

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 08.22.2023

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 **Treasurer:** Nancy Boros Deputy Clerk: Kathleen Panno

Road Agent: NA

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

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 08/08/2022 meeting **Selectman approve 3-0**

Treasures Report:

Cash Balance \$ 198,772

Warrant # 56 \$5,488.69

J.Wilfong and I have submitted a progress report to the USFS for the bridge work and requested reimbursement of \$33,720 for supplies purchased for the bridge repairs.

I have spoken to our auditor, RHR Smith, regarding our FEMA expenses of \$74,961 that were incurred after the May 1st road washouts. We cannot record any anticipated FEMA income until we have firm confirmation from FEMA regarding what will be reimbursed. However, we are permitted to use our remaining unassigned general fund balance. Per PY audited FS we had \$180,999 available. (The town voted to apply \$100k from equity to our road budget at the town meeting). Therefore, at this time, we have \$80,999 available.

The Selectman voted to apply \$50,000 of the available fund balance of \$80,999 to be expended on road repairs incurred due to the May 1st washout. When and if FEMA funds are received this equity balance will be replenished. **Selectman approve 3-0**

Clerks Business:

C. Carone reported that J. O'Donnell Assessors completed the fieldwork for property valuations. The Town will be ready to commit taxes in October. The Homestead exemption will be 76% from the State this year, and is unlikely to increase in future years. The tax stabilization program for 2023 will be fully reimbursed to the towns by the state. But the program has been cancelled for future years. The state has not yet clarified the details of how the tax stabilization funds will be returned to the towns. The Veterans, Tree Growth, and Homestead exemption are not fully refunded by the State.

Currently the town does not have an occupancy permit. The Select board and Planning Board will work to define what the resident must accomplish to meet the occupancy permit criteria. J. Wilfong will attend a Planning board session. Rob Flint is working on updating the codes.

Deputy Clerk:

Kathleen Panno continues to work on the Freedom of Access Act project. She also stated there was a medical emergency in town last week and the timely arrival of the rescue unit resulted in a positive outcome. This drove home the importance of encouraging all of our residents to apply for a 911 address, minutes matter during a medical emergency, the rescue units need to have an accurate address to respond quickly.

Selectman's Reports:**Policy Contracts and Insurance** (Ray Ryan)

Ray followed up with Rob Flint regarding compliance with the cyber policy. We are compliant with the cyber policy at this time. Rob Flint will be meeting with N. Boros to set up emails and complete additional computer work.

Maintenance Report: (Carl Lindblade)

Alan Eastman will be asked to do some bush hogging in town. C. Lindblade will also begin creating a deferred maintenance schedule for the Salt Shed and Town Hall. This schedule will be ready in time for 2024 budget planning meetings.

Road Report: (Jim Wilfong)

Four culverts were replaced on Union Hill Rd this week. More work will continue on Union Hill, followed by South Chatham Road, and Kezar Lake Rd. Pot holes will be filled and the roads will be graded in the fall. The town is going buy 600 yards of crushed gravel from Fadden's gravel pit which is located in town. By purchasing locally, the town will save on hauling costs, the result is that the gravel will cost almost 50% less.

Open Issues: C. Lindblade and R.Ryan will be meeting with K. Panno for an annual review.

C. Lindblade discussed two encampments on Union Hill Rd where there are some noise issues and concerns regarding whether there are water and septic hookups.

New Business:

Rob Flint reported that the Broadband Coalition will be having a meeting with Spectrum tomorrow.

Next meeting will be Tuesday 9/12/ 2023 at 6:00 pm