Town of Rowe – FY2010
Board of Selectmen
Minutes – Thursday, March 18, 2010 – 5:00pm

Call to order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00pm by Chair Bill Loomis.

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

Also Present: Finance Committee members: David Dvore, Anne Besgen, and Susan Wood

FY2011 Budget: In response to budget reduction memos from Selectboard/FinComm, the following were submitted:

- **Library Trustees:** 1) Removed COLA; 2) Increased staff wages $700 for increase in hours from 7 to 8 per week to allow for recoding of all books for CWMars. Plan to return to 7 hrs per week in FY2012; 3) removed $1000 for new computers. Will request transfer of unused CWMars money from this year, as that project has been postponed until next year due to inadequate internet connection at the Library; 4) cut Operations $400; 5) cut FY11 CWMars $400.
- **Planning Board:** Has not trimmed budget. Requesting full amount in original request. Will not agree to meeting half way on the legal expenses request. PB Chair Roberson submitted an undated paper titled **Notes on town boards' use of independent counsel** to substantiate what he says is the Planning Board's authority to hire their own legal counsel. It was pointed out to him that this document speaks to several town boards/committees' authority by MGL to hire their own counsel for specific purposes, but nowhere in the document does it mention Planning Boards. Author of the document is unknown.
- **BOH:** Agreed to cut Operations to $19,372. Removed $1000 for Wii...perhaps purchase in FY2010 instead. Need full $55K funding for Transfer Station. Researching ways to decrease operation costs and increase recycling at the Transfer Station. Need effective means of restricting access to Rowe residents only.
- **Beautification:** Agreed to cut from $1000 (from $3000 to $2000)
- **Council on Aging:** Agreed to cut $1500 (from $5500 to $4000)
- **Tax Collector:** Agreed to cut $540 (from $7316 to $6776)
- **School:** Have not heard from them yet. Chair Loomis will contact School Committee Chair Maggie Rice.

ATM Warrant Close: The ATM warrant will close April 10th, and will be approved and signed Monday, April 12th.

Reserve Fund Transfer: RFT #2010-02 in the amount of $1,100.00 for the Town Hall Fuel Oil account (901-940) was approved by the Finance Committee on March 18th.

Wired West: The Western MA Community fiber network is building a multi-town organization that will bring high speed internet to every resident, business and institution in the unserved and underserved communities in Western MA. In order to formalize membership in the proposed organization, a formal agreement between interested towns needs to be entered into. Formalizing the agreement begins with discussions around the structure of the agreement. In order for towns to officially join those discussions, each town needs to have an article on the town meeting warrant to be passed at the town meeting, with an expression of intent to enter into discussions. This article is NOT a binding agreement to join the project—it is merely the town's official expression of intent to join the discussion preceding the formal agreement. At the recommendation of the Broadband Committee the Selectmen voted unanimously to place the recommended article on the May 2010 Town Meeting Warrant.

Renewable Energy Committee: At the request of Selectman McLatchy, the Selectboard voted unanimously to appoint the following residents to a new Renewable Energy Committee: Paul McLatchy, Jennifer Wood, Susan Wood & Robert Dykeman.

Gracy House: An estimate was received from Steve Crowningshield for $910 to install a new storm door on the screened porch, install weather-stripping on the back door, and replace a rotten screen panel and repair one rotten (see attached). The Selectmen voted unanimously to have this work done.

School Solar Project: It was agreed that an article be placed on the warrant for the upcoming May 2010 special town meeting seeking $4000 for an engineer to work on the school solar project.

Verizon Petition: It was agreed that it was not necessary for Attorney Patricia Cantor to attend the public and evidentiary hearing on March 31 and April 1 at City Hall in Northampton concerning the DTC petition investigating Verizon.

Police Dept.: Officer Hyytinen has returned from medical leave (work-related medical leave from his full time job elsewhere). Officer Melissa Salls, 359 March Rd, Shelburne Falls, who was appointed December 23rd has not seen the Town Clerk to been sworn in. Chair Loomis will speak to Chief Dandeneau about her status.

Siemens: The Selectman voted unanimously to approve payment of Invoice #5 for $126,373.30. The amount has been reduced from $129,230.90, because the insulation at the Library has not been done.

