

**MINUTES  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
February 12, 2013**

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

Thomas Ryan was absent.

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

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

**Public Input**

The Town Clerk reminded voters of several upcoming deadlines for the state and local elections and she presented a proposal to hold the state primary and Stow annual elections on the same date, that of the state primary on April 30. She will prepare a draft timeline of the elections for the Board's consideration on at the next meeting.

**Chairman's Comments**

Mr. Kern gave a Tip of the Hat to the Highway Department for their excellent storm management during the most recent storm.

He also acknowledged Congenital Heart Defect Week, reading information the Board received from the president of "It's My Heart – New England Chapter," and resident Anna-mary Geist.

**Town Administrator's Activities Report**

Mr. Wrigley's report is his preliminary FY2014 budget, to be discussed later in the meeting.

**Meeting Minutes**

None.

**Conservation Commission appointment**

Mr. Jeff Saunders visited the Board requesting appointment to an open position on the Conservation Commission. He summarized his qualifications, which include working as an environmental consultant for the past five years. He said he is comfortable with the time commitment required by the Commission. He has served as an Associate Member since June and the Commission highly recommends the appointment.

Mr. Salvie moved to appoint Jeffrey Saunders to the Conservation Commission, on the Commission's recommendation, to complete an unexpired three-year term ending June 30, 2015; Mr. Bernklow seconded; and all voted in favor.

**Call Firefighter/EMT appointment**

The Fire Chief requested the appointment of a new call firefighter/EMT.

Mr. Salvie moved to appoint Roberto B. Magdaleno as a call firefighter/EMT for the Town of Stow, Mr. Hawkes seconded; and all voted in favor.

### **Oversight of Capital Building projects**

The Board had an extensive discussion of how to oversee and direct the three building project committees – Pompo, the library, and the fire station – so that a multi-choice and prioritized solution could be presented to Town Meeting.

The Board used Mr. Salvie’s draft “Oversight committee scope of work” as a starting point for the discussion. In it, he proposed a seven-member committee to develop a recommended strategy for the Town’s reconsideration of the building projects. Its written report will be ready for the Board of Selectmen, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning Committee by September 30, 2013. He listed five items for the Oversight Committee’s scope of work.

Mr. Kern envisioned the committee’s composition as three selectmen, one Finance Committee member, one Capital Planning Committee member, one At-Large member, and the Town Administrator.

The following points were raised:

- Three selectmen constitutes a quorum, so this must be a committee, following the Open Meeting Law, and so forth.
- At the October 29, 2012 Special Town Meeting, the voters did not know how much due diligence had been done.
- Their overriding concern is affordability.
- This committee will instruct, control, and manage the building committees and report back at each selectmen’s meeting.
- The September 30, 2013 due date for the report is in line with a Fall Town Meeting.
- The existing building committees will likely continue.

Residents Jim Sauta and Kevin Keenan asked whether more money would be allocated to the projects for the committees to continue their work, such as researching alternatives. The Library Committee has roughly \$10,000 remaining and the others have \$1,200 or so.

Mr. Keenan asked whether the oversight committee could take a broader view and include the school district. Mr. Wrigley replied that this is not a master plan committee.

Twenty years ago, a study of municipal buildings was done; since then five buildings have been done – town hall, police station, and three schools, but not the fire station, which was to be done after the police station. This time, the committees will prioritize and present choices, Mr. Wrigley said. He suggested that the first meeting be a scoping session.

Mr. Salvie moved to create a seven-member Oversight Committee, with three selectmen and the Town Administrator. He further moved that the At-Large member position be posted and the Capital Planning and Finance committees asked to appoint their representatives. Mr. Bernklow seconded and all voted in favor.

### **Town Administrator’s preliminary FY 2014 budget**

Mr. Wrigley said that this was his preliminary budget. The balanced budget comes at the end of March.

At present, the town is running ahead on local receipts. With the new state law, he wants to create a special fund for healthcare. For expenditures, there has been a large increase in debt service. There is \$2,169,074 in stored assets.

Mr. Salvie asked whether to tap Free Cash and Stabilization for the building projects. This could mean no borrowing. Additionally, any Community Preservation Fund funds reduce the building projects cost.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr Kern excused Mr. Wrigley from the remainder of the meeting.

**Liaison Reports:**

Mr. Salvie said that SMAHT is still reviewing the town-owned land options. He will check whether the consultant's presentations are on-line.

Mr. Bernklow said there are still some contractual issues with the ESBC contractors. It is good news that the Hartley Road lights have finally been replaced, thanks to Building Commissioner Martin working with NRSD Facilities Manager Cleary.

Mr. Hawkes reported that the latest Tri-Town Meeting involved:

- A review of the NRSD budget summary with attention to Bolton's share of the assessment. He is concerned that Stow's might be overstated, as well.
- The district's School Choice figures are 74 students out and 240 students in.
- There are many calls from the NRSD to the Bolton Police Department requesting assistance at the high school. It is running at 480 calls a year, which means three calls a day.

The next Tri-Town Meeting will be on March 6, 7:00 pm, in the Warren Room.

Reporting on the Conservation Commission's activities, Mr. Hawkes said that Craig Martin proposed a small hydro-electric generator at the Lake Boon dam. With 10 kw output from 400 gallons a minute, the electricity generated could mean \$10,000 income for the Town.

At 8:55 p.m., Mr. Hawkes moved to adjourn; Mr. Salvie seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin  
Administrative Assistant

Approved March 12, 2013