

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
December 8, 2009
7:30 PM
Town Building
Approved

Call to Order

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm. Present were James Salvie, David Walrath, Christopher Sarno, Gary Bernklow and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Correspondence

- Two Letters from the Minuteman School Committee receive from concerned citizens dated Nov. 6, 2009
- Beacon Newsletter Oct, Nov and Dec 2009
- The Municipal Advocate
- Planning Board Notice of decision regarding Stow Community Recreation Facility
- Planning Board Modification number 1, Wildwoods
- Notice of vacancy for Associate members of Finance Committee
- Town of Walpole report and recommendations of the Finance Committee
- Anonymous letter regarding the current Administrator

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

No requests at this time

Meeting Minutes

After a review of the minutes James Salvie moved to approve September 17, 2009 Public Hearing minutes as amended. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.

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

After a review of the minutes James Salvie moved to approve September 17, 2009 Post Public Hearing minutes as submitted. Gary Bernklow seconded the motion.

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

After a review of the minutes David Walrath moved to approve September 22, 2009 minutes as submitted. James Salvie seconded the motion.

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

After a review of the minutes James Salvie moved to approve October 2009 minutes as submitted. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.

The motion carried 4 for (Kern, Walrath, Salvie and Sarno)
 1 abstained (Bernklow)

Budget Review

Members discussed the Finance Committee budget as submitted by Beth Tobey.

David Walrath moved to approve forwarding the budget as prepared to the Town Administrator for his review. Gary Bernklow seconded the motion.

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

Discussion of a letter received regarding the superintendent of Minuteman

Charlie asked Chris to check with Alice Deluca at Minuteman regarding the issues in the letter.

Members discussed their concerns with the letter. It was suggested that the reorganization of Minuteman might have been something that caused some of the issues with the administrator.

Liaison Reports

Elementary School Building Committee – Gary stated that the design documents are due on January 7th 2010. They will be submitted to the MSBA on January 11, 2010. They are hoping to start the project on June 21, 2010.

- They have to wait for the Massachusetts Historical Commission because of the state funds.
- There is a building listed on the state inventory of historical assets.
- The stone building is listed as Center School Property, not as the stone building.

Gary stated that the MSBA is worried that saving the stone building will delay the construction of the new school and possibly cause the towns state funds to be held until it is resolved. The bottom line is they can't stop the construction but they can slow it down.

They now have to wait for the Massachusetts Historical decision. The Stow Historical Society is drafting a letter tonight to send to Mass Historical.

Community Preservation Committee – Dave stated they had a meeting at Plantation Apartments to view how they are dealing with the abutters. After some modifications they are less unhappy.

Tri-Town – Jim stated that the transportation grant took a big hit.

Fire – Jim explained that the Chief will be submitting an RFTR for overtime. They have used up 72% of the overtime budget. They are losing per diem and call fire fighters to other towns. Missing fire personnel are being replaced by fire fighters on overtime. A lot of the calls are Meeting House and Plantation. There is a need to expand the number of fire fighters. Chief McLaughlin is putting together a presentation for the Selectmen.

Future RFTR

- Fire Department - overtime
- Town Clerk – 2 elections this year

Other Business

State Ethics is due December 28th

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by James Salvie at 8:50 pm. David Walrath seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Bernklow, Sarno and Salvie).

Action Items

Charlie asked that Beth find out when the Annual Report deadline is.
Answer: Middle of February around the 16th – per Susan McLaughlin

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary