Town of Rowe - FY 2014
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, February 26, 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: Jodi Brown, Mike Delvecchio, Rosie Gordon, Molly Lane, Walt Quist, Catherine Snyder, Wayne Zavotka

Minutes:

Motion to Accept the Addendum to the Minutes of January 22, 2014: Following review, Vice-Chair Gleason made a motion to accept the Addendum to the Minutes of January 22, 2014 as presented. The motion, seconded by Chair Wilson, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Motion to Accept the Minutes of February 12, 2014: Following review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 12, 2014 with amendments. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Minutes of February 19, 2014: Selectman Abbott read and submitted a letter as a rebuttal to Chair Wilson's response letter to a chain of emails that Selectman Abbott had sent to several parties concerning the Free Cash votes of the January 9, 2014 Special Town Meeting. The subject was discussed at the prior meetings of February 12, 2014 and February 19, 2014. Discussion ensued about the technicality of the Free Cash Certification Certificate having been signed the following morning and that all the work had been completed on January 9, 2014.

Motion to Accept the Minutes of February 19, 2014: Following review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 19, 2014 with amendments. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Motion to Accept the Minutes of February 20, 2014: Following review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of February 20, 2014 with an amendment. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Budget Hearings

1/. Library Budget: Select Board Members reviewed the FY15 Library Budget presented by the Library Trustees.

Highlights of discussion included:

- Custodian wage increase caused the percentage increase of staff wages to rise 2.5%. It was explained that the wage was increased to match the wage of the Town Hall Custodian since it had been difficult to find people willing to do the work for less.

- Discussion of the Director's wage ensued and would be increased upon her receipt of certification.
- Overall the budget as presented increased .61%

2/. Energy Committee Budget: The Energy Committee members Chair Jack Packard and Walt Quist presented their FY15 budget asking for an increase of $250.00 to cover training of members. Also discussed was that small towns lacked a person knowledgeable to check on all the systems in the town buildings and thought it would be a good idea to have someone attending to maintenance of systems, including a maintenance schedule.

3/ Cemetery Commission Budget: Cemetery Commission presented a level funded budget for FY15. Member Jim Taylor reported the Commission was continuing their work on headstone restoration and to start a program to save and restore cemetery stones. The funds would be used for Spring cleanup and the rest for the headstone restorations. He said the Perpetual Care Trust Fund Account was a small fund that might be used to fit in a few headstone repairs each year.

Old Business:

1/. Board of Selectmen Budget: Discussion was tabled to a later date.

2/. Fiber Optic to Rowe Elementary School: Rowe School Project Manager Mike DelVecchio spoke about the meeting he had with a representative from Phoenix Communications who would be responsible for completing the fiber optic line to the Rowe School. He said that it would not require the $14,000 to be requested at the next Special Town Meeting. Selectman Abbott reported that the MA Interlocal Insurance Association Adjuster Thomas Donalson agreed that it can be funded through the 'Loss of Income Coverage' since if it had not been for the fire the cable would have been installed and fully funded by Mass Broadband Institute.

New Business:

1./ Reserve Fund Transfer Request for $460.00 for printing Town Directory: Chair Wilson reported that there was a request for the updated Town Directory to be printed by Adams Printing as done in the past in 2003 and 2008. It would cost $460.00 for 250 copies. Since it was widely used she thought it was a good idea and asked that a Reserve Fund Transfer be used for funding.

Motion to Request Reserve Fund Transfer Request for $460.00 for printing Town Directory: Chair Wilson made a motion to request the Finance Committee to make a Reserve Fund Transfer for the amount of $460.00 to fund the printing of an updated Town Directory. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

2./ Legal Expense: Chair Wilson raised the issue of using Town Counsel when research could be done on line or that email could be a more efficient way to ask a question and less costly. She expressed concern that Selectman Abbott had used Town Counsel's time repeating work that had been done and expressed the need to be careful about time used. Selectman Abbott stated that he did not think his use of Town Counsel was excessive.

3./ Old Home Day Proclamation: Old Home Day Committee Chair Paul McLatchy requested that the Select Board make a formal proclamation that July 12 and 13, 2014 be designated as Rowe Old Home Days.

Motion to Declare Old Home Days 2014: Chair Wilson made a motion to make a formal Declaration that July 12, 2014 and July 13, 2014 be designated as Rowe Old Home Days. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Chair Wilson left the meeting at 4:35pm due to illness.

Audience: Rosie Gordon asked a question about technology on the school and town's budgets.
Warrants FY14 W17 and PW17 were reviewed

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Vice- Chair Gleason made a motion to adjourn the Meeting 4:51 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Abbott, was accepted. (2/0/1) Chair Wilson was not present for the vote.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau
Secretary

Approval Date: MARCH 5, 2014

Approved: Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Noel R. Abbott, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 02/26/14
- Library FY15 Budget Request
- Rowe Energy Committee FY15 Budget Request
- Cemetery Commission FY15 Budget Request
- Selectman Abbott Email to DOR - 4 pages (submitted by Marilyn Wilson)
- Response to Noel Abbott's Allegations – 1 page (submitted by Marilyn Wilson)
- Response to Marilyn Wilson's Response – 1 page (submitted by Noel Abbott)