

TRIBOARD MEETING

Minutes

Sterling Board of Finance
Sterling Board of Education
Sterling Board of Selectmen

Wednesday, November 15, 2023

7:00 pm

STERLING COMMUNITY SCHOOL

(Community Room)

251 Sterling Road

Sterling, CT 06377

I. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by L. Shippee, BOE Vice Chair

Present at the meeting: Board of Education Members: J. Mossner, D. Capobianco, C. Langois, V. Robinson-Lewis

Present at the meeting: Board of Selectmen Members: L. Cooper, J. Joslyn, D. Shippee

Present at the meeting: Board of Finance Members: R. Salisbury, N. Delmonico, P. Rabbit, T. Adams

Pledge of Allegiance

II. BOARD OF SELECTMEN ITEMS

L. Cooper discussed and gave updates on the following:

- Road Resurfacing – Chip Sealing - 4 Roads were completed for the price of 1.
- Culvert Replacement 5' on Newport Rd and 4' on Spring Lake Rd.
- Town is waiting for a Commercial Walk Behind Field & Brush Mower from K&H Equipment in Plainfield.
- Hydraulic Signpost Driver - will attach to the new truck the town is buying
- John Deere 244. Compact Wheel loader w/attachments (forks, pickup broom; snow box) will also come with Gutter Broom Kit installed on BR84C Pickup Broom.
- Waiting for Freightliner Dump Truck w/sander body (coming in May)
- Repairs have been made to the Town Hall (Made with ARPA money) – AC removal, wrap roof trim with aluminum - panels over windows in gym.
- Roof replacement at the Town Hall.
 - Done by The Roofing Store
- The carpeting was replaced in the front offices.
- Paperwork was recently signed for 2 electric charging stations to be installed at the Town Hall.
 - This comes at no cost to the town.
 - They will operate on a credit card. The price is charged per Kilowatt.

- Cameras will be installed at the Neil Cook Park.
- Discussing putting lights (solar) on the back side of the track
 - It is so dark
 - The area is so well used

III. BOARD OF EDUCATION ITEMS

T. Friend spoke about the budget that the school is preparing for next year.

- He has instructed all departments to begin by creating a level service budget
- Draft budget will be completed in December and will be reviewed and then brought to the Board of Education.
- Federal Stimulus Money (ESSERIII) ends but there is talk of extending. The school has a plan in place for spending and extending the funds if it is allowed.
- Will be work on developing a 3 and 5 year Budget document

IV. BOARD OF FINANCE ITEMS

B. Salisbury spoke about the need to project and save for the needs of the town

- Evaluation of the nature and future of the "Long Term Fiscal Planning Committee" - the Capital Planning Committee. This meeting helps to take in the big financial picture for the town and each department's needs.
- Taking the town's needs into consideration with student population trends and how they will affect transportation needs current and future when purchasing new buses.
 - He discussed using the buses for the Rec Department and that they could not find a driver to drive the bus for the summer program.
 - Concerns were brought up regarding the capacity of the buses and the amount of students actually on them.
 - T. Friend suggested that the town hire an outside consulting firm to come in and conduct an analysis of the transportation system to see if the town owning their own buses is more cost effective or if contracting out to an outside transportation company would be cost effective.
 - B. Salisbury requested that the town have a procedure so that the buses are available to the Rec department and the senior citizens for trips.
 - Student count this year is more than this year than last year
 - B. Salisbury noted that he would like all boards to work together to have a cost analysis for school transportation.
 - The school did not plan for this in this year's budget.
 - L. Cooper thought that this should be done now. And that a member from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Education should go to the Board of Finance for the Money.

- T. Friend recommended that there be a small committee to discuss what exactly we want to find out, so that whoever does the study knows what is needed.

- How do rising trends in "Homeschooling" affect current and future enrollment.
 - The school has a form for families to fill out so we know how many children that are homeschooled
 - T. Adams brought to boards' attention that the state does not require families to register. There are many families in Sterling that have moved to town and never registered with the school.
 - It was noted that there is no way for the school to know how many students are being homeschooled.

- Resuming a past practice of quarterly financial reports to the BOF by the BOE
 - C. Brannon, School Business Manager, gave all boards the 4th quarter report from last year.
 - She explained that the Quarterly Reports are on the School's website.
 - Monthly financial reports are also on the website in the Board of Education Packet.

V. ANY OTHER ISSUES

The next meeting will be February 21, 2024
It will be held in the School Community Room
It will be hosted by the Board of Finance

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting concluded at: 8:25pm

C. Chandler