

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 07-12-2022

Opening: The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm in Stow, Maine by Jim Wilfong.

Present

Selectmen: Ray Ryan, Jim Wilfong; Carl Lindblade, **Residents/Guests:** Patricia Patanaude

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

Road Agent: We continue to have unforeseen road issues. Over the 4th of July weekend a large culvert on 113b caved in and the culvert had to be replaced. The cost of putting in a 40 ft culvert is approximately \$5,000. We had issues with the depth of cables buried near the ditches, as identified by dig safe. A vendor, Convenient Containers was hired; they have a machine that can locate the buried wires. Regarding the Stone House Road, the Forest Service is giving the town \$28k and 1,000 yards of gravel, the town will pay for the grading of the road. An engineer with the state has inquired about the original specifications for the bridge by the Stone House Road. This is needed to determine if logging trucks can pass over the bridge. A lot of work has been done ditching both sides of the road on Union Hill Rd. A culvert was also placed in Union Hill Rd. Guard rails will also be purchased for one portion of Union Hill Rd. The roads will be graded in the fall and we have saved money for liquid calcium application. It took J. Wilfong 2.5 hours to locate the correct contact Consolidated Communications in Maine to repair a phone line that was broken during road work.

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 06/28/2022 meeting. Approved 3-0;

Clerks Business: Acorn St needs a sign ordered from White Signs. The sign for a one lane bridge has been reinstalled during road work. Kathleen Panno will order the sign for Acorn. Approved by Selectmen 3-0. ARPA funds – a form must be completed by July 22nd.

Senior tax abatement – the resident must be over 65 and must have lived in the house in the town for 10 years. It is not based on income or net worth. Selectman and staff are aware of the new ruling. Currently there is no form for the seniors to complete. Forms will be ready September 1st.

Deputy Clerk: She has measured the rooms to determine the amount of paint needed.

Treasures Report: Treasures Report:

1. Second tranche of ARPA funds received \$24,108.38
2. We received \$7,004 in PILT money from Department of Interior, we can use this for road expenses as well as other expense items.
3. We can get Kathleen a Debit card, may be useful for her. Can the selectman approve?

Please refer to Budget to Actual report:

4. We have spent 25% of our municipal office budget (see GL 413, it seems reasonable to assume we will have about \$10,000 in surplus at end of year. We can apply this to towards flooring or painting. We also got notice from MMA that deferred maintenance improvements for

the bathroom, hallway and all-purpose room would qualify for ARPA funding. (See email from Garret Corbin, attached.)

5. We have used 55% of our Roads and Bridges budget (see G/L 455)

Please refer to Trial Balance Report:

6. We have \$134k in Operating DDA and another \$53k in the money market.

7. ARPA funds are now at \$48,188.78 as we received the second tranche, see note 1. (See G/L 285)

We have spent \$13,812.02 on approved expense (see g/l 310)

Treasurer's Report Approved 3-0.

Warrant signed and approved for \$29 \$44,237.77 Approved 3-0

Open Issues: Town Hall front light – selectman will look into a light timer for the front light. The Selectman have had a hard time finding an electrician to do that work, as well as change indoor lighting to LEDs and other environmental lighting with Efficiency Maine. There is still an issue of insuring that the parking lot is fully lite when people are leaving the building, particularly in the winter.

Carpeting and painting – we have confirmed that this project will be covered by ARPA funds. (All rooms, in the town hall are covered by ARPA). Kathleen Panno will do the painting, this work will be in addition to her duties as Deputy Clerk. C. Lindblade will inform the floor contractor that the town will go ahead with this. Floor colors will be selected after paint colors are selected. Our goal will be to have this completed by November 1. Approve 3-0.

New Business: Carl Lindblade reported on the Maine Policy Review journal about Covid.

Broadband – a group has been organized in support of having Spectrum/Consolidated Communications as the broadband provider. The Eastern Slope Broadband group of 7 towns has a goal of ensuring that all homes are provided services.

J. Wilfong sat with the planning board committee on Monday 7/11/2022. They discussed including the roadwork into the comprehensive plan. P. Patanaude has sent the planning board reports from neighboring towns. This will assist the town become eligible for funding and helps to inform our citizens. MMA has a planning board workshop training in Portland, we are hoping some of our planning members go.

Public Comment: Patricia Patanaude, Chairman of the budget committee met and they plan to have quarterly meetings. Rob Flint is the Vice Chairman. They would like quarterly reports of budget to actual and a cash flow report.

Next meeting will be Tuesday July 26, 2022, at 6:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Nancy Boros