

March 18, 2015

The meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

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

Staff present-Joyce Gustavson, Judy Gooslin, and Kara Fishman (6:06 p.m.)

Also present-Kevin Costa and Neil Cook (6:15 p.m.)

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

Audience of Citizens: No comment.

Approval of Minutes: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to approve the 3/11/2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

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

Unfinished Business:

f. Sterling Recreation Authority – Power Lifting Competition: J. Gooslin reported that the Sterling Municipal Building will be hosting a power lifting competition in the gym on March 28 and March 29, 2015. She is asking the Board of Selectmen to open the west wing, where the senior bathrooms are located for public use instead of having port-o-lets positioned outside the gym entrance. A hall monitor could be used to control traffic. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to leave the decision to the Power Lifting Organization to either bring in extra port-o-lets that can be lined up against the fence or J. Gooslin needs to advise them sternly that the “monitor” needs to be there throughout the event to ensure no loitering or trespassing in the hall. All voted in favor of the motion.

a. Commission Vacancies (Energy Committee, Family Day Committee and Sterling Recreation Authority): No new information. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Excavation Ordinance: A public hearing to amend the Town of Sterling’s Zoning Regulations regarding Excavation (administration, definition, permitting, and standards) Regulations is scheduled for Tuesday, 3/24/2015 at 6:45 p.m. at the Sterling Town Hall, Room #15, 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Low Income Veterans: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adopt the following Resolution Regarding Adoption of an Ordinance Adopting Alternative Property Tax Exemption for Veterans:

Whereas, pursuant to Public Act 13-224, the Town of Sterling has the option by resolution of its Board of Selectman to adopt an ordinance opting for the increased property tax exemption for veterans in lieu of Conn. Gen. Stat. 12-81g(a); and

Whereas, the Town of Sterling Board of Selectmen has reviewed the Act and its purpose and have determined that it is in the best interest of the Town and its taxpaying veterans to opt for the alternative exemption provided for under the Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: After due consideration and review, the Town of Sterling hereby approves the Ordinance Adopting Alternative Property Tax Exemption for Veterans.

All voted in favor of the motion.

d. Notice of Violation and Order – 15 Old Greenwich Road: No new information. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

a. Sterling Park Campground: K. Costa reported that his plans to convert the campground into an age restricted 55+ gated community will not be ready by 9/30/2015, the date that all campers must vacate the campground. The engineering work will begin in April in order to comply with the zoning requirements to submit a Planning and Zoning Application to the Commission. K. Costa is asking

the Board for an agreement with an extension that will satisfy both the twelve (12) year round residents, as well as the Town. The Selectmen, at their 2/4/2015 meeting extended the request to vacate the premises from 3/18/2015 to 9/30/2015 because it was fruitless to have the residents leave for twelve days and then return for the camping season. L. Cooper stated that we have two separate issues to contend with; 1) the Mobile Parks and Trailer Ordinance and, 2) The fact that K. Costa is trying to create a 55+ gated community. If we extend the 9/30/2015 date for the campers to vacate the premises, we are now looking at 9/30/2016. R. Gray stated that the Board of Selectmen does not have the authority to override the Ordinance.

b. Schedule Special Town Meeting for 2015-2016 Budget Vote: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to hold a special Town meeting on Thursday, April 23, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Sterling Town Hall/Municipal Building Gym for the following purposes:

1. To adopt the budget of the Board of Education in the amount of \$7,974,898, as approved by the Board of Finance and to appropriate said sums of monies for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2016.
2. To adopt the budget of the Board of Selectmen in the amount of \$2,702,580, as approved by the Board of Finance and to appropriate said sums of monies for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016.
3. To adopt the Local Capital Improvement Plan and Budget in the amount of \$250,785 as approved by the Board of Finance and to appropriate said sums of monies for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2016.

And in accordance with Section 7-7 of the CT General Statutes, to remove these items to a referendum vote to be held Thursday, April 30, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. To 8:00 p.m. at the Sterling Town Hall/Municipal Building Gym, 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT.

All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider and Act on Appointment to Energy Committee: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to appoint Beverly Boyd , 104 Plainfield Road, Moosup, CT 06354 to a two (2) year term expiring 11/6/2016. All voted in favor of the motion. Following the initial term, this appointment shall be appointed or reappointed for a term of three (3) years.

d. Satellite.biz (The) – John W. Dresch (Credit Card Processing): The Board of Finance referred this to the Board of Selectmen for review. The Revenue Office uses Point & Pay to process real estate, motor vehicle, personal property, etc., credit card payments. Satellite.biz would allow other forms of credit card payments, such as building permits, marriage licenses, recording fees, etc. to be processed at no cost to the Town; the customer would be charged the fee. R. Gray will check with Marcia Marien of O'Connor Davies, LLP, from an auditing standpoint, if it would be a conflict to have two separate credit card processing systems in the Town Hall. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

e. Snow and Ice Removal – 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT: Discussion was held concerning payment deemed necessary for the emergency snow and ice removal at the Town Hall Building. Discussion to hold a Town Meeting will be discussed at the 4/1/2015 Selectmen meeting. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: 1) Penny Keith, Town Treasurer, submitted a memo dated 2/25/2015 addressing the issuance of 1099s. All non-corporate entities from which the Town purchased \$600 or more in services (not goods) during 2014 should get a 1099. 2) A budget workshop will be held Monday, 3/30/2015 at 5:30 p.m. at the Sterling Town Hall, 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT in the Conference Room for the Selectmen to review the budget and Power Point presentation.

a. Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adjourn 7:01 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary