

Town of Rowe – FY2012  
Board of Selectmen - Minutes  
Wednesday, April 4, 2012 – 7:00pm  
Rowe Town Hall

---

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abbott at 6:05pm.

**Present:** Chairman Noel Abbott and Selectman Paul McLatchy III and Bob Clancy

**MTRSD Three District Agreement:** Chair Abbott reported that School Committee Chair Bill Loomis brought a letter inviting discussion of the 3 District Agreement issue plus our attorney's legal opinion that the 2008 3 District Agreement is valid and enforceable and that the newly constructed 3 District Agreement is not enforceable. Chair Loomis requested that these items be included for discussion at the March Mohawk Regional School Committee meeting. Mohawk Chairman Robert Aeschback declined to place the letter on the March agenda stating that it would be discussed at the April Mohawk School Committee meeting. This did not happen because subsequently Bill Loomis was told that Mr. Aeschback will not be at the April meeting. It will not be introduced until the May meeting. Chair Abbott spoke with Lark Thwing (also on the MTRSD committee), and Mr. Thwing also said it would not come forward at the April meeting due to Mr. Aeschback's absence. Lark Thwing further stated that the matter will need to be judicially resolved. He also assured Mr. Abbott that moving the 3 DA issue to legal resolution would not affect future discussion on the Regional Agreement. Chair Abbott stated that the next step would be to contact Attorneys Lenny Kesten and Naomi Stoneberg asking that they apply for an injunction to keep the 2008 3 DA in force until judicial intervention can be obtained. It was agreed to hold off another week and discuss this matter at the April 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**School Paving Project:** Chair Abbott reported that school attorney Russell Dupere has changed his opinion as to who should sign the contract for the paving. He first said the School Committee had the authority, he then said the Central Office had the authority. Chair Abbott will get in touch with Mr. Dupere concerning the matter.

**MSBA School Window Project:** Nothing new. Defer to next meeting.

**Clarification/Rectification:** Resident Cindy Laffond emailed Chair Abbott with two concerns: 1) She asks that it be made clear that the fact that Free Cash as of July 1, 2011, has not yet been certified is not due to any failure on the part of the Town Accountant. An article in the April GP from the FinCom concerning Free Cash Certification states that the Treasurer has reconciled her records with bank statements, inferring that she had taken care of her end of the matter. The reason the Free Cash is not certified is because the Treasurer has not reconciled her cash with the Accountant. And 2) the matter of the letter from the IG's office concerning the BJ's membership was also addressed by the FinCom in the April GP. Ms. Laffond questioned how the information was passed on to the FinCom, and why they were reporting it in the GP. Chair Abbott did state the fact that Free Cash was not certified due in no part to Accountant Ellen Miller, but that to his knowledge the Treasurer had not completed the cash reconciliation. He hoped that the report of CPA Jo Sarnelli would pinpoint that fact. He also stated that the item concerning BJ's should not have been in the FinCom report in the April GP.

**COLA for FY2013:** The Selectboard agreed to continue using the Social Security COLA which is 3.6% for employees' COLA for FY2013. Stipends will not be increased in FY2013. [Stipends for Tax Collector, Town Clerk, Treasurer, Police Chief, Fire Chief, Fire Dept Administrator and EMS Coordinator will increase by the 3.6% COLA.]

**Free Cash:** Ms. Miller estimates that Free Cash will be at least \$150K, and will probably be closer to \$200K. However, the July 1, 2011 Free Cash cannot get certified until the Treasurer submits to her the *Treasurer's Quarterly Cash Report* as of June 30, 2011. Ms. Cousineau had been asked to deliver this to the town hall by 2pm on March 28<sup>th</sup>, but it was not delivered.

**FY2013 Budget:** The current budget worksheet shows that we are \$206K over our estimated FY2013 levy limit. Presuming the use of \$100K of Free Cash to balance the budget, this leaves us \$106K over estimated Levy Limit. It was agreed to cut \$45K from the requested \$95K for DPW Road Maintenance/Reclamation, leaving a total of \$50K for that line item. (Jim Taylor will be informed of this cut.) That leaves us \$61K over estimated Levy Limit. The Selectboard will take a closer look at line items to see how we can trim \$61K from the budget.

**ESCO Lease Payoff:** Ms. Miller will contact SunTrust to get the payoff amount on our equipment lease purchase agreement for the next BOS meeting on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

**April 24<sup>th</sup> STM:** The Selectboard will meet on April 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm to approve/sign the warrant for the April 24<sup>th</sup> STM.

**MRIP Account at FCSWMD:** Ms. Miller reported that there is approximately \$11,500 in our MRIP (Municipal Recycling Incentive Program) escrow account being held at FCSWMD (Franklin County Solid Waste Management District). Income in the account comes from recycling revenues. The fund is used for purchasing copy paper for the town and school, and for 50% of our annual FCSWMD assessment. The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to pay 100% of the FY2013 assessment of \$3,187 from this account (which will be deducted quarterly), and to have FCSWMD forward us \$8,000 from the account. This will be a general fund receipt. Taking 100% of the assessment from the MRIP account will cut \$1,593 from the FY13 budget, leaving \$59,400 needing to be trimmed from the budget.

**Adjournment:** The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to adjourn the meeting at 9:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen B. Miller, Town Coordinator

Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III

June 19, 2012

Date Approved

Robert J. Clancy

**Attachments:**

- Agenda
- SchCom letter re 3 District Shared Services Agreement