

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 08/08/2023

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, Carl Lindblade

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

Residents/Guests: Ron and Sarah Chute

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from 07/20/2023 meeting. - Approved 3-0

Treasures Report:

Cash Balance \$211,000

Warrant # 50 \$ 18,109.88 Approved 3-0

I made the second draw on the TAN note, for \$100,000 this week.

Roadwork Reports:

3 Reports were submitted this week:

LRAP funding will be \$11,372 for FYE 2024. I was able to complete the report for FYE 2023. Usually an officer (Selectman) does this but I emailed ME DOT and they allowed it.

J.Wilfong, Paul Buckley and I worked on submitting information to the FEMA portal and started the process for the May 1st washout.

Jim Wilfong and I completed the USFS grant and we will be getting reimbursement of \$26,724 from USFS shortly for the work completed on Shell Pond Road.

Deputy Clerks Business: FOAA and policies

C Carone, K Panno and N Boros took a class on the Freedom of Information Act. The speaker stressed the importance of having a method to respond to these requests. The town needs a policy regarding fees, a form for FOAA requests and a template letter responding to FOAA requests. MMA advises everyone to use office emails exclusively. Many of our boards, committees, and selectman are required to take FOAA training. K Panno will be the FOAA point person for these matters.

Open Issues: Rob Flint presented the status of the Broadband Project. The decision from the Coalition was that Spectrum was the best option. Stoneham approved moving forward from Spectrum. Sweden is voting tonight, and Brownfield will be voting shortly. Spectrum's installation will be a fiber network. Chatham, NH will be serviced by Consolidated. It is possible parts of Stow may be offered services from Consolidated. Spectrum is required to

present a letter of credit to qualify for a state grant, the grants may not payout for 2 years. Spectrum needs to assess the telephone poles with CMP and consolidated. Rob Flint was thanked by members present for submitting a synopsis of the broadband issue at the last meeting.

Roads Business: Culverts will be replaced on Union Hill Rd. Meadow Lane will be reassessed. So. Chatham Road will be worked on as well and culverts will be installed. Due to cost constraints, potholes are filled twice a year in spring and fall. Jim Foster, a state bridge expert, will be coming to look at the town's bridges. Jim Wilfong anticipates repairing both bridges the town is responsible for, Ezra Heald and Shell Pond Bridge. By next year, J. Wilfong anticipates having all the ditching done.

New Business: NA

Public Comment: Sarah and Ron Chute, residents of Stow. The Chutes own acreage on Meadow Road and came to discuss the culverts being replaced on Meadow Road. (See attached document for details.) Ron Chute states that the proposed culverts are redundant for the purpose of draining water. Mr. Chute suggests the culverts belong closer to the river area. The Chutes also suggest replacing the existing 18" culvert with one of the same size and adding larger culverts by the bridge. J. Wilfong stated the Selectman's responsibility is to make the roads passable and prevent flooding of the road. He is open to suggestions as to how best to do this. He and Ron Chute will meet and review Meadow Road on Wednesday August 9th. J. Wilfong stated many of our roads were never properly built and have not been maintained well for years. Mr. Chute concurred and agrees it is a complex problem. In the meantime, the contractor has stopped working on Meadow Lane and has started working on Union Hill Road.

Next meeting will be Tuesday August 22, 2023 at 6:00 pm. Adjourned 7:25 pm

Minutes submitted by Nancy Boros