

# Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes July 9, 2024

**Opening:** The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm in Stow, Maine by Jim Wilfong.

## Present

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

**Town Clerk:** Christine Carone **Treasurer:** absent **Deputy Clerk:** Kathleen Panno

**Road Agent:** NA

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

Erika Rowland, Executive Directory Greater Lovell Land Trust

**Approval of Agenda:** Agenda approved (**Select board 3-0**)

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes Approved from June 25, 2024, meeting (**Select board 3-0**)

## Treasures Report:

Cash Balance \$111,545

Warrant # 46 \$13,070.98

**Selectman board 3-0**

I would like to make a \$100k draw on our TAN (tax anticipation note) shortly. Select board approves draw \$100k draw on TAN note when needed. (Select board 3-0)

We received the new MSAD 72 contract beginning July 1, 2024, each monthly payment will be \$45,129.07. This is an increase of 6% from PY.

We received our PILT funding of \$7,890.

I completed the application for the LRAP funding, which must be completed each year. We will receive \$11, 520 on our around Dec 1 2024.

As a reminder, the total statewide LRAP allocation is 9% of Maine Dot's portion of the Highway Fund. This means that the disbursements rise and fall with Maine DOT's budget.

## Clerks Business: No issues to report

### Deputy Clerk:

1. The Food Sovereignty ordinance paperwork was submitted to the planning board last night. The select board had approved the submission to the planning board. The ordinance is under review by the planning board. During review, the Planning Board may make some edits or redraft the ordinance. If the Planning Board approves the process, the ordinance will be presented at a hearing. Following that, it will be voted on at a town meeting.
2. Field Electric is coming on Thursday at 9:30 to give an estimate on lighting for the back emergency exit, and the front of the building. This proposal will be submitted for an MMA grant. C. Lindblade will review the grant terms.

3. A folder file regarding road work has been organized by year, it is in the Select board's cabinet.

### **GLLT Executive Director – Erika Rowland**

The GLLT is a nationally accredited land trust that is staffed by professionals.

The GLLT is eligible to request a tax abatement on their properties in the surrounding towns, however, it is the GLLT policy to record their land as open space and pay the taxes. Their goal is to manage land for the long term, they have not enrolled in any carbon programs as this time.

Dr. Rowland gave the board prototypes of posters indicating the land and trails in their possession. She will have large size poster boards sent to the Town Hall to be posted.

Charles Pond – is a GLLT property that is partially in Stow. The only access the GLLT has is a right of way through private properties. Because of this limited access, and limited parking, the GLLD is not able to provide public access to the property at all times. The public can access the land via kayak at the Kezar outlet. This year the GLLT hosted two events via the right of way for the public. The MSAD 72 Mesa program also accesses the land.

The GLLT is looking for one or two Stow residents for their board. One member would be the official town representative and act as a liaison between GLLT and the Select Board. The GLLT and the Select Board will work together to select the town's representative on the board. This will be posted on Facebook and the town website. Dr. Rowland stated that the GLLD is looking or input from the surrounding towns regarding land they would like preserved and are open to suggestions. The Select board confirmed with her that the town has a conservation committee.

Link to GLLT properties: <https://www.gllt.org/gllt-owned-properties>

### **Selectman's Reports:**

**Policy Contracts and Insurance** (Ray Ryan) - N.Boros submitted the insurance policy to Fema.

**Maintenance Report:** (Carl Lindblade)

The Municipal Office's front and back lawns are ready to be mowed. A new flag will be purchased. C. Carone stated the flag pole needs attention, as the pole slides down.

**Road Report:** (Jim Wilfong) – The bridge contract has been signed. Bill Briggs will commence grading the roads and CaCl will be applied shortly thereafter.

**Open Issues: Broadband – R. Flint and C. Lindblade**

The contract will be signed shortly. C. Lindblade state the Town is assured to have 100up/100 down service. There is no guarantee the lines will be fiber optic. The service will be greatly improved from the current DHL service. R. Flint suggested the town reach out to Consolidated to see if they will be offering service to Stow residents. Consolidated is building out the service in Chatham, and therefore will be near some Stow households. The Consolidated buildout is not fiber. The fiber is only to connect the substations.

**New Business - NA**

Adjourned 7:15pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday July 23, 2024

## **Open Items**

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

Snow Contract – bidding – announced June 2024, deadline August 1, 2024

Obtaining cost to soundproof the town hall – in progress

MMA grants –will be reviewed in January to determine if the town can apply for any funding – (C. Lindblade and R. Ryan)

### **Maintenance and Broadband:** (Carl Lindblade)

Sealcoating of parking lot – in progress

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 applications– (C. Lindblade and K.Panno)

Will monitor legal fees for Broadband project

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

Ezra Heald Bridge/Stone House Bridge – in progress

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

J. Wilfong will contact P. Coughlin re traffic counters

J. Wilfong will contact Union Hill resident regarding culvert replacement

### **Town Office**

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

K Panno to finish bulletin board

K.Panno to track receipt of 90 day foreclosure mailings

N.Boros continue w FEMA

N.Boros tracking non Trio related expenses for foreclosures

Tally timesheets submitted by JW RR CL CC KP NB to determine how time is allocated to different areas and tasks – no timesheets submitted; project dropped.