Town of Rowe - FY 2014
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 - 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Select Board Chair Marilyn Wilson at 3:03 pm.

Present: Select Board Chair Marilyn Wilson, Vice-Chair Susan Gleason, Selectman Noel Abbott, Administrative Clerk Janice Boudreau,

Audience: Ed May, Paul McLatchy Jr.

Minutes:

The Accepted Minutes of January 22, 2014 were signed.

Motion to Accept Minutes of February 6, 2014: Following Review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 6, 2014 with amendments. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (2/0/1) Selectman Abbott abstained from voting as he was not present at the meeting.

Motion to Accept Minutes of January 29, 2014: Following Review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of January 29, 2014 as presented. The motion, seconded by Selectman Abbott, was accepted. (2/0/1) Vice-Chair Gleason abstained from voting as she was not present at the meeting.

Budget Hearings

1/. Fire Department Budget: Fire Chief McLatchy presented the FY15 Fire Department Budget. In addition, he presented an update of Fire Department plans and actions.

Highlighted Budget Items:

- Increase in Building Usage: Chief McLatchy explained that there was an increase in heat and electricity due to increase usage with meetings and the Police Chief office. It was decided a percentage would be calculated and paid for by the Police Department.
- Request for Turnout Gear: Chief McLatchy requested new turnout gear for the Department since many items were over 10 years old. There was discussion about adding it to the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).
- Request for Line Item: Chief McLatchy requested a line item be added for $100.00 for a Deputy Forest Warden who had attending brush fire training and other meeting
- Emergency Management: Emergency Management Direct Ed May requested $ 1000.00 for the training required for Emergency Management and Hazardous Waste Material
- Software Increase: A monthly fee for emergency reporting software was added to the budget for $119.00 per month.

Fire Department Update:

- Training: Chief McLatchy reported on training that has been completed to date.
- Self Retracting Life Line : The self retracting Life Line is installed in the hose tower.
- Emergency Software: The new emergence reporting software is now in use
- Oil Tank Removed: The oil tank project has been completed. Chief McLatchy commended the Highway Department for their efforts in completing the project.
- School Construction: The Fire Dept. assisted the Contractors for the Rowe school project with a supply of water for a plumbing inspection
- Hydrants Clearing: Fire Chief asked for assistance from the Highway Dept. to clear snow away from existing water hydrants and it was agreed to formulate a plan
- NIMS Classes: Ed May reported he will start National Incident Management System (NIMS) classes in March and said they could be taken on line as well.
- Internet Connection: Following discussion it was agreed that the IT Consultant would be contacted to improve the internet connection for the Fire Dept.
- Resolution Council: Chief McLatchy said there was a draft of a formation of a Resolution Council and would be revised at a next meeting.
- Fire Dept. Office: There was discussion about making an office in the attic for the Fire Chief and that the Building Inspector had viewed the space.
- Truck Bay Ventilation: Building Inspector raised a concern about the ventilation in the truck bay of the Fire Station. It was agreed to do further research on the matter.

Fire Chief McLatchy and Ed May left the meeting at 4:18 p.m.

Old Business:

1/. Sign Agreement Letter with Janice Boudreau: The Agreement Letter for the wages and benefits of the Administrative Clerk was signed.

2/. STM Warrant: Since there were items that needed clarification it was decided to reschedule the Special Town Meeting (STM) for early March. A possible date of March 5, 2014 was selected if it was open for Town Moderator and Town Clerk to attend.

- Fiber Optic at Rowe School Building Site: At a previous Selectman's meeting, Selectman Abbott suggested a draft Article to make up to $14,000 available to install operational high-speed fiber optic connection at the Rowe School Building Site. These installation costs would be required for the Rowe School anyway, but installation at the earliest possible date would greatly support the construction process. Selectmen had thought it was premature at a prior meeting, since the cost had not been determined. Mass Broadband (MBI) removed the school as one of the five Rowe Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) based upon having no decision to rebuild the school after the fire. . Janice Boudreau explained that at a telephone conference with MBI and Axia representatives, Fred Feit, Axia's technical resource, had roughly estimated the out of pocket costs to Rowe would likely be between $6,000 and $12,000. The next step was for Axia to visit the Rowe School building site and determine the cost of set up.

MBI representative Christine Hatch did not commit to the funding of including the Rowe School as a CAI at this late a date, but would check into it. Fred Feit also stated that a portion of the

installation cost might be offset through a state-wide program called ERATE which provides rebates to educational institutions. The Selectmen believed that more research was required to determine how it would be funded. Following discussion, it was agreed that Selectman Abbott would provide an Article for the fiber optic funding at the School for the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

3/. Old Home Day Committee Report: Old Home Day Chair Paul McLatchy reported that the Old Home Day Committee unanimously voted to go forward with a 2-day Old Home Day Event. He asked the Select Board to declare July 12th and 13th as the days for Rowe Old Home Days.

New Business:

1/. Discuss Brian Donelson's School Report: Selectman Abbott asked that the Donelson Report be removed from the Town Website since was from a private citizen that advocated a particular point of view and was not funded or sanctioned by the town. Further, he stated it was a misuse of Town resources. There was some discussion about the Newell Report and Selectman Abbott said the critical difference was that the Donelson Report was privately funded and that the Newell Report was funded and sanctioned by the Town.

Motion to Remove Donelson Report: Selectman Abbott made a motion to have the Donelson Report removed from the Town Website. It failed for lack of a second to the motion.

2/. Selectman Abbott Email Discussed: Chair Wilson said she was made aware of several emails that Selectman Abbott had made to Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG), MA Department of Revenue Staff Members and several other individuals concerning the Free Cash votes at the Special Town Meeting of January 9, 2014. She expressed concern that his statements were libelous in character to her personally and she had contacted an Attorney regarding the matter. She asked why he had not spoken to her directly and chose rather to send out emails to a number of people. Selectman Abbott chose not to respond.

Audience: None
Correspondence Reviewed

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting 5:55 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (3/0/1)

MW

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau
Secretary

Approval Date: FEBRUARY 26, 2014

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Noel R. Abbott, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 02/12/14
- Fire Dept. FY15 Budget Request
- Fire Dept. - "Items for Discussion with the BOS"
- Select Board Administrative Clerk - Wages and Benefits Letter
- Selectman Abbott Email to DOR - 4 pages (submitted by Marilyn Wilson)
- Rebuttal to Noel Abbott's Allegations – 1 page (submitted by Marilyn Wilson)
- Paul McLatchy III email regarding Old Home Day