Town of Rowe – FY2010

Board of Selectmen

Minutes – Thursday, January 14, 2010 – 6:00pm

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm by Chair Bill Loomis.

Present: Selectmen Bill Loomis and Paul McLatchy III; Town Coordinator Ellen Miller

Absent: None

Also Present: Anne Besgen, FinCom

FY2011 BUDGETS:

The board met with the following departments to discuss their FY2011 budget proposals:

Planning Board

- **Operations:** Added $500 to cover newspaper advertising needed for legal ads re bylaw updates/public hearings.
- **ByLaw Printing:** Rather than $6000, that had been appropriated previously for this project, the Planning Board feels that $500 will be sufficient. The new bylaws can be printed in house at the Town Hall. $500 will be used for special heavy stock for covers for the document. Danette Reynolds stated that they are done reviewing the zoning bylaws except for cell tower bylaws and lot classification bylaws.
- **Legal Expenses:** Have asked for another $5000 for legal expenses.

Assessors:

- **Clerk Wages:** Decrease in line item for FY2011...$8900 for 10 hrs/week vs. $10,600 for FY2010 – 12 hrs/week. Mapping project is complete, and FY2011 is not a reval year, so hours can be reduced. That assumes no wage increase. If there is a wage increase, this number will need to be adjusted.
- **Reval:** Next reval is in FY2012, however, reval work needs to begin in spring of 2011, so some funds are needed. Estimate approx $30K for project, so seeking half ($15K) in FY2011.
- **Printer:** Need to replace Assessors printer. Current estimate in CIP is $2500. Seems high. Chair Williams is seeking better pricing.

Agricultural Commission: Current budget $250; seeking $500 for FY2011 to attend conferences (travel expenses, conference fees, etc.).

Veterans' Agent: Level fund for FY2011.

Fire Dept: Ms. Miller reported that Chief May will attend the Selectmen's meeting next week (Jan 20) to discuss his budget. He apologized for forgetting to attend last night's meeting.

Board of Health:

- **Operations:** Asking for 5.82% increase due to increase in water testing (adding Gracy House, and may need to continue with ground water monitoring at Transfer Station...will know soon if this will need to continue).
- **Refuse Garden:** Asking for 7.84% increase. Solid waste hauling fees will increase in FY2011.
- **Health Services:** Health Services budget is down 8.4% for FY2011 ($6550 FY2010 vs $6000 FY2011); however, is requesting a Wii system ($1000) for the Fitness Room.
- **Transfer Station Fence Repair:** Estimate of $5000 to repair chain link fence. Perhaps put this item in CIP.

Park:

- **Operations:** Up 2.3% for FY2011 ($22,200 vs 21,700 FY2010).
- **Seasonal Help Wages:** Requesting wage increases for most seasonal positions.
- **Roof Repairs:** Roof of headquarters building is leaking. CIP has $2500 in FY2011 for roof repairs. Sean Loomis will seek updated estimate. Roof was new in 1981.
- **Polaris Ranger Equipment:** Rather than replace the snowmobile that is earmarked for $9854 in CIP for FY2011, the Park would like to use this money to equip the new Polaris Ranger bought this year with CIP funds. Items needed: trax, plow, cab and trail drag.

Cemetery: Asking for 21.95% increase to $15,000 for FY2011 (FY2010: $12,300). Additional $2000 needed for headstone preservation project. 200 year old headstones are in very bad shape and need preservation. Mowing has become more expensive also, and in previous years have had to dip into Sale of Lots revolving fund to help pay for mowing. Operations account has not kept up.

DPW:

- **1998 Mack:** Took metal shavings to Goly's Garage in Greenfield. They said "run the truck as is...you may never find out where the shavings came from". Haven't had any problems yet.
- **Wages:** Supt. Taylor is requesting 4.0% wage increase for FY2011. He feels that his crew deserves the 4.0% as a merit increase. In the past raises have not kept up inflation; also, crew is doing a top notch job.
- **Operations/Annual Projects:** Supt. Taylor stated that his operations budget has not been increasing appropriately each year to keep up with rising costs of goods. Many costs have doubled, but budget has not kept up. Is asking for 2.5% increase for Operations...$29,650 vs $28,917 (FY2010), but asking for a 14.29% increase in Annual Projects...$40,000 vs $35,000 (FY2010). Each year less and less paving is done, because budget has not been increased in keeping with costs.
- **Boom Mower:** Supt. Taylor admitted that he made a mistake in purchasing a flail mower for the new John Deere tractor. Is has not worked out well. He would like to purchase a boom mower for this tractor, and trade in the flail mower. Cost estimated at $15K. Will get better estimate.
- **Lawn Tractor:** Lawn tractor is slated for replacement in CIP for FY2011. Estimate $13,113, which includes ditch attachment.

Budget Worksheet: Ms. Miller will updated budget worksheet with budget requests from departments.

Next Meetings: Budget meeting with School Committee tomorrow night (Jan 19th) at Rowe School at 6:00pm. Next regular Selectboard meeting Wed, Jan 20th at 5:00pm. Next budget meeting: perhaps Wed, Jan 27th at 5:00pm. Everyone will check their schedules.

Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B. Miller, Town Coordinator

Approved: William A. Loomis

William A. Loomis, Chair

Paul McLatchy III

[Vacant]

Feb 18, 2009

Date Approved