

December 10, 2014

The meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 600 p.m.

Selectmen present-Russell Gray and John Firlik. Selectman absent-Lincoln Cooper.

Staff present-Joyce Gustavson, Anna Gagner, Rosalind Choquette, and Kara Fishman (6:10 p.m.)

Pledge of Allegiance: Everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience of Citizens: A. Gagner, Tax Collector introduced a new service that the Revenue Office will be utilizing. Point & Pay will replace Official Payments, allowing taxpayers to pay their tax bills on-line from home with a credit card. This service is free to the Town of Sterling, and taxpayers who utilize the service will be charged a transaction fee; \$2.00 when paying with e-check, \$3.95 when paying with a Visa debit card and 2.5% when paying with a Visa, MasterCard, or Discover card. Tax information can be viewed on-line by going to the Sterling website at [www.sterlingct.us](http://www.sterlingct.us).

R. Choquette, Assistant Revenue Collector stated that the tax sale will be held in February.

Approval of Minutes: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to approve the 12/3/2014 regular minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

**a. Commission Vacancies (Family Day Committee & Zoning Board of Appeals):** No candidate for the Family Day Committee. Stacy Abua and Leo Attella have expressed interest in joining the Zoning Board of Appeals. An agenda for the 1/27/2015 continued public hearing and quarterly meeting will be mailed to them. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

**b. Excavation Ordinance:** J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to table this item to after the Planning and Zoning Commission's January meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

**c. Family Day Committee Request for Notice Sign:** This item has been tabled until after the January Family Day Committee meeting.

**d. Special Town Meeting to Vote on Revised Energy Commission Ordinance – Section 3.**

**Composition:** The Special Town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Room #15 at the Sterling Town Hall located at 1183 Plainfield Pike in Oneco.

**e. Special Town Meeting to Approve Appropriation not to Exceed \$2,499.99 from the Town's Fund Balance for the Purchase of Services from Northeastern Connecticut Council of Governments to Perform an Employee Classification and Compensation Study of Town Hall Functions:**

The Special Town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Room #15 at the Sterling Town Hall located at 1183 Plainfield Pike in Oneco.

**f. Special Town Meeting for Consideration of Accepting Easy Street as a Town Road:**

The Special Town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in Room #15 at the Sterling Town Hall located at 1183 Plainfield Pike in Oneco.

**g. Assistant Revenue Collector's Position:** R. Gray will ask R. Choquette to submit a proposal in writing outlining reduced hours and salary.

**h. Sterling Hills Estates:** K. Fishman, Assessor has been in contact with the Town's legal counsel regarding the Application of Tax Provisions of Common Interest Ownership Act to Sterling Hills Estates. Sterling Hills Estates was created in 2005 as a type of common interest community known as a "planned community" that is subject to the Act. All constructed units – numbers 1 through 23, 46, 48, and 49, must be assessed and taxed against their respective Unit owners. K. Fishman reported that development rights have not been taxed and General Statutes §12-60 provides in relevant part that any clerical omission or mistake in the assessment of taxes may be corrected according to the fact by the assessors board of assessment appeals, not later

than three (3) years following the tax due date relative to which such omission or mistake occurred, and the tax shall be levied and collected according to such corrected assessment. Based on State Statute §12-60, tax bills were mailed out totaling \$10,774 and the Declarant has until 12/20/2014 to submit payment.

New Business:

**a. Resignation of R. Locicero from Family Day Committee:** Ray Locicero submitted a resignation letter from Family Day Committee dated 12/2/2014 effective immediately. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to accept R. Locicero's resignation letter. All voted in favor of the motion.

**b. Request for Refund of Excess Tax Payments:** J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to approve the request for refunds to: 1) Brigitte Revel-Wall, 3 Easy Street, Sterling, CT 06377 for \$67.98; 2) Christina M. Carpenter, 150 Sawmill Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377-1410 for \$104.27 and \$101.38. All voted in favor of the motion.

**c. Financial Advisor (Bonding):** Penny Keith, Treasurer, submitted a memo to the Board of Selectman dated 12/9/2014 regarding utilizing a financial advisor for bonding. P. Keith stated that because the Town is not bonding now, she thought we didn't need a financial advisor; however bond counsel is suggesting that isn't necessarily correct. Bond counsel suggests that the Town get someone to represent us in that capacity and then underwriters can contact the financial advisor, who would analyze potential savings from refinancing. P. Keith will get a list of the few companies in Connecticut that perform this sort of work and will keep the Board of Selectmen informed. J. Firlik asked if the loan for the school is a note or a bond. J. Gustavson will check with P. Keith and report back at the next meeting.

Any Other Business: K. Fishman reported that a low income disabled veteran currently receives a reduction in their assessment up to twelve thousand (12,000). The State reimburses a portion of the Town's loss in tax revenue for low income disabled veterans. Under new legislation, Public Act No. 13-224, which was passed in 2013, a 100 percent disabled, low income veteran can have their assessment reduced up to eighteen thousand (18,000) and the State will reimburse the Town for the loss in tax revenue from the additional assessment reduction. K. Fishman will report back to the Board of Selectmen in January.

Adjournment: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to adjourn 6:58 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary