

April 12, 2017

The monthly meeting of the Sterling Board of Finance was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman David Shippee. Other members' present-Neil Cook, Bruce Lindberg, and Peter Rabbitt.

Members' absent- Neil Delmonico and Robert Lassar.

Staff present-Russell Gray, Lincoln Cooper, John Firlik, and Joyce Gustavson.

Also present-Frank Bood.

Audience of Citizens: Frank Bood, Chairman of the Sterling Energy Commission stated that he has been working with two (2) teams to put LED lighting proposals together to hopefully have approved at the Sterling Energy Commission meeting scheduled for Thursday, 4/13/2017.

The first one is addressing the seventy-three (73) +/- street lights. The upfront cost is \$40,526 based on approximately \$200 per unit cost to buy out the old ones from Eversource. This should be less based on the age of the units, but there is a possibility it could be more. The rebate is \$11,900 which makes the total cost to the Town after rebate \$28,626. The project will take three (3) months from start to finish. Tanko Lighting will provide an audit of the whole system for our record so in the future we will have a record of each unit and its GIS location. Our current rate is (117) \$7.31 per unit a month and will drop to \$0.52 per unit once switched to LED. The new rate is referred to as Rate 116. The equipment is GE 25 watt LED. There is a \$70 monthly fee for the maintenance. The second proposal addresses LED upgrades to the Town Hall/Municipal Building located at 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT. There is a twenty-four percent (24%) return investment and in five (5) years the Town would break even. Paquette Electric Co., Inc., would work through Eversource. This is a no interest loan and would go through the Connecticut Green Bank. The cost is \$23,037.81 with an estimated annual cost savings in the amount of \$5,698.26 resulting in an estimated monthly cost of \$474.86. The Town has a \$5,000 Bright Idea Grant that shall be applied to offset the cost to pay for the lighting upgrades.

F. Bood also discussed solar panels for the Town Hall and the Sterling Community School. It is estimated that 1,200 solar panels would be adequate for both buildings. The State is not offering a tax incentive at this time for the Town, but they are for homeowners. Possible locations that were discussed include the Revere Site and the back of the Industrial Park. The cost is approximately \$500,000 to \$600,000 for 400,000 watts with a six to ten (6-10) year payback. The Town Garage and the Robert P. Jordan Center would need virtual net metering before they could be hooked into the solar panels. Graybar Electric Company shall be submitting a proposal to the Sterling Energy Committee.

Correspondence: None.

Approval of Minutes: B. Lindberg made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to approve the minutes of the 3/8/2017 monthly meeting with the correction to New Business, Item b. ...budget request in the amount of "\$2,790,490" leaving "\$2,323,141" to be raised by taxes... instead of "\$2,790,758" leaving "\$2,323,409" to be raised by taxes. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Tax Collector's Grand Ratebook Balance Sheet Report: The report for month ending 3/31/2017 was submitted and reviewed.

b. I.T. Upgrades for the Sterling Municipal Building: D. Shippee reported that when the fiber network is installed the server will be moved to a new location. Bruce Tavernier of Tavernier Electric will install two (2) thirty (30) amp circuits to fit into the racks. Lighttower connected the fiber wires from the road to the boiler room and the Computer Assessment Committee is presently working on three (3) bid packages.

New Business:

a. Board of Education and Board of Selectmen's Quarterly Reports: The Board of Education's quarterly report was not available for tonight's meeting. The Board of Selectmen's quarterly report for the period ending 3/31/2017 was submitted and reviewed.

b. Appointment of Auditor for Fiscal Year Ending June 30 2017: B. Lindberg made a motion, seconded by N. Cook to confirm the appointment of O'Connor Davies, LLP, Certified Public

Accountants of 100 Great Meadow Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109 for Fiscal Year ending 6/30/2017. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider & Act on Tax Collector Suspense List for FY 7/1/2016 – 6/30/2017: Anna Gagner, CCMA, Revenue Collector submitted the Suspense List for action by the Board of Finance. B. Lindberg made a motion, seconded by P. Rabbitt to approve the transfer of certain uncollected taxes to the Suspense Tax Book as follows: Motor Vehicle Suspense List 2013, FY 7/1/2016-6/30/2017 in the amount of \$341.78 and Motor Vehicle Suspense List 2014, FY 7/1/2016-6/30/2017 in the amount of \$21,886.30 for a total amount of \$22,228.08; Motor Vehicle Supplement Suspense List 2014, FY 7/1/2016-6/30/2017 in the amount of \$4,865.48; Personal Property Suspense List 2014, FY 7/1/2016-6/30/2017 in the amount of \$17,688.91. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Confirm Budget Schedule for 2017-2018: J. Gustavson confirmed the following dates for the proposed 2017-2018 proposed budgets:

The **Public Hearing** on the 2017-2018 Proposed Board of Education and Board of Selectmen Budget is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Town Meeting** for the 2017-2018 proposed budgets is scheduled for Wednesday, May 3, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

The **Referendum** for the 2017-2018 proposed budgets is scheduled for Wednesday, May 10, 2017 from noon to 8:00 p.m.

All meetings are scheduled to be held in the gym at the Sterling Town Hall, 1183 Plainfield Pike, Oneco, CT.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Board of Finance: None.

Adjournment: P. Rabbitt made a motion, seconded by B. Lindberg to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Board of Finance Clerk