

March 8, 2017

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: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to approve the 3/1/2017 special meeting minutes and the meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Commission Vacancies (Planning & Zoning Commission): No candidate for the Planning & Zoning Commission. 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 of Employee Safety and Health Committee Guide: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. 2017-2018 Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP): The Board of Selectmen will present the 2017-2018 Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP) tonight to the Board of Finance.

d. 2017-2018 Proposed Selectmen's Budget: The Board of Selectmen will present FY 2017-2018 proposed Selectmen's budget tonight to the Board of Finance.

New Business:

a. Request for Refund of Excess Tax Payments: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to approve the following refund request: Michael C. McCoil, 58 Old Cranston Road, Sterling, CT 06377-1906 for \$9.61. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. The Upper Room Tabernacles of Grace Chapel – Security Deposit: R. Gray reported that he received a letter from Dr. Valerie A. Beauchene, Th.D. of The Upper Room Tabernacles of Grace Chapel, dated 2/28/2017 stating that “March 2017 will be our final rental month at your property, The Jordan Center, on 50 Main Street. Thank you so much for allowing us to rent the property – you have been a blessing through a very difficult time for us. We will, of course, leave the facility clean. We will need the monies for the first and security returned this month, as they are necessary for our next rental”. R. Gray stated that before releasing the first and security deposit, the premises need to be inspected. He will speak with V. Beauchene to get a final date of occupancy. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider & Act on Re-adoption of Fair Housing Resolution and Policy Statement: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to re-adopt the following Fair Housing Resolution and Policy Statement:

Resolution

Whereas, all persons are afforded a right to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice; and

Whereas, Federal fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, Connecticut fair housing laws require that all individuals, regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, age, lawful source of income, familial status, learning disability, physical or mental disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression be given equal access to all housing-related opportunities, including rental and homeownership opportunities, and be allowed to make free choices regarding housing location; and

Whereas, the Town of Sterling is committed to upholding these laws, and realizes that these laws must be supplemented by an Affirmative Statement publicly endorsing the right of all people to full and equal housing opportunities in the neighborhood of their choice.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Town of Sterling hereby endorses a Fair Housing Policy to ensure equal opportunity for all persons to rent, purchase and obtain financing and enjoy all other housing-related services of their choice on a non-discriminatory basis as provided by state and federal law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the chief executive officer of the Town of Sterling or his designated representative is responsible for responding to and assisting any person who alleges to be the victim of an illegal discriminatory housing practice in the Town of Sterling and for advising such person of the right to file a complaint with the State of Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities (CHRO) or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) or to seek assistance from the CT Fair Housing Center, legal services, or other fair housing organizations to protect his or her right to equal housing opportunities.

All voted in favor of the motion.

d. Consider & Act on Fair Housing Policy Statement: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to re-adopt the Fair Housing Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Town of Sterling to promote fair housing opportunities and to encourage racial and economic integration in all its programs and housing development activities. All voted in favor of the motion.

e. Consider & Act on Title VI Equal Opportunity Statement: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to re-adopt Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 policy that prohibits discrimination on the grounds of race, color or national origin in programs and activities receiving Federal financial assistance. Title VI provides that No person shall on the grounds of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any programs covered by the Regulations. All voted in favor of the motion.

f. Consider & Act on Affirmative Action Policy Statement: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to re-adopt the Affirmative Action Act in the spirit of Executive Order 11, signed by Governor Ella Grasso, on November 21, 1975, and Executive Order 9, signed by Governor William A. O'Neill on January 3, 1984 that the Town of Sterling will comply with the anti-discrimination provisions of the state and federal laws and regulations. All voted in favor of the motion.

g. Consider & Act on Municipal ADA Grievance Procedure Statement: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to appoint First Selectman, Russell M. Gray as ADA Coordinator (Americans with Disabilities Act) for the Town of Sterling as required by Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and if R. Gray does not satisfactorily resolve the issue, the complainant and/or his/her designee may appeal the decision of the ADA Coordinator within fifteen (15) calendar days after receipt of the response to William Sebastian, Compliant Officer. All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: 1) L. Cooper stated that the work on the Library restrooms has been completed. 2) L. Cooper also reported that the former Resident Trooper's Office had paint peeling from the outside bathroom wall, as well as in the bathroom. The walls are now covered with fiberglass reinforced walls.

Adjournment: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper, to adjourn 6:23 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary