



## **Town of Stow FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Town Building - 380 Great Road  
Stow, Massachusetts 01775-2127**

**(978) 897-4514 x 1  
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October 17, 2017 Minutes, Finance Committee Meeting

Finance Committee Members Present: Rich Eckel (RE), Paul McLaughlin (PMcL), Atli Thorarensen (AT), Julianne North (JN), Peter McMamus (PMcM)

Others present:

Bryan Burdick- President and Co-Founder, ClearGov.com  
Mark Jones, Nashoba Regional School District - School Committee member  
Brian Burke, Chair, Stow Board of Selectmen  
Jean Vangsness, Administrative Assistant

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM.

Product Demonstration

Bryan Burdick, President and Co-founder of ClearGov.com

“A Unique Financial Transparency and Benchmarking Platform for Government Agencies”

ClearGov was launched in June of 2105 with two goals in mind:

- For starters, we want to help the average American citizen understand how their local tax dollars are spent within their communities while providing meaningful context as to how those expenditures compare to peer communities.
- In parallel, we aim to help local municipalities – towns, cities, school districts, etc. – operate and communicate more efficiently and effectively by delivering unique fiscal insights through our turnkey financial transparency and benchmarking platform.

Bryan demonstrated how the service works and the different levels of depth that can be controlled by agencies. Various departments within Stow are evaluating this tool as a means for better decision making through data driven analysis. There are currently 70 communities in Massachusetts signed up for this service. All data is currently imported from the DOR. School data is imported from DESE (Mass. Department of Elementary and

Secondary Education). Census data is included as well.

Mark Jones (NRSD committee):

Speaking for himself as a resident of Stow, not as a member of the NRSD School Committee gave us an overview of the school budget process which starts in mid-November. He also provide an overview of the school budget like he has in past years. Lastly, we discussed the decision making process of building a new High School since the NRSD School Committee is consider submitting a Statement of Intent (SOI) to the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA).

Review Minutes

10/03/17 minutes

JN moved to approve 10/03/17 minutes as amended, PMcL seconded, 3 approved, 1 abstained at 9:26 PM.

Mail/Correspondence:

None.

A/P and Reserve Fund transfers.

ZBA requested \$1500 for Legal Notice Advertising and postage to mail hearing notices. JN moved to transfer funds to ZBA. PMcL seconded, unanimously approved at 9:28PM.

Liaison reports:

JN (NRSD Facility advisory committee): The group may be attending the Tri-town meeting and setting up a community center meeting for the public, in an effort to gather public input on the topic of submitting a Statement of Interest to the MSBA for the NRHS.

PMcL nominated AT to be the Fincom liaison to the Conservation Commission. RE seconded, unanimously approved at 9:29PM.

Other business:

Employee Incentive Program (EIP) program - Discussion of :

1. the history of the EIP
2. changes in the workplace environment such that most applicants to town jobs are already college-educated
3. lack of transparency of the program in department budgets and as presented to annual town meeting
4. wisdom of compensating employees for holding a college or master's degree that may have been a condition of employment. Discussion of potential changes to the

EIP Program , as recommended by Town Administrator, possibly closing the program to new town employees and grandfathering in current participants.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:24 PM. Motion: PMcL Second: AT

Next meeting will be November 7, 2017 at 7 PM.