

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
January 24, 2012**

Present at the meeting that was held at the Town Building were Selectmen Charles Kern, Thomas Ryan, James Salvie, and Laura Spear. Gary Bernklow joined the meeting at 7:15 p.m., during the Healthcare Reform discussion.

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

Mr. Salvie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Public Input**

None.

**Chair's Comments**

Mr. Salvie congratulated the Pedestrian Walkways Committee on giving its final report to the Planning Board. He announced the upcoming times for informational forums on the proposed NRSD athletic complex.

**Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Wrigley reported the following:

- Regarding progress on the building projects, the Community Center RFP is within 10 days of closing with 60 responses received. The timeframe for all three projects is a special Town Meeting in the fall, at which options with costs will be presented to voters, with a preferred design. He is pleased with their efforts.
- Treasurer Pam Landry will present the Healthcare Reform Act later in the meeting.
- He has FY 2013 budget requests from the departments and estimated revenues. On February 14, he will have a first-pass budget. His joint boards meeting is on February 28. And he will present his recommended budget to the Board on March 27.h

**Meeting Minutes**

January 10: Ms. Spear moved to accept the January 10, 2012 minutes, as amended; Mr. Kern seconded; and all voted in favor, with Mr. Ryan abstaining.

**Healthcare Reform Act**

Treasurer Pam Landry explained the current status of implementation. The Minuteman Nashoba Health Group, of which Stow is a member, is working with the insurers to offer various options to employees and retirees.

The town's choices are to join the GIC or to form an alternative that has at least 5-percent savings over the GIC. The Board of Selectmen needs to vote to allow Ms. Landry to move ahead with implementation.

Ms. Spear moved that the Town of Stow elect to engage in the process to change health insurance benefits, under Mass General Law Chapter 32B sections 21-23; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

**Warrant for Presidential Primary Election**

Town Clerk Linda Hathaway asked the Board to approve the upcoming primary election ballot.

Ms. Spear moved that the Board accept the March 6, 2012 Presidential Primary Election Warrant, dated January 24, 2012; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

### **Vacant Elected Town Positions for Annual Town Election**

Mr. Salvie read the list of vacant positions prepared by the Town Clerk. Ms. Spear moved that the Board accept the list of elected offices to be included on the Annual Town Election Ballot, dated January 18, 2012; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

### **Council on Aging Update**

Alyson Toole, Executive Director of the Stow Council on Aging, visited the Board with an update on its activities.

According to the 2010 census, the number of seniors in Stow has doubled in the past decade. Transportation is their number one service. Stow has no Social Services department, so all ages come to the COA.

Her outreach workers are busy. They are visiting shut-ins. They provide a warming center at the Town Building with soup on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Her workers help with fuel assistance applications for all who need it. They work closely with the Police and Fire departments to locate emergency contacts. The COA also coordinates the tax work-off program, which is starting up now. Ten volunteers work the front desk five days a week, in AM and PM shifts.

She needs more volunteers.

The COA now has four vans. They go to bordering towns, medical centers in Concord and Marlboro, and to Lancaster. All service is door-to-door. If a senior needs to go to Boston, the COA arranges for a volunteer to drive.

She sees some advantages to the regional transportation program presented by Franny Osman. But one disadvantage is the loss of personalized service. The van drivers act like outreach workers and keep an eye on their passengers.

Ms. Toole hopes she has the selectmen's support for a move to Pompo. There are lots of services the COA offers that people do not see because she "farms them out" and services she does not offer because there is no facility available.

COA chair Kristen Donovan joined the discussion, announcing that she is starting a website called StowGiving.org. Its purpose is to organize volunteers to form "neighborhood brigades" that help seniors. She wants one volunteer on every street in every neighborhood. With 1,300 seniors in town, 300 volunteers are needed. She encouraged people to visit the website.

### **Update on Plantation II and Pilot Grove II Affordable Housing Projects**

Stow Community Housing Corp (SCHC) Treasurer Greg Jones described the current state of both projects. Pilot Grove II has 30 units of family housing. They expect funding for this to come through before Plantation and they are ready to begin (within 90 days of getting the funding).

The water sources have changed. The good news is that they can put two wells on the hill which can supply both projects.

Plantation II has 37 units for senior and disabled residents. There was some discussion of the

lawsuit against the SCHC and the Town by a neighbor and the disposition of a house on the property.

The SCHC is asking HUD for \$6.0 million, the rough total project cost, which will be reduced by Stow's commitment of \$825,000. The problem is that federal and state funds for affordable housing are drying up. The Purchase and Sale for the Plantation property expires on July 31, so this is a critical time for the project.

### **Liaison Reports**

- The 60-day window for the Town to vote on borrowing for the NRSD athletic complex will overlap with May Town Meeting, so there is no need for a special town meeting.
- The Town's attorney for local cable access met with Comcast to discuss the October 1 license renewal.
- Based on the Master Plan priorities chart, 70- to 80-percent of the work relates to planning.
- The MMA conference had good information on healthcare and solar power.
- The Multi-Use Track Road Committee and Rob Albright are meeting with the Dept. of Transportation on design and funding.
- The Library Building RFP is ready. The Community Center RFP had many responses. The Fire Station project is moving along.
- Capital Planning is meeting with the departments on their funding requests.
- The student move into the new elementary school building slipped from January 25 to February 17. It was suggested that the ESBC and OPM come in to meet with the Board on the issue. Mr. Salvie agreed to have them in on February 14 or 28, and to include the Clerk of the Works.
- Stow will get federal aid for the Halloween storm.
- Negotiations with commercial solar vendors are underway. It is new; much is unknown. Other towns are doing the same.

### **Arbor Glen Access Easement**

An easement needs to be accepted by the Board to give the Conservation Commission access to the Arbor Glen open space. Ms. Spear moved to accept the public access agreement between Pulte Homes and the Town of Stow for the Arbor Glen Active Adult Neighborhood open space, dated January 24, 2012; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor. The executed agreement will be sent to Town Counsel for recording with the Registry of Deeds.

### **Transportation Advisory Committee**

There being no volunteers for this work, Ms. Spear moved to disband the Transportation Advisory Committee, created on May 24, 2011; Mr. Bernklow seconded; and all voted in favor.

At 8:55 p.m., 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