

**Minutes
Stow Finance Committee
October 11, 2005
Town Building**

Call to Order

Patricia Heron called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Present were members Gary Bernklow, Charles Kern, Pamela Glauner, Henry Hagopian and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Also present were guests Linda Hathaway arriving at 7:48 pm

Approval of Minutes

Charles Kern moved that September 13, 2005 minutes be approved as amended. Pamela Glauner seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously.

Minutes for September 27, 2005 postponed for next meeting.

Review of Correspondence

- The Beacon Newsletter
- Town of Stow Appropriation Status Report
- Copy of Town of Stow Warrant
- Letter from Nashoba School District
- Memo from the Police Department regarding the warrant article

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

There were no reserve fund transfers at this time

Liaison Reports

Charles Kern regarding Minuteman Regional High School –

- They are finalizing the plans for Capitol Drive in November
- Enrollment is up slightly
- Have plans to do teacher buy back program

Pamela Glauner regarding Nashoba Regional School District – At the Nashoba meeting there was a handout of results for first quarter regarding funds

- 83% remaining
- 17% spent

*Less than calendar percentage

The school system is worried about rising fuel prices.

The new Assistant Superintendent of Finance, George King, has been appointed. He is currently the Town Manager of Framingham, MA. His estimated start time is December. He will report to the school committee.

Gary Bernklow regarding the School Building Committee – The Conservation Committee discussed possibly filling in some portions of the property at center. Chris Way had commented that she was not encouraged by the results of the discussion. It is felt that they would not be able to have the size school they want with the fields and parking that they need.

Discussion of Votes on Stow Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article 2 – Acquisition of the Cushing Chapter 61 Land

David Walrath stated that he had heard from the land planner. They think they can get 5 or 6 Building lots, plus a soccer and baseball field. If building lots sell for market rate, it would pay for most of the land purchased. In the end nothing would come out of the taxpayers pockets.

Six to ten houses are in the plan for Habitech with multiple acre lots and large homes.

Pam stated that a vote can't be taken without something in writing.

Finance Committee will have to have a special meeting next Tuesday or Thursday for more information to vote.

Article 7 – Purchase of a Council on Aging Van

Friends of the Council on aging purchased the first van. The warrant is for the second larger van.

Dave Walrath motioned for a recommendation to approve the \$7,600.00 for the purchase of the Council on Aging Van. Charles Kern seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously.

Article 8 – Purchase of Police Department Telephone Equipment

The current phone system was purchased in 1991. They are experiencing many repairs, replacing parts, most are not available on discontinued products.

The present quote they have is at a half price install price and is a limited time offer. This is the reason for requesting funds at the special town meeting.

Patricia Heron stated that at \$5,000.00 the price can not possibly be replacing the entire phone system. We are not prepared to say yes because is it not clear what we are getting for the funds.

Charles Kern questioned if it is a public safety argument, or do they have a chance to get someone to get more information regarding the article.

Patricia Heron stated that she is not convinced that at \$5,000.00 we are buying ourselves out of the old system and into a new one. The amount doesn't seem to be enough to replace the old equipment.

There was no vote on this article – members feel they need more information

Patricia Heron will talk to the Police Department and get more information.

Article 3 – Employee Salary Changes

Henry Hagopian handed out a Salary Survey Results Summary. He stated that previously the \$95 k was \$89k salary and \$6k benefits for 27 positions. The Salary Committee has re-evaluated the salary reviews. The \$95k will be brought down to significantly after the re-reviews.

Charles Kern questioned what the current thoughts are on retro active.

Henry explained that the \$95k presumes the July 1 retro for FY06.

The committee feels they need a position and dollar amount break down before they vote.

Henry stated hat he would provide that next week.

There was no vote on this article – members feel they need more information.

The plan is to present at Town Meeting.

Other Business

October 19 – Stow meeting

October 20 – Presentation

Speaker Assignment for Town Meeting

Article 1 – David Walrath

Article 2 – Jason Robart

Article 3 – Hold

Article 4 – Charles Kern

Article 5 – Stephen Pottle

Article 6 – Charles Kern

Article 7 – David Walrath

Article 8 – Hold (Patricia Heron)

Article 9 – Jason Robart

Article 10 – David Walrath

Article 11 – Hold (Will divide 11-20 next week)

Article 12 – Hold

Article 13 – Hold

Article 14 – Hold

Article 15 – Hold

Article 16 – Hold
Article 17 – Hold
Article 18 – Hold
Article 19 – Hold
Article 20 – Hold

Discussion regarding the letter David Walrath Wrote on Reserve Fund Transfer Policy

When we issue Reserve Fund Transfers after the fact, the dollars can only be used for the purchase specified.

Example - If after Town Meeting someone puts in for a Reserve Fund Transfer for fuel. That is not unexpected. It should have been requested at Town Meeting, not after the fact.

We don't have to be really tight but we have been a lot looser recently

Charlie Kern questioned if it is worth while calling the requestor and talking them through the changes to clarify the information.

David Walrath stated that after the new information is sent out they will understand the issues.

Patricia Heron stated that they know they are spending more and they are not editing their budget to compensate.

The committee agreed that the first draft is good and they will look it over before the next meeting and send comments to David Walrath regarding comments and concerns.

A motion to adjourn was made by David Walrath and seconded by Charles Kern at 8:20 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary

