

Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, March 24, 2016 – 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 3:03pm.

Present: Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Gleason, Selectman Quist and Administrative Clerk Janice Boudreau

Also Present: Leonda Hardison, Lev Hardison, William Hardison, Lance Larned, Julie Shippee, Brandon Sprague

Minutes

Motion to accept Minutes of March 9, 2016: Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Wilson to accept the Minutes of March 9, 2016 as corrected. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Motion to accept Minutes of February 24, 2016: Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Wilson to accept the Minutes of February 24, 2016 as corrected. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Old Business

1. 5:00 pm Meeting with Police, Highway Superintendent, Fire Chief, to Discuss Hoosac Tunnel Bridge Issues: Chair Wilson opened the meeting by explaining that after extensive research she found that the Hoosac Tunnel bridge crossing to lower Tunnel Road is owned by Pam Am Railways (PAR). PAR has been contacted on numerous occasions and they have not provided any satisfactory response to remedy the issues that may be making the bridge unsafe for passage of certain vehicles.

- Engineer visit: Chair Wilson spoke to Gill Engineering about coming out to review the bridge. A full review and study would cost \$50,000.00 and since the Town does not own the bridge it could not be done.

- Town Employee Safety: Chair Wilson explained that, due to safety issues, Town Counsel recommended employees not go over the bridge including emergency, road and fire vehicles due to the observed unsafe conditions, including the underside of the bridge is not in good shape and decking is rotted and abutments in jeopardy. Alternative crossing routes were discussed and well as ways that traffic across the bridge could be eliminated or reduced. It was agreed that in an emergency PAR would be notified to stop the train so a vehicle could safely cross over the Hoosac Tunnel Bridge. Chair Wilson agreed to draft a letter to PAR to notify them of the decision.

- Solutions Identified: In conclusion, the options would be:

- Get PAR to repair the bridge
- Buy and Build a bridge – which is cost prohibitive to the Town

- Repair Tunnel Road – which is cost prohibitive to the Town

2. Selectman's Override: Chair Wilson explained that Selectman's Override was earmarked for the Capital Stabilization Fund
3. Gazebo & Town Hall Painting: There was discussion about needing to obtain an idea of the cost of the paint for the Town Hall and Gazebo painting. Selectman Quist agreed to obtain bids for the job.
4. Personnel Policy Sick Leave: Chair Wilson said that the prior enacted Personnel Policy relating to sick time gave 15 sick days per year. It was agreed to revise the current Personnel Policy to indicate that employees hired after March 9, 2016 would earn sick time at a rate of 12 per year.

New Business

5. Letter in Response to MBI/Governor's Missive: Chair Wilson presented a letter from a Broadband Committee member that was in response to the letter sent from Massachusetts Broadband Committee (MBI) to place the 'Last Mile' project to set up a broadband network to underserved communities in Massachusetts on hold. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Select Board would draft a letter stressing the urgency and need for broadband. Chair Wilson agreed to draft a letter in response.
6. FRCOG Fuel Bids- Do We Want to Participate: FRCOG Chief Procurement Officer Andrea Woods requested whether or not we want to participate in the group bids for fuel oil, gasoline and diesel. Following discussion it was agreed to go with the rack price.
7. Nomination Inspector of Animals – Ed Grinnell: Ed Grinnell is up for annual Inspector of Animals Nomination so he may quarantine animals if necessary.

Motion to Appoint Ed Grinnell: Chair Wilson made a motion to appoint Ed Grinnell as the Inspector of Animals. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

8. Policy Regarding Signing of Time Cards: Chair Wilson reported that some time cards were being signed before the work was performed and discussed the potential for abuse. Following discussion, it was agreed to make sure Department Heads were paying attention and notify them to sign cards.
9. Atlas PyroVision Entertainment Group Contract: Old Home Day Committee presented a contract from the Atlas PyroVision Entertainment Group to provide fireworks entertainment for the annual Old Home Day on July 16th.

Motion to Sign Contract: Following review, Marilyn Wilson made a motion to sign the Atlas PyroVision Entertainment Group Contract for display date July 16, 2016 at 9:15pm. The motion, seconded by Walt Quist, was accepted. Vice-Chair Gleason abstained from the vote. (2/0/1)

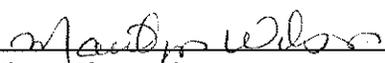
Warrants: Review FY16W20 and FY16PW20

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 5:55 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau

Approval Date: April 6, 2016

Approved: 
Marilyn Wilson, Chair


Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair


Walter J. Quist, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 03-24-16
- Rowe Personnel Policy Manual- Sick Leave (rev. 03-09-16) – page 17
- Broadband Committee Member David Dvore Draft Letter to MBI
- Atlas PyroVision Entertainment Group Contract (4 pgs.)
- MBI Letter 3/14/16