

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 7, 2012**

Present at the meeting that was held at the Hale Middle School Library were Selectmen Gary Bernklow, James Salvie, and Laura Spear.

Also present were Town Administrator William Wrigley, Town Counsel Jon Witten, and Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin.

Mr. Salvie called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.
Selectmen Charles Kern and Thomas Ryan joined the meeting shortly after it began.

Town Meeting Preparation

It was agreed that all preparation was complete.

Selection of Fire Station Building Committee Designer

Fire Chief McLaughlin joined the Board to summarize the selection process of the design firm. Thirty-five copies of the Request for Proposals (RFPs) were sent out. Seventeen firms attended the fire station walk-through. Thirteen firms submitted proposals. The Building Committee selected four finalists, then held interviews, and recommends Donham & Sweeney. Mr. Wrigley said he has been in touch with the principals and has requested that they begin to prepare a scope of services for the pre-design work.

Ms. Spear moved to hire the recommended firm, Donham & Sweeney, Inc Architects, for the pre-design work on the Fire Station building project, subject to the Town Administrator's successful negotiations of a fee contract. She further moved to authorize Mr. Wrigley to undertake contract negotiations with the firm. Mr. Bernklow seconded and all voted in favor.

In response to Mr. Salvie's inquiry about the status of hiring the Library Building design firm, Mr. Wrigley said he asked Johnson Roberts to prepare a scope of services and was waiting to receive it.

Town Administrator's Volunteer Services to Orange, MA

Mr. Wrigley explained that his home town, Orange, needed help managing town operations following the sudden departure of its Town Administrator and his replacement. He wished to volunteer his services in town administration while the town found a replacement, and requested the Board's approval, per the Town of Stow Charter.

Ms. Spear moved to support the Town Administrator's donation of his professional services to temporarily assist the Town of Orange municipal government; Mr. Bernklow seconded; and all voted in favor.

Follow-up on the Gas Pipe Incident at Center School

Mr. Wrigley reported that he received Clerk of the Works Glenn Davis's report on the incident, which he forwarded to the Board earlier. He has asked Mr. Davis and Building Commissioner Martin to get an accurate plan for the gas line location from NSTAR, since the two lines shown on Stow's As Built plan are both incorrect.

He wants to know whether Dig Safe or NSTAR is responsible for the error and what quality assurance steps will be taken to ensure that such a serious incident does not happen again. If these agencies are not forthcoming, he will have Town Counsel demand the As Built. Otherwise, the construction crew must “scratch back” to determine the actual location of the pipes. Mr. Salvie said that, after answers are provided, the Town must meet with whoever is responsible and find out why this occurred.

Board’s Position on Warrant Articles

Board of Assessors Chair Dom Pugliese and Principal Assessor Dorothy Wilbur joined the Board to discuss the proposed tax agreements for the two commercial solar businesses to be located in Stow, the subject of Articles 46 and 47. Mr. Witten said he provided his advice regarding the assignment clause, i.e. whether the Board of Selectmen must assign to a comparable entity (e.g., Hudson Light & Power), compared to have an option. He said the current version of the agreement is not as strongly written as it could be, but he is comfortable with it. There selectmen and assessors agreed. Mr. Pugliese noted that the final negotiations gave the Town a reasonable percent of revenues, a floor for the rate, and a few other benefits.

The Board’s votes on three warrant articles are as follows.

Article 33, Nashoba Regional High School Athletic Facilities

Mr. Ryan moved to not support Article 33, Nashoba Regional High School Athletic Facilities. Mr. Kern seconded. Board members stated their reasons for supporting the expenditure or not, after which four members voted in favor (Bernklow, Kern, Ryan, and Salvie), no one opposed, and one abstained (Spear). The motion not to support passed unanimously.

Article 46, Syncarpha Solar, LLC Tax Agreement

Ms. Spear moved to support Article 46, Syncarpha Solar, LLC Tax Agreement; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Article 47, Kearsarge Solar, LLC Tax Agreement

Ms. Spear moved to support Article 47, Kearsarge Solar, LLC Tax Agreement; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

At 6:55 p.m., Mr. Bernklow moved to recess to the close of Town Meeting; Ms. Spear seconded; and all voted in favor.

At 10:50 p.m., with Town Meeting over and no other business before the Board, Mr. Bernklow moved to adjourn, Ms. Spear seconded, and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved May 29, 2012