Town of Rowe - FY 2015
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, July 30, 2014 - 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

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

Present: Chair Wilson and Vice-Chair Susan Gleason, Selectman Walt Quist and Administrative Clerk Janice Boudreau

Audience: Diane Broncaccio,Jodi Brown, Mary Ann Dykeman, Rosie Gordon, Russ Jolly, Betty Lenth, John Magnago, Gail May, Lesley McLatchy, Paul McLatchy Jr., Paul McLatchy III, Dan Pallotta of P3, Buster Reed, Arthur Samuelson, Julie Shippee, Christine Tower

Minutes: **Motion to Accept the Minutes of July 16, 2014:** Following review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Minutes of Select Board Meeting of July 16, 2014 with corrections. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was accepted. (3/0/0)

Old Business

1. Project Manager Report on School: Dan Pallotta, President of P3, Project Manager for the building of the Rowe Elementary School reported on the progress of the opening of the Rowe Elementary School.
   - Dan reported that thus far $6,120,240.00 was spent for the school building, $166,811.00 from Loss of Income expenses from insurance proceeds and the project has $43,000.00 remaining in budget as contingency funds
   - He recommended contacting Town Counsel to ascertain who Contractor should officially turn the school over to; who would officially own school and, in addition, that insurance for the building and contents be in place.
   - Administrative Clerk Janice Boudreau indicated insurance is in place for when the Certificate of Occupancy is awarded by the Building Inspector
   - He reported that the school building construction and contents remained under budget and funded solely by insurance proceeds as promised at Town Meeting
   - The school was completed in 16 months that normally takes 36 months
   - Lightning rods and the Fire Suppression System have been installed and would undergo testing once the power and water systems had been established.

2. Harpers Payroll: Information on Checks: Chair Wilson reported that all employee compensation will be indicated with checks and on the electronic access.

3. OPEB Update: Chair Wilson reported that $750.00 was paid to The Abrahams Group for work to establish the Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) fund to protect the future of Rowe's fiscal responsibilities. She indicated Town Treasurer had nearly completed preliminary work required.

4. Advertise 1984 Mack Truck and Shed: It was agreed to sell the 1984 Mack Truck by first offering it to area Town Highway Departments and Administrative Clerk would find out if there were any costs involved to have Andrea Woods of Franklin Regional Council of Governments

MW 19

(FRCOG) take responsibility for notifying area towns. The shed would be offered to Town residents for a minimum bid of $100.00.

5. Conservation Commission Request Re: Rowe Elementary School: Conservation Commission Chair Myra Carlow asked for the Select Board to review and sign the 'Conditional Approval of the Resource Area Restoration' Plan of July 8, 2014. The approval concerns the run off from the school project building site into the adjacent pond and that the particles of clay make an impervious layer which affects living organisms. The plan, designed by Tighe and Bond Engineers, is to use vacuum trucks to remove sediment. There was discussion about who is responsible for the expense related to the remediation.

Motion to Sign: Following discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the 'Conditional Approval of the Resource Area Restoration' Plan of July 8, 2014. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

New Business:

1. Fire Chief's letter to the Recorder & BOS response: Chair Wilson reported that the letter which the Fire Chief had written and sent to select townspeople, and which was sent to the Recorder, was more extensive than the resignation letter given to the Select Board. She further stated it contained several inaccuracies:

-The Fire Chief said a split vote resulted in his appointment, when in fact the vote had been unanimous.

-The Fire Chief stated that he had had to "fight" to get officers appointed, when in fact he had never had to "fight" for his choices.

- The Fire Chief stated that the BOS required that he contact them when leaving town, when in fact no such demand had been made.

Chair Wilson said that the Select Board had made great efforts both privately and publically to support him and was shocked at his accusation that he was not supported by the Select Board. Selectman Quist stressed that if citizens have an issue that they come forward to address the Select Board directly and ask questions rather than to speculate and gossip.

Fire Chief McLatchy was then thanked by Select Board Members in recognition for his many years of service to the Town.

2. Fire Chief's Letter to the Board of Selectmen: Fire Chief McLatchy responded that he did not intend the letter he wrote to the Fire Dept. be released to the media and indicated he would remain an additional month to assist in a smooth transition.

3. Fire Chief: The Select Board reviewed the resignation letter from the Fire Chief and accepted with thanks for his years of service.

Motion to Accept Resignation: Following review, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Letter of Resignation from Fire Chief Paul McLatchy. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

mcw 89

4. Atlas Fire Work Display and Invoice: Old Home Day (OHD) Chair Paul McLatchy III spoke about the fireworks display at OHD seemed short and questioned whether the bill should be paid as he was aware that other area towns had a similar response. Following discussion, it was agreed that without a specific count it would be difficult to pursue. It was agreed to have more a more detailed contract next year.

5. Chair's Report on July's FRCOG Council Meeting:

a/. HCOG Department of Public Utilities Municipal Aggregation Agreement: Chair Wilson reported that the Hampshire Council of Governments (HCOG) was not saving as much as was predicted.
b/. Opiate Addiction in Franklin County and Program to Address: Chair Wilson reported that a Task Force was formed to address the issue of opiate addiction in Franklin County and that it was a growing socio-economic problem.

6. Chair Wilson Report: Kinder Morgan Meeting: Chair Wilson reported attending a meeting held by FRCOG and Franklin Regional Planning Board concerning the company Kinder Morgan and their expansion of a proposed gas pipeline to which would cut across the state from New York through Massachusetts to Dracut. There was concern about whether it would come through Rowe and how it could potentially affect the community.

7. Discuss Culverts vs. Bridges: Chair Wilson raised a concern that a citizen had requested that the Select Board consider installation of culverts rather than repairing bridges to remedy several problem areas in Town. There was discussion about the bridges and their importance in relation to being tied to the main entrances in town and that each bridge judged on their own merit.

8. Appoint Jenn Morse and Jim Lively as reps to the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD): Chair Wilson said that there was a request to appoint Jenn Morse and Jim Lively to serve as the FCSWMD reps for Rowe.

Motion to Appoint: Chair Wilson made a motion to appoint Jennifer Morse and Jim Lively to serve as the FCSWMD representatives for Rowe. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

9. Fire Department Discussion: Select Board Members discussed the Fire Chief resignation and how to proceed. Points discussed were as follows:

- There was an idea presented about obtaining some outside help to provide an objective overview.
- Select Board members concurred with the idea of a need to reorganize the Department, set priorities in order of safety, communication and training and potentially hire an outside Consultant to assist with this effort
- It was agreed there was a need to work with other area towns

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- Chair Wilson wanted to get townspeople involved with suggestions for Department improvement.

10. Police Chief Concerns: Chief Shippee expressed concern over the problems associated with the kayakers at the Monroe Bridge as they are not respecting fences put up for the construction as well as the safety issue of people crossing the bridge limited to foot traffic and unsafe. Chair Wilson agreed to contact Town Counsel about the situation.

11. Administrative Clerk Vacation: Administrative Clerk asked for some time off for vacation from August 14 through the 24th.

Motion to Allow Vacation: Following discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to allow Janice Boudreau some vacation time from August 14th through the 24th. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Audience:

- Gail May expressed her concern to the Select Board that citizens be listened to.
- Russ Jolly said that state regulations were causing difficulty for the Fire Department to meet new standards and that their turnout gear needed to be reviewed in greater detail
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Warrants: Warrants FY15 W03 and FY15 PW03 were reviewed

Adjournment:

Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 5:58 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Boudreau

Approval Date: AUGUST 13, 2014

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Walt Quist, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 07/30/14