

Town of Rowe – FY2013
Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 8, 2013 – 3:00pm - Rowe Town Hall

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

Present: Chairman Marilyn Wilson, and Selectman Noel Abbott

Absent: Vice Chairman Paul McLatchy III

Also Present: Town Coordinator Ellen Miller, Ann Foshay, Loretta Dionne, Myra Carlow

Minutes: The following action was taken on meeting minutes:

- **April 24:** Deferred to next meeting when full Board is present.
- **May 1:** Unanimously (2/0/0) accepted as written.
- **May 7:** Unanimously (2/0/0) accepted as written.

IT Update: Chairman Wilson reported that she has a proposal from Northeast Systems IT and half of a proposal from Akuity. She will have information for the next meeting.

School Demolition: Demolition began May 6th. Scheduled completion (demobilization from site) is July 12th.

TransCanada Agreement for Crossing Sherman Dam: Chairman Wilson stated that she has concerns with the statement in Item 4 on pg. 3 of the agreement that says "This indemnification shall survive termination or expiration of this agreement." This will be discussed with Town Counsel Brian Riley when he is here for the town meetings on Monday, May 13th.

Animal Control Officer: FRCOG is exploring a shared Animal Control Officer Program. Ms. Miller is attending a meeting that FRCOG has scheduled for next Wednesday, May 15th, to discuss the matter.

Seaboard Solar: Bob Dykeman of 468 Tunnel Road has entered into an agreement with Seaboard Solar of 51 Sugar Hollow Road, Danbury CT for the sale of his property (102.0 acres, dwelling and other structures) to Seaboard for the installation of a 6MW ground-mounted solar farm (21,052 modules). Chairman Wilson reported that she has been researching the firms and individuals involved. She has found on the CT Judicial Branch website 12 court cases listing Stuart Longman as defendant. Cases include collection, foreclosure and a Jan 2013 bankruptcy case. One lawsuit is from a former partner Robert McNay who is suing Stuart Long and 23 other defendants, including Sapphire Development and Emerald Development. Dave Thomas, COO, said last week that he would provide references for previous projects, and Stuart Long said last night that he would provide references. Neither of them has provided any references. Selectman Abbott stated that he believes this is an REC (Renewable Energy Credit) tax scam. Chairman Wilson asked their attorney Kevin Parsons how long he has known Mr. Longman. He replied he had just met him. She filled him in on the information she had found to date. The Selectmen want more information, and are not happy with the rush to push this through. Seaboard Solar wants to enter a PILOT agreement with the Select Board and receive their special permit from the Planning Board by June 20th. A meeting is being scheduled with Dave Thomas of Seaboard Solar, Attorney Kevin Parsons, the Select Board and Board of Assessors. Possible dates are May 20 or May 21. Chairman Wilson is waiting to hear from Rick Williams re confirmation of meeting date. [Note: A copy of a letter from FCCIP building department to Seaboard Solar denying their building permit application was received. Permit was denied as the solar farm is outside of the town's solar overlay district on Sibley Road. A special permit is needed before this application can proceed.]

Bear Swamp Public Hiking Trail: Chairman Wilson reported that she received a phone call and an email (attached) from Brookfield Power asking for a letter from the Town of Rowe certifying that the four (4) parties in Rowe whose land is crossed by the Bear Swamp Public Hiking Trail have no issues with the trail. These parties are: TransCanada, Yankee Atomic Electric Co., Mr. /Mrs. David Lenth, and Mr. /Mrs. Robert Dykeman. Chairman Wilson asked them for more information. Bear Swamp will send more information, including a map of the trail.

Audits: Chairman Wilson reported that the Treasury Audit as of June 2012 by Melanson & Heath is nearly complete. They are now setting up for the Financial Statement Audit for FY2012. She stated that the following six (6) departments have been notified that the audit will take place the weeks of May 20 and May 27, and they have been provided with a list of items needed: Accountant, Administrator, Board of Assessors, Tax Collector, Town Clerk and Treasurer.

Town Meetings: Ms. Miller confirmed that Attorney Brian Riley will be at the May 13 and May 21 town meetings. She will confirm with Dan Pallotta later today that he and Chip Greenberg will be at the May 21 town meeting.

Candidates' Night: Ms. Miller reported that Town Moderator Bob Clancy has not scheduled a Candidates' Night this year as there are no contests for any seats on the annual town election ballot.

Health Insurance for Persons in Stipend Positions: Chairman Wilson stated that the subject of health insurance for persons in stipend positions has been raised. She feels it is something that should be looked into. This is food for thought at this point.

Highspeed Internet: G4S is here today and for the next week or so testing the MBI fiber connections at the Town Hall, Library, Gracy House and Fire Station.

Payphone: Palmeri Electric was scheduled to be here last Thursday to extend the phone wire into the server closet. Ms. Miller reported that they had to reschedule, and will be here tomorrow (May 9) instead. Ms. Miller will then schedule AVAYA to return and complete the setup of the phone.

State IT Remote Support Center: The MA DOR Division of Local Services has sent an email to all towns asking for completion of a short on-line survey concerning a possible remote State IT center. Selectman Abbott stated that this may be a tremendous boon for small towns.

Meeting Schedule: Chairman Wilson made a request that the meeting day be changed to Tuesday afternoons for the summer. Deferred to next meeting.

Warrants: TW13-23 and PW13-23 were unanimously (2/0/0) approved for payment.

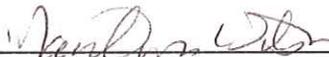
Town Clerk Pay for Election Work: Selectman Abbott questioned why the Town Clerk was being paid an hourly wage for working at the April 30th. He thought that her time should be covered by her annual stipend. Chairman Wilson stated that the Town Clerk serves at elections in a different capacity, and cited c.41, Sec 19H.

School Septic System: Two members of the Board of Health (David Cousineau and Jodi Brown) and Health Agent Lisa Danek-Burke revisited the school site with engineer Sean Kimberly to look at the soils and other conditions at the septic system site. They found quite different results than were found a few weeks earlier. The Board of Health will act on this information at their May 17th meeting. It is possible that the system will be allowed to be used for a period of time after school has been in session there, and then inspected at that time.

Adjournment: The Select Board voted unanimously (2/0/0) to adjourn the meeting at 3:51pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B. Miller, Town Coordinator

Approved:


Marilyn Wilson, Chairman

[Absent]
Paul McLatchy III, Vice Chairman


Noel Abbott

May 15, 2013
Date Approved

Attachments:

- Agenda
- Email re Bear Swamp Hiking Trail
- FCCIP denial letter to Seaboard Solar