

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
January 12, 2010
7:30 PM
Town Building
Approved

Call to Order

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 7:32 pm. Present were James Salvie, David Walrath, Christopher Sarno, Gary Bernklow, Ann Deluty and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Guest: Alice Deluca

Correspondence

- Association of Town Finance Committee newsletter for December 09
- Town of Stow tax title accounts December 31, 2009
- Memo from the Building Department regarding Energy Conservation
- The Beacon newsletter for January 2010
- Letter from Belmont Board of Selectmen regarding Minuteman school budget resolution

Discussion of Minuteman High School

Town of Belmont Letter

Charlie addressed the anonymous letter from Belmont, Dated December 10, 2009 Alice Deluca stated that she feels that the number of kids in 2008, a total of 24 (2010 will be 38), is the root cause of the letters received because of amount they pay compared to other towns. They have more students than any other town attending Minuteman.

Dave asked is they ever considered doing what Nashoba does to even out the tuition. Alice stated that they are going to reassess the original agreement for some changes.

Alice stated that Belmont's assessment has gone up some. They are trying to bring their costs down.

She stated that Stow's current enrollment is 25 students

Anonymous letter regarding Dr. Bouquillon

Charlie explained that the Finance Committee received anonymous letters, from concerned citizens and taxpayers of the Minuteman School District, each stating they are not happy with Dr. Bouquillon; both dated November 6, 2009

Alice Deluca explained that when changes are made people get disgruntled. She showed a similar letter from 1977 regarding Ron Fitzgerald. The people writing the letters made various accusations, i.e., hiring his daughter and son-in-law to work at the school. Alice stated that they are addressing the specific allegations and verifying the proper paper work was filed. If anything needs to be done about it after the investigation it will be dealt with.

The school committee is trying to take care of this issue to not ruin anyone's reputation and get the answers.

Discussion of Minuteman Renovation

Alice stated that they are still hoping to renovate Minuteman School. There were not enough Town's who voted for the stabilization fund to have it. The fund was dropped.

The school is not up to date. MSBA (Massachusetts School Building Association) will put in 40% of the cost. First the money from the operating budget from specific towns and none member towns will be putting funds in also.

Chris stated that first the towns will vote, and then allocate the monies by the regional agreement. By using the number of students coming into town, in the year that the renovations begin. All 16 towns have to approve the renovations or they won't happen. They have approximately a year to prepare for this. The cost will be approximately \$500k split between all the towns.

Dr. Bouquillon has informed the Selectmen of the towns about putting it on the agenda for Town Meeting.

Alice Deluca exited at 7:58pm

Reserve Fund Transfer Requests

Building Department-Reimbursement for personal auto use - \$1,250.00

The amount requested is to be used to reimburse the Building Inspector for use of his personal vehicle to complete inspections, at the reimbursement rate of .55¢ per mile; for mileage over a seven-month period from 7/1/09 to 2/1/10.

The expenditure is extraordinary and/or unforeseen for the following reason:

The Building Department's 1998 Ford F150 truck was totaled in a June 29, 2009 accident. A new vehicle was approved at the October 19, 2009 Special Town Meeting and delivery of the new vehicle is not expected until 2/1/2010.

James Salvie moved to approve the reserve fund transfer request in the amount of \$1,250.00 for payment of the use of the Building Inspectors personal vehicle until his new truck is delivered. Christopher Sarno seconded the request. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Salvie, Bernklow and Sarno)

Meeting Minutes

After a review of the minutes David Walrath moved to approve December 8, 2009 minutes as amended. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously. (Kern, Walrath, Salvie, Sarno and Bernklow)

Annual Report

Charlie stated that the Annual Report is due the middle of February. Chris stated that he is working on it now.

Liaison Reports

Elementary School Building Committee – Gary stated that the design documents are done and being submitted to the MSBA today.

- They are still waiting to hear back from the MA Historical Committee. They want them to document the Stone Buildings full history of the building. They are hoping to submit a report on Friday.
- The architect suggested the Blacksmith's Shop me moved now.

Community Preservation Committee –

- Dave stated that there is a possibility there will be a warrant article to hire and archeologist. They are looking for a professional consultant to document archeological site.
- There is a chance the Cemetery Department will be moving forward with their plan to fix the headstones.

Library – Ann stated that the Library roof is leaking. They have between \$3,500 and \$4,000 in broken, missing and leaking slate. They are asking for the money for roof repairs, mold removal and painting of the damaged/repared walls.

Future RFTR

- Fire Department - overtime
- Town Clerk – multiple special elections this year
- Library – building repair costs

Other Business

- Jim stated that he will not be here for the next NRSD meeting and asked that someone attend in his place. They are not releasing the budget until February 14th.
- Beth stated that she will be out on a medical leave for the month of February, but will be available by phone if needed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by James Salvie at 8:30 pm. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Bernklow, Sarno and Salvie).

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary