

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
August 14, 2012**

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

Also present was Administrative Assistant Susan McLaughlin; Town Administrator William Wrigley was absent.

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

**Public Input**

None.

**Chair's Comments**

Mr. Kern reminded people of the public forum on the Randall Library building plans on August 20 and announced that the move from Pompo to the new school is in progress.

**Meeting Minutes**

None.

**Appointment to SpringFest Organizing Committee**

Resident and employee Elizabeth Tobey requested appointment to the SpringFest Organizing Committee, noting that she volunteered at this year's Children's Fest (held in lieu of the full SpringFest Event) and wished to help with more community projects. In addition to being the Town's IT Director and Finance Committee Secretary, Ms. Tobey is a life-long Stow resident.

Several selectmen suggested bringing back some events from earlier times, including a canoe race and lawn mower rally.

Mr. Ryan moved to appoint Elizabeth Tobey to the SpringFest Organizing Committee for a two-year term, ending June 30, 2014; Mr. Bernklow seconded; and all voted in favor.

**Uncollected EMS bills**

Chief McLaughlin visited to Board, on behalf of the Town Accountant and himself, to request the Board's approval to write off past bills for ambulance service that are classified as uncollectable and have accumulated over the last 12 years. He also asked the Board to authorize him to write off future balances, when he sees the need.

The 12-year accumulation occurred under the Town's previous billing service, Comstar. On July 1, 2011, he switched to Coastal, which he judges to be a more competitive company.

When Coastal took over collections, there was a receivable balance of \$186,774.81, which was down to \$150,546.25 by September 30, 2011. All of the bills in the remaining balance are over 120 days old and the chance of collecting is slim. This write-off will not affect the Town's budget, per se, because the Town only counts amounts actually received.

The Board discussed whether to hire a collection agency before writing off the bills but determined that it would do little for various reasons, for example that some people had passed away and the estates had already been settled and other people could not afford to pay.

Mr. Bernklow, who has professional expertise in this area, said that the normal window of payment for medical claims is 18 months and that anything older is probably uncollectable. He noted that a 90-percent collection rate, which Coastal has, is exceptional.

Following discussion, Mr. Ryan moved, as recommended by the Town Accountant and Fire Chief, to authorize the Town Accountant to write off the remaining balance of the Town's ambulance receivables, in excess of two years old, accrued under Comstar Ambulance Billing service, as uncollectable; and to authorize the Fire Chief to write off future uncollectable ambulance amounts over two years old, as he deems appropriate; Mr. Hawkes seconded; and all voted in favor.

**Appointment of Fire Department administrative assistant**

Mr. Bernklow moved, as recommended the Fire Department Officer Management Team, to appoint Judson Swinimer to the open position of Firefighter/EMT/Administrator; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

**Conservation Restriction for Derby Woods open space parcel**

No action was taken. It was generally agreed that Habitech and the Stow Conservation Trust would work out an agreement of the three conditions specified in SCT member Gary Horowitz's letter to the Board, dated August 14, 2012.

**Conservation Restriction for Corzine open space parcel**

No action was taken. The Board requested that Town Counsel review the document before the Board approves it.

**Letters of recognition for two Eagle Scouts**

The Board signed letters and certificates of recognition for Eagle Scouts Erick Benoit and Harrison Krantz, who will attend the next meeting.

**Acceptance of Arbor Glen AAN public access agreement**

Mr. Bernklow moved to accept the Arbor Glen public access agreement, as specified and defined by the Planning Board as a condition in the Special Permit for the Arbor Glen Active Adult Neighborhood; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

**Acceptance of Country Club Estates open space parcel**

No action was taken. The Board asked that more information be made available before the Board accepts it.

**Discussion of meetings and public forums for three Town building projects**

The Board agreed to the following dates proposed by Mr. Kern for one joint boards meeting and two public forums regarding the three building projects:

- Sept 11: Joint boards meeting to plan Town Meeting presentations on the projects
- Sept 27 and Oct 18: Public forums for all three projects

**Approval of 2012 Positive Spin for ALS bike ride on Sept 9**

On this annual event for the Town, Mr. Hawkes moved to approve the use of Town public ways for the 2012 Positive Spin for ALS bike ride on Sunday, September 9, 2012; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

**Liaison Reports**

**Historical Commission:** Mr. Kern asked Ms. McLaughlin to update the Board on the Stow Musket, which she reported is now installed in its case in the Randall Library. Mr. Kern thanked Ms. McLaughlin for her work getting this accomplished.

**Planning Board:** Would like a letter from the selectmen formally responding to MAPC's Smart Sewering Project proposal. They are applying for an up-to-\$10,000 loan for business district development.

**Fire Station Building Committee:** The project is moving forward. To look at reducing cost, both the Community Center and Fire Station committees are once again looking at Pompo as the location of the fire station.

**ESBC:** The children will be at their desks on September 4.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin  
Administrative Assistant

Approved August 28, 2012