Town of Rowe – FY2007
Board of Health
Minutes – January 9, 2007

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 12:00 noon

Present: Dick Alix, Ann Foshay, Danette Reynolds-Gallaghar
Ruth Loomis, Town Nurse Practitioner
Audience: Jodi Brown, Myra Carlow, Loretta Dionne, Rosie Gordon, Cindy Laffond, Judy Pierce, Kris Swenson

OLD BUSINESS
Minutes: The minutes of the November 2, 8, 13, and 28, 2006 meetings were approved and signed as submitted.

Outdoor Wood Boilers: The BOH has put an end date of April ~~20~~ 30, 2007 on the moratorium for the installation of outdoor wood boilers. BOH clerk Ellen Babcock will be asked to revise the notice to be sent to the local newspapers.

NEW BUSINESS
None

FY08 Budget:
Transfer Station: Carpenter Steve Crowningshield submitted an estimate of $900.00 for work to be done at the Recycling Shed to accommodate a composting toilet. Wiring and plumbing will be extra. The BOH estimates the total cost of the job to be $1600.00.

Health Services: The Board discussed the proposed cuts to the Health Services budget with Town Nurse Practitioner Ruth Loomis. The BOH explained that in checking with nurse practitioners, doctor offices and hospitals in the surrounding area it was found that nurse practitioners are generally expected to pay for their licensing and malpractice insurance. Also, full-time nurse practitioners receive, at most, $1,000.00 yearly for their continuing education. In the past the town has paid for Ms Loomis' licensing, malpractice insurance and $2300.00 for her continuing education. Ms Loomis responded that she received those benefits in 1999 as part of a benefit package because she was being paid as a registered nurse instead of a nurse practitioner. She acknowledged that she was now receiving fair pay but that it took eight years to get to that point.

Ms Loomis was asked if she was employed elsewhere where the malpractice insurance, purchased by the town, was needed. She said she was employed at another facility, that the insurance was used and that the BOH could not dictate what she did in her spare time. The Board responded that they were not monitoring her spare time but questioned whether it was fair for the town to be covering the cost of insurance that was being used outside of the town, especially since most nurse practitioners have to pay for their own insurance in this area of the state.

The Board and Ms Loomis discussed the purchase of a locking, 5 drawer file cabinet for her office. Ms Loomis said it was very important the file cabinet be ordered now and not in FY08. Health Services has no money in the FY07 budget for the cabinet and the BOH said that they do not either. Selectman Myra Carlow suggested the BOH find out how much the town has paid for influenza vaccine in the past year and have Health Services be reimbursed for the amount from the revolving account set up for the vaccine. That money could then be applied to the purchase of a file cabinet. The Board will act on Ms Carlow's suggestion.

Selectman Myra Carlow informed the BOH that Ms Loomis had spoken to her about security concerns with the Health Services computer. After conferring with computer consultant Horace Moody, it was suggested that Health Services buy a new computer and not have it connected to the main server at the town hall. Ms Carlow recommended the BOH speak with Mr Moody about this, especially to question whether there will be

problems/additional cost to connect the new computer to the internet. Ms Carlow said that the conversation with Mr Moody about the security of the present Health Services computer centered on email; that there was very low risk to the security of patient information stored on the computer.

Ms Loomis was questioned on the need for a coagulation monitor. The BOH decided to put the request on hold until the next fiscal year. Ms Loomis asked if the BOH would consider the purchase of a $475.00 ear wash system and explained its benefits. The Board asked if this system could be used by any nurse and was told no, only a nurse practitioner. The BOH will discuss the system at a later date.

The Board of Health is scheduled to meet with the Selectboard and Finance Committee on January 11, 2007 at 6:00 to discuss the FY08 budget.

Next Meeting: Not scheduled.

Adjournment: Meeting adjourned at 1:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Danette Reynolds-Gallaghar

Approved:

Richard Alix, Chairman

Angela Foshay

Danette Reynolds-Gallaghar

1/23/2007