

**Town of Rowe – FY2013**  
**Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 20, 2013 – 3:00pm**  
**Rowe Town Hall**

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilson at 3:00pm.

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

**Also Present:** Town Coordinator Ellen Miller, Janice Boudreau, Myra Carlow and Jodi Brown

**Minutes:** The following action was taken on meeting minutes:

1. Minutes of Feb 27<sup>th</sup> were unanimously approved (3/0/0) as amended.
2. Minutes of Mar 1 were approved (2/0/1) as submitted. Selectman Abbott abstained as he was not present at that meeting.
3. Minutes of Mar 12<sup>th</sup> that were approved at the Mar 13<sup>th</sup> meeting were signed.
4. Minutes of Mar 13<sup>th</sup> 2:30pm were unanimously (3/0/0) approved as submitted.
5. Minutes of Mar 13<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm were unanimously (3/0/0) approved as amended.

**AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS:**

- **Gracy House:** Jodi Brown stated that on at least three occasions the Gracy House walkway had not been cleared of snow. Ms. Miller will speak with DPW Supt. Taylor about this. In the future Ms. Brown will let Ms. Miller know if there are any problems.
- **School Budget Shortfall:** School Committee member Cindy Laffond informed the Select Board that the current year school budget is short \$22K due to the current year Three District Agreement that was entered into between the School Committee and Mohawk Central Office in June of 2013 (after the FY13 Annual Town Meeting). There has been no appropriation for this increased contract. She stated that the Central Office is proposing to use School Fire funds to cover the budget shortfall. Ms. Laffond wanted to keep the Select Board informed as they have jurisdiction over the School Fire funds. The Select Board agreed that it was inappropriate to use the School Fire funds in this manner and that a letter should be sent to School Business Manager Joanne Blier (copying Supt. Buonoconti and the School Committee) asking that they present in writing their proposed process and rationale for having the shortfall paid by School Fire funds. Selectman Abbott stated that the School Committee should not actually be voting to approve any expenditures from the School Fire funds. Such approval should come from the Select Board.
- **Defibrillator Purchase:** Ms. Laffond also informed them that a purchase order for the defibrillator that was disapproved by the Select Board at their meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup> is being presented at the next School Committee (March 21<sup>st</sup>) for approval to be charged to the School Fire account. Chairman Wilson stated that she had already instructed them to return the defibrillator and cancel the warranty purchased for the unit. The total cost is \$1370. The Select Board then voted unanimously (3/0/0) to inform the Central Office in writing that the defibrillator and extended warranty are not approved to be purchased from School Fire funds, and that the unit must be returned to the vendor. Ms. Laffond also stated that the defibrillator that had been in the Rowe School has been retrieved from the building by the Emergency Management Director (who had purchased the unit for the school), and it is now at the Fire Station. A new unit is not needed at this time as there is a unit at the Hawlemont School. A new unit will be purchased as part of the new school building.
- **Audit:** Cindy Laffond asked if audit has been scheduled, as a Financial Audit will be required to borrow funds for the school building project. Ms. Wilson stated that the Treasury Audit will be completed first, and then the full Financial Audit will follow. The full audit should be done this spring some time.

**It Update:** Chairman Wilson reported that Jansen MacNay of Heath is doing an audit of users and software for the town. He works in the IT department at Deerfield Academy.

**Industrial Wind Installations:** Chairman Wilson brought up for discussion the possibility of a moratorium on industrial wind installations. Selectman Abbott suggested that if the Planning Board is asked to pursue this that they be asked to give us a time frame as to when they will get this accomplished. Ms. Miller will check with Town Counsel Joel Bard to see what the requirements are to put such a moratorium in place.

**WiredWest:** Selectman Abbott reported that representatives from WiredWest will have a presence at Berkshire East this Saturday [during the Berkshire Highlands Pentathlon and the Cardboard Sled Derby] to encourage people to complete cards supporting WiredWest. He will give some cards to Ms. Miller to have at the Town Hall also. Currently 66 households [29.07%] in Rowe have responded. It is hoped to get at least a 50% response.

**RECESS:** The meeting was recessed at 4:07pm so that Chairman Wilson could attend a ZBA meeting.

**RECONVENE:** The meeting reconvened at 4:15pm.

**Depot St. Bridge:** A joint meeting with the town of Monroe will be held to discuss right-of-way (ROW) requirements for the bridge replacement project. Ms. Miller will contact Monroe to get some tentative dates. Selectman Abbott stated there may be some safety concerns about use of the bridge this Saturday for the pentathlon. He will call Mike McCusker (event organizer) to discuss this.

**FY2014 Budget:** Ms. Miller will get updated budget worksheet to everyone. She will get copies of the School Budget to everyone also. It was adopted by the School Committee on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The BOS will meet next Wednesday at 2pm to work on FY2014 budget.

**Free Cash Certification:** Free Cash was certified at \$136,894 effective July 1, 2012, on March 8, 2013.

**School Warrants:** A meeting has been set up for Monday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:30pm at Hawlemont/Rowe School to discuss procedures for school warrants. The Rowe Select Board will attend, along with Supt. Buonoconti, Business Administrator Blier, Principal Knittle, Laurie Laffond, Ellen Miller, FinCom member Myra Carlow, and Accountant Jackie Cashin. Treasurer Donna Flagg has been invited, and will attend if she is available. Ms. Miller mentioned that there have been some school payroll issues lately that need attention. She will discuss these items at the meeting, or bring them to the School Committee meeting tomorrow.

**Upcoming Meetings:** The Select Board agreed to the following upcoming meetings:

- Mon, Mar 25<sup>th</sup>: Meet at Hawlemont/Rowe School to discuss school warrant process
- Wed, Mar 27<sup>th</sup>: Budget meeting at 2pm...rolling into Regular meeting

**Adjournment:** The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0/0) to adjourn the meeting at 4:45pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen B. Miller  
Town Coordinator

Approved:

  
Marilyn Wilson, Chairman

  
Paul McLatchy III, Vice Chairman

  
Noel Abbott

March 27, 2013

Date Approved

**Attachments:**

- Agenda
- Free Cash Certification notice