

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 17, 2012**

Present at the meeting that was held at the Town Building were Selectmen Gary Bernklow, Charles Kern, Thomas Ryan, James Salvie, and Laura Spear.

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

This was a special Board meeting to discuss the procedure to obtain Town Meeting approval of borrowing for an athletic complex at the Nashoba Regional High School. School Superintendent Michael Wood and Stow NRSD school committee members Maureen Busch, Lynn Colletti, and Jeff Odell were present.

Mr. Salvie convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m., noting that this was a special meeting in response to a January 6, 2012 letter from the superintendent to the three member towns regarding a five-year add/reno project for the high school's athletic fields. He summarized the letter as describing the estimated \$3,860,000 project and that the district was considering a vote to authorize borrowing at its January 19, 2012 school committee meeting. The letter invited the towns to meet with the superintendent on the following Thursday, if they wished to discuss it.

Mr. Salvie then stated that his intention for this meeting was not to focus on the merits of the project but rather on the process by which borrowing for the project would or would not be approved by the Town.

Per the regional school district agreement, the school committee's vote to borrow starts a 60-day window in which the towns can join in the decision. If the towns take no action, the decision defaults to the school committee's vote. For the towns to have a say, they must hold a special town meeting for the voters to decide within the 60-day period.

Mr. Salvie said that if the school committee votes on the borrowing at any time before mid-March, it will force the town to hold a special town meeting within 60 days. If the vote is taken within 60 days of the annual town meeting, a special meeting, with its expense and labor, will not be necessary.

Mr. Wood said the school committee would consider the vote on January 19. A discussion followed on whether a vote was needed now or could wait. Mr. Wood said it was needed now to put the project in the FY13 budget. Mr. Salvie said they could proceed with issuing the Request for Proposals, contingent on Annual Town Meeting approval. Mr. Wood said they needed staging time to roll out in April. Ms. Spear was skeptical that the project could start in mid- to late April, pointing out that the new stormwater management rules would apply, there would need to be public hearings, and so forth, all of which will take time.

Members questioned why the school district waited so long to go to the Bolton Planning Board, since the plan for the complex was available in April 2011.

The three Stow school committee members were asked their positions on the upcoming vote. Ms. Colletti said the school committee was not comfortable with the vote until Mr. Wood met with the Boards of Selectmen. She wanted to wait until Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Odell and Ms. Busch were non-committal.

The selectmen agreed that the town needs to vote on the project. They expressed frustration that the district had not come to the Board to discuss its plans before now. They agreed that the Tri-Town meeting would be a good venue for further discussion.

The second item on the agenda was a request by Franny Osman, chair of the Acton Transportation Advisory Committee, to approve a grant proposal for a pilot program for regional dispatch of town vans.

Ms. Osman said that a shared dispatcher arrangement would make better use of the available vehicles. For example, the Acton COA vans are underutilized, never having more than six people aboard.

Governor Patrick's CIC grants are an opportunity to evaluate the area's transportation needs. This application includes five towns plus the Clock Tower Place shuttle. In Phase 1, GPS/GIS devices would be installed in 13 vans. Phase 2 is to try regional dispatch. There would be no cost to Stow for Phase 1.

There was a question of how well a shared dispatch would work in Stow, because people valued the personal service the COA provides. Ms. Osman replied that many requests were being turned away, at which point Mr. Salvie said he would like to invite Ms. Toole in for a COA update.

Following the discussion, Ms. Spear moved to approve the CIC grant proposal; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor. Mr. Salvie signed the necessary forms on behalf of the Board.

At 7:40 p.m., the Board having finished its business, Mr. Bernklow moved to adjourn; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved as written, March 13, 2012