

# Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 06-28-2022

**Opening:** The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm in Stow, Maine by Jim Wilfong.

## Present

**Selectmen:** Ray Ryan, Jim Wilfong, Carl Lindblade

**Town Clerk:** Christine Carone      **Treasurer:** Nancy Boros      **Deputy Clerk:** Kathleen Panno

**Road Agent:** XXXX

**Residents/Guests:** Rob Flint, Broadband Liason

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes Approved from 06/14/2022 meeting. Approved 3-0

**Clerks Business:** 34 lien notices will be sent out this week.

The culvert at the Town Hall driveway needs to be replaced. It was installed by the State of Me. It creates a large bump as cars exit and enter. This is the responsibility of the State of Me.

**Deputy's Business:** Kathleen Panno is going through files to determine what can be shredded and what should be saved. Regarding disposal of office documents no longer needed: shredding costs \$0.99 per pound. Board discussed, and will consider other options for now.

Discussion ensued regarding painting the town hall interior and if these deferred maintenance expenses would qualify for ARPA funds. One of the goals of the deferred maintenance projects is to make the town hall a warming center for residents during power outages.

Acorn Drive residents would like a new street sign. It should be ordered from White Signs. If more than one house is on a private road, it must be named for the fire department. Road sign expenses are most likely recorded as Municipal Office or Town Officers' expense (e.g. not Road and Bridges expense – NB to look into how prior road signs have been coded).

There are several signs that need to be posted (sign post dug, and sign posted). The town hall also needs a new post and mailbox.

Kathleen Panno has set up a Facebook page for the town.

Kathleen Panno has completed two courses and received a certificate for her role as Deputy Clerk including DMV registry.

Approved purchase of sign, mailbox and post. Approved, 3-0.

**Road Agent (Jim Wilfong)** Kezar Rd, Wiley Rd and Union Hill Rd have been worked on. The town has stockpiled gravel and loam. Over \$77k of roadwork was approved for payment so far this year. Cost of fuel is an issue. J. Wilfong is working closely with contractors particularly regarding cost of fuel and related, trucking expenses, heavy equipment operators etc. Salt bids have come in at around 25-30% more this year. A contract has not yet been signed. The contract is signed by a consortium of municipalities. Ditches have been dug on the east side of Union

Hill (there are no underground wires on the east side). Union Hill is 5 miles long. Culverts will be replaced on Union Hill, Chatham and Center Chatham Roads.

**Treasures Report:** The TAN (Tax Anticipation Note) funds have not been drawn yet, they will be shortly. We have been advised to purchase an additional firewall for approximately \$500. We were also advised to have dual authentication email that will be addressed next week. Selectman approved firewall. Approved 3-0.

B&L contract – board decided to pay a balance in advance. Accept proposal to pay in advance for \$1,873.50. Selectman approved. Approved 3-0.

C. Lindblade asked about the efficiency of a handwritten warrant each meeting. It was agreed our goal is to streamline the office work including moving away from a handwritten items, N.Boros to look into whether or not this is required. A reminder the only accounts that can be overspent are snow removal and general assistance. As fuel costs rise, we need to be mindful of the budget.

WARRANTS approved, 3-0 for \$83,345.65 and \$3,539.18

**Open Issues:** Discussion of Town Hall’s outdoor center light that shines into a resident’s home. When an electrician comes to do additional work, a light timer or motion detector will be installed. The resident has offered to pay for the change. Selectman reached out to Flanders who is unavailable for 1 year, selectman continues to look for an electrician. The timer will be set to allow enough time for anyone leaving the building at night to safely access walk across the parking lot and access their car before the light goes off.

**New Business** – Broadband contract has been reviewed by the Denmark attorney who is working with the coalition. Each town is asked to pay \$8,800 towards the contract. The coalition asks the towns to reserve the remaining \$1,200 in case additional costs are incurred. (Each town as asked to reserve \$10,000 in total). Selectman approved payment of \$8,800 for this contract. It is included on this board meetings warrant. Selectman voted to pass and sign the agreement (3–0.) Selectman vote and approve to pay the \$8,800 from the ARPA funds (3-0)

(Road signs regarding Broadband are from State Connect Maine funds, we have \$4k in the account, and the contract of \$8,800 is drawn from the ARPA funds.)

Speed test – about 1/3 of Stow households have taken the speed test, this is considered good participation. Road signs are posted in town regarding the broadband project. Selectman would like to create a mailer to be sent to all residents.

**Public Comment: NA**

Next meeting will be Tuesday July 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Nancy Boros