time hourly workers, whereas, the Building Official is paid as part-time salary. R. Gray acknowledged that the Building Official's salary increased and effective July 1, 2014 he will have Wednesday evening office hours from 4:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. J. Lincoln asked the Board of Selectmen to discuss the following:

1) Janitorial services for all Town owned buildings; 2) Summer mowing; 3) Hourly wages vs. salary in the Land Use Office; and 4) Building Property Maintenance Supervisor. It was noted that we need a job description for outside Building/Property Maintenance. Other wage issues that need to be addressed are: 1) Election Wages – hourly wage for the moderator, registrar of voters, assistant registrar of voters and the election workers; 2) Fire Marshal; and 3) Homeland Security.

The Board of Selectmen will meet to discuss the FY 2014-2015 Proposed Budget on Wednesday, March 12, 2014 in Room #15 at 5:30 p.m.

The next staff meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 19, 2014 in Room #15 at 5:30 p.m.

Item III: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to adjourn at 6:04 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

March 5, 2014

The meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

Selectmen present-Russell Gray, Lincoln Cooper, and John Firlik.

Staff present-Joyce Gustavson, and Kara Fishman (6:35 p.m.).

Also present-Jeff Griffin, Shawn Johnston, Natalia Sudyka, June & Russell Bonner, and Michael Molodich.

Pledge of Allegiance: Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience of Citizens: 1) Shawn Johnston and Natalia Sudyka of Northeast Utilities discussed a proposition for the Town of Sterling on a program called Clean Energy Communities. This program is aiming to have Connecticut cities and towns reduce energy use and increase support for clean, renewable energy for municipal facilities. By taking the necessary steps to support clean energy, the Town will earn points. For every 100 points that the Town earns, they become eligible for a \$5,000 Bright Idea Grant that can be used for energy-saving projects. Sterling is eligible for two (2) Bright Idea Grants per fiscal year. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to put on the next Agenda. All voted in favor of the motion. 2) Mike Molodich and June Bonner, representing Sterling Family Day Committee, made a request to the Board of Selectmen to construct a temporary ice skating rink at the Sterling Park located on Sterling Road. A letter dated 3/4/2014 from the Frank Chamberland Agency confirms that if the Town puts up a temporary ice rink, there will be liability coverage under the Town's insurance policy with CIRMA. Use of the rink would be free and refreshments would be sold to raise money for Sterling Family Day. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to proceed with the necessary preparations to construct a temporary ice skating rink for the months of January and February, starting in 2015. All voted in favor of the motion.

Approval of Minutes: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper, to approve the 2/19/2014 special meeting and regular meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Commission Vacancies (Alternates P&Z and Family Day Committee): No candidates. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to table to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Town Meeting Dates for Renters of Town Property with Option to Buy: The Planning and Zoning Commission gave a favorable response for the potential sale of Town owned property located at 1110 Plainfield Pike. R. Gray will talk with S. Chviek, Economic Development Coordinator to see if everything is in order to proceed to a Town meeting. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to table to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider and Act on Bonding Requirements – C. Corson Excavation for 0 Sterling Road: No new information. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to table to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

d. 2014-2015 Proposed Selectmen's Budget: The Board of Selectmen met earlier tonight with staff to discuss the proposed 2014-2015 Selectmen's budget. The next Special meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 3/12/2014 at 5:30 in Room #15.

e. Special Town Meeting for the Annual Report: The Special Town Meeting for the Annual Report is scheduled for tonight in Room #15 at 7:00 p.m.

f. Consider and Act on a Resolution Regarding the Regional Performance Incentive Program: R. Gray reported that John Filchak of Northeast Connecticut Council of Governments (NECOGG) is asking the towns to endorse the Regional Performance Incentive Program Grant applications so he can apply for six (6) different grants.

J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to adopt the following resolution;

The Legislative Body of the Town of Sterling met on March 5, 2014 and adopted a resolution with three in favor, zero opposed, and zero abstention votes which endorses the **Regional Performance Incentive Program** proposal reference in Connecticut General Statutes Section 4-124s as amended by Section 251 and 253 of Public Act 13-247.

All voted in favor of the motion.

g. Excavation Ordinance: Staff has referred the Excavation Ordinance to the Town attorney for review.

New Business:

a. Request for Refund of Excess Tax Payments: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper, to approve the following refund requests: 1) Donna Sperlunto, PO Box 184, Oneco, CT 06373-0184 for \$26.68; 2) Thomas McCoy, PO Box 148, Oneco, CT 06373-0148 for \$1,200.00; 3) Glen B. Andrews, 159 Valley View Rd., Sterling, CT 06337-1514 for \$34.93; and 4) Joanna L. & Glen B. Andrews, 159 Valley View Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 for \$29.05. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Handicap Motor Vehicle Exemptions: K. Fishman, Assessor, presented an optional Municipal Ordinance to exempt certain motor vehicles. This Ordinance would allow the municipality to exempt from personal property taxation motor vehicles falling into one of three categories; 1) ambulance type motor vehicles used to transport any medically incapacitated individual, 2) property owned by a nonprofit ambulance company, 3) any motor vehicle owned by a person with disabilities and which the vehicle is equipped for purposes of adapting its use to the disability of such person. Approximately fourteen (14) vehicles qualify for the exemption resulting in a loss of \$2,685. The Selectmen are in favor of Option 3, "Any motor vehicle owned by a person with disabilities, or owned by the parent or guardian of such person, which vehicle is equipped for purposes of adapting its use to the disability of such person, provided the legislative body of the municipality adopts a definition of such vehicle." K. Fishman will submit a written proposal at the next meeting. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. 2014-2015 Local Capital Improvement Plan: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table to the next meeting.

d. Consider and Act on Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter: J. Gustavson presented information on getting a Pitney-Bowed Postage Meter. Presently, the scale in use is not updated to reflect the increase in postage. Scales are now built into the mailstation meters and the cost would be \$19.99 per month, plus postage meter tapes, ink cartridge, and the expense of adding postage to the machine. It was decided not to get a mailstation meter at this time.

e. Citation from the Town Recognizing Ekonk Community Grange 125th Anniversary and Ekonk Community Junior Grange 35th Anniversary: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adopt the following citation:

WHEREAS, the Grange has been in existence for one hundred and forty-seven years in the United States, serving communities and mankind,

WHEREAS, the Ekonk Community Grange was organized in Sterling on December 14th, 1888 and has faithfully and unselfishly served the community since,

WHEREAS, for the past thirty-five years, Ekonk Community Junior Grange has provided children the opportunity to develop as individuals, to learn leadership skills, and volunteering in the community,

WHEREAS, Ekonk Community and Ekonk Community Junior Granges have timelessly assisted the school in Sterling, its children and families in need and the community as a whole for one hundred and twenty-five and thirty-five years respectively,

WHEREAS, Ekonk Community and Ekonk Community Junior Granges have received top awards at county, state and national Grange levels for their accomplishments numerous times throughout their existence,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that I Russell M. Gray, First Selectman of the Town of Sterling, State of Connecticut, do hereby proclaim April 6, 2014 as Ekonk Community Grange Day in the Town of Sterling in honor of their commitment, accomplishments, and service to the Town of Sterling.

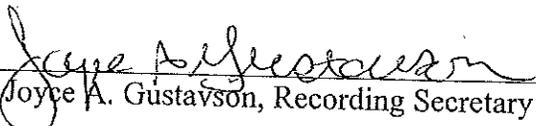
All voted in favor of the motion.

f. Consider and Act on Re-Appointments to Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission, Water Pollution Control Authority, Recreation Authority, and Agricultural Commission: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to re-appoint Robert McLevy, 33 Miller Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 as a regular member of the Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission for three (3) years ending 2/19/2017; Neil Cook, 541 Gibson Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 and C. Peter Rabbitt, 200 Church St., PO Box 21, Sterling, CT 06377 for two (2) years ending 3/4/2016; Russell Gray, 712 Ekonk Hill Rd., Moosup, CT 06354 for three (3) years ending 3/4/2017; Dale Clark, 581 Sterling Rd, Sterling, CT 06377 and John Firlik, 61 Jared Hall Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 for a one (1) year term ending 3/4/2015 as regular members of the Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority; Luigi Vergato, 194 Gibson Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 and Dan Currier, 284 Gibson Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 for a one (1) year term ending 3/6/2015 as regular members of the Sterling Recreation Authority; and Kelly Dennis, 532 Sawmill Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377, Jon Hermonot, 277 Ekonk Hill Rd., Moosup, CT 06354 for a two (2) year term ending 3/12/2016 as regular members; Verna Cole, 27 Ekonk Hill Road, Moosup, CT 06354; Megan Johnson, 260 Main St., Sterling, CT 06377 as alternate members for a two (2) year term ending 3/12/2016; and Howard Hopps, 148 Pine Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 as an alternate member for a one (1) year term ending 3/12/2105 to the Sterling Agricultural Commission. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: None

Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to adjourn at 6:55 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest:


Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary