

November 1, 2023

The meeting of the Sterling Board of Selectmen was called to order at 6:00 p.m.
Selectmen present: Lincoln Cooper, Jack Joslyn & David Shippee.
Staff present: Susanne Tetreault, Victoria Robinson-Lewis, ZEO

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

Audience of Citizens: No Comments.

Approval of Minutes: D. Shippee made a motion, seconded by J. Joslyn, to approve the 10/18/2023 meeting minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Correspondence: Turkey Can- Can, 2 mile Run/Walk Benefiting the Project Pin will take place November 18 2023 at the Ekonk Hill Turkey Farm

Unfinished Business: D. Shippee wanted to mention that the Freightliner Dump Trucks expected delivery date will be in December. The body for the truck is expected in May 2024. The new Loader is expected for delivery in December.

New Business:

- a. **Approval of Bills:** D. Shippee made a motion seconded by J. Joslyn to approve the bills for October 25, 2023 in the amount of \$149,292.66, and November 1, 2023 in the amount of \$14,6496.48. Motion carried 3-0
- b. **Treasurer Report** – Were handed out and reviewed.
- c. **Resignation of Katie Hermonot from the Agricultural Commission.** L. Cooper received a resignation letter from Katie Hermonot dated October 16, 2023, resigning from the Agricultural Commission. D. Shippee made a motion seconded by J. Joslyn to accept Katie Hermonot resignation with regret from the Agricultural Commission. Motion carried 3-0.
- d. **Resignation of Robert Zavistoski from the Agricultural Commission.** L. Cooper received a resignation letter from Robert Zavistoski dated October 16, 2023, resigning from the Agricultural Commission. D. Shippee made a motion seconded by J. Joslyn to accept Robert Zavistoski resignation with regret from the Agricultural Commission. Motion carried 3-0.
- e. **Resignation of Kim Smith Barnett from the Planning & Zoning Commission.** L. Cooper read a resignation letter from Kim Smith Barnett dated October 29, 2023, resigning from the Planning & Zoning Commission. D. Shippee made a motion seconded by J. Joslyn to accept Kim Smith Barnett resignation with regret from the Planning & Zoning Commission. Motion carried 3-0.
- f. **Discussion on Proposed 2024 Meeting Date.** Selectmen are discussing changing the meeting dates to twice a month, and having a special if a need for a meeting comes up.
- g. **Public Works Report:** L. Cooper explained the Highway crew have done drainage work on Saw Mill Hill RD, mowed and cut back intersection corners, apron work has been done.
- h. **Discussion regarding 29 Industrial Park Rd N – Building a 1.3 +/-MW solar Farm.** Guy Mozzicato Manager of ATMA Investments, LLC presented to the Board a letter of interest to purchase 29 Industrial Park Rd N. Several questions were raised. Isn't the Industrial Park's mission to make money for the town and provide jobs? A solar array would provide no benefit for the Town, may possibly lose tax revenue on parcel. These panels would be next to the Sterling Height Development, solar panels do make noise and generate heat. There is a possible lot line adjustment which would involve hiring an attorney. Does this proposal fit the overall Industrial Park? The consensus of the Selectmen were not in favor of this proposal. Many more questions need to be asked of the Economic Development Commission regarding this. D. Shippee would like to know if Phase One is not complete, why is the Commission looking to hire a surveyor for Phase Two?

VIII Any Other Business to Come Before the Board of Selectmen.

1. Consider and Act on purchase of a Commercial Walk Behind Field & Brush Mower in the amount of \$4,779.00 – Town Equipment Fund. D. Shippee made a motion seconded by J Joslyn to purchase a Commercial Walk Behind Field & Brush Mower in the amount of \$4,779.00 pending Board of Finance approval. Motion carried 3-0.
2. Consider and Act on purchase of a Hydraulic Signpost Driver in the amount of \$4,909.74 – Town Equipment Fund. D. Shippee made a motion seconded by J. Joslyn to approve the purchase of a Hydraulic Signpost Driver in the amount of \$4,909.74 pending Board of Finance approval. Motion carried 3-0.
3. Consider and Act on purchase of a 40’ Steel Storage Conex Box in the amount of \$7,045.00. D. Shippee made a motion seconded by J Joslyn to purchase a 40’ High Steel Storage Conex Box in the amount of \$7,045.00 pending Board of Finance approval. Motion carried 3-0.
4. Consider and Act on a co-purchase of a John Deere Backhoe/Bucket loader for the Sterling/Voluntown Transfer Station. This co-purchase is covered by the Voluntown/Sterling Transfer Station budget. D. Shippee made a motion seconded by J. Joslyn to approve the co-purchase for a John Deere Backhoe/Bucket loader. Motion carried 3-0.

Adjournment: J. Joslyn made a motion, seconded by D. Shippee to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Attest: *Susanne Tetreault*
Recording Secretary