

Town of Rowe – FY2013
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Partial Joint Meeting with School Committee, then
Regular Board of Selectmen Meeting
Wednesday, August 15, 2012 –5:00pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abbott at 5:08pm.

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

Also Present: School Committee members: Chair Lisa Miller and Lisa Danek-Burke; School Supt. Michael Buonoconti, School Business Manager Joanne Blier, and Rowe School Principal Bill Knittle

School Committee Vacancy: The two boards met jointly to fill a vacancy on the School Committee. School Committee Chair Lisa Miller read aloud a letter from resident Cindy Laffond asking to be considered to fill the committee vacancy, and Ms. Miller then nominated Ms. Laffond. Select Board Chair Noel Abbott then asked if there were any other nominations. School Committee member Lisa Danek-Burke nominated resident Maggie Parent. There being no further nominations, Chairman Abbott declared the nominations closed. Discussion ensued among the two boards and the audience concerning both nominees. The following roll call votes were then taken:

On the nomination of Cindy Laffond:

- Noel Abbott: Yes
- Paul McLatchy III: Yes
- Marilyn Wilson: No
- Lisa Danek-Burke: No
- Lisa Miller: Yes

On the nomination of Margaret Parent:

- Lisa Miller: No
- Lisa Danek-Burke: Yes
- Marilyn Wilson: Yes
- Paul McLatchy III: No
- Noel Abbott: No

Cindy Laffond was elected by the joint committee/board vote. Ms. Miller will prepare Ms. Laffond's appointment paper so that she may get sworn to duty.

Executive Session: At 6:04pm there was a motion to enter into Executive Session with respect to litigation, and to reconvene in open session, by the following roll call vote: Noel Abbott – yes, Paul McLatchy – yes, and Marilyn Wilson – yes. Town Coordinator Ellen Miller was invited by the Select Board to join the Executive Session to take meeting minutes.

Reconvene Open Session: The Chairman called the reopened session to order at 6:60pm.

Drop Pending Litigation: A motion was made and seconded to drop the pending litigation (CA No. FRCV2012-067) against Hawlemont and Mohawk by the Town of Rowe. The motion passed unanimously (3/0/0).

Police Department: Chief Dandeneau met with the board to give a departmental update.

- **CJIS/MIRCS:** New systems are having difficulty interfacing with Windows 7. Working with Moody Consulting and Dept of Public Safety to straighten this out.
- **Training:** Software training status:
 - **CJIS:** HD – not trained, but able to use most of it; JS – not trained; SH – not trained
 - **MIRCS:** HD – trained; JS – trained; SH – trained
 - **IMC:** HD – able to use system. Very user unfriendly. Many depts going to newer software; JS – partially trained; SH – [unknown]

- **Emergency Response Paging Service:** To provide better radio contact for the Police Dept Chief Dandeneau presented options for paging coverage that will give near complete coverage for the town [present radio system does not provide adequate coverage]. Chief Dandeneau recommended CVC Paging of Rutland VT. They offer two packages (attached). The Selectboard voted unanimously 3/0/0 to accept CVC Paging's proposal for up to 6 months of alphanumeric coverage @ \$14.95/mth and rental of \$4.00/mth each for pager model Unication Elegant (alphanumeric). The Selectboard asked Chief Dandeneau to have CVC Paging send the contract for this purchase to both the Selectboard and Chief Dandeneau.

School Fire:

- **MIIA Insurance Services:** A preliminary fire damage report and recommendations for repair dated August 9th prepared for MIIA by Richard Boggs of DeStafano & Chamberlin was reviewed. Tom Donaldson of MIIA then joined the meeting via speaker phone to give an update on the school fire. In terms of rebuild vs. repair, the cost would most likely be a wash since the engineering for a selective demolition would be very costly. Also, no one will guarantee getting the smell of smoke and soot out of the building in a "repair" scenario. A preliminary MIIA will have their final reports available in mid to late September. Tom was thanked for providing information.
- **Approval to Deficit Spend:** Written approval (dated August 8, 2012) in accordance with the provisions of GL c.44, §31 was received from Gerard Perry, Director of Accounts for MA DOR's Division of Local Services, for the payment of costs resulting from the Rowe Elementary School fire, in order to maintain public health and public safety in the Town. Payments may be reported to the assessors for inclusion in the FY2013 tax rate unless the Town makes other provision; and must be reported to the assessors for inclusion in the FY2014 tax rate unless otherwise provided for.
- **Letters:** Letters concerning the school were received from resident Brian Donelson of Potter Road and vacation resident Dot Page of Pond Road. Letters were taken under advisement.

RECESS: A 5-minute recess was taken at 8:07pm, and the meeting reconvened at 8:22pm.

Special Town Meeting: It was agreed that a special town meeting will be called for September 18th at 6:30pm to handle several matters: setting up an insurance proceeds account, paying a prior year legal bill, presenting request from Board of Health for a revolving account, and seeking approximately \$35K for new town truck (bids came in higher than anticipated). It was discussed that perhaps information concerning the school could be disseminated at this meeting also. Town Moderator Bob Clancy can make the meeting. Ms. Miller will contact Town Clerk Jenn Morse to ensure her availability. Ms. Miller will prepare a draft warrant.

Bonded Officers: Ms. Miller reported that the only officials requiring bonding by state statute are: Tax Collector, Asst. Tax Collector, Treasurer, Asst. Treasurer, Temporary Treasurer, and Town Clerk. A question had arisen earlier concerning bonding for payroll officials. They are not required to be bonded.

Rep. Paul Mark: Chairman Abbott reported that Rep. Paul Mark has requested to hold office hours at the Rowe Town Hall on Tuesday, September 18th from 4:00-6:00pm. He would like to hold office hours twice per year at the Rowe Town Hall.

Rowe Historical Society Request: The Rowe Historical Society submitted a written request to the Selectboard asking that they send a letter of approval/support for the society's request to MA Highway Department for the installation of a tourist directional sign on the west-bound side of Route 2 just before the Rowe turn off. Approval has already been received from the Town of Charlemont. MA Highway requires the approval of any town that the directional sign sends traffic through. The Selectboard unanimously approved (3/0/0) the request. Ms. Miller will prepare a letter for Chairman Abbott's signature.

New Fire Officers: At the recommendation of Fire Chief Paul McLatchy Jr., the Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0/0) to appoint both Glenn White and Selmi Hyytinen as Lieutenants of the Rowe Volunteer Fire Department effective immediately. There are currently openings for a Deputy Chief and a Captain. Chief McLatchy has informed all current officers that he will assess the performance of all officers and determine which of them he will recommend for these two positions.

Fire Department Report: Chairman Abbott requested that Selectman McLatchy (Fire Dept. liaison) contact Chief McLatchy asking that he present a written departmental status report to the Selectboard, also asking when is the soonest he can provide the report.

Davenport Road Closure: Ms. Miller reported that the DPW department will be closing Davenport Road from next Monday through Wednesday to replace a culvert damaged during TS Irene. Ms. Miller will put out a town-wide call alerting residents to the closure.

MBI Update: Ms. Miller reported that MBI (MA Broadband Initiative) will supply all of the fiber and hardware they had promised from the beginning. They were chagrined that a sub-contractor (Phoenix Technologies) had stated to Ms. Miller that the promised equipment would not be installed. Their general contractor (GS4) visited Ms. Miller today to assure the town that work will take place as planned and all commitments will be fulfilled.

Cash Reconciliations: Selectman Wilson reported that he called and emailed Treasurer Heidi Cousineau today informing her that all cash reconciliations need to get done within two weeks or the town will hire an outside service (perhaps Melanson & Heath or Tom Scanlon) to get the work done. She also informed her that she needs to be here every Tuesday to interface with Accountants Joyce Muka and/or Frank Dudek.

MTRB Reports: Selectman Wilson reported that Harpers Payroll Service will prepare the monthly MA Teachers' Retirement reports and make the monthly deposits to MTRB for the town.

Warrants: Payroll Warrant 13-04 and Treasury Warrant 13-04 were unanimously approved for payment.

Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0/0) to adjourn their meeting at 9:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III



Marilyn Wilson

Sept 18, 2012

Date Approved

Attachments:

- Agenda
- CVC Paging proposal
- DeStafano & Chamberlin – preliminary fire damage report/recommendations dated 8/9/12
- DOR letter of approval to deficit spend dated 8/8/12
- Brian Donelson letter re school
- Dot Page letter re school
- Rowe Historical Society letter re directional sign approval