

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
November 10, 2008**

Present at the meeting that was held at the Town Building were Chairman Thomas Ruggiero and Selectmen Stephen Dungan, Kathleen Farrell, Jason Robart, and Ellen Sturgis.

Also present were Town Administrator William Wrigley and Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin.

Chairman Ruggiero called the meeting to order at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Public Input

Town Clerk Linda Hathaway expressed her appreciation to the Highway and Police departments and to the School District for their support during the November 4 election. .

Chairman's Comments

Mr. Ruggiero congratulated Jamie Eldridge and Kate Hogan for their election as state senator and representative for Stow, respectively. He thanked the Town Clerk and election workers for smoothly managing the polls and thanked the voters of Stow for their 88-percent turnout.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Wrigley reported on the following topics:

- Whitman Street Traffic Safety: As requested at the last Board meeting, he worked with Public Safety personnel to develop a traffic safety plan for the road. The Superintendent of Streets will present the plan later in the meeting
- Master Plan Consultant: The Master Plan Committee sought help to complete the plan in order to pass it on to the Board of Selectmen for implementation. Mr. Wrigley executed a contract for this work with The Ciccolo Group. The town-wide survey, one of the six deliverables, is ready today.
- Public Nursing Service: The Board of Health is using a portion of its services budget to provide a part-time public health nurse (three mornings a week). He executed the one-year contract today.
- Owner's Project Manager for Elementary School Building: He was informed that the Elementary School Building Committee has chosen an Owner's Project Manager for the building construction project. Ms. Sturgis will comment on this later in the meeting.
- Snow Property Recreation Project: CPC Chairman Bob Wilber informed him that the EOEEA grant for \$500,000, to be used to construct recreation fields, was not approved.

FY 2009 Tax Classification Public Hearing

Mr. Ruggiero opened the hearing at 7:10 p.m., reading the legal notice and inviting the Board of Assessors to present their recommendations. Principal Assessor Dorothy Wilber and Board Chairman John Bolton made the presentation, accompanied by Board members Jack Smith and

Dom Pugliese. Ms. Wilbur and Mr. Bolton showed comparisons of tax revenues using different rates for residential and commercial classifications, which indicate that increasing the tax on the limited commercial property in Stow means a small increase in revenue but a large burden on the businesses. For this reason, as in past years, the Assessors recommended keeping a single tax rate.

Following questions and discussion, Ms. Sturgis moved to accept the Assessors' recommendation to maintain a single tax classification [for FY 2009]; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

Liaison Reports

Master Plan Committee: Mr. Dungan reported that the Master Plan survey was sent to the Stow Independent and posted on the Town website. The deadline for responses is December 15.

Public Safety Planning Committee: Mr. Ruggiero reported that the Town received 72 responses to the ad for a Patrol Officer and a screening committee of the police sergeants narrowed these down to six strong candidates. A search team comprised of Mr. Wrigley, Police Sergeant Bosworth, Fire Chief McLaughlin, and Selectman Ruggiero will interview the candidates and have a recommendation to the Board by late December or early January. He noted that this is a budgeted position and is a replacement, not an addition to the department.

Selectmen's Appointment to the Recreation Commission

Resident Bob Braceland visited the Board with Recreation Commission chair Mike Busch and member Jim Henry, to discuss his interest in Stow recreation and apply for the vacant seat. Mr. Dungan moved to appoint Bob Braceland to the Recreation Commission; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

Liaison Reports, continued

Tri Town Meeting: Ms. Sturgis reported that Stow is hosting the next Tri-Town meeting. It is scheduled for December 3. She plans to invite Minuteman's superintendent, Dr. Bouquillon, to a Tri-Town meeting so that he can meet representatives from all three towns.

Selectmen's Appointment to the Cultural Council

Resident Nancy Maldari visited the Board to request appointment to the Council and to speak about the importance of art at the town level. Mr. Dungan moved to appoint Nancy Maldari to the Cultural Council; Mr. Robart seconded; and all voted in favor.

Meeting Minutes

October 22, 2008: Ms. Farrell moved to accept the minutes, as submitted; Mr. Dungan seconded; and all voted in favor. Mr. Robart, having been absent, abstained.

October 28, 2008: Mr. Robart moved to accept the minutes, as amended; Ms. Sturgis seconded; and all voted in favor. Mr. Ruggiero, having been absent, abstained.

Liaison Reports, continued

Elementary School Building Committee: Ms. Sturgis reported that the committee chose Construction Monitoring Services from Marlborough for the OPM position. Mr. Wrigley is working on the contract and Stow has a verbal okay from the MSBA.

Whitman Street Traffic Safety Plan

Superintendent of Streets Mike Clayton presented a plan to improve traffic safety on Whitman Street, now that the street-side oak has been removed. The plan has four steps:

1. Remove the tree.
2. Prepare and reconstruct the road where the tree was, Widen that section of the street from 18 feet to 22 feet, to conform to the rest of the road.
3. Apply pavement markings of white edge lines and a center yellow line, creating two nine-foot lanes.
4. Replace 30-mph speed limit signs and stencil "30 MPH" on the road in both directions coming up the hill.

Following presentation of the plan, there was an extended discussion among Board members and with Whitman Street residents. The residents' main objection was to Step 3, having painted lines on the road.

At the conclusion of the discussion, Ms. Farrell moved to accept the Superintendent of Streets' plan Steps 1, 2, and 4, minus Step 3; Mr. Dungan seconded. Mr. Robart said he objected to the motion because the Town's public safety officials, at the Board's request, developed and presented their recommendations on the speeding issue and he did not feel that either he or the Board as a whole ought to pick and choose components of the safety officials' plan. Four members voted in favor (Dungan, Farrell, Ruggiero, and Sturgis) and one voted opposed (Robart). The motion carried.

Liquor License Fees for 2009

Mr. Dungan moved to retain the fees as presently scheduled; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

Liaison Reports, continued

Lower Village Committee: Mr. Dungan reported that the committee is planning to revisit the zoning bylaw regarding signs.

Planning Board: Mr. Robart reported that the Planning Board received a permit application for a car wash in the Lower Village (old Mobil station parcel). Copies are available for review.

Veterans Affairs: Mr. Wrigley reminded everyone that Veteran's Day will be celebrated on November 11 this year.

At 8:54 p.m., Mr. Dungan moved to adjourn; Ms. Farrell seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen

Approved as amended, November 25, 2008