

May 31, 2023

I. Call to Order: The special meeting of the Sterling Board of Finance was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Vice Chairman Neil Delmonico. Other members' present- Christine Farrugia, Tracie Adams, Jim Molodich and Steve Offiler.

Absent: Robert Salisbury

Also present-Link Cooper, David Shippee, Jack Joslyn, Sherri Soucy and members of the audience.

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

III. Discussion & Act on BOS 2023-24 Budget: S. Offiler made a motion, seconded by T. Adams to amend the agenda to bring the discussion & act on BOS 2023-24 budget before the BOE budget. All voted in favor of the motion. Sherri A. Soucy explained that there will be increases in revenue lines. The ECS monies are going to be increased by \$118,000, Interest on investments is going to be increased by \$94,000, Recreation fees will be increased by \$25,240 and Building Permit fees will be increased by \$20,000. The following cuts will be made to the BOS budget. The salaries are going to be reduced by 1% and the Health Department Contribution will be reduced by \$9,837. With these cuts the projected mil rate will be reduced to 22.74. There was brief discussion regarding the changes. S. Offiler made a motion, seconded by C. Farrugia to accept the increase of \$257,240 in revenue and to accept the decrease in expenses in the amount of \$32,099 in the BOS proposed 2023/24 budget. All voted in favor of the motion.

IV. Discussion & Act on BOE 2023-24 Budget: T. Adams feels that the BOE budget should be cut. She explained that the voters had rejected the BOE budget by a large percentage and feels the budget should be reduced. T. Adams made a motion to reduce the BOE budget by \$75,000. There was no second to the motion, so T. Adams withdrew her motion. There was discussion on the MBR balance that the BOE needs to maintain per the State of Ct. The budget cannot be reduced lower than the existing 2022-23 budget. If this amount is reduced to lower than the existing budget, then the state will penalize the town with a reduction of grants the following year. There were questions regarding where the cuts would come from and Superintendent Ted Friend told the board that teachers would not be cut, but there is a possibility that there will be a reduction in staff in other areas. The BOE will have to meet to finalize where the cuts are going to made if the BOF decides to make a cut to the BOE budget. There were other discussions regarding contractual obligations, insurance and if the BOE & BOS go out to bid/quotes for services. There was also discussion regarding cuts to salaries. T. Adams made a motion, seconded by S. Offiler to decrease the BOE 2023/24 budget by \$75,000. All voted in favor of the motion.

V. Discussion & Act on 2023-24 Mil Rate: The proposed mil rate will be 22.53 with the cuts to the BOE & BOS budget and the increase in revenues. J. Molodich made a motion, seconded by S. Offiler to propose the 22.53 mil rate to the Town of Sterling voters. All voted in favor of the motion.

VI. Adjournment: S. Offiler made a motion, seconded by C. Farrugia to adjourn at 8:13 p.m. All voted in favor of the motion.

Attest: *Sherri A. Soucy*

Sherri A. Soucy, Recording Secretary