

Minutes  
**STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE**  
April 27, 2010  
7:30 PM  
Town Building  
**Approved**

**Call to Order**

Charles Kern called the meeting to order at 7:31 pm. Present were James Salvie, Anne Deluty, Christopher Sarno, David Walrath and Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.  
Gary Bernklow arrived at 7:40 pm.  
Guest: Bill Byron at 7:45 pm.

**Correspondence**

- Association of the Finance Committee newsletter
- Notice from Nashoba Regional School District with the schedule of payments
- Notice of the Tax and Title Accounts

**Meeting Minutes**

After a review of the minutes James Salvie moved to approve April 1, 2010 minutes as submitted. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.

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

**Reserve Fund Transfer Requests**

None at this time

**Warrant Article Discussions**

Article 45 – Open Space Conservation Restriction

It was discussed between the members that the recommendation is wrong on the Town Warrant.

Dave explained that he had discussed with the CPC and Town Council regarding whether having the water restriction or not would be a good or bad thing.

Jim expressed that he is reluctant to vote against the water restriction because he feels it is a reasonable decision. This isn't town access to water; it is anyone's access to water. It is right in the middle of what the town plans to use for preservation of open space. Charlie explained that Town access to water allows you to drill and put up utility poles to bring power to a pump. They will be using tax payers money and forbidding the taxpayers to ever have water there. It will be located right in the middle of the open space.

Chris asked, if we vote today do we take the need of the town off the table.

Jim suggested the possibility for private access to water in perpetuity, if the landowner in a trust is agreeing to the terms of the town. If there is town access to water but problems with it in perpetuity on the land then we want open space.

It was stated that CPC voted for no easement for water access.

There was a discussion with Bill Byron regarding CPC's stand on the issue. He explained that they wanted water rights in the article. There was a long discussion on how to word it,

- They don't know if there is water there
- No way to get the water out of the there
- You'll have to deal with an abutting builder

They did do a survey and 3 out of 4 spoken to suggest finding a way to put it back in and call it a public water supply. This land is not the same as all the other conservation land purchased. This is private property owned by the Stow Conservation Trust.

Bill suggested it be worded as a possibility of a public water supply for the Town of Stow; you have to get the owners of the property to approve it.

Jim stated that if the trust agrees, then whoever owns it would have it there forever.

Chris stated that the Town needs water for municipal use. The lower village has a need. Its not a bad thing that the town is involved.

Jim expressed concerns about private developers trying to access the water and ending up with a dense development. There needs to be a distinction to who has the right to the water. He suggested recommending in favor with municipal access to the water.

Jim Salvie moved to recommend against this article 45 as written, but recommends approval to allow access for municipal water use, if amended. David Walrath seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Salvie, Sarno and Bernklow)

### ***Capital Item***

#### **Discussion of Fire Department Command Vehicle**

Jim stated that he had advised Mike McLaughlin to get an estimate for the Capital Committee. All members agreed that the Fire Chief needs a new vehicle. The vehicle should be bought this year because there will be a new need for another vehicle next year.

Gary Bernklow moved to recommend to Town Meeting to approve the purchase of a command vehicle for the Fire Department. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Salvie, Sarno and Bernklow)

#### **Article 40- Town Land Conveyance to First Parish Church**

Christopher Sarno moved to recommend to Town Meeting to approve transfer of land to the First Parish Church. David Walrath seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Walrath, Salvie, Sarno and Bernklow)

#### **Article 46- South Acton Road Land Purchase**

The article is for a 5 acre with 2/5 acres upland and wetlands in the middle of the lot. If only the east portion is usable there will be 1.5 acres without wetlands. They are asking \$60k and it is valued at \$32k.

All member agreed they are not comfortable not having a number in the warrant article. It is premature because they have no dollar amount and no plan.

The committee agreed to revisit this article next Monday when they have more information.

### **Liaison Reports**

Gary explained that ESBC has 90% of the documents done. They will be sending them to the MSBA this week. They are ready to go out to bid. The sub-contractors are pre-qualified with a total of 80-90 having applied. There are 12 general contractors interested.

The green aspect of the project had to qualify with the state. It was qualified at 36 points and needed 34 to qualify.

Ground breaking will be on June 17<sup>th</sup> and construction will start on June 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Gary Bernklow at 9:00 pm. James Salvie seconded the motion.  
The motion carried unanimously (Kern, Sarno and Salvie).

### **\*\*Action Items\*\***

Jim Salvie to tell Chief McLaughlin his capital purchase was approved for the command vehicle by the Finance Committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,  
Secretary