

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
February 28, 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.

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

Public Input

None.

Chair's Comments

Mr. Salvie noted the need for volunteers for Town Boards and the upcoming Presidential primary Election.

Joint Appointment, with Planning Board, of Planning Board member

At this time, Mr. Salvie recused himself from the joint Planning Board/ Board of Selectmen appointment of a Planning Board member, and turned the chair over to Mr. Kern. Mr. Salvie's wife, Kathleen Sferra, was one of the Planning Board applicants.

The Planning Board members in attendance were Lori Clark, Ernie Dodd, Len Golder, and Steve Quinn. Mr. Kern described the appointment process. He said there were three candidates for the one vacant Planning Board seat: Brian Martinson, Martha Monroe, and Kathleen Sferra. Being an elected position, this appointment would last until the Annual Town Meeting in May. For each candidate, he would ask for a motion to discuss. Following discussion of the three candidates, he would ask for a motion to appoint.

Mr. Ryan moved to discuss the qualifications of Brian Martinson; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor. It was noted that Mr. Martinson was presently a voting associate member; he was interested, prepared, informed, and attended all meetings; and was a member of the Lower Village Sub-committee.

Mr. Ryan moved to discuss the qualifications of Martha Monroe; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor. It was noted that Ms. Monroe was an associate member of the Planning Board and a member of the Pedestrian Walkway Committee; a hard worker who "puts in her time."

Mr. Ryan moved to discuss the qualifications of Kathy Sferra; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor. It was noted that Ms. Sferra served on the Marshfield Planning Board for eight years; was a member of the Cape Cod Commission; has a Master's degree in Planning; is a member of the Conservation Commission; and "has the best sense of the Master Plan. "

Following discussion of the three candidates, Mr. Quinn moved that the Board of Selectmen and Planning Board jointly appoint Kathy Sferra to the Planning Board to serve until the 2012 Town Election; Mr. Dodd seconded. For discussion on the motions, it was generally agreed that all of the candidates were qualified to serve. Several people said that they felt Mr. Martinson, as an associate member, should be appointed because that was way appointments were generally made. Following discussion, five officials voted in favor (Dodd, Kern, Quinn, Ryan, and Spear) and

three voted opposed (Bernklow, Clark, and Golder). The motion carried and Ms. Sferra was appointed.

At 7:18 p.m., Mr. Salvie rejoined the meeting.

Recognition of February 3, 2011 Delaney Rescue Team

Mr. Salvie publicly recognized the Stow public safety personnel who rescued a father and son lost at the Delaney project on February 3, 2011. The emergency call came in through 911 from the father's cell phone. He and his son were lost somewhere in the Delaney wildlife area in the dark and bitter cold. Police, Fire, and Emergency Dispatch worked as a team to triangulate the call, find the pair in waist-deep snow, and transport them to safety.

Fire Chief McLaughlin and Police Chief Bosworth said the rescue team's effort probably saved the lives of the two Stow residents and acknowledged the Highway Department's contributions. Town Administrator Wrigley said the rescue reflects the departments' Can-Do attitude. Other officials added their praise.

Ms. Spear moved that the Board recognize the following public safety personnel for the February 3, 2011 rescue operation at the Delaney project:

1. Fire Lieutenant Chris Camelio
2. Fire Lieutenant Barry Evers
3. Firefighter Jeremy Fiorvanti
4. Dispatcher Samantha Howard
5. Police Sergeant Timothy Lima
6. Detective Michael Sallese
7. Firefighter Michael Scimeca
8. Police Officer Darren Thraen

Mr. Ryan seconded and all voted in favor.

Mr. Salvie presented letters of appreciation to the rescuers and certificates of commendation to both departments, which was followed by a standing ovation from all in attendance. The certificates read:

COMMENDATION

WHEREAS, On the night of February 3, 2011 at 22:55 hours members of the Stow Police and Fire Departments responded to a call for assistance from a father and son who were lost in the Delaney Wildlife Area in deep snow and near zero temperatures; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Stow Police and Fire Departments working in close cooperation with each other, using GPS technology to estimate an approximate location for the pair, then entered the area by foot, located the father and son who were suffering from frostbite and hypothermia, rescued the pair from Delaney, and transported them to the hospital.

NOW, THEREFORE, this 28th day of February 2012, the Stow Board of Selectmen does resolve and declare:

On behalf of the Town of Stow we commend the following members of the Stow Police and Fire Departments for their outstanding efforts, professional response and teamwork under difficult conditions that resulted in an outcome of which we are all proud.

Town Administrator's Fiscal Year 2013 Financial State of the Town

Per Town of Stow Charter, Town Administrator Wrigley held his annual joint boards meeting on the financial state of the Town, with the Board of Assessors, Capital Planning and Finance committees, and the two school districts.

Board of Assessors: Chair Dom Pugliese said the \$200,000 in forecasted New Growth continues a trend on declining growth. Arbor Glen development is complete, Villages at Stow and Derby Woods are close to done, and there are no ANRs (Approval Not Required subdivisions) in progress.

People are highly leveraged and there are less and less renovation and building projects. He expects this to continue next year. The assessors dropped the forecast from \$373,000 to \$200,000.

Capital Planning Committee: Chair Steve Jelinek said there is now a total of \$581,000 in capital requests, \$100,000 of which is a Community Preservation Fund item. This number is in line with prior years. It does not include the three proposed building projects or Stow's portion, \$68,000, of the \$2,200,000 Nashoba Regional High School project for a new track. The track borrowing will be in Stow's assessments by the district; the debt repayment begins in 2014.

The three biggest capital items are \$100,000 requested by the Town Clerk for the first phase of a document preservation project (CPA funds), \$145,000 for air conditioning at the Hale Middle school, and \$60,000 for a new highway dept brush chipper.

Nashoba Regional School District: Superintendent Michael Wood said the school committee just voted to approve an FY 2013 budget increase of 3.3 percent. He said there are no "one-time" funds left on which to draw and they moved \$1,000,000 from the excess and deficiency account back to the operating budget. Special Education Circuit Breaker and regional transportation funding are expected to be level funded. The teachers' contract is in its first year of three, with COLA percent increases of 2.5 (1st year), 1.5 (2nd year), and 1.5 (3rd year).

Minuteman Regional Vocational Technical School: School Committee Chair Alice DeLuca said that Minuteman's FY 2013 budget increase will be in the 4.0- to 4.1-percent range but Stow's assessment will be down, due to enrollment. Major issues are 1) an emergency renovation of the Trades Hall costing \$475,000, 2) getting the 16 member towns to approve the umbrella renovation project, allowing reimbursement by the Mass School Building Authority, and 3) establishing a Stabilization Fund, allowing the District to put aside funds for capital projects.

Mr. Wrigley added several points. There will be an article at Town Meeting to appropriate and transfer FY 2012 funds from Free Cash to pay Stow's portion of the Hall of Trades renovation. At an earlier Town Meeting, Stow voted in favor of establishing a Minuteman Stabilization Fund and will not need to repeat the vote.

Lastly, Ms. DeLuca said the school committee has looked at various changes to the regional agreement but has not yet found anything that all 16 towns will agree to.

Finance Committee: Chair Ann Deluty reported that the Finance Committee is presently reviewing the FY 2013 budget and warrant articles.

Mr. Wrigley closed the joint boards meeting by saying that Stow will once again have a balanced budget.

Town Administrator's Activities Report

Mr. Wrigley reported on the following:

- The Community Center Building committee has received 13 proposals in response to its RFP.
- He is working with the Police Chief on evaluating applications for the vacant sergeant's position. The first level will be vetting the applicants by a very experienced group, including Sgt Marino. The second level will be evaluated by Mr. Wrigley, Mr. Ryan, the two chiefs, and Superintendent of Streets Clayton.
- He held an initial meeting with the Insurance Advisory Committee, representatives for the Town employees and retirees, on the changes resulting from the recent insurance reform legislation. He explained the relationship between the state GIC program and the Minuteman Nashoba look-alikes and the timeframe for decision making.

Conflict of Interest Filing

The Board voted to approve Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin's part time, temporary work for the Randall Library Building Committee, per state Ethics regulations. The motion for the Board of Selectmen and a similar motion for the Randall Library Building Committee, were drawn up by Town Counsel Jon Witten.

Mr. Kern moved that, pursuant to G.L. c.268A, s.20(b) and the exemption from the Conflict of Interest Law provided therein, the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the request made by Susan McLaughlin to provide administrative support services to the Randall Library Building Committee for a period not to exceed 500 hours during the 2012 calendar year and to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all applicable forms as required by law to formalize the Board's vote in this matter. Mr. Ryan seconded and all voted in favor.

The Board signed the Conflict of Interest exemption form, which will be filed with the Selectmen's Office.

Liaison Reports

Police Department: Obtained an \$18,000 grant for emergency dispatch training which is now required. Without the grant, the town would have had to pay for it.

Elementary School Building Committee: Children moved into the new part of the building.

Community Center Building Committee: Received 13 proposals and is selecting vendors.

Multi-Use Track Road Committee: Trying to resolve a conflict, where Federal funds for rail trails cannot be expended for use by motorized vehicles.

Randall Library Building Committee: Finishing the proposal evaluation sheets.

Planning Board: Involved in solar and wireless overlay districts.

MAGIC: Surveying member towns of agriculture.

Local Area Channel Access Committee: Met with Comcast and committee's attorney on contract renewal. Next meeting is in one month.

Nashoba Regional School District: Committee is voting on Fiscal Year 2013 budget this week.

Mr. Bernklow said that Cameron Kerr, a Troop 1 Eagle Scout badly injured while serving in Iraq, is presently in Antarctica on an expedition.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Bernklow moved to adjourn; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved May 29, 2012