

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
February 25, 2020, 7 pm
Pompo Community Center

Present at the meeting that was held at the Pompo Community Center were James Salvie, Brian Burke, Cortni Frecha and Thomas Ryan.

Town Administrator William Wrigley and Administrative Assistant Maureen Trunfio were also present. Mr. Salvie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Public Input: None

Chairman's comments: The Chair announced that the Town Hall Restoration Committee is holding a Public Forum on the future of the Stow Town Hall on Wednesday, March 11th at 7 p.m. at Town Hall and is looking for input from residents, user groups, etc. He announced that there would be an Open Meeting Law workshop on March 25th at Pompo from 5:30-7:30 p.m. The Chair requested a moment of silence to note the passing of a former town employee and volunteer Beth Tobey.

Minutes

Mr. Ryan moved to accept the meeting minutes of the February 11, 2020 meeting with amendments. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Correspondence: Mr. Salvie announced that the Town Moderator will be appointing a Charter Review Committee. With regard to an invitation to Stow Boy Scouts Troop One's 108th Anniversary dinner, he inquired whether any of the Board members were planning to attend the March 6th event. He noted that the Town of Maynard will be celebrating their Sesquicentennial (150 years) from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, April 19th and have invited members of the Stow Board of Selectmen to attend. He stated that the MMA Selectboard Association is seeking select board members for two vacancies on the MSA Board of Directors and subsequently the MMA Board of Directors.

Determination of Conflict of Interest re: Fire Department

Fire Captain JP Benoit was present and explained that he had spoken with the Attorney General's Office because he will serve as the direct supervisor of the hire. His son Erick Benoit has applied and is the top choice for hire as a Full-Time Firefighter. Captain Benoit explained that he was required to file disclosure notices with the AG's Office and he stated that he had done so. Mr. Salvie and the other members of the Board questioned Captain Benoit to ensure that he would treat Erick the same as any employee.

Mr. Ryan moved that any financial interest that has been disclosed here is not so substantial as to be deemed likely to affect the integrity of the services which the municipality expects from the employee. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Appointment of Firefighter

Fire Chief Joe Landry was present with Erick Benoit to recommend him to the position of Full-Time Firefighter/EMT. The Board voted unanimously to appoint Erick Benoit to the position.

On the recommendation of Fire Chief Joe Landry, Ms. Frecha moved to appoint Erick Benoit as a Full-Time Firefighter/EMT for the Stow Fire Department, effective immediately and until June 30, 2020, subject to reappointment at that time. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Town Administrator's Joint Boards meeting on the FY 2021 Financial State of the Town

The meeting of the joint boards began at 7:20 p.m. with Principal Assessor Kristen Fox, Chair of the Capital Planning Committee Steve Jelinek, Chair of the Finance Committee Rich Eckel, Representative of Minuteman High School Alice DeLuca and Pat Marone of the Nashoba Regional School District were present and provided input into the financial standing of their respective departments and committees. Pursuant to Article 4, section 10 of the General Bylaws. Mr. Wrigley gave a short narrative on the development of his FY 2021 budget.

Addition of Nashoba Regional School District School Committee Vacancy to Town Election Ballot

Town Clerk Linda Hathaway was present and requested, at the behest of the Nashoba Regional School District, permission from the Board to add a NRSD School Committee Vacancy to the Town Election Ballot. The three School Committee representatives from the three district towns agreed to add one additional representative to the NRSD School Committee based on updated population data. The Board discussed possibly asking the District, at a later date, to propose amendments to the District Agreement to more clearly address this item.

Ms. Frecha moved to add the following position to the ballot for the May 2020 Town Election: Nashoba Regional School Committee Member, for a three-year term expiring in May 2023. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed 3:0:1. Ms. Frecha, Mr. Ryan and Mr. Salvie, aye. Mr. Burke abstained.

Signing of multiple representation disclosures form for KP Law for the "Making the Connections" Intermunicipal Agreement

Town Planner Jesse Steadman was present to explain that other towns involved with a Pilot Project involving State money for a transportation program and involved with an IMA agreement for this project are also represented by KP Law. KP Law also serves as Stow's legal counsel. The Board discussed this and agreed that representation for Stow by KP Law would not be a conflict of interest and agreed to sign the disclosure regarding KP Law. Mr. Wrigley stated the option for one attorney at the firm to review the paperwork instead of multiple attorneys reviewing the same paperwork.

Mr. Burke moved that the Selectmen sign the multiple representation disclosure form for KP Law, granting permission for the firm to advise the Town of Stow on the "Making the Connections" Intermunicipal Agreement. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously.

Liaison Reports

Mr. Burke announced that he was appreciative to see the Town Administrator address the Finance Committee's concern for the annual request of funds in the Town's Reserve Fund.

Mr. Salvie said that the Library Building Committee has decided to revert back to their original purpose which was to hire an architectural firm to start doing concept design on expansion and renovation of the Randall Library. He said that he had been meeting informally with the COA Director, Town Planner and the Town Administrator regarding a commuter van program and that Town Planner would be meeting with MART the following day.

Ms. Frecha reported that she would be attending a SMAHT meeting the following evening.

Adjournment to Executive Session

Mr. Salvie stated that it was necessary to convene in Executive session, as open discussion of the subject matter may affect have a detrimental effect on negotiations.

At 8:45 p.m. Ms. Frecha moved to convene in Executive Session, pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, section 21(a) (6), for the purpose of considering the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, and to review Executive Session minutes, and to adjourn thereafter. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, Mr. Salvie, aye, and Mr. Burke, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Trunfio, Administrative Assistant

YouTube link: <https://youtu.be/JvIJ9IrmUL4>

Documents used at this meeting. Items can be found in the Selectmen's Office filed with the meeting folder:

Minutes of 2/10/2020 for approval

Disclosure documentation for KP Law