

Minutes
STOW FINANCE COMMITTEE
Public Hearing, Post meeting
April 7, 2011
7:00 PM
Town Building
Approved

Call to Order

Gary Bernklow called the Meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were,
Members: Christopher Sarno, Ann Deluty, Richard Connelly and Peter McManus.
Associate Members: Bruce Walbridge, Eric Sears, Patricia Heron and Rick Rollins
Elizabeth Tobey, Secretary.

Article 1. Town Officers Not Elected by Ballot

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 1 – Town Officers Not Elected by Ballot, Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Article 2. Reports of Selectmen and Other Officers and Committees

Vote: Christopher Sarno moved to recommend approval of Article 2 – Reports of Selectmen and Other Officers and Committees, Peter McManus seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Article 3. Reports of Special Committees

Vote: Christopher Sarno moved to recommend approval of Article 3 – Reports of Special Committees, Ann Deluty seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Article 4. Wage and Salary Schedules for Fiscal Year 2012

Vote: Richard Connelly moved to recommend approval of Article 4 – Wage and Salary Schedules for Fiscal Year 2012, Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The Town employees will receive a 1% cost of living increase for FY 2012, which is lower than the increase they have received in past years.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Article 5. Secret Voting for Nashoba Regional School District Budget

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 5 – Secret Voting for Nashoba Regional School District Budget, Rick Connelly seconded the motion. The motion Carried, 4 for (Bernklow, Deluty, Connelly, McManus) and 1 abstention (Sarno).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. Privacy in voting is a basic right of all Americans. Any article which allows Americans to participate in their government without fear of intimidation is to be encouraged.*

Speaker: Ann Deluty

Discussion: Members had a discussion regarding people being uncomfortable voting publicly. They questioned what the impact would be on Town Meeting and that the Town Clerk would like to know ahead of time to prepare for the secret ballots. At a past Town Meeting there had been comments about courage. No voter should have to have courage to cast a ballot.

Article 6. General Budget for fiscal year 2012

Vote: Christopher Sarno moved to recommend approval of Article 6 – General Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, Lines 1-35, 39 –70 and 72-75, holding Lines 36-38 and 71, Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommended approval of Article 6 – General Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, Lines 36, 37 and 38. Peter McManus seconded the motion. The motion Carried 4 for (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, McManus) and 1 abstention (Connelly).

Vote: Richard Connelly moved to recommended approval of Article 6 – General Budget for Fiscal Year 2012, Lines 71. Ann Deluty seconded the motion. The motion Carried 4 for (Bernklow, Deluty, Connelly, McManus) and 1 abstention (Sarno).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of the FY 2012 operating budget. Expenditures are realistic for the current fiscal climate. The budget provides level services, funds contractual obligations, increases borrowing to fund the elementary school project, and does not require an override to balance.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: This would align Stow with the other towns. There may be some merit in taking a firm stance. This is not our problem this year in the budget. Lancaster and Bolton have much larger issues than we do. It is not only contract negotiations; the district joined a healthcare collaborative to reduce costs. We have been in this position when it was our problem and we have asked other towns to help us out. The towns need to operate as a unit.

BEGINNING OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Article 7. Reserve Fund

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 7 - Reserve Fund. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this appropriation to fund unforeseen expenditures that may occur in Fiscal Year 2012. Based on historical use of the reserve fund, we feel that this is an appropriate contingency amount.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 8. Audit of Financial Records

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 8 – Audit of Financial Records. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this expenditure as both a sound financial control and as a state requirement.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 9. Revolving Fund for Inspection Fees

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 9 – Revolving Fund for Inspection Fees. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends support of this revolving fund. This allows the inspectors to be paid from fees collected in the current year. It is revenue neutral.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 10. Revolving Fund for Advanced Life Support Services

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 10 - Revolving Fund for Advanced Life Support Services. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends support of this revolving fund. This fund will help in keeping the Advanced Life Support services solvent and available to the Town by providing third party billing services. It is revenue neutral.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 11. Transfer to Conservation Fund - Land Maintenance

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 11 – Transfer to Conservation Fund – Land Maintenance. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends support of this article. This is a transfer of a modest amount to the Conservation Fund, which is necessary to allow the Conservation Commission to spend their funds. This article transfers existing funds and has no direct impact on the tax rate*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 12. Transfer from Wetlands Protection Fund

