

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
November 4, 2010
7:30 PM
Town Building
Approved

Call to Order

Chairman Gary Bernklow called the meeting to order at 7:37pm. Present were,
Members: Christopher Sarno, Patty Heron and Ann Deluty
Associates: Richard Connelly, Richard Rollins, Peter McManus and Bruce Walbridge
Secretary: Elizabeth Tobey
Guests: Tom Ryan,

Correspondence

Resignation from Tom Ryan from the Finance Committee
Association of Town Finance Committees
Email from the Town Administrator regarding Harvard Acres well funding
Email from Rick Rollins regarding a question for Town Meeting
Email from Laura Spear regarding Deerfield property

Meeting Minutes

After a review of the minutes Patricia Heron moved to approve October 26, 2010 minutes as Amended. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.
The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Sarno, Heron, Deluty)

Reserve Fund Transfer Request

None at this time

Preparation for Special Town Meeting

Article 2-Transfer and Authorization of Deerfield Lane Parcel

Members discussed the changes in the warrant. The changes will be announced at Town Meeting. When asked if they were still ok with the original vote members stated that would need to change the wording of the recommendation.

Article 3-Engineering Design Funds for Assabet River Rail Trail on Track Road

Members noted that the warrant reads 45k or any other sum. The actual number being moved on will be \$46k

On November 4, 2010 Patricia Heron moved to rescind the vote of October 14, 2010 for Article 3: Engineering Design Funds for Assabet River Rail Trail on Track Road, based on new information. Ann Deluty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (Bernklow, Deluty, Heron and Sarno)

On November 4, 2010 Ann Deluty moved to approve Article 3: Engineering Design Funds for Assabet River Rail Trail on Track Road for the sum of \$46k.

The motion failed 2 for (Deluty, Bernklow)
 2 against (Heron, Sarno)

There was a discussion between members regarding how the funds would be used and the possibility that the worst case would be the Highway Department with the road, rail trail and bike path. There is \$9mil in the Federal budget earmarked for the Assabet Rail Trail. Three percent is pulled back each year that the money is not used. The Selectmen are planning several public hearings for input from the residents. Once it is accepted we may lose control of the state money. There doesn't appear to be a requirement of more money. John Whitten has not looked at the contract.

It was discussed that the people will feel that all the other towns have a bike path, why can't Stow get one put in. If CPC wants it do we have a duty to consider it more carefully? There is no formal design. There will be no input beyond the design if it is 80% the states money. Maintenance costs will be less if it's paved.

If the Finance Committee does not recommend the article nothing will get done. Some members suggested that this should have been brought up at a regular Town Meeting. It was stated that there is unanimous support from CPC for

this article. The Town has been working on this for years. CPC has put a lot of work into this article. There is not a lot of risk of it going any higher.

Article 1. Acceptance of Anticipated Emergency Legislation from General Court

Rick Connelly met with the committee. The rate of interest will be 2 or 5 percent. Any customers of Assabet Water who sunk a well after May 1, 2010, are eligible for the loan. With documentation the homeowners can take a loan for \$10k for 10 years at 2 % interest. The monies can be used for drilling, tree removal, trenching and hookup. It will be written as a betterment lien on their house. The process will begin on Tuesday the 5th of November. People late on payments will be handled the same as when they are late on their taxes.

There has been \$7k spent by the town in legal fees. The bond rating is not an issue.

There are concerns with some committee member regarding the resident on the other side of town who's well runs dry. They are not eligible for the loan. Some members discussed that they didn't think we should give a group of people assistance if we are not going to help individuals in town who need help. What if a resident gets up at Town Meeting and says, I don't live in Harvard Acres and my well went dry. Why aren't you helping me?

Members discussed the expansion of the water system in Harvard Acres and how the town was talking about putting lines in to bring water to lower village and the center of town and Schools. That discussion was after White Water expanded the water system.

Members agreed if there was 6 months or more they might have been able to work it out. Because of Assabet went down and 180 homes were losing water this was an emergency.

Members then had a discussion of the percentage rate. Some felt that 5% makes the people that need it take it and those that don't need it will not. It minimizes the argument of why are we subsidizing them. The default risk is not high. If it goes to 5% and only 25 take it, the most needy and most likely to default, we would better to give it to them at 2%.

*On November 4, 2010 Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 1: Acceptance of Anticipated Emergency Legislation from General Court subject to the review of the legislation. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.
The motion Failed for (Deluty)
Against (Bernklow, Sarno, Heron)*

Liaison Reports

None at this time

Other Business

Gary explained to the associates that there is an opening for a voting member and suggested if they are interested he would encourage the Associate member to do it.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Patricia Heron at 8:57 pm. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Sarno, Deluty, Heron and Ryan).

Action Items:

Beth to get votes to Linda before Town Meeting

Future meetings:

November 8, 2010 Special Town Meeting pre meeting

November 8, 2010 Special Town Meeting

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary