

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 09-27-2022

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

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

Road Agent:

Residents/Guests: Robert Flint, Budget Committee and Broadband Liaison

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 09/13/2022 meeting

Clerks Business: Trio/the Internet was down so that has complicated the workflow for the tax commitment. Real Estate information must be uploaded by J.E. O' Donnell, the assessor, and the taxes need to be committed. N Boros will inform C. Carone of the amount of County taxes, school tax, revenue sharing and bond payments for the tax calculation.

C. Carone and the Selectman talked about how the senior tax abatement applications will be applied when there are several names on a deed, including owners under the age of 65. The Selectman will contact Jason Dennis, Esq. for guidance.

Treasures Report:

Warrant # 43 \$2,218.48 Approved and Seconded, 2-0

Cash Balance is \$78,000. We agreed last meeting to draw an additional \$100K on our TAN note. (Tax Anticipation Note) We have about \$202.5k in expenses due by early November, which include payments to MSAD, snow contractor, payment to Lovell for transfer station, county taxes, and our usual monthly expenses. We will be charged interest if we do not pay county taxes by the required date. We will draw on the TAN in early October. Because we have managed the cash flow through September, we have been able to delay our second draw, reducing our interest expense.

Credit Card Processing – I have submitted our application for credit card processing. The cost of a credit card reader will be \$85. I am waiting to hear back from card processor for more instructions.

LRAP Report – LRAP (Local Road Assistance Program). Stow received \$9,864 of LRAP funds for fiscal year 2022. We are required to certification form by November 1st to receive 2023 funds. Funds for FY 2023 will be sent by December 1st, 2022. The allocation for 2023 is down slightly and will be 9% of the (state's) Highway Budget. These funds must be used for "capital improvements" to local roads. A capital improvement is defined as work on a road or bridge that has a life expectancy of at least 10 years or restores the load-carrying capacity. As requested by DOT, I submitted the paperwork in July for direct deposit of the funds. J. Wilfong

will complete the report. For more information about LRAP:

<https://www.maine.gov/mdot/csd/lrap/>

Other matters - Last week while doing payroll I noticed that I had been neglecting to add the hours of the board meetings to K. Panno's payroll sheet. I emailed the Selectmen and they concurred that her job description when hired, indicated she would be paid to attend the board meetings. On the next payroll I will correct that error. Board members approved, (via email 3-0)

Road Agent: The ditching on So. Chatham Rd has resulted in some soil erosion, as there is no vegetation holding the soil. There are many mailboxes that are also in the ditch areas of the road. The Shell Pond road work, the cost of which will be supplement by the USDA, will be started in the spring of 2023. The town will fix 4 culverts – 3 on Union Hill, one on Kezar Lake Road this fall. We will most likely use the entire balance of the road budget. There will be very little funding left if an emergency repair is needed. (If an emergency repair is needed it will be resolved however, the town would have to go over budget). R. Flint stated that the calcium chloride application has been very effective. J. Wilfong stated 4,000 gallons was applied on the town roads. He plans to do this again in early June.

Unfinished Business: Painting of the building interior continues. J. Wilfong continues to research how to classify some positions – 1099 vs W2.

Open Issues: Robert Flint commented that the only cannabis that can be grown in town is medical marijuana or marijuana for personal use. Residents cannot grow recreational marijuana. Currently the medical fields must be fenced in and remain lighted. Medical marijuana is regulated at the state level. The town has not opted in for recreational marijuana, therefore, a store or field cannot be in the town.

New Business: (Robert Flint) Eastern Slope Regional Broadband is having a meeting on Wednesday October 19th, 6 pm at Molly Ockett School. The ESRB Board would like all the town selectman to attend. Selectman noted date and time of meeting and stated they would attend. The contractor, Mission Broadband, has been taking inventory of all the telephone poles in the region. They have been talking to several vendors regarding building out the infrastructure. Each vendor has a model as to how they run the project. Some offer a public private partnership to build the network and assist with running it. Consolidated and Spectrum are two of the vendors being considered. The DSL service provided to the area is not sustainable. There are some parts for the equipment that cannot be replaced any longer. The Broadband Utility District would raise the capital for the project. Currently there is a lot of investment in fiber optic projects, material orders for these fiber optic projects are backlogged at times. The fiber optic lines are passive which means that if the main station and a resident's home has power the internet will continue to work. Currently some users lose service when power is out along the lines. This project will extend for several years. Maximum speed estimates are 1 gig both up and down.

Public Comment: NA

Meeting adjourned. Next meeting, Tuesday October 11th, 2022.