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 12 – Transfer from Wetlands Protection Fund. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this transfer. This is an annual transfer of money collected from certain fees that allows the Conservation Commission to use the funds for costs associated with the Wetlands Protection Act. This article transfers existing funds and has no direct impact on the tax rate.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 13. Update of Property Valuations

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 13 – Update of Property Valuations. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this expenditure. This is an annual appropriation to fund consultants to assist the assessors in evaluating property at fair market value as required for fair taxation and State DOR compliance.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 14. Town Records Binding and Repair

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 14 – Town Records Binding and Repair. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this annual appropriation to provide for the routine and ongoing expense of maintaining the integrity of town records.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 15. Election Equipment

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 15 – Election Equipment. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This expenditure is needed in order to fund a second election polling site.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 16. Highway Road Machinery and Private Ways

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 16 – Highway machinery and Private Ways. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of these routine annual appropriations to maintain road machinery and repair private ways.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 17. Highway Road Construction

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 17 – Highway Road Construction. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this annual appropriation, which is normally reimbursed by state funds, for improvements on town roads.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article18. Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 18 – Federal Safe Dinking Water Act. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends this appropriation to continue compliance with federal and state regulations for public water supplies.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 19. Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article19 – Household Hazardous Waste Collection. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This allows the Board of Health to arrange for a collection of materials that are not accepted by trash collection services and dispose of them properly.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 20. Public Health Nurse

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 20 – Public Health Nurse. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The relatively new community nurse program is a successful program and provides needed local health services.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 21. Municipal Solid Waste Disposal

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 21 – Municipal Solid Waste Disposal. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The town must unfortunately collect and dispose of trash dumped on town land.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 22. Medical Reserve Corps Expenses

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 22 – Medical Reserve Corps Expenses. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this warrant article. The money will help fund the Stow Medical Reserve Corps, established to meet the town's needs during serious and unforeseen emergencies.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 23. Construction and Maintenance of Water Holes for Firefighting Operations

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 23- Construction of Water Holes for Firefighting Operations. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This periodic appropriation allows the Fire Department to continue to develop and maintain water holes and dry hydrants throughout the Town. This year's additional request will allow construction of several new and necessary water holes.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 24. Stow Cultural Council

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 24 – Stow Cultural Council. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this expenditure. As a percentage of the total budget, this is a small expenditure, yet it will help continue the popular Springfest community event, as well as provide other local cultural programs.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 25. Planning Board Engineering/Consulting and Master Plan Expenses

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 25 – Planning Board Engineering/Consulting and Master Plan Expenses. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This is a periodic appropriation to help pay for the town's master plan expenses.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 26. Employee Educational Incentive Program

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 26 – Employee Educational Incentive Program. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This is an annual appropriation. This program permits a pay bonus to municipal employees (except the town administrator and accountant) who have college degrees relevant to their jobs.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 27. Legal Services

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 27 – Legal Services. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This annual appropriation will be used to fund necessary legal services in FY12.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 28. Police Officer and Firefighter Medical Payments

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 28 – Police Officer and Firefighter Medical Payments. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This small, periodic appropriation is to permit the town to pay for certain medical expenses for police officers and firefighters injured in the line of duty that are not covered by insurance.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 29. Weights and Measures Testing

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 29 – Weights and Measures Testing. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The town is required to fund weights and measures testing.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 30. SwiftReach 911 Notification System

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 30 – SwiftReach 911 Notification System. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This will fund the so-called “reverse 911” system used for important notifications to the town.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 31. Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 31 – Lake Boon Water Quality Remediation. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. These funds will be used to help keep the lake clear of invasive weeds, and is part of a multi-year program for lake maintenance. The town recently expended a large sum of Community Preservation Act funds to restore the quality of the lake, but CPA funds cannot be used for continuing maintenance. As is normal for Lake Boon articles, this article is for 2/3 of the total cost, with Hudson being asked for 1/3.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 32. Transfer From Overlay Surplus to Snow & Ice Account

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 32 – Transfer from Overlay Surplus to Snow & Ice Account. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. Excess funds in the Assessors’ Overlay Surplus account will be used to cover deficit spending, which was needed in the snow and ice account this past winter.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 33. Transfer from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 33 – Transfer from Free Cash to the Stabilization Fund. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *Our committee supports increasing the Town’s Stabilization fund because the Stabilization fund is our ultimate rainy day fund. This transfer is part of a multi-year effort to build the fund in a gradual and responsible way.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 34. Veterans’ Benefits

