

Town of Rowe – FY2013
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
EMERGENCY MEETING - Friday, November 16, 2012 – 1:00pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Abbott at 1:16pm

Present: Chairman Noel Abbott and Vice Chairman Paul McLatchy III

Absent: Selectman Marilyn Wilson

Also Present: DPW Supt. Jim Taylor and Town Coordinator Ellen Miller

Depot Street Bridge: DPW Supt. Taylor received a phone call late this morning from Peter Niles, Director of MassDOT Highway Division District One, alerting him that the Depot Street Bridge over the Deerfield River has deteriorated to the point that the state is calling for closure to all traffic. Director Niles followed up his phone call with an email at 12:27pm, forwarding to the town a letter from MA Highway Director of Bridges and Structures Alexander Barlow (attached) which called for closure of the bridge to all traffic. Chairman Abbott called an emergency meeting for 1:00pm to act on the matter.

Director Niles stated that if the towns (Rowe and Monroe) did not take action to close the bridge after being informed by the state that closure was necessary, that liability concerning the bridge would fall to the towns. Mr. Niles was contacted by phone from the meeting. He stated that the bridge could remain open for foot traffic.

On directive from the state the Select Board voted unanimously (2/0/0) at 1:25pm to close the bridge effective immediately, and to instruct DPW Supt. Taylor to post appropriate signage concerning the closure and the placement of jersey barriers at the bridge apron preventing traffic from crossing the bridge. The board contacted Monroe Town Coordinator Marcella Stafford Gore who stated that the Monroe Select Board would not be meeting to discuss the matter until Monday. Since Rowe was closing their side of the bridge, DPW Supt. Taylor offered to place barriers on the Monroe entrance to the bridge, to which Ms. Stafford Gore accepted. The signs and barriers will be put in place this afternoon. Ms. Miller will send a call out to townspeople alerting them of the closure.

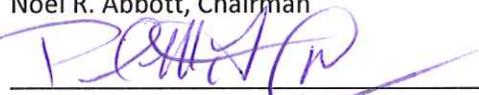
Director Niles thanked the Select Board for taking swift action on the matter. He did state that the bridge had been slated to go out to bid in June 2013, but that has now been moved up to April. It is expected that construction would start in the summer can be completed next fall. The foundations and abutments are in good condition and will remain in place. The bridge structure itself will be replaced with a similar structure, but using different materials. The Cor-Ten steel used for the existing structure did not last as long as had been hoped. The structure was built about 1992.

Adjournment: The Select Board voted unanimously (2/0/0) to adjourn the meeting at 2:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

Approved:

Noel R. Abbott, Chairman



Paul McLatchy III, Vice Chairman

Dec. 14, 2012

Date Approved

[Absent]
Marilyn Wilson