

September 2, 2015

The meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

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

Staff present-Joyce Gustavson.

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 8/19/2015 regular meeting minutes and the special meeting minutes of 8/19/2015 and 8/20/2015 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. 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. Town Right-of-Way – Margaret Henry Road & Snake Meadow Hill Road: Kara Fishman, Assessor gave R. Gray a list of property owners whose land abuts the right-of-way on Margaret Henry Road. R. Gray reported that he attempted to do home visits; however, one house is vacant, one property owner was not home, and one had a do not enter sign posted. Upon trying to contact the residents by telephone, one had no answer and a message was left with a brother of the homeowner at another residence. 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. Application for Driveway Construction Permit for 0 Margaret Henry Road: Alex Jordan has submitted an application for a driveway construction permit dated 8/27/2015. R. Gray made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to approve the application for a driveway construction permit for property located at 0 Margaret Henry Road. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Request for Refund of Excess Tax Payments: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to approve the request for refunds to: 1) Eric S. Brown, 101 Gibson Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377-1913 for \$20.85 & \$3.16; 2) Joseph or Judy Buchowiecki, 519 Sawmill Road, Sterling, CT 06377 for \$54.03 & \$193.42; 3) Amber D. Grasso, 491 Sawmill Hill Road, Moosup, CT 06354-2212 for \$27.71; 4) Nicole M. Orlando, 295 Pine Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377-2304 for \$25.02; 5) Neil J. Wilkinson, PO Box 249, Oneco, CT 06373-0249 for \$49.23 and 6) George L. Goulet, 4 Sterling Ridge Lane, Sterling, CT 06377-1828 for \$7.33. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider & Act on Proclamation Recognizing Red Ribbon Week: A motion was made by L. Cooper, seconded by J. Firlik, to adopt the following proclamation with the Natchaug River Young Marines recognizing Red Ribbon Week from October 23rd through October 31st, 2015 in an effort to develop good citizenship and promote a healthy, drug free lifestyle to our youth.

Proclamation

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week is a campaign to show support for ridding communities of illicit drug use and those that traffic and profit from illicit drugs; and

WHEREAS, Red Ribbon Week will take place October 23rd through October 31st; and

WHEREAS, the Natchaug River Young Marines located in Dayville along with the Young Marines from many surrounding towns, will actively participate in this nationally recognized illicit drug awareness event; and

WHEREAS, the Natchaug River Young Marines proudly stand in support of and are committed to the fight against illegal drugs and those that promote their use; and

WHEREAS, the Young Marine Program promotes good citizenship and a healthy lifestyle is through education and awareness and the best way to educate is to lead by example; and

THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED BY THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

OF THE TOWN OF STERLING that the Natchaug River Young Marines should be recognized as an outstanding opportunity for our local youth and for their continuing efforts to educate and promote a healthy drug-free lifestyle; and

BE IT FURTHER PROCLAIMED that the Young Marine program should receive the support of the Board of Selectmen and the residents of our Town for their positive impact on our youth and our community by wearing a red ribbon during Red Ribbon Week. All voted in favor of the motion.

d. Insulation for Sterling Municipal Building, 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT: R. Gray shall contact Frank Bood, Chairman of the Energy Committee to get an energy audit for the Sterling Municipal Building located at 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT. The energy audit would tell us how much insulation we would need to prevent ice dams. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: 1) L. Cooper asked for an update regarding when the recipient from Sterling who attended the Connecticut Boys State – Leadership Program for High School Juniors was going to give the Board a report of what was learned from the leadership program. J. Gustavson reported that Conrad Langlais stopped in a few weeks ago stating that the recipient had been out of the state for the summer and would give a report to the Board of Selectmen shortly after the beginning of the school year. 2) R. Gray reported that K. Fishman inquired about getting the broken window in the Assessor’s Office fixed and to replace the cloudy window with another window from a vacant office within the Town Hall. L. Cooper will check it out. 3) R. Gray reported that K. Fishman requested to have the windows in the Assessor’s Office washed both inside and outside. R. Gray stated that this is over and beyond what the janitorial duties include. In the past, this task fell under Building Maintenance Property Supervisor. R. Gray shall ask Sam McGuire if she is willing to wash all the windows in the Town Hall and be compensated in addition to her weekly hours. 4) R. Gray reported that Anna Gagner, Revenue Collector spoke with him this morning regarding the wages for collecting water payments that was taken away from the Revenue Office and if the other two Selectmen were aware that this had happened. R. Gray stated that the Tax Office became the Revenue Office and initially Connecticut Water would bill and collect the water payments but they would not follow through if payments were not made. The Board of Selectmen took it back from Connecticut Water and the Revenue Collector and the Assistant each received an additional \$3,000 to read the meters and process the bills. Another person outside of the Revenue Office reads the meters and the Selectmen took the money away. It was the consensus of the Board of Selectmen that they were aware of this change. 5) J. Gustavson passed out a handout from K. Fishman outlining an audience overview showing the usage of the website during the first year of operation. From 9/1/2014 through 8/31/2015, 13,649 users have viewed the website logging in 20,858 sessions and viewing 47,878 pages. Over sixty-five percent (65%) are new viewers and over thirty-four percent (34%) are returning viewers. Viewers from as far away as Boston and Harford have viewed the website with Putnam logging in the most viewers at 1,881 sessions or 9.02 percent.

Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to adjourn 6:50 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary