

**Minutes  
Board of Selectmen  
Stow Town Building  
April 14, 2020**

Physically present at this meeting in the Warren Room was James Salvie, Chair. Present virtually were Brian Burke, Thomas Ryan and Cortni Frecha.

Also present physically were Town Administrator William Wrigley and Executive Assistant Maureen McKeon. Mr. Salvie called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Chairman's Comment:** Mr. Salvie provided an update from the Stow Board of Health. He stated that there were eight cases of COVID-19 in Stow as of April 10<sup>th</sup>. More detailed information can be found on the Town's website.

**Public Comment:** None

**Minutes:** *Mr. Ryan moved to accept the meeting minutes of the March 10, 2020 meeting as amended. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Burke, aye, Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

*Mr. Ryan moved to accept the meeting minutes of the March 24, 2020 meeting with amendments. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Burke, aye, Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

**Correspondence:** Mr. Salvie mentioned that Bill Byron had alerted the Town that a contractor working at 2 Chestnut Street had destroyed a town bounds marker. He said that the matter was being addressed. Mr. Ryan requested that he be provided with a copy of the recent changes in legislation that was received by the Selectmen's Office regarding Municipal Governance document. Martha Monroe of the Veterans' Graves Committee wrote and requested advice on whether to plan for a 2020 Memorial Day Parade and ceremonies. Mr. Salvie said this would be discussed at the Board's April 28, 2020 meeting.

**Hudson Light & Power Update**

The Town's representative to Hudson Light & Power, Arnie Epstein, was present via Zoom and provided an annual report for the Board and public.

**Extension of Local Property Tax Payment Deadline & Application for Exemptions**

Mr. Wrigley informed the Board that there was a Massachusetts House Bill (Acts of 2020) recently passed which allows local municipalities to extend by 30 days the payment of May 1 property taxes to June 1 and also to waive interest and other penalty for late payment as long as payment is made before June 30, 2020. He also explained that the Board may want to accept a provision which allows cities and towns to extend the due date for applications for tax exemptions and deferrals from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. The Board voted unanimously to enact both provisions.

*Ms. Frecha moved to accept Section 10(a)(iv) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, which allows cities and towns to extend the due date under G.L. c. 59, section 59, for applications for tax exemptions and deferrals*

*from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Burke, aye, Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

*Ms. Frecha moved to accept Section 10(a)(i) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, which allows cities and towns to extend the due date under G.L. c. 59, section 57 for tax payments from May 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. And to waive interest and other penalty for late payment as long as payment is made before June 30, 2020. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Burke, aye, Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

### **Update on PFAS**

Mr. Wrigley updated the Board on current PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) readings. He is recommending that the Town begin to prepare for a lengthy, phased process under DEP's (Department of Environmental Protection) CMRs (Code of Massachusetts Regulations), if a Notice of Responsibility is issued to the Town by DEP.

### **Updated Timeline for Annual Town Meeting**

Due to COVID-19 the Board voted at its March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting to reschedule Annual Town Meeting June 22, 2020. The updated timeline was presented. This included re-opening and closing the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

### **Reopen/Close Annual Town Meeting Warrant**

The Board voted unanimously to re-open/close the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant .  
*Ms. Frecha moved that the Board re-open the June 22, 2020 Annual Town Meeting warrant on April 14, 2020 and close the warrant on Friday, May 1, 2020. Mr. Burke seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Burke, aye, Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

Mr. Wrigley left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

### **Liaison reports**

Mr. Burke suggested that the Town should carefully monitor planned use for the Stow Acres driving range parcel. He said that he had virtually attended the Council on Aging meeting last Thursday. He said he would like to attend the Finance Committee meetings, but they are scheduled at the same time the Selectmen meet on Tuesdays. He reported that the LACAC is making progress toward renegotiation of cable contracts that affect the town.

Mr. Salvie reported that he has spoken with Ross Perry, Chair of the Town Administrator Screening Committee. Mr. Perry mentioned that they had identified nine candidates of interest and are setting up interviews. He said that the Library Trustees would be meeting tomorrow night. He will attend via Zoom. He is interested in an agenda item entitled "Future of the Library Building Committee" and said he would report back to the Selectmen on that. He said that the Capital Planning Committee is meeting Thursday night. He added that the FY-21 Capital Plan is almost final at this point. One additional item might be PFAS funding, but they do not believe it would be considered a capital item. Mr. Salvie said that he's planning to invite Steve Jelinek, Chair of the Capital Planning Committee and Rich Eckel, Chair of the Finance Committee, to attend a future Selectmen's meeting to discuss future high-ticket items that the Town will be facing including, school district costs, library building planning, PFAS-related expenses. etc.

Mr. Ryan reported that Brendan Fitzpatrick, who was appointed as a new Police Officer at the Board's March 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, began work on April 13<sup>th</sup>. He reported that Highway Superintendent Steve Nadeau has separated the Highway Department employees into two crews for distancing purposes. He told the Board that all employees of Highway, Police and Fire are all healthy and all is going well.

Ms. Frecha reported that in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, SMAHT and the CPC are working together to formulate a possible warrant article that would allow the use of CPA funds for rental assistance primarily for units that are currently on the Town's SHI (subsidized housing inventory). She added that the assistance could include others that require assistance in paying their rent at this time. She reported that the Open Space Committee was part of a site visit to the Quirk Property on Hudson Road to assess its connectivity to other conservation land in the southwest corner of Stow. They were also part of a conversation regarding the Town's possible interest in purchasing the Stow Acres driving range parcel. She noted that this property may no longer be of interest to the Town.

#### **Adjournment**

*At 8:43 p.m. Mr. Ryan moved to adjourn. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Mr. Burke, aye, Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Trunfio, Executive Assistant

YouTube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErrKwvRpfYM>

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

HL&P Annual Report  
Updated Town Meeting Timeline