

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
January 22, 2013**

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

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

Paul McLaughlin of 110 Hudson Road presented a statement on behalf of the Concerned Citizens' of Stow (CCS) regarding the selectmen's anticipated creation of an oversight committee for the three municipal building projects. He said that CCS hopes that members of the committee will be free from a passion for any one of the projects; that they will be sensitive to the fact that Stow property tax increases have outpaced property value appreciation for the past decade; and that various options be investigated, such as a regionalized approach and available grant funding. Lastly, CCS would like to see the probable tax-rate increases due to any of the proposed projects.

Chairman's Comments

Mr. Kern announced several upcoming events, including a "volunteer recruitment evening" for Town committees and the mid-February deadline for the Town Administrator's and Administrative Assistant's performance reviews.

Town Administrator's Activities Report

Mr. Wrigley reported on the following:

- His Fiscal Year 2014 budget has estimates for all items except for the Nashoba Regional School District assessment. Several numbers are running much higher this year, i.e., capital requests, Minuteman District assessment, and the annual debt payment. He will present a preliminary "Department Requests" budget to the Board on February 12, followed by his joint boards meeting on the Financial State of the Town on February 26. On March 28, he will present his recommended FY 2014 budget to the Board for approval.
- He held his first meeting on the revised animal control statute with the Board of Health and Town Clerk. They expect to have an article for May Town Meeting on proposed changes to the Animal Control Bylaw to meet the revisions of MGL Chapters 129 and 140 enacted in 2012.
- The Town and the school district have agreed on two remaining repairs at Pompo: replacement of the exhaust flue for the main boiler and repair or replacement of several exterior lights. After successful completion, the Town will accept custody of the building.
- The local clerical union is considering decertifying. He will keep the Board informed.

Mr. Hawkes announced that the NRSD FY14 budget meeting would be held on Saturday, February 2.

Meeting Minutes

Nov 13: Mr Hawkes moved to accept the November, 13, 2012 minutes, as submitted; Mr. Salvie seconded; and all voted in favor, with Mr. Ryan abstaining.

Jan 8: Mr. Salvie moved to accept the January 8, 2013 minutes, as amended; Mr. Bernklow seconded; and all voted in favor, with Mr. Ryan abstaining.

Employee Notice of Conflict of Interest

The Board of Selectmen's Office Assistant Phoebe Haberkorn formerly worked at the front desk of the Randall Library. Library Director Melissa Fournier asked Ms. Haberkorn if she would occasionally fill in at front desk when she was short-staffed.

Due to the most recent Ethics regulations from the state, this required the filing of a Conflict-of-Interest exemption form, signed by both "employers," and then filed with the Selectmen's Office.

Mr. Salvie moved, pursuant to G.L. c.268A, s.20(b) and the exemption from the Conflict of Interest Law provided therein, to approve the request made by Phoebe Haberkorn to provide library aide services at the Randall Library front desk, for a period not to exceed 500 hours during the 2013 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. Mr. Kern executed the form.

Energy Working Group and "All Fuels Audits"

Arnie Epstein, a co-chair of the Energy Working group; visited the Board to update them on the group's activities and propose "all energy" audits for the Town Hall and Police Station.

The Energy group was formed by the Town Administrator in 2009 to seek out opportunities to use alternative energy, e.g. solar, for the town's buildings and land. The group's website address is SustainableStow.org.

Their latest investigation has been the possibility of solar collectors on town facilities. The collectors would be roof mounted and need a southern exposure. Their report indicated several potential sites.

The Town Building does not have enough space. The Police Station does not have enough sun. Pompo is a potential site, if the roof is in good enough shape.

Tonight, Mr. Epstein asked the Board for funds to conduct an "All Fuels" audit of the Town Building and the Police Station. This type of audit looks at all fuels: electric, oil, and gas, and evaluates their efficiency. For example, it would include the boiler in the Town Building, which is 23 years old, and the Police Station's, which was installed in 1995.

Hudson Light & Power is offering rebates on electric (up to \$15,000) and the group wants to meet with NStar about possible rebates for natural gas. They hope to contract with ECHO, a consultant recommended by Hudson Light & Power, in the next few months.

Mr. Salvie said it had been good working with Mr. Epstein and then made a motion to permit the Energy Working Group to spend \$1,450 from the Selectmen's Engineering Account to pay for "All Fuels" energy audits of the Town Building and Police Station, to be conducted by a contractor approved by the Hudson Light & Power Department. Mr. Hawkes seconded and all voted in favor.

Call Firefighter/EMT appointment

Fire Department Call Captain Rick Connelly asked the Board to appoint Nick Trioli as a call firefighter/EMT. He said that Mr. Trioli was a call firefighter previously but he moved farther east, and had to resign. Now Mr. Trioli is coming back, and would like to serve in Stow again.

Mr. Ryan moved to appoint Nick Trioli as a call firefighter/EMT for the Town of Stow, as requested by Fire Chief McLaughlin; Mr. Hawkes seconded; and all voted in favor.

Annual Town Meeting warrant dates

The Board took an official step for the Spring Town Meeting by voting dates to open and close the warrant.

Mr. Salvie moved that the Board open the May 2013 Annual Town Meeting warrant on January 23, 2013, and close the warrant on March 29, 2013; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

At 7:45, Mr. Wrigley left the meeting for home.

Positions for Annual Town Election Ballot

Another of the Board's responsibilities is to approve the annual Town Election ballot.

Mr. Salvie moved to include the following offices on the May 2013 Annual Town Election ballot:

Board of Assessors	One 3-year term
Board of Health	One 3-year term
Nashoba Regional School Committee	One 3-year term
Planning Board	One 5-year term
Trustee, Randall Library	Three 3-year terms
Board of Selectmen	Two 3-year terms
Town Moderator	One 3-year term

Mr. Hawkes seconded and all voted in favor.

Liaison Reports:

Mr. Bernklow said the NRSD will hold its first budget workshop on Saturday, February 2.

Mr. Salvie said that the Conservation Commission's vote in support of amending the conservation restriction on a parcel of municipal property in the Lower Village to permit putting a well there was the first step in the Article 97 process.

Mr. Kern said that the ESBC is winding down, with the next meeting scheduled for February 2.

Mr. Hawkes said that at the January 9 Tri-Town Meeting, Mr. Wood said he was planning to meet with capital Planning Chairman Steve Jelinek on the district's capital plans. The next meeting is scheduled for February 6 in Bolton.

Correspondence

Mr Salvie said that he responded to a resident's email about the slippery roads during the most recent storm. Highway Superintendent Mike Clayton explained that, contrary to what the resident had heard, his department did not wait until there was significant snow on the roads before they

started plowing. This particular storm was an anomaly as far as plowing was concerned. Mr. Salvie will follow up with the resident.

At approximately 7:50 p.m., Mr. Salvie moved to adjourn; Mr. Ryan seconded; and all voted in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan McLaughlin
Administrative Assistant

Approved February 26, 2013