

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
April 1, 2010
7:30 PM
Town Building
Approved

Call to Order

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 7:33 pm. Present were James Salvie, Christopher Sarno, Gary Bernklow and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Correspondence

- The Beacon Newsletter for April 2010
- Invitation from the State Coalition to the Suburban Coalition Legislative Breakfast on April 27, 2010

Meeting Minutes

After a review of the minutes James Salvie moved to approve March 16, 2009 minutes as submitted. Gary Bernklow seconded the motion.

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

After a review of the minutes Gary Bernklow moved to approve March 18, 2009 Public Hearing minutes as amended. James Salvie seconded the motion.

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

After a review of the minutes James Salvie moved to approve March 18, 2009 Post Public Hearing minutes as amended. Gary Bernklow seconded the motion.

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

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Fire Department – Salary, Call Firefighter/EMT Wages \$5590.10 and Overtime Wages - \$14,000.00

The amount requested is to be used for call wages until June 30, 2010, Full Time Firefighter transfer and Full Time Firefighter callbacks.

Mike McLaughlin explained that part of it is the Sudbury Rd Bridge repair. They will get 75% reimbursement from the state but they won't see it until the next fiscal year. He also stated there was an increase in medical calls which in turn has increased billing. Mike handed out a sheet (attached) explaining the costs. The month of March they had 157 runs and only 70 runs in February.

Charlie asked what needed to be done to stop this from happening again next year.

Mike explained that if they could take additional funding and put it into Firefighter overtime account it would cover the callbacks. He also explained that his payroll budget has been kept flat since 2009. The trend is upward in total amount of calls. Carbon monoxide calls are up.

Jim Salvie moved to approve the reserve fund transfer request in the amount of \$5,000.00 for the salary for Call Firefighter/EMT wages. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.

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

Jim Salvie moved to approve the reserve fund transfer request in the amount of \$14,500.00 for the Firefighter/EMT overtime wages. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.

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

Warrant Article Discussions

Fire Department New Vehicle for the Chief

Mike McLaughlin explained that his truck is getting older and has electrical problems. It is expensive to have the problem traced for repair.

He explained that he is in need of a closed vehicle rather than an open truck, such as a SUV with an enclosed back. He would like to use the vehicle for a command vehicle, holding all of his radio equipment and have the laptop mounted right in the vehicle as the Police Department does.

***The meeting was moved to the Capital Planning Meeting room*

Group Discussion with Capital Planning

Marcia Rising explained that the Board of Health has agreed to possibly purchase the land that abuts the west side of the Highway Department. They would like to move the Dog Kennels to that side of the Highway Barn because they won't be able to meet the setback with the renovations on the current location of the Kennels. They would like to create a new Kennel not constrained by lot lines and reachable through the Highway Department. The current kennel was built 30 years ago, is very small and will need variances to make the necessary changes.

Mike stated that he went to Bill Wrigley and he is very supportive. The \$60k in the warrant will give bill permission to negotiate the purchase.

The 5 acres of land is currently owned by a gentleman on South Acton Road. He is looking for \$60k. Bill will be negotiating with him. Two and a half acres of the land are buildable.

Highway will need more space in the future. They could also use some of this land.

Marcia rising suggested they would build a new kennel on the land. No more than 3 bays, use a pre-fabricated building, Fenced in with runs and tight tank with access to water from Highway. They would have better dog kennels, more humane and more storage space.

***Return to COA for remainder of the meeting.*

Discussion of the Fire Chief's request for a new truck

The members all agreed that the Fire Chief should get a quote from an electrical mechanic and decide then if it is worth repairing or buy a new one.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Gary Bernklow at 9:38 pm. Charles Kern seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Sarno and Salvie).

Action Items

- Jim to help Chris write and present the Town Financial Presentation
- Jim and Chris on vacation the week of the 19th to the 23rd
- Charlie to email the Warrant Report to Chris
- Charlie to get more information on the Gift of land and open space
- All member to get their speeches to Beth on the Warrant Articles

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary