

# Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 03.12.2024

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

## Present

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

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

**Road Agent:** NA

**Residents/Guests:** Rob Flint, Budget Committee Chair

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes Approved from 2.27.2024.

**Treasures Report:** (Nancy Boros)

Cash Balance \$ 318,728

Warrant 16 \$13,063.80 **Selectboard approve 3-0**

I have reviewed the short form draft report from RHR, I had some comments and adjustments, and it will be finalized shortly.

Jim Wilfong and I prepared documents and information for a FEMA meeting. Carl Lindblade listened in. We had a second FEMA meeting this afternoon.

I have found some errors in the town book. I will have a write up of the changes that should be in the book. This can be announced at the beginning of the town meeting.

I have received the new building permit guidelines from Jim Luongo they are posted on the website.

The Board will ask that all committee members submit a request to the Select board for before any expenditures are made.

**Clerks Business:** (Christine Carone)

There are some changes to Article 6

Budget Committee – 2 openings 3 year terms

Conservation Committee – 2 openings for 3 year terms 1 opening for 2 year term

Rob Flint will be the moderator.

Jim Luongo asked if he could have a planning board email (xxx@stowmaine.us). The cost is \$7.20 per month per email.

J.Wilfong suggested the town get an email for each committee, Health Officers, Cemetery Commission, Planning Board, Budget Committee and Conservation Committee. **Selectmen approve 3-0**

Joan Beal is running for the legislature and would like to come to the town meeting. She will be introduced at the beginning of the meeting but will not speak until after the meeting.

Pay for Election Workers – All workers will be paid the same amount for an hourly wage of \$27. The minimum number of hours paid will be 2 hours or \$54. No one will be paid a stipend; all payments will now be based on the hourly wage. **Selectmen approve 3-0**

**Deputy Clerk:** (Kathleen Panno)

K. Panno is working with C. Lindblade on an MMA grant application. K. Panno will work on the franchise policy with C. Lindblade and is working to add a noticeboard to the town hall exterior.

**Selectman's Reports:**

**Policy Contracts and Insurance** (Ray Ryan)

The selectboard signed a bidding policy and a conflict of interest policy. **Selectboard approved 3-0.** Ray is going to research purchasing salt and sand for next winter now if he can get a discount from the supplier.

**Maintenance Report/Broadband/Foreclosures:** (Carl Lindblade) - NA

**Road Report:** (Jim Wilfong)

The Town cannot use cold patch to repair the roads until the temperature is warmer. For the time being, gravel will be placed in the potholes. J.Wilfong received the engineers' cost estimates for the bridge work and will forward them to the USFS. The town will be asking the USFS for assistance in repairing the bridges.

**New Business:**

C. Lindblade spoke with Tom Clay of the Greater Lovell Land Trust, they are looking for individuals from Stow who are interested in being on the GLLT board.

The four towns working on Broadband need to sign a letter approving legal fees. Carl Lindblade asked the Selectman to approve retaining a lawyer for \$250 per hour (divided 4 ways) to advise on the franchise agreement. **Selectboard approved 3-0.**

Resident R. Flint commented that residents experience frequent and long power outages. Furthermore, CMP does not appear to be pruning trees and maintaining the powerlines in town, which contributes to the problem. J. Wilfong stated he will investigate filing a complaint with the Me public advocate regarding this.

Next meeting will be Tuesday 03/26/ 2024 at 6:00 pm. Adjourned 7:15 pm

## **Open Items**

### **Policy Contracts and Insurance** (Ray Ryan)

Volunteer Insurance for FY 2024

Snow Contract – bidding to occur around May 2024

Property Insurance – confirm with MMA building value is up to date, inform MMA of square footage – in progress

Cyberpolicy survey

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 – (C. Lindblade and K.Panno)

Will monitor legal fees for Broadband project

### **Road Report:** (Jim Wilfong)

Ezra Heald Bridge/Stone House Bridge – awaiting contract from Calderwood Engineering, it will be paid in installments.

Contact USFS regarding funding for bridge repairs

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

J. Wilfong will contact F. Wilson to install a septic cover and to move some rocks to top the culvert. (Delayed to spring)

### **Town Office**

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

K Panno to order secure box and bulletin board

N.Boros to prep for fiscal audit, work on town report, budget reports

N.Boros to work on FEMA damage reports

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