Shippee Road Speeding: Jeff Parent (present) and his wife Maggie Parent of 32 Shippee Road request that the 30mph sign on Shippee Road be removed. They feel that 30mph is too fast for their small lane where there are many small children, and that the sign encourages people to think it is safe to drive at that speed. One neighbor at the end of the road hhad recently driven by at a high rate of speed—well over 30mph. Chair Loomis did a site visit and visited that neighbor. It turns out there was a medical emergency at their home on that occasion. After some further discussion is was voted unanimously to have the DPW Dept. remove the sign. Ms. Miller was asked to contact DPW Supt. Jim Taylor to have him remove the sign, and to email Police Chief Dandeneau to inform him of the action to be taken, stating that the sign is creating more of a problem.

Dog Complaint: Richard Quinn (present) of 16 Hazelton Road submitted another dog complaint (see attachment) concerning barking dogs at 11 Hazelton Road. Chair Loomis read the complaint aloud. Mr. Quinn and his wife have been awoken many nights due to dogs barking at that property. Also, one of the dogs from the property was loose (off of their property) that day, March 17th, which the owner did eventually come home and secure. [The owners are under orders issued previously to keep their dogs on their property at all times.] Mr. Quinn contacted Chair Loomis, who left a phone message for the owner on March 17, 2010, at 8:00pm concerning the barking. The Selectboard voted unanimously to issue an Order of Investigation and Report to Dog Officer Russ Powers to investigate the matter. Upon receipt of report from the Dog Officer, the Quinns will be notified by mail of the findings.

DPW Complaint: A letter was received from Monroe Bridge resident Wendy Norcross concerning what she felt was inadequate winter road maintenance on Monroe Hill Road. A copy of the letter will be given to the DPW Superintendent, and he will be asked to attend the next Selectmen's meeting to discuss the matter.

Council on Aging: The COA has asked permission to purchase a screen house to be put up at the Gracy House. The Selectboard voted unanimously to allow a screen house to be put up on the Gracy House lawn.

FY2011 CDBG Funds: The FCRHRA has asked if the town is interested in applying for FY2011 CDBG funds. Ms. Miller will contact the agency to find out the status of our present CDBG housing funds, and will report at a subsequent meeting.

FRCOG Traffic Study: The FRCOG Planning Dept. is again offering to conduct traffic studies for member towns. The last study was done in 2006 (see attachment). The Selectboard voted unanimously to have the study done again, on the same roads as last time:

Brittingham Hill Rd	250' north of Zoar Rd
Ford Hill Rd	1/10 mile east of Middletown Hill Rd
Hazelton Rd	350' west of Zoar Rd
Leshure Rd	At Vermont state line
Pond Rd	1/10 mile north of Middleton Hill Rd
Zoar Rd	At Charlemont town line

Bear Swamp / Blackboard Connect: Tom Mapletoft of Brookfield Power has submitted two employees names for authorization to use our Blackboard Connect notification system, as part of their East Dike Emergency Plan. The two employees will receive training from Blackboard Connect. They will only be able to access residents in the system that are in the path of a potential dike failure (currently 4 households in that area: Markert, McKee, Crowningshield and Cascone).

Annual Town Report: Ms. Miller was asked to write the Selectmen's report for the 2009 Annual Town Report. Reports have been received from all departments/committees except the School Committee and the Police Department. Ms. Miller will email Chief Dandeneau to remind him.

Animal Inspector Appointment: Ms. Miller is awaiting word from Ed Silva as to whether he interested in again being the town's Animal Inspector. His current appointment expires March 31.

FRCOG Representative: It was voted unanimously to appoint Paul McLatchy III as the town's representative to the FRCOG.

Selectman's Computer Access: Ms. Miller was asked to have Selectman McLatchy set up as a user on the town hall server. He does not require a town email account at this time.

Police Log: Monthly time log for February 2010 reviewed.

Minutes: None submitted.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 25th at 6pm.

Adjournment: The Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:07pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Ellen B. Miller, Town Coordinator

Approved:

William A. Loomis, Chair

Paul McLatchy III

[Vacant]

June 22, 2010
Date Approved

Documents:

- Agenda
- Notes on town board's use of independent counsel
- Animal Inspector nomination form
- Town Hall fuel oil RFT request $1100
- WiredWest fiber optic network information
- Crowningshield estimate for Gracy House work
- Verizon public and evidentiary hearing information
- Siemens Invoice #5 information
- Dog Complaint dated March 18, 2010
- FRCOG Traffic Study memo 3-11-10
- Police Monthly time log Feb 2010