

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 08-09-2022

Opening: The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:10 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

Residents/Guests: Rob Flint, Planning Board member and Broadband Coalition Liaison

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 07/26/2022 meeting with one change add the statement "R.Ryan will confirm that the town has volunteer insurance with MMA". **Approved 3-0**

Road Agent: Jim Wilfong, Selectman is working as road agent. He is marking each culvert with GPS coordinates. The town is going to sign a contract with the Forest Service for work on Shell Pond Road. The Forest Service will reimburse the town about \$26,000. Our goal is to start in September. This is a multi-year project. Calcium chloride will be applied to our dirt roads. The town has about 2 miles of dirt roads. The cost will be about .43 cents per linear foot.

J. Wilfong has spoken to the state engineer who has provided him with guidance books on gravel road maintenance. Our goal is to grade the roads in accordance with federal specifications. Our budget is tight at this point, as we have about \$35k left in the budget for the year. Approximately \$18k of which is allocated for emergency repairs. Next year we will address tree over story and trees near the sides of the roads. **Accepted 3-0**

Deputy Clerks Business: K. Panno will cover for J. McGee while she is unavailable K. Panno continues painting of town hall. Selectmen approved registration and payment of two Maine Municipal Association (MMA) courses as well as all travel costs. K. Panno has ordered two road signs that have gone missing.

Treasures Report: Cash Balance is about \$105,000. We have expended \$174,033 of Road and Bridge budget. We have approximately \$17,000 left to expend. This does not include the \$18,000 set aside for emergencies.

I am waiting to hear from Maine Municipal Association regarding guidance on accepting credit card payments.

The website has been updated with more information, including a page on Property relief for seniors, fuel assistance and voting information. New road pictures have been added as well. We have received notice from MSAD 72 that our school assessment has been reduced by \$2,383 for the year.

Warrant # 33 **\$21,560.67**

Motion to accept report, moved and seconded. **Approved 3-0**

Unfinished Business: Rob Flint, Stow resident liaison from the Eastern Slope Regional Broadband Coalition came to the meeting. The goal of the Coalition is for fast and affordable internet for all residents. Mission Broadband has started their work, this will include tagging all telephone poles in the towns. The coalition would like to own the lines, and potentially have a firm manage the infrastructure. The coalition will own the data collected by Mission Coalition. The goal is for the towns to own the lines. Maintenance of the lines would be paid by residents who pay for the service. The goal is for all residents to have the option of purchasing service. There are several homes that are off the grid, and no poles service those areas. These are issues that need to be discussed. Use of Starlink or other services is one way to connect residents who are off the grid.

Planning Board: Rob Flint presented as a member of the Planning Board. The board would like to present an ordinance for driveway permits. State Roads are already covered by the state ordinance. When there is new driveway with access to an existing town road, the planning board would like to require an assessment made as to whether a culvert should be installed. There is current policy requiring a permit. However currently there is no permit application for driveways. It was agreed that Road Commissioner (currently Selectman Wilfong) will provide the permit. The Planning Board will draft a policy for the driveway permits. The Selectman will review and then approve the policy. The cost for the permit will be priced to cover the 911 agent and road agent's travel time to the driveway for the permit.

The Planning Board would like to provide access to the river for residents and for the fire department stand pipe. He also discussed the resident's interest in green space/recreational space based on a survey sent to residents. The town owns 3 acres off Union Hill Road. There is interest in finding recreational space for the residents. J. Wilfong will talk to a real estate attorney.

There is a need for more individuals to work on a Comprehensive Plan, which is a large undertaking.

New Business: Conservation Commission meeting in Fryeburg. J. Wilfong attended a meeting in Fryeburg regarding community resilience. The topics included creating green space, a topic mentioned by the planning board. The group also discussed heating and cooling centers, which the Selectman are currently addressing. The Conservation Committee will need to work with the Planning Board and National Forest to address these topics.

Heating Assistance – Selectman approved the mailing of a notice reminding residents to apply for heating assistance. The letter will be sent to all residents and will include information regarding income eligibility requirements.

Adjourned.

Next meeting will be Tuesday August 23, 2022 at 6:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Nancy Boros