

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 02-28-2023

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

Present

Selectmen: Ray Ryan, Jim Wilfong, Carl Lindblade

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

Road Agent: No report tonight, work will start in April

Residents/Guests: NA

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 02/14/2023 meeting **Approved with one correction. Selectman accepted 3-0**

Clerks Business: C.Carone received an email regarding ARPA reporting due in April. J. Wilfong will submit the application J. Wilfong continues to try to reach out to party who owns foreclosed property

Treasures Report: Cash Balance is \$367,020

Warrant # 10 \$41,596.86 Approved 3-0

Warrant # 11 \$2,341.10 Approved 3-0

We have received some more 2022 RE tax payments since C.Carone and K. Panno sent out reminders. We will use the balance of our ARPA funds for the mini-split and carpeting.

J.Wilfong, C. Lindblade and N. Boros met with the budget committee on 2/14/23. The budget committee approved all budget items the selectman had proposed.

The Annual Report can be printed as soon as I receive the draft report from the auditor. I spoke in detail with the audit manager, yesterday. She will review my questions and get back to me with the draft. I would appreciate a second set of eyes to review the annual report before it goes to the printer. We plan send the book to the printers on April 7th and we will post it online and print copies will be available at the office around 1 week later (April 14th). Treasurer's report and warrants **Accepted (3-0)**

Open Issues:

- a. C. Carone and K. Panno are taking a class from inland fisheries and wildlife on Friday. These registrations will be on line in the future (boats, hunting, fishing, ATV and boats). The program is referred to as the MOSES program.
- b. Town Hall Improvements – Thank you to J. Wilfong, C. Lindblade, K. Panno and N. Boros for staying at the town hall last week while the carpeting and lighting was installed. K. Panno painted while the furniture was moved away from the walls, N. Boros disconnected and then reconnected the computers and other office equipment for the

installers. C. Lindblade and J. Wilfong both worked with the installers to make it a smooth process.

- c. C. Lindblade has a MMA sponsored broadband informational class via zoom on 3/1.

New Business

Town Coffee – We will have a town coffee on a Saturday 3/25 from 8 am to 11 am, this is Maine Maple weekend. The date will be posted on the website and K. Panno will post it on Facebook.

Town Hall Improvements

J. Wilfong priced the cost of a microwave, refrigerator, new folding tables, a cabinet for the multipurpose rooms, an open flag, a tool box, floor mats and window coverings. The estimate is approximately \$2,100 (does not include all meetings). J. Wilfong will donate a vacuum cleaner. Selectmen approve the purchases, not to exceed \$2,700.

Cemetery meeting: The cemetery committee met and C. McElroy will forward the minutes.

Selectmen voted to add Susan Smith to the Cemetery committee. **Approve 3-0**

Selectmen vote to increase the number of members on the committee to 5 **Approve 3-0**

Selectmen vote to increase the number of members on the Conservation committee to 5 members
Approve 3-0

Next Meeting: The Board will discuss occupancy permits

Public Comment:

Next meeting will be Tuesday March 14, 2023 at 6:45 pm

Minutes submitted by Nancy Boros

March 01, 2023

Broadband Delivery Update

Report to Select Board.

Selectman member Carl Lindblade attended , on line, a webinar concerning the massive ongoing effort to bring Broadband to Stow.

What's key to know is that there are basically ways Broadband is delivered.

1. DSL, copper wire, slowest and virtually out of date, and what Stow has now.
2. Cable-The Spectrum Model
3. Fixed Wireless-delivered through Towers
4. Satellite – effective but unreliable in bad weather.
5. Fiber optic. Glass “threads”. The Gold Standard.

It is not far-fetched to say that Broadband is the future for Education, Telemedicine, home based learning and business. It will be key for seniors to “be at home” longer and longer. Thus communities that do not “get on board” will wither. (Electricity only came to Stow in 1938). This is the same imperative.

1-5 above are all delivered by private companies who must have enough density (customers) to provide a return on investment (profit). That's not possible in a rural setting like Stow. So the solution (so as not to wither) is for public/private consortia to intervene to see that Broadband is installed to a high standard that is affordable. Massive funding for this is coming from the Federal level through the States.

The Good news for Stow is that we're part of a group of 7 Towns working effectively to bring Broadband to the 7 Communities of MSAD # 72. (MSAD is just the boundaries, no affiliation) There is funding that's supporting the Group and progress is being made. For more details, see the website for the [Eastern Slope Regional Broadband Coalition](#). The town of Stow is represented by resident Rob Flint and Selectman Carl Lindblade.

The concluding emphasis from the webinar is that Town officials, elected officials and citizens must all work together to forge success. Stow is an active participant but we must be super vigilant. Only those areas that are organized and strive will succeed.

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