

January 7, 2015

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

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

Staff present-Joyce Gustavson, Kara Fishman (6:12 p.m.)

Also present- Kevin Costa (6:30 p.m.)

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

Audience of Citizens: None

Approval of Minutes: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to approve the 12/17/2014 regular minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Commission Vacancies (Economic Development Commission, Family Day Committee & Zoning Board of Appeals): C. Donall will be appointed to the Economic Development Commission; no candidate for the Family Day Committee; and two possible candidates for the Zoning Board of Appeals. J. Firlik 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. Firlik 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. Business/Finance Manager Committee: R. Gray reported that he received an email from Cindy Donall, Chair of the Business/Finance Manager Committee, dated 12/27/2014, stating that the Committee met on 12/16/2014 and voted unanimously to present to the Board of Selectmen a recommendation to not create a business/financial manager position. J. Firlik stated the Committee listed what duties should be performed by the Business/Finance Manager and then listed the duties currently performed by the Treasurer and except for grant writing, it appears that the Treasurer is already performing most of the duties that a Business/Finance Manager would perform. R. Gray made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to accept the recommendation not to create a Business/Finance Manager position and to dissolve the Committee effectively immediately. R. Gray and L. Cooper voted in favor of the motion and J. Firlik abstained.

e. 511 Sterling Road: R. Gray reported that he talked to Wells Fargo and they are waiting for bids to come in to side the building. Wells Fargo stated that they are not sure how they want to proceed with the property and will keep the Town informed. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to remove this item from the agenda. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

a. Request for Refund of Excess Tax Payments: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to approve the request for refunds to: 1) Peggy D. & Wayne G. Audette, 350 Pine Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377-2302 for \$354.69; 2) Chase Auto Finance Corp., 900 Stewart Ave., Garden City, NY 11530-4855 for \$197.91; 3) Clifford L. White Trust 2006, 70 Stimson Ave., Providence, RI 02906 for 2 @ \$26.46; 4) Cathy J. Cote, PO Box 220, Oneco, CT 06373-0220 for \$238.58; 5) Exeter Energy Limited Partnership, 30 Century Hill Dr., Ste. 101, Latham, NY 12110 for \$1,000.00; 6) Tyler G. Jordan, 286 Sawmill Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 for \$99.86 & \$7.37; and 7) Istvan Korcsmarek, 196 Calvin French Rd., Sterling, CT 06377-1515 for \$57.46. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Consider and Act on Resolution Authorizing the First Selectman to Sign the Agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects (MMA ROW) Between the State of Connecticut and the Town of Sterling: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to adopt the following resolution;

RESOLVED, that Russell M. Gray, First Selectman, is hereby authorized to sign the Agreement entitled "Master Municipal Agreement for Rights of Way Projects".

All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider and Act on Appointment to Economic Development Commission: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to appoint Cindy Donall, PO Box 268, Oneco, CT 06373 to fill the vacancy by B. Chamberland to a five (5) year term expiring 5/31/2017. All voted in favor of the motion.

d. Consider and Act on Re-appointment to Voluntown/Sterling Transfer Station: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to re-appoint Geoffrey Cooper, 111 Sterling Rd., Sterling, CT 06373 and Fred Parker, 53 Jared Hall Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 to a one (1) year term expiring 12/31/2015; John Firlik, 61 Jared Hall Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 and Alternate Neil Cook, 541 Gibson Hill Rd., Sterling, CT 06377 to a two (2) year term expiring 12/31/2016.

R. Gray and L. Cooper voted in favor of the motion and J. Firlik abstained.

e. Consider and Act on Mileage Reimbursement: According to the Internal Revenue Service Newswire dated 12/10/2014, the standard mileage rate for transportation for travel expenses is 57.5 cents per mile for all miles of business use. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to use 57.5 cents, the standard mileage rate for transportation for travel expenses effective 1/1/2015. All voted in favor of the motion.

f. 2015-2016 Proposed Selectmen's Budget: R. Gray reported that staff has been asked to submit budget proposals by 1/22/2015. The Selectmen have scheduled a budget workshop for Wednesday, 1/28/2015 at 6:00 p.m. in Room #15 to review and discuss the budget.

g. Dairy Farmer Abatement: In accordance with Connecticut General Statutes 12.81m and the Town of Sterling's Farmers Property Tax Abatement Ordinance, the Molodich Farm has an exemption equivalent to \$279,600 and the Orr Farm has an exemption equivalent to \$73,705. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to approve the Farmer's Property Tax Abatement to the Molodich Farm equivalent to \$279,600 and the Orr Farm equivalent to \$73,705. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: 1) Application for Driveway Construction Permit for Margaret Henry Road (600 tentative house number): Patricia Desmarais has submitted an application for a driveway construction permit dated 1/7/2015. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to approve the application for a driveway construction permit. All voted in favor of the motion. 2) Kevin Costa, representing Sterling Park Campground, 177 Gibson Hill Road, updated the Board of Selectmen on his plans for converting the present campground to a gated, age restricted community of manufactured homes. K. Costa stated that David Held of Provost and Rovero, Inc., needs to survey the land and draft a rough proposal for the Board to accept, but before that can happen, the proposed project needs HUD (Housing and Urban Development) approval. K. Costa stated that the construction would be broken down into two (2) phases; Phase 1 would consist of designing the existing 23½ campground acres and Phase 2 would consist on redesigning the remaining 35 acres. He will keep the Board updated. 3) J. Firlik stated that he drafted the legal notice for the advertisement for a General Office Assistance. This position will be part-time, 29 hours per work as a multi-departmental "Flex Position" reporting directly to the First Selectman. The notice is scheduled to run 1/14/2015 and 1/18/2015 in the Norwich Bulletin. An ad will also be submitted to the Turnpike Buyer. J. Gustavson will post on the Sterling Website and send to the subscribers on the email notification list.

Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adjourn 7:32 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary