

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
September 15, 2009
7:30 PM
Town Building
Approved

Call to Order

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Present were James Salvie, David Walrath, Christopher Sarno, Ann Deluty and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Guests: Ross Perry and Mike McLaughlin

Correspondence

- Planning Board – legal notice of Planning Boards Public Hearing on September 22, 2009

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Fire Department – Lake Boon Station Coverage During Bridge Repair - \$13,240.21

The amount requested is to be used for paying for the coverage of the Lake Boon Station while Sudbury Road was under construction and closed. The expenditure is unforeseen due to no funds were budgeted and it was an unplanned event.

Chief McLaughlin explained that the coverage included 1 extra – Fulltime Fire Fighter. It was necessary to have a fulltime firefighter on each side of the bridge to be sure there were no delays in response to calls.

After a discussion between the member and Chief McLaughlin regarding some other available funds, the members concluded that the Chief has some funds available to cover part of the expense.

James Salvie moved to approve the reserve fund transfer request in the amount of \$10,000.00 for payment of the Lake Boon station coverage during the Sudbury Road bridge repair. Christopher Sarno seconded the request. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Salvie and Sarno)

Meeting Minutes

After a review of the minutes James Salvie moved to approve August 18, 2009 minutes as amended. David Walrath seconded the motion.

The motion unanimous (Kern, Walrath, Salvie and Sarno)

Warrant Articles

Article 2 - Elementary School Building Land Parcel Transfer

Chief McLaughlin explained that the ESBC approached him to get a small amount of land behind the fire station. He explained that the Fire Station land goes all the way to the Hale School parking lot entrance. He stated that he had two meetings with the schools and came to the conclusion that it makes sense to divert the traffic up Hartley Road. The transfer of land will not impact any future expansion of the Fire Station.

It was also stated that they are looking to tie into the schools septic system in the future. If the school builds a well or ties into the Assabet Valley Water System, they would like to tap into the well, due to the quality of the current water at the Fire Department.

The Chief also stated that he had put in for a grant for expansion of the Fire Department building, but is not sure he will receive the grant.

Article 8 – Compressor for Fire Station – Past Year Expense

Chief McLaughlin explained that the compressor is used to generate air for the Fire Truck's air brakes. The Fire Station collected an insurance claim for an electric hit from a storm. The insurance money was never paid to the vendor. This will correct that error.

Article 11a – Dry Hydrant Installation – Past Year Expense

The vendor from 2006 came in and stated he had never gotten paid. He sent a copy of the bill. The copy had the date of 2009 on it rather than 2006. It has to go back to Town Meeting to pay it. They need to supply an original invoice.

Greg Jones arrived at 8:31pm

Article 4 – Plantation Apartments Supportive Housing and Pilot Grove Expansion

Greg Jones explained that they would like to expand Plantation to include 87 units of supported housing contained in one building, which is different than assisted living. It will be a three story building with elevators. They have partnered with Minuteman Senior Services. A visiting nurse will be available on site. They would like to create a facility with a common dining room and are hoping to have the town Mealsite at their facility.

The state administers the grants. They want family housing. To provide this they would like to expand Pilot Grove Apartments to enhance the funding for the seniors.

They are currently negotiating a purchase and sales agreement for both. Pilot Grove will be 12 acres with 7 buildings containing 4 or 5 apartments each. They plan on keeping the existing landscape and as many trees as possible.

The total is \$18 million, \$9 million each, with \$1.6 million remaining from 5 or 6 funding agencies. They are asking the Town to contribute 10%. CPC will pay \$50-100K on deed restrictions.

The Town will buy the land and lease it to them and collect the taxes.

Greg explained that the hardest units to rent are the 1-bedroom units.

Anne asked if there was a waiting list for apartments.

Greg explained that it is substantial at plantation apartments. They have a high level of weekly inquiries and only 1% vacancy.

Greg Jones out 9:11pm

Action Items:

Jim: talk to Linda, regarding the sign at Town Common.

Dave: find out how other Towns handle passive recreation.

Charlie: talk to Kathleen and Ernie regarding FinCom's Public Hearing.

Liaison Reports

No reports at this time

Other Business

Schedule the public hearing for September 17 at 7pm.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by David Walrath at 9:17 pm. James Salvie seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary