

December 7, 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-Joyce Gustavson and Demian Sorrentino.

Also present-Ethel Tetreault, Andy Tetreault, Patrick & Colleen Taylor, Betsy Chamberland, and Shawn Bourgeois (6:02 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 11/16/2016 meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

**a. Commission Vacancies (Planning & Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals):** 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. Discussion Regarding Sale of Right-of-Way on Town Property Located on Margaret Henry Road and Snake Meadow Hill Road:** Demian Sorrentino, Zoning Enforcement Officer reported that he contacted Dutch & Associates to perform the land survey, which should be completed by the beginning of the year. It is the intent to have all of the required information together to go to Town Meeting with this issue in February or early March. D. Sorrentino stated that it is the consensus of the Board of Selectmen that the entirety of the parcel is distributed to the abutters or the Board will not proceed with the transaction. It was brought to D. Sorrentino's attention that Yeaton no longer owns the property located at 246 Snake Meadow Hill Road and a letter has been mailed to the new homeowner, requesting that she contact him regarding her interest in acquiring the remaining portion adjacent to her property. Discussion was held regarding Taylor's portion. If the Taylor's acquire fifty feet (50') of frontage on Snake Meadow Hill Road, that would give them enough frontage to be a zoning compliant rear lot, but would not make them compliant with the two (2) acre minimum lot area requirement. The adjusted cost to Taylor, if they acquire a strip measuring approximately fifty feet by three hundred feet (50' x 300'), giving them access to Snake Meadow Hill Road, would be \$1,650 (ten percent (10%) of the appraised cost). The question remains as to what would happen to the remainder tract of land that the Taylor's do not want to purchase? It was suggested that Taylor and Tetreault could come to an agreement to purchase the remaining tract of Taylor's portion. If that were to happen, the adjusted cost to Tetreault would be \$18,193 (ninety percent (90%) of the appraised cost), including their portion, and the remaining area of Taylor's portion. If the proposal to move forward on selling the right-of-way continues, a Special Town Meeting would be scheduled for February or March. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

**c. West Wing Restroom Facilities (Library):** R. Gray reported that he met with Peter Barbeau of Peter Barbeau Plumbing & Heating to discuss the scope of work that needs to be done to renovate the gang bathrooms in the Library. An Invitation to Bid was published in the Norwich Bulletin. J. Firlik made a motion seconded by L. Cooper to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

**d. Painting Hallway from Gym to Library:** L. Cooper reported that he received a quote from Sherwin-Williams for the cost of paint and supplies to paint the hallway from the Gym to the Library. The paint would be \$620 and approximately \$200 for supplies; including paint brushes, rollers, drop clothes, etc. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to proceed with painting the hallway from the Gym to Library at a cost not to exceed \$850. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

**a. Consider & Act on Re-appointment of Neil Cook & John Firlik, (2 yr. term expiring 12/31/2018) and Geoffrey Cooper & Alt. Fred Parker (1 yr. term expiring 12/31/2017):** L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to re-appoint Neil Cook, 541 Gibson Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377 and John Firlik, 61 Jared Hall Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377 to a two (2) year term expiring 12/31/2018 and Geoffrey Cooper, 111 Sterling Road, Sterling, CT 06377 and

Alternate Fred Parker, 53 Jared Hall Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377 to a one (1) year term expiring 12/31/2017 to the Voluntown/Sterling Transfer Station Commission. Two (2) voted in favor of the motion and one abstained.

**b. Request for Refund of Excess Tax Payments:** L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to approve the request for refund to: JoAnn A. & Michael S. Gallo, Jr., 830 Margaret Henry Road, Sterling, CT 06377-1715 for \$22.80. All voted in favor of the motion.

**c. Resignation of Dale Clark from Board of Finance and Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority:** R. Gray received a letter of resignation dated 12/6/2016 from Dale Clark stating, "It is with deep regret that I must tender my resignation from both the Board of Finance and the Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority (SWPCA). I have received a promotion at my current job and the new position's hours will not allow me to attend evening meetings. It has been an honor to have been able to serve the Town of Sterling over the past 19 years and if in the future my schedule once again allows me to serve the Town, I would gladly accept the task". J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to regretfully accept Dale Clark's resignation effective immediately from the Board of Finance and the Sterling Water Pollution Control Authority. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: 1) Betsy Chamberland was asked to consider joining the Board of Finance to replace Dale Clark. 2) R. Gray reported that Judy Gooslin, Chairman, Recreation Authority requested to use the vacant side of the Robert P. Jordan Center located at 50 Main Street during the months of January and February for wrestling. Sam McGuire, Janitor will clean the vacant side and the Town Highway crew will bring the broken organ, hot water heater and bladder tank to the Voluntown/Sterling Transfer Station.

Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik, to adjourn 6:33 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

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