

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE April 23,2024

Opening: The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm in Stow, Maine by Jim Wilfong.

Present

Selectmen: Jim Wilfong, Carl Lindblade, Ray Ryan

Town Clerk: Christine Carone **Treasurer:** Nancy Boros **Deputy Clerk** absent

Road Agent: NA

Residents/Guests: Rob Flint, Budget Committee Chair

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 04/9/2024. **Selectmen approve 3-0**

Treasures Report: (Nancy Boros)

Cash Balance \$240,209

Warrant 27 \$50,052.27 **Selectman approve 3-0**

The Tipping fee from MWE has increased by 3.02 percent for the year starting April 1, 2024. The increase is based on the CPI average.

TAN note PY interest was 5.69%, this year it will be 6.89%. The loan will be for \$300k, we pay interest only on the portion we draw on. In PY we drew \$200k. The documents will be signed at the 5/14/2024 meeting and we will close on 5/17/2024.

I have submitted documentation to FEMA for the May 1st storm. Jim Wilfong has signed the Small Project Certification for four of the 10 FEMA projects. Based on my discussion with the FEMA representatives, there are still many department reviews that must occur before funds will be released.

Selectboard approved payment to be made to Seth Turner.

Clerks Business: (Christine Carone)

Harris (Trio software) sent a letter indicating they moving towards supporting only the web based program. The Town will need to start using the web based program.

Our dog officer must now have a photo ID from animal control and the officer must submit her coursework to receive the photo ID. Per C. Lindblade, our dog officer is up to date on her coursework.

Branches on Route 113 – C.Carone asked if a Selectman would call the DOT and ask them to remove the branches from the road, some are hazardous. J.Wilfong will call DOT.

Deputy Clerk: (Kathleen Panno) – not present

Selectman's Reports:

Policy Contracts and Insurance (Ray Ryan)

Septic – based on a septic report, the town hall will need a new leach field this year. We will wait until the ground dries out before the work begins, it is most likely a raised field will be required. This emergency repair will result in the town going over budget in the town hall deferred maintenance account .

Maintenance Report/Broadband/Foreclosures: (Carl Lindblade)

C. Lindblade will call Bliss Associates regarding the septic. He is also speaking with a vendor about the parking lot. R. Ryan requested bids for salt for the upcoming winter.

Road Report: (Jim Wilfong)

J.Wilfong spoke to B. Briggs about grading the roads. He will grade the roads shortly, and then they will assess what additional work needs to be done. The roads will also be rolled, and calcium chloride will be applied. F. Wilson will start working in a few weeks. J.Wilfong asked the board to approve his purchase of road books from MMA. Selectboard approved.

Selectboard accepted the Michelin bridge proposal.

J.Wilfong stated that for new driveways the town must install it, but the owner must pay for the cost of the culvert. The town can mandate the size of the culvert to be used. Road commissioners issue the driveway permit.

New Business:

C. Lindblade has been working with C.Carone regarding foreclosures. He has created a policy regarding foreclosures. He also composed a letter to be sent when a property is foreclosed.

He is keeping track of committees who have selected chairperson, signed their oath of office, and set their first meeting date. The state statute indicates committee members must sign their oath of office within 7 days of the town meeting. All members were sworn in on the day of the annual meeting.

R. Flint asked if the budget committee has a charter. Selectboard confirmed there is no charter. There is a statute for the cemetery commission. The budget committee is currently advisory. R. Flint suggested the Select board give all committee members an information packet including the relevant statute for their committee. He also suggested all committees have a standard schedule for meetings. He has established a schedule for the budget committee.

R. Flint summarized the budget committee's meeting last week. They would like to work towards creating more accurate categories to present the financials. The budget committee, N.Boros and Select Board will meet in May to discuss.

C. Lindblade noted that the planning board has assigned the CEO some work regarding the ordinances. He feels the planning board should make the decisions regarding the ordinances. The planning board is working on creating regulations regarding fines.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14 at 6:00 pm. Adjourned 7:36 pm

Open Items

Policy Contracts and Insurance (Ray Ryan)

Volunteer Insurance for FY 2024

Snow Contract – bidding to occur around May 2024

Property Insurance – per MMA request, get fire extinguishers inspected and a cover for circuit board on furnace

Road Salt – in progress

Obtaining cost to soundproof the town hall – in progress

Maintenance and Broadband: (Carl Lindblade)

Sealcoating of parking lot – tabled until spring 2024

Ordinance regarding lots with trailers on them and no septic system – planning board is overseeing this

Sale of foreclosed properties – in progress

Broadband project – in progress

MMA grants applications– (C. Lindblade and K.Panno)

Will monitor legal fees for Broadband project

Call Bliss re septic system

Road Report: (Jim Wilfong)

Ezra Heald Bridge/Stone House Bridge – various

J. Wilfong to set up meeting with Select board, CEO and Planning Board regarding road and building issues

J.Wilfong to prepare for 4.30 road meeting

Call DOT re branches on the roads

Town Office

K.Panno to collect documentation that FOAA training has been completed

N.Boros to prep budget reports for 4.30 mtng, continue w FEMA, awaiting final audit report working on TAN

tally timesheets submitted by JW RR CL CC KP NB to determine how time is allocated to different areas and tasks