Town of Rowe - FY 2014
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, December 4, 2013 - 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair Marilyn Wilson at 3:00 pm.

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

Audience: Mary Ann Dykeman, Cindy Laffond

Minutes

The Minutes of November 20, 2013 were reviewed with amendments. It was decided to review the Minutes once amendments were added.

Motion to accept Minutes of November 14, 2013: Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Wilson to accept the Minutes of November 14, 2013. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. Selectman Abbott abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting. (2/0/1)

Old Business

1. Vote for Second Opinion missed from Minutes of November 6, 2013: Chair Wilson said she had asked to obtain a second legal opinion regarding an ongoing case in Executive Session in the meeting of November 6, 2013 and the Select Board subsequent approval was inadvertently omitted from the Minutes of the Meeting.

Motion to Amend Minutes of November 6, 2013: Chair Wilson made a motion to amend the Minutes of November 6, 2013 to note that the vote to obtain a second legal opinion on a matter in hand had been taken. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. Selectman Abbott abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting. (2/0/1)

Motion to Obtain Second Opinion: To be very clear, for future reference, Chair Wilson made a motion to obtain a second legal opinion on a matter at hand. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

2/. Seaboard Solar- BOS Involvement: An email from Planning Board Chair David Roberson was reviewed explaining the outcome of the recent meeting concerning the Seaboard Solar Application. He reported that a formal vote will be taken on the matter on January 8, 2014 and that the Board was evenly split on the matter. With Planning Board Member Robert Dykeman in recusation as an interested party, the Board did not have the required supermajority for an affirmative vote; therefore, it is likely the application would not be approved.

Chair Wilson reported contacting Tighe and Bond Engineers addressing Select Board's concerns about Dismantling/Decommissioning Bonding amount of $386,000.00 they had recommended was inadequate. Chair Wilson said they normally recommended $50,000.00 which would

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include cable removal. Selectman Abbott expressed concerns that the recommended amount of $386,000 was very low and thought the costs would be much higher. It was mentioned that the decommissioning estimate included only the removal of the solar panels but not removal of the wiring. Selectman Abbott stated that a proper reclamation would remove both the wiring and the concrete used to anchor the solar panels, which would restore the property to a condition under which trees could grow back.

Selectman Abbott had additional comments stating that there are many indirect lifecycle costs to the town for a project of this size including administration, involvement of the Police, Fire and Highway Departments and wear and tear of road systems as well as ongoing Administrative costs. Cumulatively these costs would mount up and the initial offer of $36,000 was far too low. Selectman Abbott also reported having a conversation with Geoffrey Rogers of HCOG concerning the offer to the town of 10% off on net metering credits. Other concerns discussed were the potential for fire to the solar panels from lightning strikes and the need for proper maintenance. Selectman Abbott also addressed the concern that if the developer had not provided promised information in time frames requested during the application period they would have less incentive to cooperate on issues if an approval were granted.

3/. Discussion re: Earned Time: Chair Wilson presented materials regarding earned time of several employers for review to discuss at a future date. Selectman Abbott asked whether it would be possible to apply the Earned Time Credit with a one year provisional trial period and evaluate after that one year period making it clear to Town Employees that the program was in a trial period. It was agreed to look into the provisional option.

4/. Special Town Meeting Warrant: Six Articles for the Special Town Meeting (STM) scheduled for early January were reviewed and discussed and amended. It was agreed to finalize Articles at the next Select Board Meeting on December 18, 2013 and set the STM for January 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m.

5/. Fraud Investigation: Chair Wilson reported speaking with the Fraud Investigator at Melanson and Heath Accountants and, to save money, it was determined Town Treasurer could perform the investigation regarding the payroll checks that were fraudulently cashed. Town Treasurer is working on the matter as time allows.

6/. HCOG Electricity Provision: Selectman Abbott reported Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) is in the process of obtaining fixed priced electricity purchase bids for a group of towns seeking stable amounts and cost reduction.

7/. Researching a Public Safety Complex: Chair Wilson reported on the meeting she and Vice-Chair Gleason had attended with Police, Fire and Emergency Personnel to discuss changing the Fire Station's designation to a Safety Complex. Chair Wilson highlighted the following:

- Work was needed to determine what was needed to be done to change the designation.
- Long term planning with the aid of an independent planner might be need if structural changes would be needed.
- It was stressed that all grant funding possibilities needed to be investigated

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The Meeting recessed at 4:50 p.m. The Meeting reconvened at 5:01 p.m.

New Business

1. Outside Post Office Boxes Freezing: It was noted there have been complaints about the locks on the outside Post Office Boxes freezing up. Chair Wilson reported that the Post Office said they were not responsible.

2. Holiday Lighting: Chair Wilson reported Highway Superintendent Taylor did not want to add lighting to the large tree in the common as he did not want the highway crew on ladders and it would require a hydraulic lift.

Correspondence Reviewed
Warrants: FY14 Warrant 12 and Payroll Warrants were reviewed and signed

Adjournment: Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Open Meeting at 5:35 p.m. to convene into Executive Session for Purpose # 3 and not to reconvene into Open Session:

> To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

The motion, to convene into Executive Session was voted upon:

- Chair Wilson: -aye
- Vice-Chair Gleason: -aye
- Selectman Abbott: -aye

The motion to convene into Executive Session was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Boudreau
Secretary

Approval Date: JANUARY 2, 2014

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Noel R. Abbott, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 12/04/13
- Sample Earned Time Policies – presented by Chair Wilson (10 pages)
- Draft Special Town Meeting Articles
- Email from Planning Board Chair to Selectman Abbott