

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 08/12/2025

Opening: The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm in Stow, Maine by Steve Dupuis

Present

Selectmen: Steve Dupuis, Rob Flint, Sarah Shute

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

Residents/Guests: M. Tamaska, Belle Stafford

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 7-22-2025 meeting **Approved 3-0**

Treasures Report:

Cash Balance \$242,908

Warrant # 45 \$73,617.55

1. Our SAM registration has been renewed. Christine and I are both registered on the site. I invited Steve Dupuis as well. So that we have a few people able to log in rather than just me.

2. These are some of the cost increases we are experiencing:

Since 2023 - 57% increase in County Tax

Since 2023 - 74% increase in audit fees

since 2023 - 34% increase in snow removal

since 2023 - 21% increase in school budget

3. We received a letter from our auditors, RHR Smith indicating that their fees will be increasing to \$10,450 and that they are asking clients to pay over half the fee when the engagement letter is signed and within 30 days of receipt. *An invoice for \$5,700 is included on the warrant. We need an audit report to submit to the Me Bond Bank for our salt shed bond, to Androscoggin Bank for our TAN note. MMA Risk Management also asks for an audit report.*

4. I spoke with Kai Schraml of MEMA who inquired about the towns decision to forfeit \$44,312.14 for 5 projects. He will submit our letters to Fema and assist us with any additional close out procedures.

5. I started the MMA Risk Management Grant application for the security cameras. I'd like someone to select the cameras and other materials and provide a purchase order or an estimate of we would need for the project. We cannot purchase the items before the grant is awarded.

6. Gabby Chiddy's final invoice for the website work is on the warrant. We had 184 new visitors this month on the site. The most looked at pages were RE Tax information, Contacts and Permits.

Clerks Business: S. Mead stopped to pay for a permit he was told was necessary to install solar panels on his roof. He was advised by CEO on this. We need to find out our actual requirement as a town as it is evident that each town has differing ordinances in regards to this.

Also, the town email keeps getting kicked back, and there is still an issue concerning availability of CEO contact information. A meeting with the planning board will be scheduled to discuss these unresolved issues.

O'Donnell's has been contacted and they have agreed to moving the taxes up 2 weeks earlier this year and possibly earlier next year. Aug.1 or Sept.1

Deputy Clerk's Business: None

Road Report: Select board approved 3-0 to enter into a general service agreement with engineer Jim Seymor. The goal would be to have him create an overall road assessment for the town as well as advice on how to proceed with the road's future maintenance and restoration. .

Next road grading will be dependent on a rain event as the dry conditions are not conducive to this work being done.

Our next Road Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 14th

B. Stafford would like to have R. Prue attend to present his assessment report to the committee.

Also, B. Stafford asks if an informational meeting could be scheduled to conduct a Q & A session for the public. It was agreed that until there is an actual gameplan, this will be on hold.

Open Issues: The flagpole kit is here and will be installed by S. Dupuis

Hayden Charles still needs to be reached concerning the mowing

S. Shute has been keeping a running log of time she has invested in mowing and lawn care in an effort to come up with a more accurate estimate of hours for a bidding contract.

S. Shute attended the Planning Board meeting and once again the topic of a “Welcome to Stow” being erected was a possibility. Snow Signs will be contacted for prices.

We are still in need of a replacement for the vacancy on the Road Committee.

New Business :

S. Dupuis-We need to facilitate hiring a grant writer for the town.

Public Comment:

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 PM

Next meeting will be Tuesday 8/26/2025 at 6:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Kathleen Panno