

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes DATE 10.24.2023

Opening: The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm in Stow, Maine by Jim Wilfong.

Present

Selectmen: Ray Ryan, Jim Wilfong, Carl Lindblade

Town Clerk: Christine Carone **Treasurer:** Nancy Boros Deputy Clerk: Kathleen Panno

Road Agent: NA

Residents/Guests: John Berg, Stow resident

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from 10.10.2023 meeting **Selectman approve 3-0**

Treasures Report:

Cash Balance \$ 102,870

Warrant # 72 \$33,122.86 amended to **\$75,696.99** Approved **as amended 3-0**.

Our cash balance is \$102,870. We anticipate receiving tax revenue starting next month. We owe 4 months, or \$170,297 to MSAD 72. **The selectman approved sending one month payment, 3-0.** We are going to reclass about \$6k of road expenses and record it as prepaid inventory as we have several culverts in storage at the salt shed that were not used in 2023 and will be saved for 2024 projects.

J.Wilfong and I have a conference call with FEMA on 10.27.2023

I have not purchased a second modem, as I am sure what kind to buy. I would like to ask Rob Flint to suggest a modem from the Staples website. **Selectmen approve 3-0**

I have posted the tax commitment book on the website.

I have requested the Christmas tree power to be turned on after Nov 15th.

The Budget Committee, is meeting on either 11.15 or Monday, 11.20

Halloween party is this Sunday October 29th from 1-3 pm

Clerks Business:

Tax commitment papers are to be signed. Taxes were committed on October 19, 2023. Taxes are \$15 per mil and are December 1, 2023.

NIMS certification is being offered in Fryeburg in November. C. Carrone is requesting C. Lindblade and J.Wilfong to attend, both confirmed they would attend.

Harris Computer (Trio) is offering a web upgrade, the cost is about \$7300 plus \$3,000 per year maintenance. C. Carone suggests we do not upgrade; the Town uses the Real Estate module only. R. Ryan will review the Trio proposal and report at the next meeting.

C Carone has asked tables to be moved before voting day.

Deputy Clerk:

Kathleen Panno continues to work on the Freedom of Access Act project. She has created a response letter, application form and fee policy. She is asking the Selectmen to review her proposed letters and to review the FOAA material. The Selectmen will review the documents and approve the policy at the next meetings. The Selectmen were also asked to complete their FOAA training and submit to K. Panno at their earliest convenience. This must be completed annually.

Selectman's Reports:

Policy Contracts and Insurance (Ray Ryan)

Volunteer Insurance- will address in January 2024

Fee Policy (related to FOAA) – R. Ryan will review the policy template created by K. Panno and the Selectman will vote at the next meeting.

Snow Contract – will be put out for bid in May 2024.

Maintenance Report: (Carl Lindblade)

Deferred Maintenance schedule for Salt Shed and Town Hall will be completed January and will be used for the 2024 budget

Sealcoating of parking lot – tabled until spring 2024

Ordinance regarding lots with trailers on them and no septic system – planning board is overseeing this

Sale of foreclosed property –Articles in the town report will be updated and the property will be placed for sale in spring 2024

MMA grants –will be reviewed in January to determine if the town can apply for any funding

Road Report: (Jim Wilfong) We are working with FEMA to receive reimbursement for the road washout. There are two components, the first is to return the roads to pre-disaster condition, the second phase is to request funds for mitigation, e.g. to improve the roads and reduce damage in future storms. Both are subject to FEMA approval. Funds are expected to be received in 2024.

J. Wilfong oversaw the replacement and cold patching of the driveway culvert.

J. Wilfong will contact F. Wilson to install a septic cover and to move some rocks to top the culvert.

On Monday J.Blake will start replacing timbers on the bridge. In spring 2024 he will remove and replace more timbers. We are not working on the Shell Pond Bridge until the grant is confirmed. The dirt roads are in good shape we will not regrade the roads this November. If the condition of the roads changes, we will revisit this decision.

Open Issues:

Selectmen approve purchase of a second modem. This will be used for guests particularly during power outages when the town hall is open for residents. Awaiting advice from R. Flint regarding brand and model of modem. J. Wilfong will contact R. Flint regarding Gmail suite work.

J. Wilfong asked if Spectrum has started work. He was under the impression work would start in October.

New Business:

C. Lindblade was invited to join the Oxford County Budget Committee. He will not be at the 11.14.2023 select board meeting, as he will be at the Oxford County Budget Committee meeting. Selectman Lindblade introduced to the county group the suggestion that Oxford County request all non-profits submit their 990 tax return when they request funding. C. Lindblade further suggests the Town of Stow require the same standard. He also stated that some nonprofits submit applications to both the county and the towns.

October 31st there will be a general assistance audit, C. Lindblade will not be here he is giving a bus tour. K. Panno will meet with the state representative instead.

C. Lindblade stated he would have liked to go to the original FEMA meeting (held on September 8th) but was not informed of the date. C. Lindblade was invited to attend the semi-monthly phone conferences and to participate in the gathering of the required information for the application but declined.

R.Ryan stated he believes all Selectman should be involved with response to issues residents raise. The new email will improve this situation as all Selectman are able to access the correspondence sent to the Select board email.

John Berg requested a sign on Road 113 to inform truckers not to use their engine brake. Because it is a state road, the Select board can request the signage from the state but cannot put up a sign without corresponding with the state first. J. Wilfong will contact the state. **Selectmen approve 3-0**

J. Wilfong will have additional tree lights strung on town tree

Next meeting will be Tuesday 11/14/ 2023 at 6:00 pm

