

**Town of Rowe – FY2013**  
**Board of Selectmen – Minutes**  
**Tuesday, August 28, 2012 –6:00pm**  
**Rowe Town Hall**

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abbott at 6:06pm.

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

**Audience:** Ann Foshay, Robin Reed, Jodi Brown, Betty Vernes, Myra Carlow, Kris Swenson, Cindy Laffond, Lenny Laffond, Jim Davidson, Ron Gordon, Carlos Heligmann, Kathy Heiligmann, John Magnago, Judy Pierce, Jenn Morse, Lillian Danek, Sue Gleason, Loretta Dionne

**Soule Barn Foundation:** Resident Ron Gordon asked about the status of the Soule Barn foundation and basement work. Ms. Miller will ask DPW Supt. Jim Taylor.

**Minutes:** Minutes of the July 31 meeting were unanimously (3/0/0) approved as amended. Draft minutes of the August 5<sup>th</sup> and August 6<sup>th</sup> emergency meetings were provided by Selectman McLatchy. They were deferred to the next meeting.

**School Fire Update:**

- Expect to receive engineering report on school fire within the next two weeks. Report will show if MIIA determines the building a total loss or is repairable. Following the engineering report, estimates of costs to repair or rebuild will be provided.
- At a previous meeting of the Hawlemont School Committee (HSC) they declined to sign an MOU with the Rowe School Committee (RSC) allowing Rowe students to be housed at Hawlemont for the coming school year 2012-2013 because they did not like the make-up of the RSC, but suggested they would sign the document if the makeup of the RSC changed. They have since recanted this position and the document has now been signed by both committees (document attached).
- The MOU does stipulate that no materials taken from the Rowe School can enter the Hawlemont School without review/approval of the HSC and the Central Office (CO), since they believe that there is contamination (asbestos, PCBs) at the Rowe School. Per both Ed May (Rowe's Emergency Management Director and HazMat Control Officer) and MIIA (our insurance agency) the fire did not cause any such contamination. Some items may require cleaning to remove soot and smoke, but there is no hazardous material contamination. [There has been asbestos in the building since it was built in 1960, but this contained in the mastic of some of the old carpeting and floor tiles and was not disturbed by the fire.] However, since the HSC and CO believe otherwise, they may require extensive testing for any items that enter the Hawlemont School, and such testing could be very costly. They may then try to pass these costs on to Rowe.
- Ed May has removed six (6) Smart Boards from the school building, cleaned them, and they are now being stored at the Rowe Fire Station. Ed states that school books are mostly unusable.
- Discussed next steps and possible process (survey, forum, special town meeting, etc.). No decisions made at this time.

**Fire Chief's Report:** Fire Chief states it will be another month before it is ready.

**BJ's Membership:** Letter of response to IG's Office was approved at last week's meeting. Final letter was signed and will be emailed to Barbara Hansberry at the IG's Office tomorrow.

**Police Department:**

- Having difficulties getting MIRCS operational. The state uses old software that is not compatible with our newer operating system. Moody Consulting is working on these problems.
- Chair Abbott asked Chief Dandeneau to put an update on the CVC Paging system in the October *Goal Post*, and to disseminate the paging numbers to the public. Numbers will be provided to Shelburne Control also.

**Citizen's Report of Harassment:** Chairman Abbott reported that he had two meetings with Police Chief Dandeneau to discuss the harassment matter brought forth by John Magnago of Ford Hill Road. Chief Dandeneau stated that a police report is not written up unless a matter is a criminal matter. Chief Dandeneau will be on vacation Aug 26 to Sept 6 and Sept 16 to 29. He will write up a report. Is awaiting input from two of his officers. Report will be emailed by Friday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>. Selectman Wilson stated that she did not believe that this issue is a matter for the Select Board. She has spoken with Town Counsel concerning the matter and is awaiting a response.

