

Town of Rowe – FY2013
Board of Selectmen – Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, May 15, 2013 – 3:00pm - Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairman Wilson at 3:02pm.

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

Also Present: Town Coordinator Ellen Miller, John Magnago, Ann Foshay, Jodi Brown, Bob Dykeman, MaryAnn Dykeman, Peter Besgen, Rosie Gordon, Suzie Zavotka, Dan Pallotta

Minutes: The following action was taken on meeting minutes:

- **April 24:** Unanimously (3/0/0) approved as amended.
- **May 8:** Voted two yes, one abstention (2/0/1) to approve as amended. Mr. McLatchy abstained as he was absent from the meeting.

TransCanada Agreement for Crossing Sherman Dam: Chairman Wilson stated that she has concerns with the following statements on pg. 3 of the agreement:

- **Item 4:** "This indemnification shall survive termination or expiration of this agreement."
- **Item 6:** "Notwithstanding anything to the contrary, the insurance coverage limits stated herein shall in no way limit the liability of the Town or its respective contractors, agents and representatives under this agreement."

Ms. Miller will ask K&P Attorney David Doneski if he thinks these statements are problematic.

IT Update: Chairman Wilson reported that she has three (3) proposals for IT support—Northeast IT Systems of Southamptton MA, Akuity Technologies of Auburn MA, and Vertitech IT of Northampton MA. She will get electronic copies to the board and Ms. Miller for review.

Audit: Chairman Wilson reported that auditors from Melanson & Heath will be here next week and the following week. The Assessors, Accountant, Administrator, Treasurer and Tax Collector have received requests for information.

Payphone: Ms. Miller reported that Palmeri Electric completed the phone wire installation last Thursday. AVAYA is scheduled to be here Monday, May 20, to complete the installation.

Memorial Day Ceremony: John Magnago of Ford Hill Road is organizing a Memorial Day Ceremony at the Veterans' Memorial on the Town Common. Drury High School in North Adams has a bugle player that could play at the event for a fee of \$100. [Note: Mohawk Trail RHS does not have a marching band or bugle player.] Mr. Magnago asked if the town could bear this cost. This event is sponsored jointly by the Veterans' Services, the Beautification Committee, and Rowe Community Church. Town Accountant Jackie Cashin felt this was an appropriate expenditure if there was a fund that the \$100 could come from. The Selectboard voted unanimously (3/0/0) to approve a payment of \$100 to Drury High School for the bugle player for the Memorial Day Ceremony, to be held Sunday, May 26 at 10am.

Firefighter On-Call Pay: Awaiting information from Chief McLatchy. He is soliciting other towns for information.

School Demolition: Ms. Miller reported that demolition is proceeding; the scheduled completion date is July 8th.

Rowe School Invoice Processing Procedures: Selectman Abbott presented his recommended changes to the document prepared by Supt. Buonoconti. He did not update the document itself as he had never received it electronically. Ms. Miller will retype the document, incorporating the suggested changes.

Animal Control Officer (ACO): Ms. Miller reported on discussions that took place at a meeting this morning at the FRCOG office concerning the best arrangement going forward for small towns concerning ACOs. Previously known as “Dog Officer,” the ACO is responsible not only for dog matters, but also feral cats, and rabies involving all domestic and wild animals. This could include the necessity of having to “dispatch” such animals on occasion. It is difficult to expect essentially volunteer persons to take on such tasks. A regional approach is being discussed, perhaps involving the Sherriff’s Office. Ms. Miller will obtain more information at the next meeting to be held sometime in June.

Seaboard Solar: Chairman Wilson reported that she received a communication from Attorney Kevin Parsons representing Seaboard Solar. They would like to make a presentation to both the Select Board and the Board of Assessors on Monday, May 20th at 5:00pm. They have scheduled public information meetings for Monday, May 20th and Wednesday, June 5th (both at 6:30pm) at Rowe Conference Center. Mr. Abbott stated that he is not available on Monday, May 20. He asked how meeting with the Select Board would forward their process since to date they have not responded to the Board’s requests for information, and they have not presented a contract or PILOT agreement for the town to review. Chairman Wilson agreed that they have not provided answers to questions, and it took over one week for them to provide references—and getting meaningful information from the references has been difficult. Mr. Abbott said he spoke with Energy Committee Chair Jack Packard who suggested that the quality of the solar panels to be used be vetted by Chris Kilfoyle of Berkshire Photovoltaics in Adams MA. Ms. Wilson reported that BOA Chair Rick Williams feels that the \$36,000 annual PILOT payment (with 1.5% increase each subsequent year for 20 years) is very low ball. Rick will obtain information from the towns of Florida and Monroe on their PILOT agreements with the wind turbine farms in their towns. It was agreed to meet with Seaboard Solar next Monday, May 20th at 5pm.

