Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, December 5, 2018 – 6:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall - 2nd Floor Meeting Room

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Morse at 6:00 p.m.

Present: Chair Jennifer Morse, Vice-Chair Dennis May, Member Sokol and Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau Ellen Miller

OPEN MEETING

Announcement of recording devices & noteworthy information- one recording device

TAX CLASSIFICATION HEARING

Joint Meeting with Board of Assessors:
To establish a minimum residential factor in accordance with the provisions in Mass. Gen. Law Chap. 58, Sec. 1A

- Assessor Ellen Miller presented documents related to establishing the Minimum Residential Factor (MRF) to Select Board Members recommending at .6501.
- Assessors had contracted an Appraiser in an interim year, not a certification year, to perform a reappraisal class 504, 551 and the transmission and distribution lines.
- Ms. Miller explained that new growth had increased from $21,000.00 from last year to $40,000,000.00 this year due to several factors. A hydro generating facility had major upgrades and valuating property easements of transmission and distribution lines.
- With a MRF at .6501 that sets the tax rates at 5.01 for residential and 8.02 commercial/industrial.
- DOR recommended to put $100,000 in the Assessors Overlay Account and have reviewed the numbers and supported the transmission lines assessments.

Motion to Set Tax Rate: Chair Morse made a motion to set the Minimum Residential Factor (MRF) recommended by the Assessors of .6501 with a split tax rate for FY19. The motion, seconded by Member Sokol, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Motion to Vote Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund by 2.5% for FY20: Chair Morse made a motion to increase the $196,812.00 Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund for Fiscal Year 2019 by 2.5% from the for Fiscal Year 2020 or $201,732.00. The motion, seconded by Member Sokol, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Following conclusion of Tax Classification Hearing Select Board Meeting continues:

OLD BUSINESS

1. MLP Update- Procurement and Wired West Agreement: Chair Morse said she had questions about the ethics involved with the Municipal Light Plant (MLP) Manager Dvore also acting as a Board Member for Wired West and that there may be some possible conflict of interest issues.

It was reported that Mr. Dvore had spoken with the State Ethics Commission and Chair Morse said she wanted the response in writing, rather than just a verbal response. It was agreed to ask Mr. Dvore to obtain the response in writing.
Town Counsel's responses to the contract between the Town of Rowe MLP and Wired West Services Agreement were reviewed. Following discussion, it was agreed to have Town Counsel speak with the attorney representing Wired West to discuss issues that were in question.

ISP Services: Chair Morse said that she had spoken with Bill Ennen of the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) and that she questions whether Rowe should be putting out their own Request for Proposals (RFP) for Internet Service Providers (ISP). Chair Morse felt that we should be seeking information from other towns about the ISP bids asked that Executive Secretary contact Otis, Mt. Washington and Shutesbury to review their RFP Proposals to review Scope of Works and that Rowe could hire Franklin Regional Council of Governments Chief Procurement Officer to do the bid proposal. In addition, it was agreed Member Sokol would reach out to David to discuss.

Meeting with Bill Ennen: Chair Morse asked if Vice-Chair May could participate in the monthly phone call with Bill Ennen (EOHED) Liaison, MLP Manager and Janice Boudreau. He agreed to do so.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY UPDATES

1. Gracy House: Janice Boudreau presented the Board with an update of the Gracy House. The Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Adjuster (MIIA) visited the Gracy House and found the air quality had improved, that it had dried out. The Adjuster will file a report to MIIA and they will send us their response. In the interim, he suggested that we conduct an Air Quality Test now that it has dried out to provide a baseline. Chair Morse asked that Executive Secretary obtain prices for the Air Quality Test as well as the items on the short term and long term list recommended by the Dept. of Health.

2. Animal Inspector: Ms. Boudreau said she had found a woman from Charlemont who was their Animal Inspector and that she was willing to accept the position in Rowe.

   Motion to Appoint: Following discussion, Member Sokol made a motion to appoint Kristin Martin as Animal Inspector for Rowe. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair May was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Morse made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:30p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Janice Boudreau
Executive Secretary

Approval Date: December 26, 2018

Approved:

Jennifer Morse

Jennifer Morse, Chair

Dennis May

Dennis May, Vice-Chair

Chuck Sokol, Select Board Member

Documents:

- Agenda 12-05-18
- Email Donna MacNicol, Esq. re: Wired West Agreement
- Wired West Executive Summary of Network Operations and Service Agreement
- Tax Classification Hearing – Recommended MRF – Board of Assessors
- Town of Rowe – Financial Information – 3-yr Comparison
- Levy Limit FY2018
- Classification Tax Allocation FY2018
- Rowe Tax Rate Calculation FY 2019
- Gracy House Update Memo – Executive Secretary
-