

April 16, 2014

The meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff present-Joyce Gustavson, Kara Fishman, Sharon Chviek, and Josh McLeod.

Also present-Neil Cook, David Shippee, Brian Glaude, Larry Richardson, and Jim White

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

Audience of Citizens: No Comment.

Approval of Minutes: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to approve the 4/2/2014 special meeting and regular meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to move New Business, "Item a", before Unfinished Business. All voted in favor of the motion.

L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to move Unfinished Business, "Item k", to follow New Business, "Item a". All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

a. **ReEnergy:** Larry Richardson, Chief Executive Officer and Jim White, Vice President of Energy Operations updated the Board of Selectmen on the status of ReEnergy's future in Sterling. L. Richardson explained that a hard decision was made in the fall to shut down the plant for economic reasons. He is looking to bring the facility to a new profile, converting from tire burning to biomass as the primary fuel source and wishes to invest approximately \$40 million to embark on a retrofit project that would create construction jobs, restoration of jobs in Sterling, and serve as a catalyst for new jobs in the community for fuel suppliers. L. Richardson reported that ReEnergy is working with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) concerning the storm water issues. He also stated that ReEnergy is a major customer for the water utility and is making a donation tonight in the amount of \$15,000 to help mitigate the impact to the Town. L. Richardson stated they will continue to be responsible business owners in the Town of Sterling.

Unfinished Business:

k. **Consider and Act on Bus Bids:** The Board of Selectmen have received the following bids for one new school bus: 1) Dattco Sales and Service \$82,225 plus \$700 to install the radio, \$1,950 for the child restraint system, and no charge for the child check mate system, minus \$4,000 for the trade in, for a final bid in the amount of \$80,875;

2) New England Transit Sales, Inc. \$85,120 plus \$750 to install the radio, \$750 for first row (each side) child restraint seats, minus \$4,000 for the trade in, for a final bid in the amount of \$82,620. The tire size is different than the rest of the fleet and the bus did not include an acoustic ceiling; 3) School Lines, Inc., \$82,732 plus \$698 to install the radio, \$2,675 child restraint seats (1st two rows), minus \$3,950 for the trade in, for a final bid in the amount of \$82,155.

J. McLeod, Town Mechanic has reviewed the school bus bids and recommends purchasing the 2015 IC/CE Yellow School Bus.

J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper, to award the bid for the purchase of a 2015, IC/CE Yellow School Bus, 71 passenger to Dattco Sales and Service, of 583 South Street, New Britain, CT 06051 for \$82,225 minus \$4,000 for the trade-in allowance for the 2004 Blue Bird Vision (105,000 miles, bus number 12) reducing the price to \$78,225. The child check mate system is included free of charge, the two-way radio option is added for \$700 and \$1,950 is added to install the child restraint seats in the first two rows making the final total \$80,875. All voted in favor of the motion.

This will be discussed at the next Board of Finance meeting.

a. **Commission Vacancies (Alternates P&Z and Family Day Committee):** No candidates. Table to the next meeting.

b. **Schedule Special Town Meeting Date for Renters of Town Property with Option to Buy:** A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 4/23/2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Room #15 for the sale of Town Property located at 1110 Plainfield Pike, aka, Salon 41, for an amount, not less than \$75,000.

c. **Consider and Act on Bonding Requirements – C. Corson Excavation for 0 Sterling Road:** R. Gray met with C. Corson and David Held at 0 Sterling Road and reported that Phase I land has not been excavated because it consists of silt and not gravel. C. Corson is working on land in Phase II. Before the bond can be reduced, R. Gray will check if C. Corson needs to submit a letter stating that he is not working in the Phase I area or if he needs to submit revisions on the current excavation permit. 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 individual staff members to discuss the proposed 2014-2015 Selectmen's budget. The next Special budget meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 4/23/2014 at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room.

e. **2014-2015 Local Capital Improvement Plan:** Judy Lincoln received an email dated 4/16/2014 from Sandra Huber from the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) stating that Sterling's available balance of Local Capital Improvement Funds (LoCIP) is \$210,198.02, which includes the 2014 Entitlement amount. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to accept the report as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

f. **Excavation Ordinance:** No new information.

g. **Handicap Motor Vehicle Exemptions:** K. Fishman, Assessor, reported that she forwarded the proposed language for the motor vehicle exemption ordinance to the Town attorney for review and is waiting to hear back. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

- h. Water Meter Reader:** R. Gray reported that due to health reasons, Tim Reinke will not be able to read the water meters. N. Cook suggested that Sam Mossner would be a good candidate for the position. R. Gray will contact S. Mossner.
- i. Schedule Special Town Meeting for the Procurement Ordinance:** A Special Town Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 4/23/2014 at 6:30 p.m. in Room #15.
- j. Schedule a Special Town Meeting – Falls Creek Conservation Easement:** J. Theroux, Inland Wetland and Watercourses Agent is asking the Board of Selectman for a referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission for an 8-24 review of a Conservation Easement for Falls Creek located at 368 Bailey Road. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to make an 8-24 referral to the Planning and Zoning Commission for a Conservation Easement, by Falls Creek Farm, LLC, 368 Bailey Road to the Planning and Zoning Commission. All voted in favor of the motion.
- L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to table scheduling a Town Meeting until Planning and Zoning reviews the 8-24 referral for a conversation easement. All voted in favor of the motion.
- k. Consider and Act on School Bus Bids:** This item was discussed earlier tonight.
- l. Consider and Act on CIRMA Liability – Auto-Property & Worker’s Comp:** J. Lincoln contacted Betsy Chamberland from Frank Chamberland Agency to get the Town’s share of the property and liability insurance and the workers compensation insurance. Currently the Town has \$2,000,000 in coverage for \$68,887 for Property and Auto with the Town’s portion being \$23,500 and \$58,735 for Workers Compensation with the Town’s portion being \$14,500. To increase the coverage from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 the Town’s portion would be an additional \$739 for Property and Auto and to increase the liability from \$2,000,000 to \$4,000,000, the Town’s portion would be an additional \$1,261. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to increase the Town’s Property and Liability Insurance from \$2,000,000 to \$3,000,000 with an increase of \$739 making the total cost \$24,239. All voted in favor of the motion.
- m. Proposed Increase to ZBA Application Fee:** J. Rabbitt, Town Planner, discussed the proposed increase to the Zoning Board of Appeals Application Fee with R. Gray and stated that he would contact L. Cooper and J. Firlik.
- L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table the proposed increase to the ZBA Application Fee until J. Rabbitt could discuss the matter with them. All voted in favor of the motion.
- n. Rite Aid Pharmacy:** Stephanie Buchanan from Rite Aid Pharmacy provided the Certificate of Liability Insurance to use the fields at Sterling Park on 5/10/2014 (rain date 5/17/2014) to host a fundraiser for Children’s Miracle Network. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to approve Rite Aid Pharmacy’s request to use the Sterling Park fields on 5/10/2014 (rain date 5/17/2014) to host a fundraiser for Children’s Miracle Network. Discussion held regarding the electrical hookup. R. Gray will contact Robert McLevy for a temporary electrical box hookup. All voted in favor of the motion.
- New Business:
- a. ReEnergy – Jim White:** This item was discussed earlier tonight.
- b. Schedule Special Town Meeting for Proposed 2014-2015 Budgets:** Table to the next meeting.
- c. Personal Property Audit Update:** Assessor, Kara Fishman gave an interim update on the progress of the personal property audits. Four (4) accounts were audited; Falls

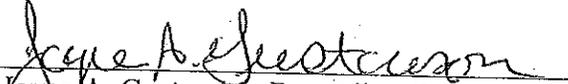
Creek Farm, LLC, MSI Initiation Systems, Oneco Falls, LLC and Mark Audet (equipment). K. Fishman is in the processing of reviewing the audit reports and report back at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Any Other Business: J. Firlik reported that a request was made to the Board of Assessment Appeals (BAA) to forgive back taxes owed on the 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 Grand Lists by Paul and Alisa Campbell. Since the BAA has no authority to change prior year's taxes, unless due to a clerical error, the BAA referred the Campbell's request to the Board of Selectmen. The Board of Selectmen discussed if the Rossi Law firm fees charged to the Campbell's could be withdrawn. K. Fishman stated that according to State Statute, CGS 12-124 Abatement of Taxes and Interest, "the Selectmen of the Town may abate the taxes, or the interest on delinquent taxes, or both, assessed by their respective communities upon such persons as are poor and unable to pay, for the calendar year immediately preceding the beginning of the tax year for which such taxes are due".

J. Firlik, on behalf of the Board of Assessment Appeals will draft a letter for the Board of Selectmen to approve reducing Paul and Alisa Campbell's outstanding taxes for Grand Lists 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012.

Adjournment: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper, to adjourn at 7:50 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest:


Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary