

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
March 24, 2009
7:30 PM
Town Building
Approved

Call to Order

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 7:39 pm. Present were David Walrath, James Salvie, Ann Deluty, Christopher Sarno and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Correspondence

- Beacon Newsletter 2008

Meeting Minutes

David Walrath moved to approve March 19, 2009 minutes as amended. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried 3 for (Kern, Salvie and Walrath)

James Salvie moved to approve the Public Hearing of March 19, 2009 minutes as amended. David Walrath seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3 for (Kern, Salvie and Walrath)

James Salvie moved to approve the Pre-Public Hearing of March 19, 2009 minutes as amended. David Walrath seconded the motion.

The motion carried 3 for (Kern, Salvie and Walrath)

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

There were none at this time.

Discussion and vote of warrant articles

Article 1 to 3:

No vote taken

Article 4:

David Walrath recommended in favor of Article 4 – Wage and Salary Schedules. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – James Salvie

Article 5:

There was a discussion between members regarding a citizen's request to remove the salary of the Recreation Departments Director from the budget. Some members agreed that the citizen made some valid points but don't agree that the position should be cut from the towns budget.

The budget is funding a 3% cost of living increase for the staff and the need for 5 positions step increases.

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 5 as printed in the spreadsheet. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – James Salvie

Article 6 thru 34:

David Walrath recommended approval of all of the Consent Calendar, excluding 11, 13 and 26. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie)

Speaker – David Walrath

Article 26:

The members questioned why it was on the consent calendar if it was being pulled out. It was stated that it shouldn't be a special article and suggest tuition reimbursement be put in as an individual line item. Dave will discuss further with Bill Wrigley and bring the information back to the next meeting.

David Walrath recommended in favor of Article 26 – Employee Educational Incentive Program as written in the Consent Calendar. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).
Speaker – David Walrath

Article 35:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 35 – Capital requests, item numbers 4,6, 7 and 8. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – Christopher Sarno Items 1 to 5

Speaker – Ann Deluty Items 6 to 10

Article 36:

Dave stated that he would like a better idea of what they are going to get out of the money.

Speaker – Gary Bernklow

Article 37:

James Salvie moved to recommended approval of Article 37- Police Building Energy Upgrades. David Walrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – Charles Kern

Article 38:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 38 – Snowblower Attachment for Cemetery Tractor. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – Charles Kern

Article 39:

James Salvie moved to recommended approval of Article 39- Community-wide Historic Properties Inventory. David Walrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – James Salvie

Article 40:

James Salvie moved to recommended approval of Article 40- Purchase of Historic Musket. David Walrath recused himself due to membership in the Minutemen. Charles Kern seconded the motion.

The motion carried 2 for (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

1 Abstained (Walrath)

Speaker – James Salvie

Article 41:

Ann Deluty to talk to Dotty in the Assessors Office and report back at the next meeting.

Speaker – Ann Deluty

Article 42:

David Walrath to talk to Pam in the Treasures Office and report back at the next meeting

Speaker – David Walrath

Article 43:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 43 – Increase Demand Fee on Delinquent Tax Bills. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – David Walrath

Article 44:

David Walrath to talk to Pam in the Treasures Office and report back at the next meeting

Speaker – David Walrath

Article 45:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 45 – Permitting Authority for Trench Safety Regulations. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – James Salvie

Article 46:

David Walrath stated that he is concerned it allows them to go from having 5% of the budget to 10% of the budget sitting in their accounts. Chris Sarno suggested in the minutes it stated that the use is widely used for capital expenses. It was decided to defer this article until there is further information. Chris will do the research.

Speaker – Christopher Sarno

Article 47:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 47 – Land Acceptance – Open Space in Wildlife Woods. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie).

Speaker – Ann Deluty

Article 48:

A recommendation will be made at Town Meeting.

Speaker – Charles Kern

Article 49:

A recommendation will be made at Town Meeting.

Speaker – Charles Kern

Article 50:

A recommendation will be made at Town Meeting.

Speaker – Charles Kern

Article 51:

Members had a discussion regarding the issues for the need for a paper ballot. The perception of intimidation is the biggest problem. There is a concern with the wording. It should be reworded to raise the threshold.

James Salvie moved to recommended rejection of Article 51- General By-law amendment – Use of Paper Ballots at Town Meeting. Jim withdrew his motion.

Charlie stated that he liked the concept but disliked the implementation.

This article has been deferred until further research. David Walrath will talk to Bill Wrigley and Jim will produce a draft to the amendment.

Speaker – James Salvie

Article 52:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 52 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Active Adult Neighborhood. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie)

Speaker – Gary Bernklow

Article 53:

A recommendation will be made at Town Meeting.

Speaker – Christopher Sarno

Article 54:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 54 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Zoning District Map. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie)

Speaker – Christopher Sarno

Article 55:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 55 – Transfer to Snow and Ice. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie)

Speaker – Ann Deluty

Article 56:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 56 – Transfer to Stabilization Fund. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie)

Speaker – Ann Deluty

Article 57:

David Walrath recommended approval of Article 57 – Transfer to Stabilization Fund – Clean Up Of Special Articles. James Salvie seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath and Salvie)
Speaker – David Walrath

Article 58:

A recommendation will be made at Town Meeting.

Other Business

No other business at this time

Future meetings

March 26, 2009 – Cancelled

March 31, 2009

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by James Salvie at 10:01 pm. David Walrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, and Salvie).

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary