

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
February 27, 2007
Town Building

Call to Order

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 8:10 pm. Present were, Pamela Glauner, James Salvie, David Walrath, Joseph Hogan, William Nelson and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Gary Bernklow arrived at 8:27 PM

Members had attended the Selectmen's meeting from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Correspondence

- Nashoba Preliminary Budget Assessment sheet.
- Nashoba FY08 Revenue by source sheet.
- Legal notice from the Planning Board regarding their public hearing on March 13, 2007.
- Legal notice from the General By-laws Review Committee regarding their public hearing on March 7, 2007
- Central Massachusetts Mosquito Control Project annual report for 2006.

Approval of Minutes

David Walrath moved to approve February 13, 2007 minutes as amended. James Salvie seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously – (Kern, Glauner, Salvie and Walrath)

Review of Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Highway – Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Expense

The transfer request is for fuel for Highway, Police, Fire, Building Inspector, Animal Control and the Cemetery in the amount of \$15,000.00

The expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen due to the increase in fuel costs compared to previous fiscal years.

Jim moved for a motion for discussion. Dave Walrath seconded the motion.

The members had a discussion regarding the need for more information. They would like more clarification of the circumstances that occurred to create the need for more funds. How do they know so far in advance that they are going to short on fuel funds?

Charlie stated that he would speak to Mike Clayton for more information.

Dave Walrath moved to table the discussion until the next meeting on March 6, 2007. Pamela Glauner seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously. (Kern, Walrath, Glauner and Salvie)

Carol Makary arrived at 9:00 PM.

Selectmen – Appraisal and Engineering services for the Snow Property

Carol Makary requested that the RFT be held until Tuesday the 6th for a final Selectmen decision.

Carol Makary exited at 9:03 PM.

Liaison Reports

Nashoba Regional – Pam spoke with the assistant superintendent. The proposed budget is increasing 7.03%. Bill Wrigley's summary is the assessment is increasing 7.20%.

School Building Task Force – Gary stated that the SBTF held a community forum at the Hale School. They had 5 different School Building scenarios that they came up with. They range from renovations to new buildings. The completion range at its highest will be 46 months due to phasing.

No cost estimates have been updated yet. They will whittle the selections down to 2 or 3. The approximate cost will be 28.5 – 32.5 million. The average is 30mil +/- before Massachusetts school aide. If the Massachusetts school aide is approved it will be at least 31%.

The statement of intent is going out in March. They will review them in July.

Community Preservation – Dave stated that the Community Preservation is looking at 4 to 6 potential articles. One may be for additional playing fields.

Police Department – Charlie stated that he spoke to Chief Trefry. The FinCom will not be receiving a RFT from them for overtime. There has been a settlement made in the case against the town.

He is submitting a request for \$5,000.00 to install an enhanced 911 room. The state pays for 100% of the equipment and the town is responsible for the building enhancement. There is a need to install an air-conditioning unit for the room which the state will not cover.

Housing Authority – Jim stated that there is no budget and no warrant articles for them. The Stow Master Plan is due out in approximately 2 months.

Other Business

Pam stated that the Annual Report is ready for Charlie's review.

- Tried to provide commentary that is not quite as gloomy as previous years.
- School budgets went up, not as much as in past years.
- Minuteman's budget went down.
- Debt service went up 25 % between 06 and 07 from the Fire Department's Fire Engine purchase, Modular Classroom from both purchases and the purchase of the Cushing property.

Future Meetings

March 6, 2007 (meet with Highway, Police and Treasurer)
March 13, 2007 (Joint Boards with Selectmen, Minuteman presentation)
March 20, 2007 (meet with Fire, Planning and CPC)
March 27, 2007 (Joint Boards with Selectmen, Capital Planning and SBTF)
April 3, 2007
April 5, 2007 (Public Hearing followed by Finance Committee meeting)
April 10, 2007
April 24, 2007
May 1, 2007
May 7, 2007 (Pre-Town Meeting, Annual Town Meeting)

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by James Salvie at 9:16 pm. David Walrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously — (Kern, Walrath, Salvie and Glauner)

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary