

PRIOR TO CALLING THE SPECIAL TOWN MEETING OF MAY 14, 2025, TO ORDER, ALL IN ATTENDANCE WERE CHECKED AS THEY ENTERED THE STERLING MUNICIPAL GYMNASIUM BY THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS, TAMMY ETHERIDGE (R) & CATHY LEVINE (D) TO ENSURE THAT ONLY THOSE QUALIFIED TO VOTE AT TOWN MEETINGS WERE PROVIDED WITH A GENERIC BLUE YES/NO BALLOT TO BE USED FOR THE FIRST QUESTION. FOLLOWING THE QUALIFICATION PERIOD, THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:15 PM BY LINCOLN COOPER. THERE WERE 144 VOTERS PRESENT. A MOTION WAS MADE BY BOB SALISBURY AND SECONDED BY NEIL DELMONICO TO HAVE LINCOLN COOPER SERVE AS MODERATOR. THERE WERE NO OTHER NOMINATIONS. ALL IN FAVOR.

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE WAS RECITED, FOLLOWED BY A BRIEF EXPLANATION BY BOB SALISBURY, BOARD OF FINANCE CHAIR, ON THE VARIOUS PROCESSES THAT BROUGHT US TO TONIGHT'S MEETING, THE EFFORT THAT WENT INTO CREATING FAIR BUDGETS AND THAT, IF ALL BUDGETS PASSED, THE MILL RATE WOULD REMAIN THE SAME AS THE PREVIOUS YEAR AT 22 MILLS.

THE CLERK READ THE WARNING.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY COURTNEY LANGLOIS AND SECONDED BY NEIL DELMONICO TO ADOPT THE BUDGET OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$8,474,689 AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE AND TO APPROPRIATE SAID SUMS OF MONIES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026. L. COOPER ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS. STPHANIE THOMPSON OF 1040 PLAINFIELD PIKE ASKED WHY THERE WERE 2 SPECIAL EDUCATION LINE ITEMS. TED FRIEND, SUPERINTENDENT, RESPONDED THAT IT WAS DUE TO THE INCREASED TUITION FOR OUR SPECIAL EDUCATION HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT PLAINFIELD HIGH SCHOOL. BEING NO FURTHER QUESTION, L. COOPER ASKED FOR A MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION TO A VOTE. MOTION MADE BY B. SALISBURY AND SECONDED BY SONIA CORBIN.

(CONTINUATION OF JUNE 6, 2024 TOWN MEETING – BUDGET VOTE)

BEFORE LOCKING THE BALLOT BOX TO ALLOW THE VOTERS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS, L. COOPER ASKED THAT THE REGISTRARS SHOW THAT THE BALLOT BOX WAS EMPTY. THE BALLOT BOX WAS THEN BROUGHT TO THE FEW VOTERS WITH MOBILITY RESTRICTIONS AND THEN IT WAS PLACED AT THE FRONT OF THE ROOM AND THE REMAINING VOTERS WERE ALLOWED TO COME UP AND CAST THEIR BALLOTS. AS THE VOTERS CAST THEIR BLUE BALLOTS, THEY WERE PROVIDED WITH A GENERIC YELLOW YES/NO BALLOT TO USE FOR THE SECOND QUESTION.

ONCE THE LAST VOTE WAS CAST, THE REGISTRARS OF VOTERS, ALONG WITH STERLING'S TREASURER, SARA SLEBODA, HAND COUNTED THE BALLOTS. THEY WOULD CONTINUE TO BE ENLISTED TO COUNT ALL OF THE BALLOTS FOR THIS MEETING.

YES 110 No 34

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PASSED.

RYAN HOWLEY MADE A MOTION AND IT WAS SECONDED BY WAYNE SEGRAVE TO ADOPT THE BUDGET OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,226,522 AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE AND TO APPROPRIATE SAID SUMS OF MONIES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

L. COOPER ONCE AGAIN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS. HEARING NONE, HE ASKED FOR A MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION TO A VOTE. MOTION WAS MADE BY RYAN HOWLEY AND SECONDED BY WAYNE SEGRAVE.

AFTER BEING SHOWN THAT THE BALLOT BOX WAS, ONCE AGAIN, EMPTY, THE REGISTRARS LOCKED THE BALLOT BOX, BROUGHT IT TO OUR MOBILITY CHALLENGED VOTERS AND THEN BROUGHT IT BACK TO THE FRONT OF THE ROOM FOR THE REMAINING VOTERS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS. AS THE VOTERS CAST THEIR

YELLOW BALLOTS, THEY WERE PROVIDED WITH A GENERIC GREEN YES/NO BALLOT TO USE FOR THE THIRD QUESTION.

ONCE THE LAST VOTE WAS CAST, THE BALLOTS WERE HAND-COUNTED.

YES 93 No 49

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUDGET PASSED.

SONIA CORBIN MADE A MOTION AND IT WAS SECONDED BY WAYNE SEGRAVE TO ADOPT THE STERLING LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CURRENT AND PROJECTED FIVE-YEAR PLAN) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$59,913 AS APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF FINANCE AND TO APPROPRIATE SAID SUMS OF MONIES FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2026.

L. COOPER BRIEFLY EXPLAINED THAT THIS WAS MONEY THAT WE RECEIVED FROM THE STATE AND THAT IT WAS NOT RAISED BY TOWN TAXES AND WOULD IN NO WAY AFFECT THE MILL RATE. HE AGAIN ASKED IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS. HEARING NONE, HE ASKED FOR A MOTION TO MOVE THE QUESTION TO A VOTE. MOTION WAS MADE BY WAYNE SEGRAVE AND WAS SECONDED BY SONIA CORBIN.

AFTER, ONCE AGAIN, BEING SHOWN THAT THE BALLOT BOX WAS EMPTY, THE REGISTRARS LOCKED THE BALLOT BOX, BROUGHT IT TO OUR MOBILITY RESTRICTED VOTERS AND THEN BROUGHT IT BACK TO THE FRONT OF THE ROOM FOR THE REMAINING VOTERS TO CAST THEIR BALLOTS. ONCE THE LAST VOTE WAS CAST, THE BALLOTS WERE HAND-COUNTED.

YES 130 No 2

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT AFTER EACH VOTE WAS TAKEN, SOME VOTERS CHOSE TO LEAVE THE MEETING. THIS WOULD ACCOUNT FOR THE CHANGE IN TOTAL VOTES CAST AS THE MEETING PROGRESSED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY NEIL DELMONICO AND SECONDED BY WAYNE SEGRAVE TO ADJOURN.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:06 PM.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN CLERK