

**Minutes  
Board of Selectmen Emergency Meeting  
Stow Town Building  
May 1, 2020  
(Postponed meeting from 4/28/20)**

**Via Zoom**

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.

**Public Comment:** Town Clerk Linda Hathaway thanked the residents for the fact that Stow is currently leading the Commonwealth in responses to the 2020 Federal Census. She added that in this week's Action Unlimited newspaper there is an absentee ballot application that any Stow resident can tear off and mail in to register themselves for voting by mail in this year's local election. Mr. Burke wished happy birthdays to the Chair of the Finance Committee and the Selectmen's Executive Assistant.

**Chairman's Comments:** Mr. Salvie announced that the blue lights that had been lit at Pompo for Autism Awareness month in April will remain lit for the month of May in appreciation of public safety and first responder personnel during the Corona Virus emergency. He reported that the Stow Council on Aging is available for assistance to anyone who may require services. Although the building is closed, Seniors may call for contact-free assistance, such as food, durable medical equipment, etc. They are open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am-3 pm. He reported that Governor Baker revised his order, and beginning May 6<sup>th</sup> masks *must* be worn in public place where one cannot socially distance themselves from others.

**Minutes:**

*Mr. Ryan moved to accept the meeting minutes of the April 14, 2020 meeting with amendments. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote " Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, Mr. Burke, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

*Ms. Frecha moved to accept the meeting minutes of the April 22, 2020 meeting with amendments. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, Mr. Burke, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

**2020 Memorial Day Planning**

Col. Martha Monroe was virtually present to discuss whether to plan for the May 25, 2020 Memorial Day Parade. The Board and Col Monroe agreed canceling the parade was a good idea this year. However, she shared some ideas regarding a small ceremony, and thought it might be possible to put together some sort of small ceremony with under ten participants to honor Veterans. The Board agreed with this idea, and the Chair requested that Col Monroe determine whether there would be adequate time to put together a small ceremony and get back to them with details. She agreed to do so.

**Long-Range Capital Project Review**

Rich Eckel, Chair of the Finance Committee and Steve Jelinek, Chair of the Capital Planning Committee, were present virtually to share anticipated, long-term, high-cost expenses the Town may be facing in the coming years. Examples of these expenses included a new high school or large renovation of Nashoba Regional High School in the next ten years, the cost of PFAS

remediation, a possible Randall Library renovation, the renovation of Town Hall along with the expected annual Capital Requests the Town will see each year. Mr. Salvie mentioned that perhaps in the next several years one or more of the town's golf courses may be up for sale and the Town may want to consider purchasing the property, which would undoubtedly be a high-priced parcel. The Board thanked Mr. Eckel and Mr. Jelinek for updating the Selectmen and suggested it become a regular occurrence.

#### **Stow Scheduled Highway Roadway Work & Funding**

Highway Superintendent Steve Nadeau was virtually present and updated the Board on planned roadwork for the coming year and mentioned some longer term needs for the town's roadways.

#### **Formation of new Randall Library Building Committee**

Library Director Tina McAndrew was present virtually and requested the Board create a new Randall Library Building Committee. Mr. Salvie mentioned that 2019 Annual Town Meeting appropriated \$40,000 for concept design for a renovated extension of the current Randall Library Building. The Trustees had appointed their own Committee in 2019, but have discontinued it and have asked the Selectmen to form a new committee. It was determined that the makeup of the committee will consist of seven members, to include 1 representative from each the Finance Committee, the Capital Planning Committee, and the Board of Selectmen, and to also include the Library Director, 1 Trustee from the Library and 2 residents to serve as at-large members. It was also determined that the Committee could appoint Associate Members as they see fit. The Chair thanked Ms. McAndrew for her direction and strength brought to this initiative.

*Mr. Ryan moved to establish a Randall Library Building Committee composed of designees of the Finance Committee, the Capital Planning Committee and the Board of Selectmen, also the Library Director, one Library Trustee, to be named by the Library Trustees, and 2 at-large residents. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, Mr. Burke, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

*Mr. Ryan further moved to designate the Randall Library Building Committee as Special Municipal Employees pursuant to Mass. General Law c.268A. Members must be registered voters of Stow, with the exception of the Library Director, and agree to comply with State Ethics and Open Meeting Law requirements. Ms. Frecha seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, Mr. Burke, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

#### **Reduction of Annual Town Election Polling Hours**

Town Clerk Linda Hathaway was present to request the Board's support on reducing polling hours for the Annual Town Election from 13 hours to 6 hours. Polling hours would be from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Center School on Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup>. She added that the Clerk's Office is hoping to receive many absentee (vote-by-mail) ballots this year in order to limit contact in light of the COVID-19 epidemic. She stated that residents need not *actually* be out of town to vote by mail this year. She mentioned that an added benefit of the reduced hours would be that there would be a smaller need for election workers. The Board agreed with the Clerk's request.

*In accord with MGL Chapter 54, section 64, Ms. Frecha moved to reduce the polling hours for Stow's Annual Town Election on Saturday, June 27th to 10 AM to 4 PM. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. Roll call vote: Ms. Frecha, aye, Mr. Ryan, aye, Mr. Burke, aye and Mr. Salvie, aye.*

#### **Presentation of Town Administrator's FY2021 Budget**

Mr. Wrigley presented his current FY-21 budget to the Board. The current budget came in at \$28,605,891. This represents a 1.93% decrease from the FY-20 budget. He asked all to take into consideration the consequences impacting the economy at this time and mentioned that a Special Town Meeting may be required later in the fiscal year to address needs.

### **Long Term Appointment of Acting Police Chief**

Mr. Wrigley stated that Sgt. Darren Thraen had been name Acting Police Chief at the Board's previous meeting, but would only serve for three weeks. Mr. Wrigley told the Board that an ad for the next Acting Chief has been posted and that he is hopeful there will be a candidate to present to fill this position at the Board's next meeting.

### **Liaison reports**

Ms. Frecha reported that SMAHT and the CPC have reached agreement on the wording for their article for emergency rental assistance to appear in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Ryan said that he had spoken to Sgt. Sallese and Sgt. Thraen and that they're both doing a great job at keeping the Police Department going. He said they both had high praise for the Dispatchers who recently had the task of dealing with difficult phone calls regarding the former Chief of Police. The Board commended all Dispatch personnel on their professionalism and thanked them for handling the situation well. Mr. Ryan reported that the Fire Department has all the Personal Protective Equipment they require and that they're all healthy.

Mr. Salvie said that the Capital Planning dollar amount shown in the current FY-21 budget will actually be lower. He said that Ross Perry, Chair of the Town Administrator Screening Committee, has said the Committee had interviewed nine individuals and they will present 3-5 very good candidates to the Selectmen in the near future.

### **Adjournment**

*8:45 p.m. Ms. Frecha moved to convene in Executive Session, pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, section 21(a) (5), for the purpose of investigating charges of criminal misconduct and not to return to open session. 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.*

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen McKeon, Executive Assistant

YouTube link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4q\\_livce5eM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4q_livce5eM)

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

Town Administrator's FY-21 Budget  
Highway Superintendent's Presentation on planned roadwork