

Town of Rowe – FY2012
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Wednesday, May 30, 2012 – 5:00pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Selectman McLatchy at 5:10pm.

Present: Chairman Noel Abbott, Selectmen Paul McLatchy III and Selectman Marilyn Wilson.

Audience of Citizens:

MRT #2012-06 (Municipal Relief Transfer): The Selectboard voted unanimously (2/0) to approve an MRT transferring \$850.00 from General Administration to Administrative Assistant Wages.

Chairman Abbott joined the meeting at 5:14 PM

MRT #2012-07: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0) to approve an MRT transferring \$2,500.00 from DPW Winter Roads to Summer Youth Employment. Supt. Taylor would like to start the supervisors a week early to get a jump on the mowing and to get the equipment ready. There is a large contingent of Grasshoppers this year, so funds will be spread thinner than in the past several years. This will stretch next year's budget a little further.

Jersey Barriers on King's Highway Bridge: Selectman Wilson asked DPW Supt. Taylor what could be done with the tall jersey barriers on the KH bridge. Mr. Taylor says that the height should be maintained to prevent any pedestrian mishaps, but he will look into to see if there is anything that can be done. The bridge is on the State's list as needing replacement. Mr. Taylor will check with the State on the status of the bridge.

Road Plan: DPW Supt. Taylor stated he is still working on developing a detailed spreadsheet of all town roads. He will get the document updated and bring it to a working session with the Selectboard to be held sometime in September.

Sick Leave Policy: At a meeting in late winter DPW Supt. had asked that the sick leave policy be amended to be in line with the school policy. Chairman Abbott acknowledged that this has not been addressed yet. A comment was made that Town Policy would not necessarily align with School policy under a union negotiated employment contract.

Additional Legal Funds for School Matter: Chairman Abbott stated that he would like to seek an additional \$30K at the upcoming Special Town Meeting for the ongoing school legal matter. Both Selectman McLatchy and Selectman Wilson were not in favor of this amount, and both agreed that would only be willing to seek \$15K. Chairman Abbott stated that continuing to pursue the matter will save funds in the long run as we are currently being overcharged (equates to approximately \$140K for transportation costs alone). Chairman Abbott explained that there have been many roadblocks to Rowe officials' attempts to meet with Mohawk officials to come to an agreement on matters. Selectman Wilson suggested that a change in the players at the table may help, and offered to step in. A motion was then made and seconded to seek an appropriation of \$15,000 from Free Cash for the school legal matter. The motion passed two in favor, and Chairman Abbott opposed (2/1/0). Chair Abbott stated that his opposition was based on the concern that the Town might need access to more funding and he did not want to go back to Town Meeting yet again. He also stated a clear intention to minimize legal expenses and in the likelihood of a Judicial ruling for a Standstill Order and directing the participants to come to the table to resolve the issues. Under that scenario the Town would be in the situation that we have been attempting to achieve all along.

STM Warrant: New proposed zoning bylaws had been submitted by Planning Board Chair Doug Wilson yesterday to be placed on the June 13th STM warrant; however, two Planning Board members present (Jodi Brown and Bob Dykeman) stated that the Planning Board had not met since the March public hearing to vote on any changes brought forward via the hearing process. The Selectboard then had Ms. Miller remove the zoning bylaw portion from the warrant. The STM warrant with two articles (one for \$14,900 for the school paving project and one for the \$15,000 for the school legal matter) was unanimously approved (3/0/0) and signed. Constable Dykeman then signed and posted the warrant.

School Paving Bid Award: Chairman Abbott signed the bid award for Warner Bros. in the amount of \$74,900 for paving the school parking lot and driveway, contingent upon an additional town meeting appropriation of \$14,900 on June 13, 2012. The bid had been awarded to Warner Bros. at a May 14th meeting of the Selectboard contingent on additional funding. Ms. Miller will get SchCom Chair Bill Loomis' signature on the document.

Request for Inspector General's Letter: A written request was received from resident Kristen Swenson for a copy of a letter received from the IGO concerning the town's BJs membership.

Minutes: Minutes of the following meetings were approved as submitted two in favor, one abstention (2/0/1) as follows: February 2, 8, 15, 22, Mar 14 and 27, 2012. Minutes of the Feb 29 meeting were approved two in favor, one abstention (2/0/1) with a correction of S. Loomis' injury date. Minutes of the Mar 28 meeting were approved by Chairman Abbott (1 aye, 2 abstentions). Selectman McLatchy did not attend the Mar 28th meeting, and because Selectman Wilson had not yet been elected, she was not eligible to sign minutes prior to her May 19th election. Minutes of the April 4th meeting were not approved. Chairman Abbott will forward his suggested changes to the Selectboard and Ms. Miller.

Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0/0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:59pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III



Marilyn Wilson

July 3, 2012 (signed July 9, 2012)

Date Approved

Attachments:

- Agenda
- MRTs #06 & #07
- School Paving Bid Award
- Request for IGO letter