

Minutes  
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE  
October 10, 2006  
Town Building

**Call to Order**

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 7:38 pm. Present were Pamela Glauner, Gary Bernklow, Henry Hagopian, James Salvie, Joseph Hogan and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary. William Nelson and Patricia Heron arrived at 7:45pm.

**Correspondence**

- Letter from the League of women voters regarding a forum on the Open meeting law.
- Memo from the Town Accountant regarding the Holiday pay schedule..
- The Beacon Newsletter – October 2006.

**Approval of Minutes**

Pamela Glauner moved to approve September 26, 2006 minutes as amended. Henry Hagopian seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously (Hagopian, Glauner and Kern).

**Review of Reserve Fund Transfer Requests**

There were no reserve fund transfer requests to review at this time.

**Liaison Reports**

School Building Task Force – Gary stated that the architect had been selected, SMMI from Cambridge. They are hoping to have some ideas drawn up by December 2006.

Municipal Relations – Jim stated that the Municipal relations team is trying to get the schools and the towns on the same page.

It is likely that there will be an override this year. The school budget drives the need for the override. It is logical that the override should be tied to the school side rather than the municipal.

Patti suggested that if the override fails and the school budget passes anyway. The short fall must be made up on the municipal side..

Open Space Committee – Jim stated that the Master plan is going to map all protected and unprotected land. They will then come up with targeted acquisitions, preferably land near other land that is already designated. If there is a choice between open space and residential the choice will be open space.

Nashoba Regional – Bill stated that they are talking about regionalization of the middle schools.

**Discussion of Final Changes to RFTR Forms** – Dave is not present today, he was suppose to be making the final changes to the forms and bringing them back to the committee for final approval. Add to next weeks agenda.

**Discussion of Proposed Guidelines for Stored Assets** – Charlie suggested that the motivation is that the attitude toward stored assets is too cavalier and there should be some public education toward the importance of stored assets. They would like to have the town meeting approve a policy. You don't touch stored assets unless you have some of the cases enumerated under Section C of the Stabilization fund.

Gary stated that he didn't understand the purpose of having an average. He would much rather see a trend.

Jim questioned how they can have a policy if every year you are going to have a certain amount free cash, yet also recognize that almost every year you are going to have an override. Doesn't it under cut the argument for the override?

Pam suggested that it is more timing specific than that. Say that in May we vote for the next fiscal year, whereas the free cash that's going to go back into the coffers. Once the fiscal year closes isn't certified until the October time frame. It's cutting it close to use the prior years free cash for the next year. It's almost like on going revenue for the next fiscal year. I see no reason not to use it.

Pam suggested telling them that Finance Committee is not opposed to it, but are also not pushing for it. I don't think 3% is a bad target.

Charlie stated that 63% of our budget is the schools, Nashoba and Minuteman. During several of the past years they were growing at a double digit rate, approx 12%. Programs got cut and the budget went up to restore the programs. The schools are now growing at 6% now. This is a considerably lower rate.

Charlie stated that he will go back to the meeting and tell Steve that 3% for stabilization and free cash is a good goal.

#### **Other Business**

There was no other business at this time.

#### **Future Meetings**

October 10, 2006

October 24, 2006

November 14, 2006

November 28, 2006

December 12, 2006

#### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Patricia Heron at 8:22 pm. Henry Hagopian seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously — (Glauner, Heron, Kern and Hagopian)

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,  
Secretary