

Minutes  
**STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
**Public Hearing**  
October 06, 2011  
7:00 PM  
Town Building  
**Approved**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Ann Deluty called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were,

*Members:* Christopher Sarno, Richard Connelly, Peter McManus and Richard Rollins

*Associates:* Bruce Walbridge

*Secretary:* Elizabeth Tobey

*Guests:* Charles Kern, Mike McLaughlin and Tim Reed

**Discussion and Vote of Warrant Articles, Speakers Assigned**

**Article 1. Field Drivers**

It was explained that this responsibility for a field driver will be moved to the Animal Control officer

**Article 2. Flagg Hill Bond Line Item Transfer**

Chris explained that this Article is for refinancing Flagg Hill will save \$31k in interest this year.

**Article 3. Town Building Structural Repairs**

Chris questioned if Capital Planning has to get involved if the amount is over \$10k. Gary Bernklow responded that they do.

**Article 4. Pompositticut School-to-Community Center Pre-Design**

Mike Busch explained that the group has been looking at the building for over a year and what to do with it when vacated. We went to the town for potential users and what their needs are. There are many groups interested in the building i.e.; Council on Aging, Food Pantry, Kindergarten for a potential rental, Recreation for a community center. The space has a lot of value. The building is structurally sound.

The preliminary engineering from school to anything else requires a code review. To convert it we will need an occupancy analysis. The purpose is to check the regulations and recoding. Then to lay out what needs to be done. We will need a preliminary report for school repurposing.

The building is not free. If left abandoned there is a cost. It will still need to be heated whether we use it or not. It could be sold but it is an unpleasant real estate market now.

**Article 5. Fund Transfers for Community Center Pre-Design**

No discussion on this article

**Article 6. Fire Station Improvement Pre-Design Funds**

Chief McLaughlin explained that they need \$75k for a consulting firm for Design and Costing. They will lay out the floor plan with complete costs. They have two options, existing building with an addition or a total rebuild of the station. They are in need of a simple functional, affordable fire station. Dave Soar the previous chief had the original plans drawn up. In 2009-2010 the federal government created a grant to renovate or build. The McGuire group created plans at a very high level. We are hoping a consultant can draw up exactly what we need. The original high level plans were theoretical. The amount in the warrant is enough to do what we need to do. We have met with the gentleman that designed the Stow Police Department and he agreed that \$75k would be enough to hire a consultant to create a design and are hoping to be at May Town Meeting with options and pricing. He then explained that the station is very crowded and everyone is welcome to come to the Fire Station for a tour of the building. He would also like to put a Building Committee together to tour other sites and see what modern stations are like. Chief commented that Chelsea Fire Department is the only station that received money from the Fire House Grant. He suggested that the ballpark figure of a middle cost would be somewhere between \$3 to \$5mil and is hoping it will be more to \$3mil.

### **Article 7. Randall Library Improvement Pre-Design Funds**

Tim Reed explained that they are working on identifying the needs in several areas. They have investigated Pompositticut school building and found that the state would not fund in that fashion. They then abandoned the idea of moving to Pompo and continued to look at staying at our current library for another 30 years. The grant structure was investigated very carefully. It will be 5 to 10 years before any money would be received. The Board of Library Commissions is not looking favorably at Pompo or staying in the Randall Library as a grant funding possibility. It would be \$7-12mil to rebuild 10-12 years from now if that's what the town wants.

The town had approved money for repairs. Craig Martin and Bruce Fletcher have put all of that on hold that will conflict with the improvements

He also explained that the amphitheater needs repairs and they are planning on using a rubber membrane on the flat patio. They have 100k set aside for repairs, if a capital project is approved that money will become part of the restructure of the building and to control the water problems. He didn't know the actual amount of money left.

The biggest changes will be:

- A new and improved building
- An Adult section
- New Children's section
- Restore under library, including exterior
- Expand the parking lot
- Looking for space for users not expanding with books

These are modularized projects that can be spaced out over time. We don't know what the final job will look like yet. We are hoping to have the plans some idea by town meeting.

There are small amounts of grant money

- Garden Club will do some landscaping
- There will be fund raising once everything is organized
- CPC was addressed for restoration of the original part of the building

### **Article 8. Larsen Apple Barn Relocation and Preservation Funds**

Bob Wilber explained that the group is trying to accomplish a difficult task. He is not sure if the proposal will fall under Capital Planning or not. What will the total cost be and are there private funds to help. If it doesn't succeed the money will go back.

### **Article 9. Street Acceptance – Cardinal Court**

No discussion on this article

### **Article 10. Street Acceptance –Cricket Court**

No discussion on this article

### **Article 11. Street Acceptance – Fox Court**

No discussion on this article

### **Article 12. Street Acceptance –Salamander Lane**

No discussion on this article

### **Article 13. Street Acceptance – Wildlife Way**

No discussion on this article

### **Article 14. Street Acceptance – Woodpecker Court**

No discussion on this article

**Article 15. Zoning Bylaw Amendment – Commercial Solar Photovoltaic Renewable Energy Installations**

No discussion on this article

**Article 16. Town Election**

**Other Business**

None at this time

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Christopher Sarno at 8:02pm. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus and Rollins)

**Future meetings:**

October 11, 2011

October 25, 2011

November 07, 2011 Pre-Town Meeting

November 07, 2011 Town Meeting

**Action Items:**

Members to send their speeches to Beth

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,  
Secretary