

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
July 10, 2012**

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

Also present was Town Administrator William Wrigley.

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

Public Input

None

Chair's Comments

There were no comments from the Chair.

Town Administrator's Activities Report

Mr. Wrigley reported the following:

Today, the Town's of Stow, Littleton and Boxboro submitted a regional Assistance To Firefighters Grant of \$710,813 to FEMA. It seeks funds to purchase an array of communication equipment for all three communities enabling all three towns to upgrade from low band VHS to high band UHF. If awarded, Stow will receive a total of \$238,768 to purchase equipment and the amount of our financial match will be \$35,815. We appropriated a \$40,000 match for this FEMA grant at a previous town meeting. As previously stated, this current grant application effort is a repeat of earlier unsuccessful FEMA grant application submissions. In this application, we have substantively beefed up the narrative and we have expanded the list of officials that are submitting letters of support for our project.

The general terms and conditions of the draft Takeover Agreement between the Town and Western Surety have been agreed to in principle. There is bit of language tweaking that remains to be reviewed and agreed to by the parties. I should be able to execute the contract next week.

On Saturday, June 30, 2012, our working group interviewed the three departmental finalists being considered for promotion to fill the open police sergeant position. The interviews represent the last component of the evaluative process. We will be meeting next Wednesday, the 12th, to compile the total grade for each candidate and to choose one of the three candidates for recommendation to the full board for promotion. All three of the candidates possess the requisite professional and personal qualifications and experience to successfully assume the rank of sergeant. We will make our recommendation at the Selectmen's meeting on July 24th.

We recently received the FY-2013 Conference Committee Budget recommendation. It effects Stow directly in the area municipal local aid. Up until the Conference Committee Budget recommendation of a couple weeks ago, to be conservative, I had been carrying the Governor's recommended FY-2013 local aid amounts as plug numbers. The new FY-2013 Cherry Sheet carrying the Conference Committee local aid amounts shows Stow receiving \$26,155 more in total municipal local aid than the governor recommended.

Brian Stearns, Stow Veterans Agent for the last couple years is resigning effective the end of July. Brian has a qualified veteran who is interested in becoming our next Veterans Agent. Susan will post the opening and we should be in position to replace Brian at the end of the month.

Meeting Minutes

None

Appointment of MART Representative

After a brief discussion Mr. Bernklow moved to appoint COA Executive director Alyson Toole as Stow's representative to the MART Advisory Board for a one-year term ending on June 30, 2013; Mr. Salvie seconded; and all voted in favor.

Appointment of Firefighters

Mr. Bernklow moved the following:

To appoint Carolyn Fisher to the Stow Fire Rescue Department as a Firefighter/EMT for a one-year term ending on June 30, 2013 and

To appoint Gregg Silverio to the Stow Fire Rescue Department as a call Firefighter for a one-year term ending on June 30, 2013

Mr. Salvie seconded; and all voted in favor.

Stow Conservation Trust "Bike for the Woods" Permit

Mr. Salvie advised the board he would abstain from discussion and voting as he is associated with the event. Mr. Salvie provided a brief presentation about the event.

Mr. Ryan moved issue a permit for the use of public ways and Town land to the Stow Conservation Trust for its annual Bike for the Woods event on Sunday August 26, 2012 conditional on having the required insurance. Mr. Bernklow seconded.
Motion passed – Kern, Ryan, Bernklow, Hawkes in favor; Salvie abstain.

Donation for Lower Village Gateway Sign from Stow Garden Club

Daisy Dearborn visited as a representative of the Stow Garden Club offering a donation of \$2,000 in funds toward the purchase of a Lower Village Gateway sign. Karen Kelleher (Planning Board Admin.) clarified that this donation would also be used for installation of the sign.

Mr. Salvie commented that he was excited about the sign and it will be erected just east of the Cemetery on Rt. 117.

Mr. Salvie moved to accept the \$2000.00 cash donation from the Stow Garden Club toward the purchase and installation of a Lower Village Gateway Sign as described in the Planning Board memo of June 21, 2012; Mr. Hawkes seconded; and all voted in favor.

Randall Library Building project update – Committee and consultants

Mr. Stewart Roberts, Principal of Johnson Roberts Associates provided an update on the progress of the Library improvement committee project.

Johnson Roberts has completed the assessment of the Library Building condition and water infiltration issues and has the following observations:

The good news is that the original (1892) section of the building is in good condition for the most part. Mechanical and plumbing systems are also in reasonable shape.

The bad news is the newer section (1970's) was not built to last and is not of the same quality construction that would be done now. Books cannot be located on the second floor of the newer section as it was not built to support the load. The terrace on the upper level is a problem to keep water out of which has caused many water problems over the years.

Additional issues identified are that some sections of duct work on the roof are water logged, there is no fire suppression system and books cannot be located on the second floor of the old (1892) section.

The challenge will be how to better use the older section of the Library. There are (3) options being looked at: as is, minor modifications and major reconstruction.

Mr. Salvie commented that Bruce Fletcher and Craig Martin have been very helpful in the evaluation process.

Steve Jelinek (Capital Planning and Library Building Committee) commented that Johnson Roberts has been working out very well for the Committee and the challenge is going to be what to do with the newer (1970's) section of the Library.

Daisy Dearborn commented that she likes the Library as it was designed by a woman and want to save it.

Linda Hathaway asked for clarification about not putting books on the second floor of the old section of the Library. Mr. Roberts stated that not many books will be able to be put on the second floor of the older section due to degradation of the original structure when changes were made during addition of the 1970's addition.

Discussion on dates for fall Special Town Meeting and Election

Various scenarios were discussed with Town Clerk Linda Hathaway.

At this point Mr. Wrigley has not received an answer from Superintendent Wood if all of the scenarios proposed by Ms. Hathaway would work for the Nashoba Regional School District. The District must be able to get an answer to the MSBA on the Town's vote relative to borrowing as soon as possible. Ms. Hathaway would prefer the later dates toward the end of November but can work with earlier dates.

Discussion ensued and the consensus was that while inconvenient there would be greater voter participation if we held the Special Town Meeting on October 29/30 with a Special Election in conjunction with the National Election on November 6.

Mr. Salvie moved to hold the Fall Special Town Meeting on October 29&30, 2012 and the Special Election on November 6, 2012; Mr. Hawkes seconded; and all voted in favor.

Approval of [police/fire/dispatch] collective bargaining agreement(s).

This item was tabled to a future meeting

Approval of Kearsarge Solar LLC tax agreement

After a brief discussion; Mr. Salvie moved move to approve the Kearsarge Solar LLC agreement with the Town of Stow, dated July 10, 2012 Mr. Bernklow seconded; and all voted in favor.

Gift to the Town from the Halprins – artwork

Lew and Judith Halprin joined the board to discuss the Halprins offer of framed artwork (an extra panel originally planned for the electric box on the Town Common).

Ms. Halprin commented that she was surprised that they needed to come back to defend their offer. The panel in question was originally commissioned and paid for by the Stow Cultural Council and the Halprins had paid for the framing at their expense. Mr. Halprin mentioned that the Cultural Council had commissioned the work to make the electric box on the Town Common look better and felt it would be a nice transition in the entrance of the Town Building.

Mr. Kern commented that he was not inclined to accept the artwork as he did not want to set a precedent of accepting works of art.

Mr. Ryan commented that he was willing to accept the work as it was commissioned by the Cultural Council, but not with any conditions attached.

Mr. Salvie stated he did not want to start a precedent of accepting artwork.

Mr. Hawkes is concerned that if we start to accept artwork it may be used as a tax deduction. Where do we stand if other people come forward?

Mr. Bernklow commented he does not object to accepting without stipulations, it was commissioned for a box on the street not for inside the building.

Ms. Hathaway commented from the audience that she felt there may be a better place in the building other than the foyer such as the Whitney Room.

Subsequent discussion indicated that Ms. Halprin wanted the donation to be contingent on the Board's agreement that the artwork would be displayed in the foyer of the Town Building.

Mr. Ryan moved to accept the donation of the framed panel of artwork described in Mr. Halprin's April 17 letter, for display in the Town Building foyer.

In Favor – Hawkes

Opposed – Bernklow, Kern, Ryan, Salvie – Motion did not carry.

Liaison Reports

Smart Sewering Project: Mr. Hawkes mentioned Planning Coordinator Karen Kelleher had sent out a note for a joint boards meeting relative to this concept to see if there was interest. Does the Town want to or have the ability to get into the sewer business? Mr. Hawkes and Mr. Salvie will attend the Joint Boards meeting. Mr. Wrigley commented that if monies are put into a study by the State they would have some expectation of a project at some point; Joint Boards is the place to start.

Mr. Wrigley was excused at 9:10PM

ESBC: Mr. Kern stated things are going well with the change in the general contractor. Should be “substantially complete” by July 30. Mr. Bernklow concurred and is more confident in completion.

Mr. Salvie commented on the following:

SMAHT will be meeting tomorrow night.

The Library is starting conversations with the adjacent Church to see if they can come up with some parking solutions for the Library.

The Energy Working Group is looking into possible energy saving solutions and a possible small scale solar array.

Mr. Salvie is working with Planning Coordinator Karen Kelleher to see if there is interest in re starting the Stow Business Association or similar economic development group.

Mr. Bernklow mentioned the Cable group is still negotiating with Comcast on the latest cable contract.

At 9:18 p.m., Mr. Hawkes moved to adjourn; Mr. Salvie seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas E Ryan
Clerk, Board of Selectman

Approved October 9 2012