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 34 – Veterans’ Benefits. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The town is required to provide certain veteran’s benefits, and this appropriation will fund those requirements.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 35. Community Preservation Expenses

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 35 – Community Preservation Expenses. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. Funds appropriated for the Community Preservation Committee administrative budget come from the dedicated Community Preservation Fund, and have no direct impact on the tax rate.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 36. Community Preservation Reserves

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 36 – Community Preservation Reserves. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The Community Preservation Act requires that the town appropriate or reserve at least 10% of Community Preservation Fund revenues each year for preservation of historic resources, preservation of open spaces, and affordable housing. This “housekeeping” article reserves these funds as required, but does not authorize the spending of any of these funds*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

END OF THE CONSENT CALENDAR

Article 37. Capital Requests

Item 1 – Building Department – Town Water Treatment Center Upgrade - \$29,000

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 1 – Building Department, Town Water Treatment Center Upgrade, \$29,000, Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The Mass DEP is requiring Stow to upgrade the Town Building water filtration system. The original budget request was for \$76,000 and included the drilling of a new well, along with extensive DEP permitting and analysis. Stow was granted a variance to these requirements, thus saving the town approximately \$47,000. We feel this is a reasonable price to pay for a required upgrade to the system.*

Speaker: Peter McManus

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 2 – Cemetery – Land Purchase – \$200,000

Vote: Richard Connelly moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 2 – Cemetery, Land Purchase, \$200,000, Ann Deluty seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article at an amount not to exceed \$180,000, since said parcel of land is contiguous to the Brookside Cemetery and might never again be available to the town. The intended purchase price is slightly below assessed value of said parcel.*

Speaker: Richard Connelly

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 3 – Fire-Rescue – Diesel Exhaust System - \$50,000

Vote: Peter McManus moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 3 – Diesel Exhaust System, \$50,000, Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion Carried 4 for (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, McManus) and 1 abstention (Connelly).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This diesel exhaust system will properly ventilate the diesel exhaust from the fire trucks and ambulance so they are not venting into the garage and firehouse, thus alleviating a possible health concern for our firefighters.*

Speaker: Christopher Sarno

Discussion: If Fire moves to a new station, 30 to 50% of the equipment can be moved.

Item 4 – Fire Rescue – Thermal Imaging Camera (1) - \$9,500

Vote: Peter McManus moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 4 – Thermal Imaging Camera (1), \$9,500, Ann Deluty seconded the motion. The motion Carried 4 for (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, McManus) and 1 abstention (Connelly).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The thermal imaging camera can be both a useful tool in saving lives as well as limiting property damage. It will help locate both people in smoky conditions and hot spots within walls.*

Speaker: Christopher Sarno

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 5 – Fire Rescue – SCBA Grant Co-Pay - \$6,000

Vote: Christopher Sarno moved to recommend approval of Article 37 - No.5 –Fire Rescue – SCBA Grant Co-Pay, \$6,000, Peter McManus seconded the motion. The motion Carried 4 for (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, McManus) and 1 abstention (Connelly).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The SCBA grant co-pay is for only a partial payment of an upgrade to the fire department’s self-contained breathing apparatuses. The bulk of the funds will come from a Federal grant.*

Speaker: Christopher Sarno

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 6 – Health – Dog Kennel Repairs - \$15,000

Vote: Peter McManus moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 6 – Health, Dog Kennel Repairs, \$15,000, Ann Deluty seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. Repairs of this magnitude are currently required in order to maintain adequate standards at the kennel.*

Speaker: Bruce Walbridge

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 7 – Highway – Restore 6-Wheel Dump Truck/Sander - \$40,000

Vote: Richard Connelly moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 7 – Restore 6-Wheel Dump Truck/Sander, \$40,000, Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article since the end result will be a multi-purpose vehicle at a fraction of the cost of a new vehicle.*

Speaker: Richard Connelly

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 8 – Highway –Replace Road Grader - \$37,000

Vote: Christopher Sarno moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 8 – Replace Road Grader - \$37,000, Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. The vehicle being replaced is 62 years old and has served the Town well, but has become obsolete with repair parts becoming quite impossible to locate.*

Speaker: Richard Connelly

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 9 – Library – Building Repairs - \$100,000

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 9 – Building Repairs - \$100,000, Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. It will provide a permanent solution to the solvable water problems in the Library building.*

Speaker: Ann Deluty

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 10 – Planning Board – Lower Village Engineering Plans - \$43,334

Vote: Christopher Sarno moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 10 – Lower Village Engineering Plans - \$43,334, Ann Deluty seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. These engineering plans are required to prudently plan for the future of the Lower Village.*

Speaker: Bruce Walbridge

Discussion: No Discussion

Item 11 – Police Department – 2011 Crown Victoria Police Cruiser - \$33,000

Vote: Peter McManus moved to recommend approval of Article 37, item 11 – 2011 Crown Victoria Police Cruiser - \$33,000, Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion Carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus)

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. This vehicle is part of the scheduled replacements for the Police Department.*

Speaker: Peter McManus

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 38. Senior Tax Relief

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 38 – Senior Tax Relief. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this warrant article. Under state law, communities are allowed double property tax exemptions granted by the state to persons who qualify. This article, which must be made annually, assures that qualifying Stow residents will retain the maximum exemptions allowed. There is only a minor financial impact to the Town.*

Speaker: Christopher Sarno

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 39. National Guard/Reserve Tax Relief

Vote: Hold – Will make recommendation at Town Meeting

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee will make a recommendation at Town Meeting.*

Speaker: Christopher Sarno

Discussion: Gary to get more information

Article 40. Amend Zoning Map on Wireless Service Facility District

Vote: Hold – Will make recommendation at Town Meeting

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee will make a recommendation at Town Meeting.*

Speaker: Richard Connelly

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 41. Preserve the Larsen Apple Storage Barn

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 41 – Preserve the Larsen Apple Storage Barn. Rick Connelly seconded the motion. The motion Failed 4 against (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, McManus) and 1 abstention (Connelly).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee does not recommend approval of this article. The financial ramifications of a positive vote are unknowable and potentially large.*

Speaker: Ann Deluty

Discussion: The cost is unknowable and could be substantial. The town missed the opportunity of saving a part of history. However, it is too late to make a change now.

Article 42. Reuse of Pompositticut Elementary School

Vote: Ann Deluty moved to recommend approval of Article 42 – Reuse of Pompositticut Elementary School. Christopher Sarno seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. Currently, Pompositticut School is leased by the town to the school district and the district has responsibility for custody, management and control of the school. This article allows the control to be transferred to the Board of Selectmen once the school district no longer needs Pompositticut School for its students. There is no financial impact to the town.*

Speaker: Richard Rollins

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 43. Nomination Papers Deadline

Vote: Christopher Sarno moved to recommend approval of Article 42 – Reuse of Pompositticut Elementary School. Ann Deluty seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article. It will align Stow with the state law establishing that nomination papers must be pulled at least 2 days prior to the submission deadline. It will have no effect on the town's finances.*

Speaker: Pete McManus

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 44. Revocable Agriculture Licenses

Vote: Hold – Will make recommendation at Town Meeting

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee will make a recommendation at Town Meeting.*

Speaker: Bruce Walbridge

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 45. Acceptance of Randall Road Sidewalk Easement

Vote: Peter McManus moved to recommend approval of Article 45 – Acceptance of Randall Road Sidewalk Easement. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this article.*

Speaker: Richard Connelly

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 46. Balance the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget

Vote: Hold – Will make recommendation at Town Meeting

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this warrant article, if moved.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Article 47. Town Election

Vote: Peter McManus moved to recommend approval of Article 47 – Town Election. Richard Connelly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously (Bernklow, Deluty, Sarno, Connelly, McManus).

Recommendation: *The Finance Committee recommends approval of this warrant article.*

Speaker: Gary Bernklow

Discussion: No Discussion

Adjournment from the Post Public Hearing

Public hearing closed at 9:41pm.

A motion to Close the Post Public Hearing meeting was made by Ann Deluty at 10:13pm Rick Connelly seconded the motion.

The motion carried unanimously – Bernklow, Deluty, McManus, Sarno and Connelly

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth A. Tobey,
Secretary