

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
September 27, 2005

Call to Order

Jason Robart called the meeting to order at 8:19 pm. Present were Pam Glauner, David Walrath, Charles Kern, Patricia Heron, Gary Bernklow, Stephen Pottle, Henry Hagopian and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for September 13, 2005 were put on hold for the following week due to time restrictions.

Review of Correspondence

- Sections from state budget for Stow chapter 70 and lottery distribution
- September issue of City and Town
- FY05 average single family tax bills and assessed values
- Notice of pending Metropolitan Planning Council meeting, October 6, 2005
- Copies of an article from Lunenburg Ledger, Lunenburg Facts and Feature

Discussion of Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Council on Aging – Advertising - \$ 637.04

This transfer request is to pay for Advertising in the Beacon Villager for an open position in the Council on Aging of the Outreach Coordinator and Outreach worker.

David Walrath moved to approve the transfer from the reserve fund, \$637.04 for payment of an advertising bill. Pam Glauner seconded the motion. The vote carried 3-2

There was discussion between the members regarding the timing of the Reserve Fund Transfer Requests.

Patti stated that they should be seeing the requests before the money is spent.

Pam stated that the personnel turnover is expected. It should be budgeted for 1 or 2 hiring ads per year in some department's budgets.

Charlie suggested that at least one advertising bill be budgeted each year.

Liaison Reports

Gary Bernklow regarding Nashoba Regional School District

Gary was unable to attend. He did comment that the school committee has reduced assessments

Town Warrant Articles

Article 1 – Rescind Article 43 of 2003 Annual Town Meeting

Pamela Glauner recommended approval of Article 1. Patricia Heron seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 2 – Acquisition of the Cushing Chapter 61 Land

No vote taken, will make recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article 3 – Employee Salary Changes

No vote taken, will make recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article 4 – Fuel Oil and Gasoline Supplements

Pamela Glauner recommended approval of Article 4. Patricia Heron seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 5 – Road Construction

Charles Kern recommended approval of Article 5. Patricia Heron seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 6 – Well Repair at Town Center

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 6. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 7 – Purchase of a Council on Aging Van

No vote taken, will make recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article 8 – Purchase of Police Department Telephone Equipment

No vote taken, will make recommendation at Town Meeting.

Article 9 – Charter Amendment, Submission of Budget and Budget Message

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 9. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 10 – General Bylaw Amendment, Wetland Protection

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 10. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 11 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Inclusion of Affordable Housing

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 11. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 12 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Non Conforming Structures

No vote taken, Planning Board plans to move no action.

Article 13 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Definition of Open Space

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 13. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 14 - Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Table of Dimensional Requirements

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 14. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 15 - Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Common Driveways

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 15. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 16 - Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Inclusion of Affordable Housing

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 16. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 17 – Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Accessory Apartments

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 17. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 18 - Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Swimming Pools Fencing

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 18. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 19 - Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Dimensional Regulations

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 19. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 20 - Zoning Bylaw Amendment, Definitions

Patricia Heron recommended approval of Article 20. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The vote carried unanimously.

Article 21 - Town Election

No vote taken or required.

Discussion of Article 3

The Finance Committee members agreed that they support the concept of perpetuating increase.

Jason questioned the retroactive increase to July for FY06. If the district came to us and asked for permission to raise salaries it would be a very large discussion.

They had inconsistent data and a delay of information. It did not make it to Town Meeting.

Linda asked if it would be more palatable to bring it back in May of 2006.

Jason stated he would struggle with it.

Pam stated that she was surprised it was retroactive.

Dave stated he doesn't agree with retroactive.

Jason stated he doesn't believe it was stated that we will address this in October.

Patti stated that people were told there was a salary adjustment going on and it was inappropriate to make adjustments before the salary survey was complete.

Steve suggested if we implied a promise we should make good on it.

Jason said he would like to get a sense of what a fully loaded cost would look like and will it increase Article 3 or is the money already there to cover it.

Pam stated that she would like to see a list of increase before the vote.

Jason asks Henry how many positions are affected overall.

Henry stated 22.

Jason asked what the percentage is and how the town will fair.

Henry stated the percentage is 80% good and 20% are out of range.

A motion to adjourn was made by Patricia Heron and seconded by Charles Kern at 9:25 pm. The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary