

Town of Rowe – FY2012
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Thursday, April 19, 2012 – 6:30pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abbott at 6:37pm.

Present: Chairman Noel Abbott and Selectmen Paul McLatchy III and Bob Clancy

Sarnelli Audit Report:

- A citizens' request signed by 48 townspeople was presented to the board asking that the recommendations in the Sarnelli report be implemented. It was also requested that the Sarnelli report and the DOR's 2007 management review be put on the town website. The Selectboard agreed to put these items on the town website.
- It was noted that the report was not signed by Ms. Sarnelli.
- DPW Supt. Jim Taylor stated that the fact that he has the second largest department budget in town and he was not contacted by Ms. Sarnelli indicating to him that the report is incomplete. He questions why residents were interviewed, but that he was never contacted. Also, he stated that the report is continually referred to as an audit. It was not an audit.
- Chair Abbott stated that he too initially thought that the town was getting an "audit plus." In discussion with Jo Sarnelli he learned the distinction between the term "Audit" and "Internal Control Review" and was informed that she was not preparing an audit. Her contract does state "internal control review." Chair Abbott stated that he believed the function being performed by Ms. Sarnelli is aligned with the spirit of what the town voted for when funding this process.
- There was a request from an audience member that an opinion be obtained from town counsel as to whether it was legal to have an internal control review done when town meeting had voted to appropriate funds of \$30K for a "forensic financial audit". Selectman Clancy agreed we should get this answered so that we can make sure we're OK when it comes time to pay the bill. Chair Abbott stated he will initiate a conversation with town counsel on this matter.
- Selectman McLatchy stated that he feels that they got the report they expected. He did state that the report seemed to be a rehash of the first report (the DOR report).
- Ms. Miller stated that there were some inaccuracies in the report.
- Selectman Clancy stated that had hoped that Ms. Sarnelli's report would have covered more of the finances of the town and the status of getting the treasurer's office current. We are nearing town meeting and nothing has changed.
- Chair Abbott stated that the work that needs to get done is in the Treasurer's domain. He has a commitment from Heidi Cousineau that she will get the work done. She stated she has reconciliations through Jan 2012 done, and within 24 hours will get electronic copies to him; and that this weekend she will enter information into *City & Town* through March 2012.
- Chair Abbott stated that once the software issues are sorted out that bids will be solicited for an audit.
- Ms. Miller stated that the Audit Committee was appointed to find an auditor to recommend to the Selectmen. She, the accountant, wanted an audit and the treasurer had also requested an audit. She does not understand why this did not happen.

Internal Control Review Recommendations: The Selectboard will begin developing a response to the recommendations at their next meeting on April 25th.

FY2013 Budget:

- **School Budget:** SchCom Chair Bill Loomis stated that \$15K has been cut from the school K-6 budget. He will get line item changes to Ellen Miller.
- **Grasshoppers:** DPW Supt. Jim Taylor stated he was not in favor of the \$4500 cut to the Grasshopper (SYE) program. The line item has been level funded since at least FY2002. It was agreed to take the \$4500 from the Winter Roads budget instead.
- **ESCO Payoff:** FinCom Chair Marilyn Wilson stated that the proposed Sun Trust payoff amount is not correct. This will be researched.
- **Yankee Land Committee:** YLC Chair Walt Quist stated that he was unhappy to hear that their budget request for FY13 of \$5000 had been cut to \$1000. They have plans to get a value placed on the Yankee property. \$1000 will not be sufficient. The BOS will discuss this at their April 25th meeting.

MSBA School Window Project: School Committee will meet with BOS at the April 25th meeting to discuss this project.

Oct 18, 2011 Executive Session: Resident Cindy Laffond requested that minutes of the Oct 18th executive session be released. The executive session was being held to discuss MA Teachers' Retirement problem. Chair Abbott stated that he was certain there were a number of issues addressed in the executive session. He will check the minutes of that meeting.

Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B. Miller, Town Coordinator

Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III

June 19, 2012

Date Approved

Robert J. Clancy

Attachment:

- Agenda
- Citizens' Request concerning Sarnelli report