

November 10, 2021

The monthly meeting of the Sterling Board of Finance was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Robert Salisbury. Other members' present-Neil Delmonico, Steve Offiler, and Jack Joslyn. Members' absent-Christine Farrugia.

Staff present-Link Cooper and Joyce Gustavson.

Also present- Jim Molodich, Renee Bein, and Steve Williams.

Pledge of Allegiance: Everyone stood to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

Audience of Citizens: No comment.

Correspondence: R. Salisbury reported the following: 1) Tonight is J. Joslyn's last Board of Finance meeting as he shall be joining the Board of Selectmen; 2) N. Delmonico is not able to attend the negotiation process with the Sterling Education Association due to a work conflict; 3) The auditors will begin the audit for FY 2020-2021 next week, and 4) C. Farrugia sent an email stating that she is vacationing on the west coast and will not be able to attend tonight's meeting.

Approval of Minutes: N. Delmonico made a motion, seconded by S. Offiler to approve the 10/13/2021 monthly meeting minutes as written and presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Tax Collector's Grand Ratebook Balance Sheet Report: The report for month ending 10/31/2021, was submitted and reviewed.

b. I.T. Upgrades for the Sterling Municipal Building: J. Gustavson reported no new information. R. Salisbury asked who is responsible for looking into the Voice over Internet Protocol, VoIP. It was reported that Sherri Soucy, Treasurer, is looking into a grant. N. Delmonico made a motion, seconded by S. Offiler to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Distribution of Handbooks for Connecticut Boards of Finance: The handbooks (edition 1992) were distributed, and it was noted a handbook would be mailed to C. Farrugia. The *Connecticut Boards of Finance Handbook* is a guide to the general statutes and principles of financial administration and serves as a guide to the powers and duties of the Board, as well as, preparing the budget, municipal accounting, long-range financial planning, etc. R. Salisbury reported that a newer version of the handbooks is available and asked that we get the updated version for the February meeting. N. Delmonico made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

N. Delmonico made a motion, seconded by S. Offiler to add to the agenda as New Business, Item c. Referral by the Board of Selectmen for State Acquisition by Eminent Domain for a Small Parcel of Town Owned Property Located at 160 Church Street (Side of Sterling Road). All voted in favor of the motion.

a. Consider & Act on 2022 Schedule of Meetings: S. Offiler made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to approve the 2022 Meeting Schedule as presented. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Request by the Board of Selectmen for Expenditure from Fund Balance to Water Pollution Control Authority for Consent Order and Proposal from US Geological Survey Proposal (USGS) - \$20,350: L. Cooper reported that the Town owns and operates the water system in Sterling. A water diversion permit is need because water is pumped from the ground and sold to Sterling residents. The cost of the permit is \$3,100 per five (5) years and CT Water did not file reports on the Town's behalf equaling a cost of \$9,300. The Town was sent a consent order and a proposal from U. S. Geological Survey Proposal (USGS) in the amount of \$20,350. USGS operates and maintains numerous gaging stations throughout the State to monitor river stage and discharge and groundwater levels that have been compromised over time. The proposal is to perform structural and equipment upgrades at the highest priority gages in Eastern CT that fits within the budget constraints between the Town and DEEP. As soon as the consent order is approved, DEEP will send it back to the Town and the Town shall have forty-five (45) days to comply. N. Delmonico made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to approve the expenditure in the amount of \$20,350, pending Town Meeting approval, from the Town's Fund Balance to the Water Pollution Control Authority for the consent order and proposal from U. S. Geological Survey Proposal (USGS). All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Referral by the Board of Selectmen for State Acquisition by Eminent Domain for a Small Parcel of Town Owned Property Located at 160 Church Street (Side of Sterling Road). L. Cooper reported that he received a letter from Terrell Tait, Acquisition/Relocation Section, Division of Rights of Way of the State of Connecticut, Department of Transportation (DOT) dated 9/1/2021 regarding acquiring this property for the Moosup Valley State Park Trail. The State wants to buy a sliver of land to improve the site line for the upcoming Rails to Trail project. The property is located by Sterling pond on Route 14. The acceptance agreement needed to be signed and returned by 10/1/2021 and because that did not happen, DOT will take the property by eminent domain and pay the town \$1,050. This is before the Board of Finance tonight because Sterling has a Surplus Property Ordinance that allows the Selectmen to dispose of property that is not needed for Town purposes, provided they consult with the Board of Finance for any sale of land worth more than \$1,000. Since the State is offering slightly more than that, the Selectmen are asking the Board of Finance for their input. N. Delmonico made a motion, seconded by S. Offiler to accept L. Cooper's explanation for State Acquisition by Eminent Domain for a small parcel of Town owned property located at 160 Church Street (Side of Sterling Road). All voted in favor of the motion.

Any Other Business to Come Before the Board of Finance: 1) R. Salisbury introduced Steve Offiler and Renee Bein to the Board of Finance and wished J. Joslyn well as he begins his term on the Board of Selectmen.

Adjournment: N. Delmonico made a motion, seconded by S. Offiler to adjourn at 7:43 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

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