

**Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 30, 2006
Public Hearing
Town Building**

Call to Order

Jason Robart called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Present were Pamela Glauner, Charles Kern, Gary Bernklow, James Salvie, David Walrath and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Correspondence

Correspondence was put on hold until the next meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of minutes was put on hold until the next meeting

Discussion of Public Hearing

Jason made an introduction of all Finance Committee members and gave a brief overview of the meeting. He stated that the objective was to hear from the audience on the Articles that are in the Town Warrant. He then gave a brief overview of the budget fact sheet that was available. He then took questions from the audience.

Why is the debt schedule so high?

From Flagg Hill Borrowing, New fire trucks the 1st year, Modular classrooms, and the purchase of the Cushing Property.

Why is Minuteman Regional School several thousand dollars higher than other Votech schools?

It was requested that the Liaison look into why the per pupil expenses is much higher than others.

Review of Warrant Articles

Article 1 – TOWN OFFICERS NOT ELECTED BY BALLOT

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 2 – REPORTS OF SELECTMEN AND OTHER OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 3 – REPORTS OF SPECIAL COMMENTS

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 4 – WAGE AND SALARY SCHEDULES

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 5 – GENERAL BUDGET FOR FY 2007

It was asked of Ed Newman if the numbers were the FY06 final. He stated that it is projected actual but reflects the changes from the fall Town Meeting.

Article 6 – RESCIND ARTICLE 44 OF 2004 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 7 – FY 2006 LEGAL SERVICES

Ed Newman stated that he was comfortable moving this Article to the Consent Calendar. David Walrath suggested there be a clear explanation to answer any anticipated questions.

Article 8 – RESERVE FUND

We should anticipate a small amount remaining in the Reserve Fund by end of 06.

Article 9 – TAX TITLE PROCEEDINGS

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 10 – AUDIT OF FINANCIAL RECORDS

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 11 – UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION FUND

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 12 – REVOLVING FUND FOR INSPECTION FEES

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 13 – REVOLVING FUND FOR ADVANCED LIFE SUPPORT SERVICES

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 14 – TRANSFER TO CONSERVATION FUND

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 15 – ADDITION TO CONSERVATION FUND

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 16 – TRANSFER FROM WETLANDS PROTECTION FUND

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 17 – TRANSFER OF LAND TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSIONS

Ellen Sturgess asked where the land is coming from.

Article 18 – UPDATE OF PROPERTY VALUATIONS

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 19 – TOWN RECORDS BINDING AND REPAIR

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 20 – HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 21 – FEDERAL SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT

Article 22 – HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 23 – EMERSON HOSPITAL HOME CARE

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 24 – SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL CONTAINER

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 25 – STOW CULTURAL COUNCIL

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 26 – ENGINEERING/CONSULTING/MASTER PLAN EXPENSES

There was a brief discussion regarding the monies for Article 26. It was stated by Karen Kelleher that the monies were from Engineering, Planning and Consultants.

Article 27 – PURCHASE OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 28 – FY 2007 LEGAL SERVICES

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 29 – POLICEMEN & FIREMEN MEDICAL PAYMENTS

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 30 – COMMUNITY PRESERVATION COMMITTEE EXPENSES

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 31 – COMMUNITY PRESERVATION RESERVES

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 32 – CAPITAL REQUESTS

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 33 – CONSTRUCTION OF NEW HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC TRACK

There was a brief discussion regarding the district borrowing to repair the track. Each town has a choice to put it on their warrant – with 60 days to appose it. The total is \$170,000 for all towns. Stow is responsible for 1/3 based on a student formula. The track would be repaired as soon as possible, most likely this summer. It was stated that last time it was \$150,000. Ellen Sturgess stated that they are still working on the final cost and will have it for the Town Meeting and they will change the wording on the Warrant. It was then stated by Chris Way that no action will be moved on this project because of future work on the track and field. It was then asked if they are using funds from ED instead of borrowing. Ellen Sturgess stated that the the tri-town decided the way to go was to bond out.

Article 34 – TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO SCHOOL BUILDING TASK FORCE

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 35 – SENIOR TAX RELIEF: REDUCE INTEREST ON DEFERRED PROPERTY

There was a brief discussion regarding what was the definition of an eligible senior. The are determined by income and age.

Article 36 – SENIOR TAX RELIEF; INCREASE PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

Article 37 – ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – DRAINAGE

There was a brief discussion regarding if all the issues have been resolved and are there any open issues now. It was stated that the Selectmen approved the layout of Trefry Lane and that the Punch List has to be completed before it will pass, Militia Circle was by default and Whispering Way was approved with the exception of the Cul-de-sac.

Article 38 – ZONING BYLAW AMENDMENT – PHASING OF GROWTH

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 39 – STREET ACCEPTANCE: FARM ROAD

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 40 – STREET ACCEPTANCE: MILITIA CIRCLE

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 41 – STREET ACCEPTANCE: TREFRY LANE

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 42 – STREET ACCEPTANCE: WHISPERING WAY

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 43 – TRANSFER TO STABILIZATON FUND

There was no discussion regarding this Article.

Article 44 – BALANCE THE FY 2007 BUDGET

This Article is to move funds to relieve the tax budget.

Article 45 – TOWN ELECTION

Other business

None at this time

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Pamela Glauner at 7:41 pm. The motion was seconded by Charles Kern.

The motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary