



## TOWN OF STOW

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

(978) 897-4514 x 1  
FAX (978) 897-4534

To the Editor:

I am writing in my capacity as Chair of the Fire Station-Community Center Building Committee to urge all residents to support funding construction of this important project at the upcoming Town Meeting on February 23, 2015. In this project, the Town is meeting some important needs in an efficient way by combining functions and using assets we already own.

A public forum to discuss the project will be held at the next two Board of Selectmen meetings, on January 29 and February 10, 2015 at 7 p.m. at the Town Hall. Please plan to attend, hear how far this project has come since the positive Town Meeting vote in May to pursue a design, and offer your comments.

The proposed project combines several municipal needs: a new Fire Station, expanded space and private areas for the Council on Aging, office and indoor activity space for the Recreation Department and a brand new community center to benefit all residents. There is also space for a local non-profit organization within the building, with all of these uses coexisting at one location. That location is something the Town already owns: the now-vacant Pompositticut Elementary School.

To hold down renovation costs, and because Pompo is so large, the Town is using only a part of it for the Fire Station, Community Center and other municipal needs. The remainder is expected to be available for future tenant use or future municipal needs.

By combining several uses inside a building that the Town already owns, and using only a portion of that building, the Town can realize some significant savings!

The total project cost is currently estimated to be \$9.8 million, compared to an early estimate of \$9.4 million last May. This is about the same as what it would have cost to build *just* the “stand alone” Fire Station on Crescent Street that was proposed to Town Meeting and rejected in 2012.

In fact, when Town Meeting rejected the separate Fire Station and Community Center projects in 2012, the voters instructed local officials to reduce the cost, and to coordinate the two projects to make them more efficient. The voters were right, and that’s exactly what we’ve done – creating a Fire Station, and full Community Center for about the same cost as that one Fire Station project!

Now that the design phase is complete, on February 23 there will be a special Town Meeting where residents will be asked to approve funding for construction. Voters have already approved spending over \$500,000 in design funds, a substantial portion of which has now been spent to create construction documents. I ask that all residents attend that Town Meeting and support this worthwhile project. As you get ready to cast your vote, please also attend the Selectmen’s public forum on February 10. The project architect will be available to answer questions, as will members of the Building Committee, with graphic renderings of the plan available for viewing.

Very truly yours,

James Salvie  
74 West Acton Road  
*Selectman and*  
*Chair, Fire Station and Community Center*  
*Building Committee*