

Town of Rowe - FY 2013
Board of Selectmen - Minutes
Monday, March 4, 2013 - 1:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair Marilyn Wilson at 1:00 pm.

Present: Chair Marilyn Wilson, Vice-Chair Paul McLatchy III, and Selectman Noel Abbott, substitute Secretary Janice Boudreau

Audience: Anne Foshay

Review Minutes: No Minutes to review

Old Business:

Police Chief Ads: Marilyn Wilson noted that advertising for a Police Chief replacement to appear in 3 newspapers were scheduled to appear starting the weekend prior.

Treasurer Workshop: Marilyn Wilson reported that Treasurer Donna Flagg had asked if the town would be willing to fund a \$ 25.00 fee to cover her attendance to a Workshop for new Treasurers. Upon discussion it was agreed to tell her to proceed with signing up for the Workshop.

IT Review Update: Marilyn Wilson updated members on the research status of Information Technology (IT) support for the town she was in the process of conducting.

- Current Status: Moody Consulting currently provides IT support to the town for the amount of \$16,000 per year. Marilyn noted that this figure represented a flat fee, whereas research found that companies generally charged for contact time and software upgrades. Following contact with area towns, she found that the current fee was considerably higher than what other small towns were spending. This research led her to contact several IT providers to ascertain what they would charge for similar services. She spoke with Vertitech, North East Systems and Jansen Mcnay to inquire about services they provide.

- Next Steps:
 - a. Marilyn is completing a list of all town hardware
 - b. Marilyn asked Moody Consulting to submit a report detailing services currently provided
 - c. Decide whether to hire an IT company to conduct a full audit approximate cost \$ 750.00
 - d. Decide which company to hire for the audit
 - e. Decide if the full audit should include recommendations
 - f. Marilyn is also compiling information about where the computer upgrades expenditures from the 10 years prior were spent since many town systems require upgrading

It was agreed to have further discussion when the Moody Consulting report was completed and Marilyn compiled invoices of prior expenditures.

Tim Sullivan and Data Center in Springfield: Marilyn reported having spoken with Frank Estabrook, the local government liaison for the Massachusetts Technology Division, about the new Springfield Data Center that will provide a critical backup data center facility for the Commonwealth's municipalities.

It could serve as an off premise back up system for all the data of the town since it is currently backed up at the Town Hall. He indicated that he hoped funding for providing software to towns would also be forthcoming. It could reduce spending for servers and IT support. Noel Abbott opined that it might be prudent to wait a year until services were consistent and reliable before switching over to them.

Wired West Update: Noel Abbott reported attending a recent Wired West Communications Cooperative meeting for the area 42-member towns. Noel stressed that Rowe citizens should complete support card surveys as they were needed to validate interest which could then help to assist in obtaining seed money. Using fiber optic technology it could provide integrated reliable high speed internet, phone and cable tv. He said he would continue to attend meetings and support efforts for development.

Vendor Bill Schedule: Marilyn said she was issuing a memo to all town Department heads to remind them to use the vendor bill schedule procedure instituted by Town Accountant Jackie Cashin.

Conservation Workshop: Upon discussion it was agreed to be imperative Jim Taylor attend the Conservation Workshop about streams provided by the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in Pittsfield on March 19, 2013.

Yankee Land Committee Presentation: Marilyn reported Walt Quist would be giving a presentation Yankee Land Committee Presentation next Wednesday.

New Business:

Discuss Moratorium on Industrial Wind Farms: Marilyn expressed concern that Rowe currently has no control over whether Industrial Wind Farms installations can come to town and that there were no bylaws in place to protect the town from regulations reverting to state standards. Noel Abbott said it raises a potential public health issue and he discussed the adverse health effects. Marilyn said that property values fall when wind farms are located near residences. There were growing concerns about their viability in the area as studies have shown that inland in MA the wind quality for the purposes of industrial wind farms is very poor. However, she noted that such establishments could be used as tax write-offs. It was agreed to discuss again in the near future and present an initiative to the Planning Board.

Discuss Elder Transportation: Marilyn raised the question of whether transportation was adequate for senior citizens and those needing assistance in getting to appointments. Ann Foshay indicated that there was transportation available to the pharmacy in Shelburne Falls and the Big Y and thought there was a program in place for transportation to doctor appointments. Following discussion it was agreed to speak further with Sandy Daviau, Chair of the Council on Aging about elder transportation and car-pooling.

Faulty Alarm Sensors: Marilyn reported the faulty alarm sensors were causing the alarm to fire for no reason, which then necessitated a call to Shelburne Control to alert them of the false alarm. Ed May found some older sensors and would replace them and Marilyn found replacement sensors on line and would order them in the future when replacements wore out.

New Fire Chief Transition: Marilyn spoke with the new Fire Chief and wanted to assist in the transition as much as possible. Following discussion it was agreed to ask him to go on line and find out what were State reporting requirements including the Emergency Plan. He should identify what reports were needed and when due. It was agreed that new software may not be required, that perhaps help in preparing spreadsheets might be adequate. Marilyn felt it was important to provide support where possible.

New Town Hall Window Quilts: Noel Abbott explained that the new window quilts needed to be closed down at night and when light was not needed. When sun was out they should be raised and lowered when sun went down. It was agreed that Jack Packard should receive a letter of appreciation for all his efforts and Noel agreed to write Jack a thank you note via email.

Shelburne Senior Center: Noel Abbott reported that Shelburne Senior Center offered some services free to area seniors and that Buckland, Shelburne and Ashfield paid for additional services. He reported that a group called 'Friends of West County Seniors' were falsely advertising serving Rowe and that it was a group operating out of Colrain and they were not legitimate.

Adjournment: Seeing no further business Marilyn Wilson made a motion to adjourn. The motion seconded by Paul McLatchy, III was unanimously accepted at 2:20 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

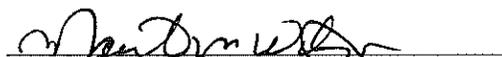


Janice Boudreau
Administrative Assistant - Rowe Fire Matters

Approval Date:

March 12, 2013

Approved:


Marilyn Wilson, Chair
Paul McLatchy III
Noel R. Abbott

Attachments:

- Agenda 03/04/13