

July 20, 2016

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-Demian Sorrentino and Joyce Gustavson.

Also present-David Shippee.

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 J. Firlik to approve the 6/13/2016, meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

**a. Commission Vacancies (Recreation Authority, and 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. Discussion Regarding Sale of Right-of-Way on Town Property Located on Margaret Henry Road and Snake Meadow Hill Road:** D. Sorrentino, Zoning Enforcement Official, reported that he spoke with Kara Fishman of Fishman Appraisal Services and sent her a copy of the conceptual property distribution map for the Main Road #2 right-of way. K. Fishman gave a preliminary cost estimate of \$875 and an approximate delivery timeframe of the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) week of August. The land would be appraised in terms of "highest and best use"; with its highest and best use likely being not as a stand-alone parcel, but as additional acreage to be distributed to the abutters. Because of the relatively long turnaround time, D. Sorrentino wants to check with the Tetreault's regarding their willingness to move forward. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to move Any Other Business ahead of Unfinished Business, Item c. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: D. Sorrentino reported that he spoke to Mr. & Mrs. Piro regarding the placement of a permanent camp trailer on property located at 77 Deerfield Drive. D. Sorrentino relayed his previous discussion with Town Attorney, Kari Olsen, who is of the opinion that the Town cannot place a stipulation on the land use records that goes against the existing Mobile Parks and Trailer Ordinance. D. Sorrentino explained to the Piro's that they can apply to the Board of Selectmen for a thirty (30) day occupancy permit and then could request a thirty (30) day extension for a total of sixty (60) days per year in accordance with the Sterling Mobile Parks and Trailer Ordinance. The Piro's were grateful for the call, but feel that their investment in the camper unit and the property were based on an approval to place a 36' x 12' trailer on the lot issued by the Sterling Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission. Likewise, they have contacted an attorney to discuss their options going forward. The Piro's have indicated that they do not intend to occupy the site more than sixty (60) days annually. D. Sorrentino will help the Piro's prepare a letter to the Board of Selectmen for a thirty (30) day occupancy permit, and prepare a draft letter on behalf of the Board of Selectmen to the Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission notifying them of the situation and reminding the Commission to be careful about granting approvals that may be inconsistent with other municipal regulations.

Unfinished Business Cont'd.

**c. West Wing Restroom Facilities (Senior Center and Library):** Regarding the Senior Center, R. Gray reported that he contacted Rodney Young of Mattern Construction and he is scheduled to come to the Town Hall Municipal Building tomorrow, 7/21/2016 with an estimator and provide the Town with a quote to tear out the existing urinals and secure two (2) new ones to the wall. R. Gray reported on the restroom facilities for the Library and stated that S. McGuire, janitor, cleaned one out and will finish the other one tomorrow, 7/21/2016, at which time, R. Gray shall contact Peter Barbeau of Peter Barbeau Plumbing & Heating, Danielson, CT to work on the

plumbing and L. Cooper will work on repairing the mechanical aspects. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item. All voted in favor of the motion.

**d. Consider and Act on Solarize Connecticut Memorandum of Understanding:** L. Cooper reported that the Energy Committee held their meeting last Thursday, 7/14/2016 and sees no objection to the Board of Selectmen adopting the Solarize Connecticut Memorandum of Understanding. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adopt the following Memorandum of Understanding:

#### **Memorandum of Understanding**

This Memorandum of Understanding is made between the Town of Sterling and Solarize Connecticut, a program managed by SmartPower, Inc. ("SmartPower"), sparked by the Connecticut Green Bank.

**WHEREAS** Sterling has been a leader in sustainability efforts in Connecticut including: 24 residential properties generating over 141 kW of solar power and another 11 that have open permits for an additional 78 kW;

**WHEREAS** solar energy is good for the environment and contributes to a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions;

**WHEREAS** generating electricity from solar energy can save town homeowners money on their utility bills and can help residents of the Town of Sterling control future energy costs thereby saving taxpayer money;

**WHEREAS** solar energy creates opportunities for economic development and job creation while promoting energy independence;

**WHEREAS** SmartPower, a not-for-profit entity, is launching Solarize Connecticut to encourage more residential solar electric installations to reduce energy use, improve the environment, and create jobs by increasing the use of solar technologies;

