

December 17, 2014

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

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

Staff present-Joyce Gustavson, Anna Gagner, Rosalind Choquette, Cindy Donall, Neil Cook, and Dana Morrow (6:02 p.m.)

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

Audience of Citizens: No Comment.

Approval of Minutes: J. Firlík made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to approve the 12/10/2014 regular minutes as presented. Two voted in favor of the motion and one abstention.

Unfinished Business:

a. Commission Vacancies (Family Day Committee & Zoning Board of Appeals): No candidate for the Family Day Committee. Two possible candidates for the Zoning Board of Appeals. J. Firlík made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Excavation Ordinance: No new information. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlík to table this item. 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 7:00 p.m. tonight 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 7:00 p.m. tonight 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 7:00 p.m. tonight in Room #15 at the Sterling Town Hall located at 1183 Plainfield Pike in Oneco.

g. Assistant Revenue Collector's Position: R. Gray stated that it is the consensus of the Board of Selectmen to hire a part-time person to assist in the Revenue Office, the Town Clerk's Office and the Selectmen's Office. A job description will be created and advertised in the Norwich Bulletin.

h. Financial Advisor (bonding): Penny Keith, Treasurer, submitted a memo dated 12/16/2014 updating the Board of Selectmen on bond counsel's advice to hire a financial advisor. There are six (6) firms in Connecticut that can provide financial advisors. Dennis Dix of DixWorks has worked with the Town in the past and his fee for this type of work would be \$150 per hour. J. Firlík made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to have P. Keith pursue hiring DixWorks as the Town's financial advisor on an as needed basis. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

a. Business/Finance Manager Committee Update: C. Donall reported that as Chairperson of the Business/Finance Committee she will present a recommendation to the Board of Selectmen in January. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlík to table this item. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Resignation of B. Chamberland from Economic Development Commission: Betsy Chamberland submitted a resignation letter from the Economic Development Commission dated 12/15/2014 effective immediately. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to accept B. Chamberland's resignation letter with regrets. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Minimum Wage Increase Effective 1/1/2015: P. Keith, Treasurer submitted a memo dated 12/15/2014 stating that the minimum wage will increase from \$8.70 to \$9.15 effective 1/1/2015. This increase will affect the three (3) meal site coordinators for the seniors and most of the recreation employees.

Any Other Business: 1) D. Morrow asked what the update was regarding the Excavation Ordinance. R. Gray stated that he is waiting for the Planning and Zoning Commission to submit the application in January and schedule a potential public hearing in February. 2) D. Morrow asked for an update regarding the Sterling Park Campground becoming a 50 plus gated community. R. Gray stated that no plans have come forward and he would call Kevin Costa, owner, and invite him to a January meeting to give an update. 3) R. Gray received an email regarding 511 Sterling Road. This property is owned by Wells Fargo, it is under foreclosure and the owners will give the property to the Town to rent to a non-profit entity or the Town can refurbish the property and sell it to a low income qualifying person. The Board of Selectmen will do a walkthrough the premises and assess what would need to be done to fix the inside of the home.

Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adjourn 6:25 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary