

April 5, 2023

The meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Selectmen present: Lincoln Cooper, David Shippee and Jack Joslyn

Staff present: Susanne Tetreault

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

Audience of Citizens: Public in attendance.

Frank Bood discussed charging fees to landowners that are abusing the Planning & Zoning regulations. The fees would be created in an ordinance and the Town would be able to enforce the regulations. The Town would not have to go to court to lien an individual's property in the Land Records. Victoria Robinson-Lewis was interested in implementing a Special Permit Application thru the Planning & Zoning Commission. She felt that the Planning & Zoning Commission would be able to regulate the development of future projects by a Special Permit. It was suggested that other towns could be contacted and see how the other towns handle Special Permits.

Approval of Minutes: D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to approve the 3/15/2023 meeting minutes, and the Special meeting minutes of 3/22/2023. All voted in favor of the motion.

Correspondence: L. Cooper reported that he received a resignation letter addressed to Geoffrey Cooper, Chairman Economic Development Commission, from Dean Roussel requesting to not be appointed to the EDC when his term expires on May 31, 2023. L. Cooper also reported that he received a resignation letter addressed to Frank Bood, Chairman Planning & Zoning, from James D. Rabbitt. Resigning from Position of Town Planner effective February 23, 2023. D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to accept D. Roussel resignation from the Economic Development Commission with regrets. D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to accept J. Rabbitt resignation from Town Planner with regrets. All voted in favor of the motion.

Unfinished Business:

a. Commission Vacancies (Energy Committee, Family Day, Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission, Recreation Authority Board, and Zoning Board of Appeals): D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to table this item to the next meeting as there are no candidates. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Discussion Regarding Resident Trooper Program: D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to table this item to the next meeting. All voted in favor of the motion.

c. Discussion and Recommend Information Management Systems, Inc. D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to move forward with the Information Management Systems. All voted in favor of the motion.

New Business:

a. Approval of Bills: J. Joslyn made a motion, seconded by D. Shippee to approve the bills for \$7,646.13. All voted in favor of the motion.

b. Treasurer's Monthly Report: Reports were not available for tonight's meeting.

c. 8-24 Referral for the Potential Sale of Lot 6, 0 Bailey Rd. L. Cooper reported that he received a letter dated March 24th 2023 from Renee Bein, Economic Development Coordinator, requesting the consideration of a referral from the Board of Selectmen to the Planning and Zoning Commission and to the Board of Finance for an 8-24 review of Lot 6, 0 Bailey Rd. Adam Vaughan and Amanda Malbaurn are interested in purchasing Lot 6, 0 Bailey Rd for the negotiated price of \$10,000. J. Joslyn made a motion, seconded by D. Shippee to refer the 8-24 referral for the potential sale of Lot 6 Bailey Rd to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Finance. All voted in favor of the motion.

d. 8-24 Referral for the Potential Sale of Lot 29,0 Church St. L. Cooper reported that he received a letter dated March 22, 2023 from Renee Bein, Economic Development Coordinator, requesting the consideration of a referral from the Board of Selectmen to the Planning & Zoning Commission, and the Board of Finance for an 8-24 review of Lot 29, 0 Church St. Matthew R. Camodeo is interested in purchasing Lot 29, 0 Church for the negotiated price of \$65,000. J. Joslyn made a motion,

seconded by D. Shippee to refer the 8-24 referral for the potential sale of Lot 29, 0 Church to the Planning & Zoning Commission and the Board of Finance. All voted in favor of the motion.

e. Consider & Act on Re-Adoption of Fair Housing Resolution and Policy Statement. : D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn 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, 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.

f. Consider & Act on Fair Housing Policy Statement: D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn 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.

g. Consider & Act on Title VI Equal Opportunity Statement: D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn 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.

h. Consider & Act on Affirmative Action Policy Statement: D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn 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.

i. Consider & Act on Municipal ADA Grievance Procedure Statement: D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to appoint First Selectman, Lincoln A. Cooper 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 L. Cooper 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 to Come Before the Board of Selectmen: None

Adjournment: D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn to adjourn at 6:23 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: _____
Susanne Tetreault, Recording Secretary