

August 12, 2015

The meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m. Selectmen present-Russell Gray and Lincoln Cooper. Selectman absent-John Firlik. Staff present-Joyce Gustavson, Demian Sorrentino, Joe Theroux, and Kara Fishman (6:06 p.m.). Also present-Neil Cook and Sue Starkey.

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

Audience of Citizens: No comment.

Approval of Minutes: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to approve the 8/5/2015 regular meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

**a. Commission Vacancies (Economic Development Commission, Sterling Recreation Authority, & Zoning Board of Appeals):** No new information. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

**b. Consider & Act on Request for Refund for Driveway Apron Bond #07-01 – D. Lane, 468 Main Street - \$500.00:** R. Gray reported that he spoke with Joe Theroux, Wetland Land Use Officer and reported that the second driveway is the only way to access the backside of the property and it should be accessible if an emergency vehicle needs to enter. R. Gray's concern is if it is used on a regular basis the road could start to tear apart. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to release the bond #07-01 to Darryl Lane, 468 Main Street, Sterling, CT with the following modifications: 1) The homeowner shall put up a suitable fence; and 2) If damage to the road occurs, the homeowner shall be responsible to fix the damage and install a driveway apron. All voted in favor of the action.

**c. Discussion on Excavation Regulations vs. Excavation Ordinance:** J. Rabbitt, Town Planner will come to the Selectmen's meeting on Wednesday, 8/19/2015 at 6:00 p.m. at the Sterling Municipal Building, Room #15 at 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT to discuss the Excavation Regulations vs. the Excavation Ordinance. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to table this item to the next meeting. 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) Corelogic Real Estate Tax Service, PO Box 961250, Fort Worth, TX 76161-9858 for \$2,055.58; 2) Richard J. Denomme, 370 Margaret Henry Road, Sterling, CT 06377-1403 for \$14.27; 3) Toyota Lease Trust, Box 105386, Atlanta, GA 30348 for \$140.62; and 4) Anthony F. Perreault, 79 Snake Meadow Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377-1611 for \$19.58. All voted in favor of the motion.

**b. Northeast District Department of Health – Sue Starkey:** Sue Starkey of Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH) gave a presentation on NDDH's funding sources and expenditures; environmental health services; communicable diseases; district wide services that are available; and how to handle complaints regarding excessive trash and sewer/septic. The Health Department does not have permission to go on to a homeowner's property. They will investigate a health issue and then write an order and if the matter is not taken care of, proceed to the Housing Court. Their job is to enforce the Public Health Code. S. Starkey stated that this should be a coordinated effort with fire departments, building and zoning officials, as well as, NDDH. Discussion followed regarding following through on complaints and what happens when the Town calls in a complaint, to how a septic system be approved for a two (2) bedroom home and upon inspection it is discovered that a five (5) bedroom home was built; and about residents living in campers with no septic system. S. Starkey stated that NDDH cannot enforce the Housing Code, only the public health code. It was decided that another meeting to discuss these issues will be set at a later date.

**c. Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program:** R. Gray reported that the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) announced a Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program Pursuant to Section 19a-308b of the Connecticut General Statutes. The maximum amount a municipality can request is \$2,000 and the money is to be used for clearing weeds, briars and bushes, mowing the

lawn areas, repair walls and fences and straighten memorial stones. R. Gray made a motion seconded by L. Cooper to submit an application for the Neglected Cemetery Account Grant Program to clean up Gallup Cemetery located on Porter Pond Road, Sterling, CT to remove tree limbs and debris, cut trees down on the outer perimeter and repair sunken grave sites. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: 1) D. Sorrentino asked if the Town is looking to re-start the Historical District Society Commission and to contact John Mackie. R. Gray will contact J. Mackie asking him if he is interested in becoming a member of the Historical District Society. 2) Discussion was held on how to proceed with the Town right-of-way off of Margaret Henry Road and Snake Meadow Road. It was the consensus of the Selectmen to get an estimate from Dutch Associates and to have R. Gray talk to the residents and see if there is an interest in splitting the surveying cost. 3) J. Gustavson reported that Patricia Desmarais has requested release of a driveway apron bond #15-02 in the amount of \$1,500. Earlier today Robert Kerr, Plainfield Building Inspector and R. Gray approved that the driveway apron has been installed properly. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to release driveway apron bond #15-02 in the amount of \$1,500 to Patricia Desmarais, PO Box 271, East Killingly, CT 06241 for property located at 600 Margaret Henry Road, Sterling, CT. All voted in favor of the motion.

Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray, to adjourn 7:43 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

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