

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes March 20, 2018

Opening: The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:00PM on March 20, 2018 in Stow by Kathleen Ela.

Present: Selectmen: Kathleen Ela, Susan Smith, and John Plowden **Town Clerk:** Christine Carone
Treasurer/Secretary: Diana Davis **Road Agent:** William Ela **Residents:** Carrie Garland, Lawrence Perry, Carl Perry, Jody & Shelia Graves, Francis & Debra McInnis, and Peter & Rajaniemi **Non Resident:** Wayne McInnis and Gabe Watson

Kathleen stated she spoke to MMA and they said there was no reason the Fire Chief couldn't be selectmen. Although he must abstain from voting on money requested for the Fire Dept.

The board voted (2-0) for Kathleen Ela to be Chairman of the board. They also decided selectmen meetings will be held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays starting in April.

Approval of Agenda: The agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were unanimously approved.

Town Clerk Business: There were four new homestead applications to be approved before April 1st. All were approved.

Open Issue: After a family, not believed to have resided in Stow, received a letter from our Town attorney to repay tuition paid to Fryeburg Academy by the Town, they replied by saying they did live here. Discussion was that the board believes the Town has enough evidence to proceed. Selectmen voted 3-0 to proceed.

The audit has been finalized.

There is a meeting scheduled with selectmen on Friday at 4:00PM at the office with PDMG Jorge Arbulu, FEMA, regarding the storm damage done to culvert on Lake Rd in October.

New Business: Kathleen opened the floor to the public to see what was on their minds. The first person started speaking, in an elevated voice, asking questions without pausing for any answers. How high are the taxes going? How did they come up with the budget? Did they put work out to bid? What was going to be done about the road conditions? Kathleen tried to answer but couldn't finish saying anything without being cut off.

At one point John did say, there will be a plan first and then it will be put out to bid.

Others chimed in, there were accusations, finger pointing, yelling, etc. Some of this was also aimed at William Ela, road agent. No matter how hard Kathleen tried she couldn't control or calm the majority from yelling over her.

At this point I left the meeting and went to the clerk's office until the yelling calmed down. I've been secretary to the selectmen for 18 years, taking minutes at their meetings, and have never witnessed such bad behavior.

I returned to the meeting as voices lowered and people started leaving.

I would also like to clarify that Peter & Merri Rajaniemi were not involved in the chaos and said they had just decided they would like to attend and observe a meeting.

Gabe waited patiently and then had an opportunity to speak to the selectmen about his plowing the roads. He did express that he liked plowing but the condition of some of the roads made them extremely hard to plow. He also said he had to do many repairs to his equipment that was damaged while plowing. And the last thing that happened, when using a turnaround, he got stuck and had to be pulled out.

Selectmen discussed the Snow Plow Contract needs to be updated and then put out to bid.

William Ela did return to the meeting and told the selectmen he was all done as road agent.

Warrant #6 for \$2307.31 was approved and signed.

Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM by Kathleen Ela. The next selectmen's meeting will be held at 6:00PM on Monday, April 9, 2018.

Minutes submitted by: Diana Davis