

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
Public Hearing
April 03, 2014
7:00 PM
Town Building
Draft

Call to Order

Peter McManus called the Public Hearing to order at 7:01 pm. Present were,
Members: Bruce Walbridge and Rick Rollins.
Associates: Richard Eckel, Shalini Dumka
Secretary: Elizabeth Tobey

Peter McManus explained the process of the public hearing and explained that each article will not be read in its entirety. Only the title will be read before questions are posed.

Article 1. Reports of Selectmen and other officers and committees

No questions from the public.

A Speaker – None

Article 2. Reports of Special Committees

No questions from the public.

Article 3. FY13 Building Oversight Committee expenses

David Walrath asked if anyone was checking the numbers for errors. Ann Deluty explained that they have appropriated \$50k for the oversight committee to continue working on the projects.

Article 4. FY13 Snow and Ice account deficit reduction

There was a brief conversation regarding the name change. Finance will look into it.

Article 5. Wage and Salary Schedules for Fiscal Year 2014

Dave Walrath requested that the FinCom review the amounts.

Article 6. General Budget for Fiscal Year 2014

Dave Walrath requested that the FinCom review the amounts.

Article 7. Reserve Fund

This is the standard \$70,000 budgeted each year.

Article 8. Audit Of Financial Records

No questions from the public.

Article 9. Revolving Fund for Inspection Fees

Peter explained that the \$40k is a revolving account for fees for the Inspectors. The funds go to the general fund.

No questions from the public.

Article 10. Revolving Fund for Advanced Life Support Services

No questions from the public

Article 11. Transfer To Conservation Fund – Land Maintenance

Balance is \$1509.00

No questions from the public

Article 12. Addition to Conservation Fund

No questions from the public

Article 13. Transfer From Wetlands Protection Fund

Balance is \$8022.00

No questions from the public

Article 14. Update Of Property Valuations

Balance is \$2050.00

No questions from the public

Article 15. Town Records Binding And Repair

Balance is \$200.00

No questions from the public

Article 16. Highway Road Machinery And Private Ways

No questions from the public

Increase in requests for repairs on private ways. They do what they can. Dave Walrath commented that they put in as the state allows.

Article 17. Highway Road Construction

No questions from the public

Article 18. Public Health Nurse

No questions from the public

Article 19. Municipal Solid Waste Disposal

No questions from the public

Article 20. Medical Reserve Corps Expenses

No questions from the public

Article 21. Construction and Maintenance of Water Holes for Firefighting Operations

No questions from the public

Article 22. Stow Cultural Council

No questions from the public

Article 23. Employee Educational Incentive Program

No questions from the public

Article 24. Legal Services

No questions from the public

Article 25. Police Officer and Firefighter Medical Payments

No questions from the public

Article 26. Swiftreach 911 Notification System

No questions from the public

Article 27. Lake Boone Water Quality Remediation

No questions from the public

Article 28. Planning Board Engineering/Consulting and Master Plan Expenses

No questions from the public

Article 29. Veterans' Benefits

No questions from the public

Article 30, Senior Tax Relief

No questions from the public

Article 31. Community Preservation Expenses

No questions from the public

Article 32. Community Preservation Reserves:

No questions from the public.

Peter explained that the community preservation expenses are \$32k. They are mandated on a percentage basis on what can be spent on expenses.

Article 33. Capital Requests

1. **Building** – *DEP-mandated upgrade to Town Building water treatment system - \$100,000*

No questions from the public

Craig Martin explained that years ago the town had a water treatment system installed. DEP monitors the levels. They said the water treatment needs to be an approved system. It has to have PH control. A proprietary system pre-approved by DEP. It has to be in by November.

2. **Building** – *Floor and carpeting improvements at Town Hall and Town Buildings - \$15,000*

No questions from the public

Craig Martin explained that this is to update the carpet in the Town Building on the 1st and 2nd floors and to refinish the hardwood floors in the Town Hall.

3. **Building** – *Emergency boiler repairs in Hale School - \$11,659*

No questions from the public

Craig Martin explained that the Boiler in Hale school failed in February. The boiler was installed during February vacation. The town is obligated to pay for the installation.

4. **Cemetery** – *Restoration of stone walls at Brookside and Hillside Cemetery - \$60,000*

No questions from the public

5. **Cemetery** – *Road survey for Brookside Cemetery expansion - \$20,000*

No questions from the public

6. **Cemetery** – *New truck mounted vacuum system - \$10,000*

No questions from the public

7. **Fire-Rescue Department** – *New self-contained breathing apparatus (SCUBA) gear- \$68,720*

No questions from the public

8. **Fire-Rescue Department** – *New air compressor - \$24,000*

No questions from the public

9. **Fire-Rescue Department** – *Radio system upgrades - \$50,000*

No questions from the public

10. **Fire-Rescue Department** – *Computer Network Improvements - \$15,000*

No questions from the public

11. **Highway Department** – *Begin project to re-use Pompo modular classroom for office space - \$35,000*

It was explained that the modular will be moved from Pompo to the Highway Department property. Cost is as follows;

- Electricity - \$10k

- Plumbing - \$16k
- Construction \$12,500
- Wiring - \$2k
- Furniture - \$700

No questions from the public

12. **Highway Department – New Multi-purpose Truck - \$98,000**

No questions from the public

13. **Planning Board – Lower Village traffic design project funds - \$150,000**

No questions from the public

14. **Police – New police patrol vehicle - \$38,000**

No questions from the public

15. **Recreation – Mowing equipment and trailer - \$11,500**

No questions from the public

16. **NRSD – Repairs to Hale School Elevator - \$15,000**

No questions from the public

17. **NRSD – Repairs to Hale School window frames - \$24,000**

No questions from the public

18. **NRSD – Replace smoke detectors - \$19,000**

The building needs to be rewired for the control panel.

19. **NRSD – Remove Hale School underground oil tank - \$18,000**

Craig Martin explained that they may need more studies on this before they begin to see if it is leaking? If it is not leaking should they fill the tank with sand and leave it.

20. **NRSD – Repair Hale School access road and Parking lot - \$90,000**

The building needs to be rewired for the control panel.

Article 34. Purchase of 323 Great Road for municipal use

No questions from the public

Article 35. Purchase of Option to Purchase Property at 323 Great Road for municipal use

No questions from the public

Article 36. Restoration of Stone Wall at Brookside Cemetery & Hillside Cemetery

Resident Bill Byron commented that if we give them the land to build on then we benefit by having the affordable housing.

Article 37. Acceptance of sidewalk Easement from Stow from Stow Community Housing Corporation

No questions from the public

Article 38 . Transfer of Queen’s Lane Parcels from Selectmen to Affordable Housing Trust

No questions from the public

Article 39. Transfer of Pine Point parcel from Selectmen to Affordable Housing Trust

No questions from the public

Article 40 Affordable Housing-related services.

This is for monitoring of affordable housing by a consultant

Article 41. Change to Heritage Lane Conservation Restriction

No questions from the public

Article 42. Re-Zone portion of land from Recreation-Conservation District to a Residential District

To rezone a portion of land from Recreation to Conservation to create a care takers building on the property

Article 43. General Bylaw amendment to cover former Local 1156 members

No questions from the public

Article 44. Establish an OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) Liability Trust Fund

David Walrath requested that someone explain to the public what will happen if it doesn't pass.

Article 45. Transfer from MWPAT (Harvard Acres Wells) Receipts

No questions from the public

Article 46. Pompo Building Maintenance

No questions from the public

Article 47. Town Social Worker

No questions from the public

Article 48. Holiday Decorations And Lighting Fund

No questions from the public

Article 49. Banner for Stow annual Clean-up day

No questions from the public

Article 50. Transfer from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund

No questions from the public

Article 51. Balance the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

No questions from the public

Article 52. Town Election

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary