

Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, October 19, 2016 – 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 3:00pm.

Present: Chair Wilson, Selectman Dennis May, Vice-Chair Quist and Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau

Also Present: Loretta Dionne, Lance Larned, Ellen Miller, Ray Wilson and Wayne Zavotka

OLD BUSINESS

1. Discuss Financial Spreadsheet Provided by Mohawk Business Office: Chair Wilson said that she had reviewed the financial spreadsheet provided by Mohawk Trail Regional School District (MTRSD) and she found the numbers are not correct. MTRSD gave the Town figures comparing costs of joining or not joining the district and the numbers did not match those provided by the Dept. of Revenue. It was noted that since the meeting with MTRSD Superintendent and Business Manager, there has been no follow up response to Rowe addressing questions about whether Rowe has overpaid transportation costs. School Committee Member Ellen Miller said the School Committee asked to be put on the MTRSD School Committee Agenda to discuss the transportation cost issue and would provide a copy of the letter to be sent to them.
2. Discuss Joining Mohawk Trail Regional School District: There was discussion about joining the MTRSD and there were concerns about the lack of response and not addressing the transportation cost apparent overpayment questions. It was agreed answers need to be provided for the Special Town Meeting vote whether to re-join MTRSD.
3. 4:00pm DPW Superintendent- Discuss Bridge Repair Program, Seasonal Driver and Lower Tunnel Road Plowing:
 - a. Bridge Repairs: Highway Superintendent Larned discussed the recent Mass Dept. of Transportation (MassDOT) Bridge Inspection Reports for the bridges in Town including Cyrus Stage, King's Highway, Leshures, Sibley and Steel Brook. It was agreed that Cyrus Stage was priority and needed to have the repair work put out to bid. The next priorities were the King's Highway and Leshure bridges. Superintendent Larned spoke with MassDOT Bridge Engineer Mark Devylder and he said King's Highway bridge would be eligible for funding under the Small Bridge Repair Program because of its size.
 - b. Tree Removal Budget: It was agreed to review trees and mark threatening ones and prepare a budget for their removal. He said he would notify the National Grid Arborist as they removed trees threatening wires.
 - c. Seasonal Driver: The Seasonal Driver Job Description was reviewed and amended. Superintendent Larned agreed to make final revisions.

- d. Budget Items: Finance Committee Chair Ray Wilson asked that Superintendent provide photographs and specifications for the Finance Committee to review in budget discussions.
4. Discuss Upcoming Projects and Financing w/ Finance Committee:
 - a. Last Mile: Chair Wilson updated the Finance Committee on the Last Mile Project. She said she had attended a meeting with the Governor's Rural Policy Committee and there was progress with realizing the urgency for broadband in western Massachusetts. The pole surveys would begin in late October and that construction bidding would follow.
 - b. Transfer Station Repair: Chair Wilson said the costs for engineering and work required to repair a washout on a 25' x 60' long area of a side slope. To complete long term remediation measures and improve storm water drainage the additional work will cost approximately \$70,000.00 which was required by the Dept. of Environmental Protection to be completed as soon as possible. It was agreed to request funding at the Special Town Meeting from Stabilization.
 - c. Assessors' Request: Assessors' Chair Rick Williams asked for an additional \$5,000.00 be added to the Special Town Meeting Warrant as the bids for the full list and measure to be done this Fall and Spring were coming in higher than anticipated.
 - d. Tunnel Road Issue: Chair Wilson explained that she had been contacted by an Attorney representing a lower Tunnel Road resident.

NEW BUSINESS

1. 3:00 Tax Classification Hearing: To select a Minimum Residential Factor for Determining the Split Tax Rate for FY18: Board of Assessors Committee Member Ellen Miller presented the Select Board with the figures for the split tax rate for FY17 and recommended that the Select Board adopt the minimum allowable Minimum Residential Factor (MRF) be 0.0500444. They reported a small amount of new growth resulting in Levy Limit increase of \$13,074. Real estate sales were flat with no increase in home or land values. The total town valuation increased by 0.2% or \$581,496. Chair Wilson agreed to sign the LA-5 Certification for Dept. of Revenue which was required to verify MRF.

Motion to Adopt MRF: Chair Wilson made a motion to adopt the Minimum Residential Factor be 0.0500444 as recommended by the Board of Assessors. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

2. Appoint Gracy House Committee Member: Chair Wilson said that Jack Williams had many ideas for activities at the Gracy House and recommended appointing Jack Williams to the Gracy House Committee.

Motion to Appoint: Chair Wilson made a motion to appoint Jack Williams to the Gracy House Committee. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

3. 5:00pm Chief Shippee: Chair Wilson said that she had spoken to Chief Shippee about a recent break-in house invasion in town and discussed making citizens aware of it so they may take precautions.

4. 5:30pm Police Chief Shippee and Fire Chief Sprague to Discuss Fire Protocols: Discussion tabled due to schedule conflicts.
5. Town Clerk: Sign Warrant for State Election in November: Select Board members reviewed the Warrant for State and Federal Election.

Motion to Sign Warrant: Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the State and Federal Election Warrant for November 6, 2016. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

6. Executive Secretary Updates: Janice Boudreau followed up with the citizen request to have a streetlight at their house to be unlit. Ms. Boudreau said she had contacted all the abutters and everyone was agreeable to the change.

Warrants: FY17 W09 and FY17 P0 were reviewed and signed.

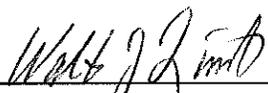
Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 5:59pm. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, unanimously accepted. (2/0/1)

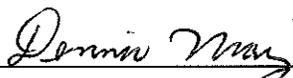
Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau
Executive Secretary

Approval Date: November 30, 2016

Approved: 
Marilyn Wilson, Chair


Walter J. Quist, Vice-Chair


Dennis May, Selectman

ATTACHMENTS:

- Agenda 10-19-16
- Memo from BOA – Tax Classification Hearing (5 pgs.)
- DEP – Re: Transfer Station (7 pgs.)
- On-Call Seasonal Driver Draft Job Description