

June 3, 2020

The (on-line virtual Zoom meeting) of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:10 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: No public comment.

Approval of Minutes: J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to approve the 3/11/2020 meeting minutes and the 3/30/2020, 4/1/2020, 4/8/2020, 4/15/2020, 5/13/2020, and 5/18/2020 special meeting minutes as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondence: R. Gray reported that he received a letter dated 5/21/2020 from Connecticut Mystic Country regarding the significant changes the Eastern Regional Tourism District has undergone and have selected the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut and the Greater Mystic Chamber of Commerce to serve as an administrative partner. The Eastern Regional Tourism District is looking to have a representative from Sterling appointed to the Board. R. Gray stated that Link Cooper has volunteered to represent Sterling. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by R. Gray to appoint Link Cooper, 420 Porter Pond Road, Moosup, CT 06354 to a one (1) year term ending 6/3/2021 to the Eastern Regional Tourism District. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

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

**b. Annual Town Meeting for Annual Report:** R. Gray reported that due to the COVID19 pandemic and various Executive Orders issued by Governor Ned Lamont, the Board of Selectmen, under Executive Order 7I, Section 13 should cancel the Annual Town Meeting previously scheduled for 4/8/2020. L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to cancel the Annual Town Meeting scheduled for 4/8/2020 as a result of Executive Order 7I, Section 13. All voted in favor of the motion.

**c. Confirm 5/18/2020 Telephone Vote Regarding School Bus Bids:** R. Gray reported that Josh McLeod, Town Mechanic, sent an email to J. Gustavson dated 5/11/2020 stating that he has reviewed the school bus bids and recommends purchasing the Bluebird bus from School Lines, Inc., as the bus meets or exceeds all of the specifications in the bid. Scott Davis of School Lines, Inc., sent an email assuring that all specifications have been met. The School Lines, Inc., bid was the least expensive final cost and is a good fit due to the drivers being most accustomed to the operation of the Bluebird buses. R. Gray made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to confirm the telephone vote of 5/18/2020 to award the bid to School Lines, Inc., of 75 Ciro Road, North Branford, CT 06471 for \$89,796 minus \$2,500 for the trade in allowance for the 2008 Bluebird Vision (136,000 miles, bus number 19) reducing the price to \$87,296 plus \$795 to install the radio for a final bid in the amount of \$88,091. All voted in favor of the motion.

**d. Confirm 5/20/2020 Telephone Vote Regarding Mechanic Position:** Ben Barbeau, 80 Tillinghast Road, Danielson, CT 06239 was hired as Town Mechanic replacing Josh McLeod, who resigned effective 6/1/2020. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to confirm the telephone vote of 5/20/2020 to hire Ben Barbeau, effective 5/23/2020 as Town Mechanic for approximately fifteen (15) to twenty-five (25) hours per week with flexible scheduling at \$32.00 per hour. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

**a. Approval of Bills:** J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to approve the bills for 3/17/2020 in the amount of \$7,463.71, 3/23/2020 in the amount of \$12,678.88, 3/30/2020 in the amount of \$4,065.34, 4/8/2020 in the amount of \$17,289.14, 4/15/2020 in the amount of

\$198,821.99, 4/22/2020 in the amount of \$18,472.79, 4/29/2020 in the amount of \$4,918.19, 5/6/2020 in the amount of \$5,144.93, 5/13/2020 in the amount of \$8,470.41, 5/20/2020 in the amount of \$9,480.37, and 6/3/2020 in the amount of \$31,113.85. All voted in favor of the motion.

**b. Confirm 5/18/2020 Telephone Vote Regarding Local Capital Improvement Plan:** R. Gray reported the current balance for the 2020-2021 Local Capital Improvement Plan (LoCIP) is \$90,577, which includes the 2019 entitlement amount of \$48,745. The plan will be presented to the Board of Finance tonight. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to confirm the telephone vote of 5/18/2020 to accept the report as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

**c. Consider & Act on Van Bids:** R. Gray reported that the Board of Selectmen received the following two (2) bids for one (1) new passenger van: 1) Putnam Ford, Inc., \$32,877, minus \$500 for the trade in for a final bid in the amount of \$32,377 and 2) Tasca Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Fiat, \$41,415, plus \$1,495 destination charge, minus \$710 for the trade in and \$4,200 incentive for a final bid in the amount of \$38,000. J. Gustavson received an email dated 6/3/2020 from Josh McLeod, Town Mechanic stating the bids are too expensive and the Town should buy a van through the State contract. He received a quote that was less expensive than the received bids. R. Gray will discuss the van bids with J. McLeod. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to table the van bids. All voted in favor of the motion.

**d. Consider & Act on Re-appointment of James Filice (5 yr. term expiring 5/31/2025) to Economic Development:** R. Gray reported that J. Filice does not attend meetings. J. Firlik made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to not re-appoint James Filice to the Economic Development Commission. All voted in favor of the motion.

**e. Consider & Act on Appointment of Dianna Firlik as Democratic Registrars of Voters:** R. Gray reported that he received an email from John Brady, Chair, Sterling Democratic Town Committee, dated 4/25/2020 noting his approval to appoint Dianna Firlik to the existing vacancy as Democratic Registrar of Voters until the next election (copy on file). R. Gray made a motion, seconded by L. Cooper to appoint Dianna Firlik, 61 Jared Hall Hill Road, Sterling, CT 06377 to complete the current term expiring 1/6/2021 which will then be placed on the 2021 ballot as a two (2) year term. R. Gray and Link Cooper voted yes. J. Firlik abstained. Motion carried.

Any Other Business: 1) R. Gray reported that Patricia Ball, Economic Development Coordinator received a letter from Andrew Hadfield dated 2/19/2020 stating: "Please accept my resignation from the Economic Development Commission". L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to accept Andrew Hadfield's resignation with regrets. All voted in favor of the motion. 2) L. Cooper asked for an update regarding the issue with the beaver's clogging culverts on Cedar Swamp Road. R. Gray stated that he and Don Aubrey, Town Engineer, looked at the two (2) pipes that are blocked. D. Aubrey suggested the Town wait until the water table goes down. R. Gray stated that he received a series of emails from Matt Maynard of Towne Engineering, Inc., dated, 6/1/2020 stating the Town can find a volunteer with trapping skills and work to target problem - beaver damming culverts, and this would be of great service to the Town and Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP). Being outside of the regular trapping season, a special permit is needed authorizing the trapping. All beavers captured will need to be euthanized. They cannot be relocated. Chris Vann, Nuisance Wildlife Biologist shall provide the Town with a list of volunteer trappers and licensed with Nuisance Wildlife Control (NWCO). Another option would be to hire someone to install a water level control device. Discussion followed. R. Gray will follow through.

Adjournment: L. Cooper made a motion, seconded by J. Firlik to adjourn at 6:31 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

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