

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 01.24.2023

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

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

Road Agent: There are many roads that need significant improvements. Because of warmer temperatures this December and the rains, the ground hasn't frozen, that has created problems for the roads when they are plowed. This has resulted in damage to the roads. By driving slow and cautiously, the roads will have less damage by the end of the winter. J. Wilfong will reach out to a state engineer to review the road and culverts and provide advice on how to plan the road projects.

Residents/Guests: Rob Flint, Broadband Liaison, Candice McElroy, Health Officer

Approval of Agenda: Approved 2-0

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 10/10/2023 meeting. **Approved 2-0**

Clerks Business: Town Hall Snowstorm policy- Suggested we have a policy regarding when the office is closed during storm. The Selectman agreed that they will determine if the office is closed during a storm, they will take guidance from school closings, but make an independent decision. Once a closing is called, it will be posted on the website.

Deputy Clerk: Would like to attend 2 day class for Vital Statistics. Selectman approve cost of class and travel **2-0**.

Treasures Report:

Warrant # 3 \$612.25 Approved: Selectman 2-0

Warrant #4 \$40,326.83 Approved: Selectman 2-0

Cash balance is \$433,064

We received a reimbursement from SFVA for \$1,625 because we overpaid them in PY. I have the attachment in your folders and I have recalculated the spreadsheet documenting the error. This amount will be recorded as a receivable at FYE 12.31.2022. We will list it on a as a carryforward for 2023 in our annual report.

We received a check for \$3,000 from MMA it indicates it is for the grant. This is about \$1,000 more in grant funds then we anticipated. This will reduce the amount of ARPA funds we used for the project.

The State Treasurer has set the delinquent tax rate for 2023 at 8%. This will be on the warrant for the town meeting. Selectman approve 2-0.

The auditor cancelled his appointment to come to the office for his fieldwork. Instead, the documentation was uploaded to their portal.

I have sent via email to everyone about a zoom class offered my MTCTA regarding ARPA reporting. The town had a report due in April that has not yet been completed. We need a Selectman to attend the course and determine how to complete the reporting requirements.

Selectman determined to hire a consultant to complete the ARPA application. Jim Wilfong will call Amanda Methot of Bernstein Shor to see if she can assist Stow with the grant reporting.

Open Issues:

Selectman meeting regarding January 30th, 9:30 to create pro forma budget

Selectman meeting February 15th at 6 pm Budget Committee meeting –C. Lindblade will send a ‘save the date’ email to the Budget Committee this week. Reports will be sent after the January 30th meeting.

Town meeting location – J.Wilfong asked C.McElroy, health officer, her opinion on having a town meeting in the town hall in March given the Covid-variant. The consensus is that the meeting will be at the Fryeburg Fair, date to be determined.

Fields Electric – J. Wilfong will follow up with Fields to start work on the lighting project and heat pump and repair lights at the salt shed.

New Business NA

Sue Smith and Nickie Eastman would like to have the state place ‘Caution Horses’ signs on Route 113 and Center Chatham Road. Stow will purchase two signs for the town roads.

J.Wilfong will send a request to DOT for the state road signage.

J.Wilfong would like to find a grant writer for the town. He estimates the cost will be \$50 to \$75 per hour. J. Wilfong would like to put money in the budget for next year.

A resident request that the town planning board consider a noise ordinance. N. Boros will email the planning board.

Public Comment: Broadband, Rob Flint

The RFPs and a summary sheet has been sent to all the selectman in the ESRB group. R.Ryan and J.Wilfong will review the documents sent and respond to the ESRB group. Most proposals have a public-private partnership with a portion of the rate payer’s fees covering the cost of the bond for the project. If the ESRB chooses to become a public utility, the utility would fund the project with bonds, which would be paid off with future revenues. There is grant money available from ARPA, there will also be more funding forthcoming but there will be many stipulations to fulfill for the second round of funding.

Next meeting will be Tuesday February 14, 2023 at 6:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Nancy Boros