

Town of Rowe – FY2012
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Thursday, January 12, 2012 – 7:00pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm.

Present: Chairman Noel Abbott; Selectmen Paul McLatchy III and Robert Clancy

Audience: None

Real Estate Tax Refund: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to approve a Real Estate Tax refund in the amount of \$1.45 for Brian & Kevin Bast. Refund due to overpayment of tax.

WiredWest Grant Application: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to approve the WiredWest Community Innovation Challenge (CIC) Grant application for \$400-500K to cover the financing costs of the municipal bond offering to capitalize the WiredWest network.

MMAC Representative: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to appoint Noel Abbott as the representative to the MMAC (Mohawk Municipal Advisory Committee).

FCCIP Representative: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to appoint Town Coordinator Ellen Miller as the representative to the FCCIP (Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program).

Chairman's Report/Tuition Agreement: Chairman Abbott attended the previous evening's (Jan. 11) meeting of the Mohawk School Committee (MSC), and reported on the verbal report he had given to that committee. He received permission from MSC Chair Bob Aeschback to speak to the MSC concerning their Agenda item VIII.C – *"Town of Rowe Special Town meeting to allocate funding for litigation against Mohawk · Special Town Meeting Official Results FY2012 Wednesday, December 21, 2011, Town of Rowe."*

He informed the MSC that the BOS sees this as a very serious issue, and that he was there that evening to lower the level of rhetoric. The BOS had placed this article on the December 21st warrant in response to action taken by the MSC in recent months to change Rowe's tuition arrangement, without discussing this with the Town of Rowe. [There is also concern about busing charges for Gr. 7-12 Rowe students that we have had to pay for the last few years, which appear to be in conflict with the long-standing (30 year) tuition agreement.] He explained to the MSC that the STM results made no mention of litigation, nor was litigation mentioned at the special town meeting, and read to them the following STM meeting results:

"...vote to APPROPRIATE from the STABILIZATION FUND the sum of \$25,000.00 for Legal and Consulting Expenses regarding the Town of Rowe's tuition arrangement for Grade 7-12 students with the Mohawk Trail Regional School District."

[Note: The original STM article asked for \$50K, but was amended by Selectman McLatchy to \$25K. The article, as amended by Selectman McLatchy, passed by an overwhelming margin [approximately 76 voters present; only 7 voted against the article].

Chairman Abbott stated that he felt his report to the MSC was well received by the committee members.

Legal Services Agreement: Pursuant to the Dec. 21st STM vote, the BOS voted at their last meeting (Jan.4) to enter into a Legal Services Agreement with the firm of Brody, Hardoon, Perkins & Kesten, LLP, (BHPK) of Boston MA to represent Rowe concerning the matters discussed above. At this evening's meeting the BOS voted unanimously (3/0) to appoint Noel Abbott and Bill Loomis to carry out Mohawk and Rowe School District related matters. Both Mr. Abbott and Mr. Loomis, along with consultant David Newell, will meet with attorneys Lenny Kesten and Naomi Stonberg of BHPK tomorrow morning. Selectman McLatchy stated that he felt it was very important that the entire Selectboard be kept apprised of all discussions concerning this matter, and that if there were items needing to be discussed with the School Committee, that the entire School Committee be apprised of the items. Chairman Abbott stated that he was not sure if the Selectboard's discussions concerning these matters would need to be held in open or closed session. He will get legal counsel's opinion regarding this.

Minutes: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to accept as submitted the January 4, 2012, meeting minutes.

Adjourn: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm.

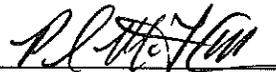
Respectfully submitted,

Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

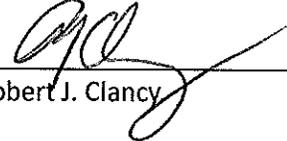
Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III



Robert J. Clancy

Feb 15, 2012

Date Approved

Attachments:

- Agenda
- RE Tax Refund
- WiredWest CIC Grant Summary and Application