**Treasurer's Resignation:** The Select Board received yesterday a letter of resignation of Treasurer Heidi Cousineau effective August 23, 2012, for health and family reasons. The letter was submitted to the Town Clerk. Chairman Abbott publicly thanked Ms. Cousineau for her service. Ms. Miller suggested that Sandy Daviau, current Tax Collector, be appointed as Temporary Treasurer until a replacement can be found so that day-to-day business is not interrupted. The Select Board voted unanimously (3/0/0) to appoint Ms. Daviau as Temporary Treasurer. Ms. Miller will find out if the current Treasurer's stipend can be used for the Temporary Treasurer. Resident Cindy Laffond asked if an audit should be done since there is a change in the Treasurer's office. Selectman Wilson stated that she would contact both Melanson & Heath and Tom Scanlon concerning an audit. Ms. Miller recommended that the safe combination be changed. [This is common practice when there is a change in officials with such access.] It was stated that it would not be necessary to change the combination.

**Jo Sarnelli Invoice:** A resident had brought to the Select Board's attention that Ms. Sarnelli's invoice had indicated (2) guests on several receipts. The receipts in question were reviewed with vendors and it was determined that the charges were appropriate. Ms. Sarnelli did have meals with other guest(s) in attendance, but slips indicated (2) guests at the table so that meals would be served simultaneously. The town was not billed for meals other than those of Ms. Sarnelli. The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0/0) to approve and sign a letter drafted by Selectman Wilson to Ms. Sarnelli indicating their findings.

**Rep. Paul Mark:** Rep. Mark will hold office hours at the Town Hall on Tuesday, Sept 18<sup>th</sup> from 4pm to 6pm. He will also meet with the Selectmen at their 5pm meeting that evening. (STM follows at 6:30pm.)

**Recall Petition:** Following certification by the Board of Registrars, a Recall Petition was presented to the Board of Selectmen calling for the recall of School Committee Chair Lisa Miller. Chairman Abbott read the petition aloud. The reason given for the recall is that Ms. Miller was "obstructing the delivery of education." It is the responsibility of the Select Board to notify the official being recalled by certified mail or in person of the recall. This individual then has the option to resign within five days of receipt of this notification. The individual has the option to resign. If the individual does not resign, the Select Board must call a Recall Election between 64 and 90 days after receipt of notice by the official being recalled. A letter of notification to Ms. Miller was unanimously approved (3/0/0) and signed by the Select Board. Ellen Miller will send the letter by Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, and inform the Select Board of the outcome.

**FCCIP Report:** Permit report for July 2012 was reviewed.

**FY2013 Goals:** The following goals were set for FY2013: HR Policy Handbook (by end of April 2013); Job Descriptions; new Job Application form; Road Plans

**Warrants:** TW#13-05 and PW#13-05 were unanimously approved for payment.

**Special Town Meeting:** Draft warrant for Sept 18<sup>th</sup> STM was reviewed. Ms. Miller was asked to insert an article for the appropriation of Insurance Proceeds. An amount to appropriate will need to be determined. The warrant will be approved and signed at next week's meeting. Ms. Miller will find out if the STM can be held at the Rowe Historical Society.

**PA System:** The town's PA system was destroyed in the school fire. Resident Russ Jolly, who sets up the system for town meetings and events, provided paperwork for a recommended replacement system. The Select Board voted unanimously (3/0/0) to purchase the Yamaha PA system that he recommended. Ms. Miller will get the system purchased.

**Adjournment:** The Select Board voted unanimously (3/0/0) to adjourn their meeting at 8:26pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen B. Miller  
Town Coordinator

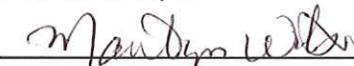
Approved:



Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III



Marilyn Wilson

Oct. 16, 2012

Date Approved

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**Attachments:**

- Agenda
- RSC/HSC MOU
- Letter to Inspector General's Office re BJ's Membership
- Treasurer's Letter of Resignation
- Letter to Jo Sarnelli
- Certified Recall Petition
- Notification letter to Lisa Miller
- FCCIP July 2012 Report
- Recommended PA system