

January 2, 2019

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- Frank Bood, Michael and Casey Toth, Michael and Ericka Toth, Cindy Donall, Jonathan and Jennifer Hutchins, James Mortimer, Mary Burdick, and Andrew Hadfield.

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 12/5/2018 meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Commission Vacancies (Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission, Economic Development Commission, and Planning & Zoning Commission): L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to table this item to the next meeting as there are no candidates. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Official Notice of Violation & Order – Motorcycle a/k/a Motocross Race Track for Property Located at 282 Newport Road: D. Sorrentino, Zoning Enforcement Officer (ZEO) stated that this discussion started on 12/5/2018 with the Toth's regarding the motorcycle a/k/a/ motocross race track on their property located at 282 Newport Road. The neighbors have been invited to tonight's Board of Selectmen's meeting in order for a productive conversation to be held between the property owners and the abutters, in hopes that an agreement can be reached to avoid litigation, which is both in the Town's interest and the property owner's interest. If an agreement cannot be reached, the ZEO is confident that the Board of Selectmen and the Planning and Zoning Commission can take this matter to the Windham County Superior Court and be successful on the grounds that: (1) the facility meets the definition of a race track per the municipal Ordinance; (2) it was advertised as a business with lessons and motorcycle rentals offered; (3) is disruptive to the neighborhood; and (4) the track is located within the prescribed front and side yard zoning setbacks. A discussion followed with the Board of Selectmen, the Zoning Enforcement Officer, property owners, and the audience of citizens all contributing, with A. Hadfield, the Toth's northerly abutter, being the most outspoken in opposition to the track. No other abutters present opposed the use, with C. Donall, the Toth's southerly abutter, being expressly not opposed to the use. D. Sorrentino stated it is apparent that the primary issues are the proximity of the track to A. Hadfield's property, and the intensity of the use (number of motorcycles riding at one time creating excessive noise and dust). An agreement was reached between A. Hadfield and M. Toth, where Toth consented to: (1) eliminate the long straightaway adjacent to the Hadfield property; (2) move the track away from the shared property line and towards the Toth garage; (3) add curves/turns in this area to limit rider acceleration; and (4) move the track into the vegetated (treed) portion of the property as soon as feasible. These modifications to the track will take place prior to the spring riding season, and both Toth and Hadfield agreed to communicate with one another to avoid future disagreements. This matter is considered tabled indefinitely, but may be revisited at a future time.

New Business:

a. Approval of Bills: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to approve the bills for 1/3/2019 in the amount of \$110,056. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Consider & Act on Re-appointment of Neil Cook and John Firlik to (2 yr. term expiring 12/31/2020) and Geoffrey Cooper and Alternate Fred Parker to (1 yr. term expiring 12/31/2019) to the Voluntown/Sterling Transfer Station: R. Gray reported that he spoke to Neil Cook earlier today and N. Cook stated that he does not want to be re-appointed to the Voluntown/Sterling Transfer Station. R. Gray made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to re-appoint John Firlik, 61 Jared Hall Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377 to a two (2) year term expiring 12/31/2020, Geoffrey Cooper, 111 Sterling Road, Sterling, CT 06373 and Alternate Fred Parker,

53 Jared Hall Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377 to a one (1) year term expiring 12/31/2019 to the Voluntown/Sterling Transfer Station. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Consider & Act on Appointment of Representative to the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council: R. Gray reported that on 12/3/2018 he received a letter from Sean Henry, Chairperson of the Wood Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Study Committee requesting that the Town of Sterling appoint one (1) representative and one (1) alternative to the Stewardship Council. R. Gibson, Chairman of the Sterling Inland Wetland and Watercourses Commission expressed interest in being appointed to the council. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to appoint Roger Gibson, 370 Porter Pond Road, Moosup, CT 06354 to the Wood-Pawcatuck Wild and Scenic Rivers Stewardship Council. All voted in favor of the motion. An alternative was not appointed tonight.

d. Consider & Act on FY 2018 State Homeland Security Grant Program Region 4 Memorandum of Agreement Resolution: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adopt the following resolution:

Resolution

RESOLVED, that the Town of Sterling may enter into with and deliver to the State of Connecticut Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, any and all documents which it deems to be necessary or appropriate; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that Russell M. Gray, as First Selectman of the Town of Sterling, is authorized and directed to execute and deliver any and all documents on behalf of the Town of Sterling and to do and perform all acts and things which he deems to be necessary or appropriate to carry out the terms of such documents, including, but not limited to, executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by such documents.

All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business: 1) R. Gray made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to appoint Lincoln Cooper, 420 Porter Pond Road, Moosup, CT 06354 to a two (2) year term expiring 12/31/2020 replacing Neil Cook to the **Voluntown/Sterling Transfer Station**. All voted in favor of the motion.

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

Attest: _____
Joyce A. Gustavson, Recording Secretary