

**Sterling Board of Selectmen
Regular Meeting Minutes
February 4th, 2026 @ 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall – Room #15**

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

Selectmen present: Jack Joslyn, Patricia Massey, & Ronald Whitcomb.

Selectmen absent:

Staff present: Judith Stumpo-Revenue Collector, Jim Sweet-Fire Marshall, & Ashley StJean-Recording Secretary.

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

Audience of Citizens: Cathy Levine, Karen Izzo, Charlie Corson, Bryan Fitzgerald, Lana Salisbury, & Debi Kandzerski.

- a. L. Salisbury discussed the Northeast District Department of Health (NDDH)'s *Regional Opioid Prevention Services Proposal*. She advised that she is Sterling's representative of the NDDH & that Sterling is expecting money from a litigation suit regarding opioids. She further advised that any questions can be directed to her or Luigi Sartori from NDDH.
- b. C. Levine questioned for clarification on the two (2) correspondence letters from "Walker Land Investments, LLC" & advised that it was "spam".
 - ⊕ J. Joslyn acknowledged C. Levine's question & advised that correspondence was received & after doing research confirmed that the two letters from "Walker Land Investments, LLC" were fake/spam.

Approval of Minutes:

- a. R. Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by P. Massey, to approve the January 21st, 2026, Regular Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Correspondence:

- a. **America 250**-P. Massey made a motion, seconded by R. Whitcomb, to designate Ashley StJean as the municipality's contact to ensure Sterling gets all updates for the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence (July 4th, 2026). Motion carried 3-0.
 - ⊕ J. Sweet asked if fireworks were planned on being involved. J. Joslyn advised that he didn't believe so. (This is separate from the *Red, White, & Blue Celebration* that Lincoln Cooper presented at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting.)
- b. **Walker Land Investments, LLC (3.326-acre lot located at 10 Main Street)**-J. Joslyn advised that after conducting some research, this company appears to be fake/spam.
- c. **Walker Land Investments, LLC (7.68-acre lot located on Industrial Park Road)**-J. Joslyn advised that after conducting some research, this company appears to be fake/spam.
- d. **Eversource**-J. Joslyn advised that Eversource has regular tree maintenance scheduled to begin in February 2026 & that he will be taking training needed as the Town's Tree Warden.
- e. **Southeastern Regional Action Council (SERAC)**-J. Joslyn advised that this will be passed along to the Treasurer to get put on the budget.

Unfinished Business:

- a. **Discussion regarding new camera, Wi-Fi, & heavy-duty locking electric covers for the Gazebo:** **Update-J.** Joslyn advised that all the material/equipment arrived & that IT needs to set everything up but are just waiting for the snow to clear.
- b. **Discussion regarding 72" culvert pipes:** **Update-J.** Joslyn advised that the 72" culvert pipes are up on the government auction site.
 - ⊕ P. Massey requested clarification about what road the culvert pipes were originally purchased for. A. StJean advised the culvert pipes were originally purchased for Snake Meadow Hill Road.
- c. **Discussion regarding new Street Takeover law:** **Update-J.** Joslyn advised that the Attorney sent an updated draft of the Ordinance. He further advised that we are still waiting for clarification of a few items from the Attorney before moving forward.
- d. **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) request for extension:** **Update-J.** Joslyn advised that we missed the deadline for this & that Sara Sloboda is looking into possible grants for this. He also advised that P. Massey should be working on this as well.
 - ⊕ P. Massey advised that she has not found anything out yet.
- e. **Sterling Pond Dam CT Dam ID# 13601 Inspection:** **Update-J.** Joslyn advised that he contacted Matt Maynard from Towne Engineering who will be conducting three (3) inspections: 1-with snow on the ground, 2-in the springtime, & 3-in the fall after the leaves drop from the trees.
- f. **Lincoln Cooper's Red, White, & Blue Celebration for the 250th Anniversary of America:** **Update-J.** Joslyn advised that there is no update at this time.
 - ⊕ R. Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by P. Massey, to table this item until the next meeting. Motion carried 3-0.
- g. **Discussion regarding overview of Water Filtration Plant DWSRF Application & Funding Process:** **Update-J.** Stumpo advised that there is no update at this time.
 - ⊕ R. Whitcomb made a motion, seconded by P. Massey to table this item until the next meeting. Motion carried 3-0.
 - P. Massey expressed her concern about this project being so expensive & expressed her opinion of how the Town shouldn't move forward with the Water Filtration Plant.

New Business:

- a. **Bryan Fitzgerald presenting for Husky Solar-B.** Fitzgerald gave a detailed presentation on the proposed solar panel project involving the towns of Sterling & Plainfield. He engaged with the residents in the audience & answered questions.
- b. **Consider & Act on funds required to repair water damage in the old Story Hour Room for the “Installation of Drop/Suspended Ceiling, Removal & Replacement of Electrical Fixtures” job-P.** Massey made a motion, seconded by R. Whitcomb, to approve & send to the Board of Finance for their approval, Mark Finley, Jr.’s quote of \$7,500.00 required to repair water damage in the old Story Hour Room for the “Installation of Drop/Suspended Ceiling, Removal & Replacement of Electrical Fixtures” job. Motion carried 3-0.
 - ⊕ P. Massey requested that an itemized bill be provided for this.
- c. **Discussion regarding proposed ordinances-J.** Stumpo advised that there are three (3) proposed ordinances to address:
 1. A revision needs to be made to the current ordinance which allows the Town to withhold building permits for delinquent property taxes, to include delinquent sewer &/or water charges as well. If resident is enduring severe hardship, the Board of Selectmen could provide a waiver.
 2. An ordinance is needed to allow the Revenue Collector to collect all sewer use & connection fees.

3. An ordinance is needed to allow paid municipal employees to be able to be on the following Boards & Commissions:
 - Inland Wetland & Watercourses Commission
 - Planning & Zoning Commission
 - Zoning Board of Appeals
 - ❖ Would need an extra step in the application process where the Board of Selectmen would confirm that there are no conflicts with the applicant applying for said Board or Commission.
- d. **Approval of Bills**-P. Massey made a motion, seconded by R. Whitcomb, to approve the monthly Invoices for \$138,783.35. Motion carried 3-0.
- e. **Treasurer's Report**-Treasurer's report was reviewed by the Selectmen.

Any other Business to come before the Board of Selectmen:

- a. P. Massey questioned if the Town has any ordinances in place pertaining to having numerous unregistered vehicles in one yard.
 - ⊕ J. Joslyn advised that there is no junkyard or blight ordinances in place as when it was proposed in the past it was voted down by the Town.
- b. P. Massey adamantly requested that the Town post the Boards & Commissions meeting dates & times in the Turnpike Buyer.
 - ⊕ J. Joslyn advised that the Town will this one time post the Boards & Commissions meeting dates & times in the Turnpike Buyer.

Adjournment: P. Massey made a motion, seconded by R. Whitcomb, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m. Motion carried 3-0.

Attest: *Ashley Stjean*
Recording Secretary