Health Insurance for Stipend Employees: Deferred to a future meeting.

Relocation of Skateboard Park: Resident Jack Williams emailed the Select Board suggesting that the Skateboard Park in the DPW yard be relocated to Pelham Lake Park. The Select Board agreed that if the Park Commission is interested in pursuing this that the Select Board is open to discussing the matter. Ms. Miller will inform Park Commission Chair Mary Jo Fuller.

Police Department: Selectman Abbott reported that he had a lengthy conversation with Leyden Police Chief Dan Galvis last evening. A Rowe citizen had given Selectman Abbott the contact information. Mr. Abbott feels Chief Galvis can be a superb resource to Rowe, offering the following:

- Supporting us in obtaining equipment, including generators, trucks, and many other Military Surplus items and equipment at large savings
- Being a resource in the next phase of our Police Department’s evolution, including ways to develop Policies and Procedures that will protect our town against unnecessary litigation

In addition to being a resource, he stated he could be available to Rowe (as Chief), and would be willing to forego half of his salary (stipend). He would then step back in 1-2 or 2-3 years. Chairman Wilson stated that she had had many conversations with a MEMA official earlier this year concerning Chief Galvis’ knowledge of government surplus auctions, and that the Select Board decided we would revisit this resource at a later date after more pressing matters have been taken care of. Selectman Abbott reported that Chief Galvis would meet with the Board (at no cost to the town) to have a general discussion concerning Police Department administration. It was agreed to have him meet with the Board on May 29th at 3:00pm. Selectman Abbott will inform Chief Galvis.

HR Policies: Chairman Wilson stated that the Board needs to move on implementing HR policies—especially in the Police Department, where timely processing of payroll timesheets needs to be a top priority.

Select Board Representative vs. Individual Representation: Chairman Wilson stressed the importance that when any of us (Board members) are speaking at a town meeting we make it clear we are speaking as a board member or speaking as individual. All agreed to make this clear.

Meeting Schedule: Chairman Wilson asked if the Board could move to Tuesday meetings for the summer. Selectman Abbott stated that he is leading weekly seminars on Tuesdays, so that day would not be good for him. He prefers to keep to the Wednesday schedule; however, he is open to meeting Mondays. Matter was deferred.

Town Hall Custodian: Custodian Julie Shippee submitted a letter of resignation effective June 3rd. Ms. Miller stated that Danielle Larned will continue to fill in for the time being. She has been filling in for Ms. Shippee who is on personal medical leave. Ms. Miller stated that Danielle has been doing a good job, and is interested in staying on in the position.

School Building Committee: Dan Pallotta, OPM for the new school building project, attended the meeting to have a preliminary discussion with the Select Board concerning goals for the bidding process for the school project. As the town is not receiving any state funds, we have a "Local Option" concerning MBE/WBE requirements from the State Office of Supply and Diversity. He cited that for the recent Buckland library renovation a waiver was received from the state because there are not as many minority firms in the state. Rowe would not need a waiver per se as we are not receiving state funds. Dan will provide suggested options for wording in the next few weeks.

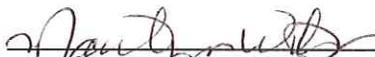
MassDOT: The following correspondence was received from MassDOT District 1:

- Payment Vouchers #50956-N011-FY12 Balance Due for \$25.97 and #50956-N012 Yankee Road for \$103,149.15 have been submitted for payment
- Approved c.90 project request #50956 2013-001 ROW fees for Depot Street Bridge for \$10,000

Adjournment: The Select Board voted unanimously (3/0/0) to adjourn the meeting at 4:33pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B. Miller
Town Coordinator

Approved:


Marilyn Wilson, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III, Vice Chairman


Noel Abbott

May 22, 2013
Date Approved

Attachments:

- Agenda
- J Williams email re relocation of skateboard park
- J Shippee resignation – TH custodian
- MassDOT letters (2) re c.90 funds