**WHEREAS** Sterling has endorsed the goals of Solarize Connecticut;

**WHEREAS** SmartPower will promote Sterling for its participation in Solarize Connecticut in media stories, on its website, through social marketing and at presentations;

**WHEREAS** Sterling will promote Solarize Connecticut, including participating in joint outreach opportunities; and will designate a person to coordinate communications activities with SmartPower;

**WHEREAS** Sterling will assist SmartPower in selecting a solar installer to provide residents with quotes for reduced pricing for solar through the Solarize campaign;

#### **NOW THEREFORE THE PARTIES AGREE AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Sterling commits to promote and participate in the Solarize Connecticut effort known locally as Solarize Sterling with the goal of becoming a leader in residential solar electric installations in the State of Connecticut.

2. As is the case with all Solarize projects, Sterling makes no financial or contractual commitment for the Solarize Project. The Town's support for the project is through in-kind support such as Sterling staff or elected officials working with SmartPower and town volunteers to support the project through a variety of outreach methods.

3. Sterling will identify up to three residents and/or staff that can be part of the solar installer competitive selection process. After SmartPower has reviewed the proposals from solar installers, the Sterling team will in turn review these proposals and participate in a proposal review session, and have an opportunity to meet with installers. The Town will make a recommendation listing 3-4 installers it would like to work with for the project and work with SmartPower to select the final solar installer(s) for Sterling.

4. SmartPower will support Sterling volunteers for outreach including a town page on [www.solarizect.com](http://www.solarizect.com). SmartPower will hold initial organizing meetings and provide the Town with a Solarize Sterling banner and help draft press releases, newsletter articles, and letters to the editor as well as other promotional items. SmartPower will also hold bi-weekly conference calls for volunteers, Town staff/officials and the selected solar installer(s) to coordinate activities, brainstorm outreach opportunities and share information about the progress of the Solarize

project. However, while SmartPower will support Solarize Connecticut, it will be the responsibility of the Town and Town volunteers to spearhead outreach activities.

All voted in favor of the motion.

**e. Update Regarding Gypsy Moth/Caterpillar Funding from Department of Energy & Environmental Protection:** 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.

**f. Consider & Act on Town Becoming Charter Organization for Cub Scout Pack #23:** R. Gray reported that we have not received the charter agreement or Cub Scout Pack #23's liability of insurance. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

**g. Sterling Agricultural Commission:** R. Gray reported that he tried several times by phone and in person to speak with the chairman of the Sterling Agricultural Commission and to date has not been able to reach him. He will continue to contact Andy Meek. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

**h. Discuss Recommendations from the Sterling Computer Assessment Committee:** David Shippee, Board of Finance Chairman reviewed and discussed the ten (10) recommendations from the Sterling Computer Assessment Committee with the Board of Selectmen. He reported that the E-rate Funding for Libraries - Fiber Consortium Application has been submitted, completing the first recommendation. It was suggested that the Sterling Computer Assessment Committee meet with Dave Bourgoin of Flagship Networks to discuss a facility audit of the IT (Internet Technology) infrastructure at the Sterling Municipal Building located at 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT and for the Committee to provide the Board of Selectmen with an estimate for an IT line item in the Fiscal Year 2017-2018 budget, as well as, an estimate on the cost to replace twenty percent (20%) of PCs/printers on a yearly basis. Before the current telephone system can be switched to VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol), figures need to be provided on what the cost would be if the facility audit determines that the current infrastructure can support the switch to VoIP and what the cost would be once the Nutmeg Network is in place.

New Business:

**a. Request for Refund of Excess Tax Payments:** J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to approve the request for refunds to: Gary & Marie M. Gebert, 264 Harris Road, Sterling, CT 06377-1508 for \$25.22. All voted in favor of the motion.

**b. Consider and Act on Appointment of Representatives to Act as Primary Contact for Solarize Connecticut – Frank Bood and Lincoln Cooper:** J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to appoint Frank Bood, 230 Harris Road, Sterling, CT 06377 and Lincoln Cooper, 420 Porter Pond Road, Moosup, CT 06354 to act as primary contacts on behalf of the Town of Sterling for Solarize Connecticut. All voted in favor of the motion.

Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to adjourn 6:46 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

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