

Town of Stow

Selectmen Meeting Minutes July 30, 2024

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

Present

Selectmen: Jim Wilfong, Carl Lindblade

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

Road Task Force: Steve Dupuis, Belle Stafford, Mike Tomaska, Matt Hatch.

Residents/Guests: Rob Flint, Planning Board member and Broadband Liaison

Approval of Agenda: Agenda approved (**Select board 2-0**)

Approval of Minutes: Minutes Approved from July 9, 2024, meeting (**Select board 2-0**)

Treasures Report:

Cash Balance \$129,758 this balance is before items on warrant 50 are recorded

Please note I have included Fire and Rescue and Harvest Hills payments – as we discussed paying them early rather than at year end.

Warrant # 50 \$63,452.95

(**Approved Select board 2-0**)

The Planning Board has requested a pay increase for their members. The net increase for the entire group is \$90. (**Approved Select board 2-0**)

Lake Region Energy contract – I have ordered propane at the summer price of \$1.75 to fill the tank for now. I have talked to Childre Hennelly they offered a price of \$2.25 for the 24/25 season (last year was \$2.599) (**Select board 2-0**)

Our first \$100k draw on the Tan note is scheduled for July 31st.

The Dec 18th Fema expenses - all projects for DR 4754 (project #s 745420, 745421 and 745423) are in FEMA final review.

We have 2 of the 7 projects for the May 1st storm DR 4710 reviewed, 5 more to go. Shellye Ross has been very responsive.

Lisa Moore of Blossom Flower Farm donated \$297 in flowers to the town, a thank you note was sent.

Clerks Business : Lien notices will be sent next week. Christine Carone provided Troy Morse with a snow contract bid application. The bids will be opened at the next Selectboard meeting, August 13. The bids are due to the town on Aug 1, 2024.

Deputy Clerk: No report

Selectman's Reports:

Policy Contracts and Insurance (Ray Ryan) No report

Maintenance Report: (Carl Lindblade) – Septic system is working well. Carl created a policy for emergency contracts, it will be reviewed when all selectmen are present.

Road Report (Jim Wilfong)

Rex Rolfe will screen more material in the fall for \$5,000. This is a significant savings for the town. Jim Wilfong – has submitted the grant progress report for Bridge Grant I to the USFS, he is waiting for a response as our contact is fighting the fires in California.

ME Dot will be sending out award/non-award letters the first full week of August (8/5/2024 – 8/9/2024) for the grant Jim Siragusa and Jim Wilfong applied for.

Open Issues: Broadband – R. Flint and C. Lindblade

The broadband project will commence in Q4 of 2023, per news from Spectrum. They did not provide a date the buildout would be completed. The Town of Stow has signed a contract with Spectrum to provide Broadband. The poles in Stow are not owned by Spectrum, therefore Spectrum must contract to have the pole work completed. Several towns worked together to seek grant funding. Spectrum declined to move forward with the grant but would build the broadband out with their own funding. A franchise agreement allows Spectrum to provide services to the town. The areas of Stow that require transit through Chatham NH will not be covered. Only legal town roads will be serviced.

New Business - Road Task Force –

Belle Stafford spoke with Heather Dumais, Hazard Mitigation Officer, regarding eligibility road funds for Stow.) There is a mitigation meeting with Heather Dumais on August 8th at 10 am. The Task Force is suggesting the focus be on Meadow Road for this funding as the state has a responsibility to repair the bridge on Meadow Lane. There is a significant number of residents on Union Hill Road that rely on Meadow Road for access. The Task Force stated that Brownfield has received \$90,000 in Mitigation funds. To date, Stow has submitted for reimbursement but has not received funding. The town has submitted mitigation requests to FEMA as well.

The Task Force suggested a part-time, or on call road agent. They suggested the Selectboard create a procedure for what information to collect when a flooding event occurs. Such as, pictures, GPS coordinates, damage dimensions, and cost estimates. The Task Force suggested the Selectboard seek cost estimates from LA Drew, Colemans and Burke for road improvements. Getting this information now would help the town prepare the 2025 budget and determine a timeline for the duration of the roadwork.

Adjourned 7:15pm. Next meeting will be Tuesday August 13, 2024

Open Items

Policy Contracts and Insurance (Ray Ryan)

Snow Contract – bidding – announced June 2024, deadline August 1, 2024

Obtaining cost to soundproof the town hall – in progress

MMA grants –will be reviewed in January to determine if the town can apply for any funding – (C. Lindblade and R. Ryan)

Maintenance and Broadband: (Carl Lindblade)

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

Sale of foreclosed properties – in progress

Broadband project – in progress

MMA grants applications– (C. Lindblade and K.Panno)

Will monitor legal fees for Broadband project

Road Report: (Jim Wilfong)

Ezra Heald Bridge/Stone House Bridge – in progress

J. Wilfong to set up meeting with Select board, CEO and Planning Board regarding road and building issues

J. Wilfong will contact P. Coughlin re traffic counters

J. Wilfong will contact Union Hill resident regarding culvert replacement

J Wilfong to contact LA Drew, Colemans and Burke for road work estimates

Town Office

K Panno to finish bulletin board

K.Panno to track receipt of 90 day foreclosure mailings

N.Boros continue w FEMA

N.Boros tracking non Trio related expenses for foreclosures

Tally timesheets submitted by JW RR CL CC KP NB to determine how time is allocated to different areas and tasks – no timesheets submitted; project dropped.