Town of Rowe - FY 2014
Board of Selectmen – Minutes – Executive Session
Wednesday, October 3, 2013 - 5:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair Marilyn Wilson at 3:40 pm.

Present: Select Board Chair Marilyn Wilson, Vice-Chair Susan Gleason, Select Board Member Noel Abbott, Secretary Janice Boudreau

Audience: Dennis Annear, Peter Berg, Anne Besgin, Marilyn Beval, Diane Broncaccio, Jodi Brown, June Brown, Jim Davison, Mary Ann Dykeman, Robert Dykeman, Ann Foshay, Sharon Hudson, Cindy Laffond, Lenny Laffond, Mary Lenth, John Magnago, Edwin May, Gail May, Katherine May, Kerri McLatchy, Lesley McLatchy, Paul McLatchy Jr., Paul McLatchy III, Judy Pierce, Christine Tower, Wayne Zavotka

Executive Session:

The BOS convened into Executive Session under purpose # 1 of the Mass Open Meeting Law at 4:50 p.m. :

> 1. To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. The individual to be discussed in such executive session shall be notified in writing by the public body at least 48 hours prior to the proposed executive session; provided, however, that notification may be waived upon written agreement of the parties.

Fire Chief Paul McLatchy Jr. elected to have the Executive Session held in Open Session. It included Paul McLatchy III and Dennis Annear Fire Chief of Orange, MA.

Chair Wilson opened the meeting reporting receiving a letter of concerns that was submitted to the Select Board from a group Rowe Fire Fighters regarding the state of the Rowe Fire Department. It raised concerns addressing the state of equipment, Performance of Fire Chief , lack of training certifications and department morale.

Vice-Chair Gleason, liaison to the Fire Department, reported attending meetings with Fire Fighters and meeting individually with Chief McLatchy to discuss concerns raised.

Fire Chief McLatchy read a letter addressing each item of concern that the Fire Fighters had made and reported progress in remedying problems addressed and methods of improving the Department. It concerned:

- Condition of the Fire Station
- Condition of Equipment
- Lack of Communication
- Training Certifications and the need to update Certifications including CPR , First Aid, Hazardous Materials Operations Level Responder, National Incident Management System (NIMS) and Incident Command System (ICS)
- Need to test equipment

- Encourage Training Seminar Attendance
- Update Training Materials
- Improve the plan for Lower Tunnel Road
- Formulate a plan for Deerfield River Rescue
- Creating new recordkeeping system
- Continue to clean and organize Fire Station
- Replace Oil Tank and repair Boiler
- Maintain grounds – less pressing issue to remove trees
- Report when leaving town

In Addition, Chief McLatchy sited a plan of action:

- Research whether Fire Department is organized under Chapter 48 or 42A
- Join Fire Chief of Massachusetts Organization (FCMA)
- Possible joining of Mentoring programs available through (FCMA)
- Dennis Annear Fire Chief of Orange available for support
- Delineate chain of Command
- Complete Franklin County Survey

Chair Wilson responded that it appeared Chief McLatchy had a good start on improving the Department and urged him to continue working to improve conditions and morale of the Department. In addition, to meet with the Select Board again in the near future to report on progress and findings.

Adjournment: The meeting with Chief McLatchy adjourned at 5:45 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approval Date: _____

Janice Boudreau
Secretary

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Abstain; Reason: was not present for Review
Noel R. Abbott, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 10/03/13
- Email from Peter Ostroskey, Deputy Fire Marshall, MA Dept. of Fire Services
- Emails to Fire Department Members from Chief McLatchy (16 pages)
- Letter from Fire Department Members