Town of Rowe - FY 2015
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday February 11, 2015 – 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, Vice-Chair Susan Gleason, Selectman Quist and Administrative Clerk Janice Boudreau

Audience: Paul McLatchy III

Minutes:

Motion to accept Minutes of February 4, 2015: Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Wilson to accept the Minutes of February 4, 2015 as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Motion to accept Minutes of January 14, 2015: Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Wilson to accept the Minutes of January 14, 2015 as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

New Business:

1. Fire Department Issues:

    a. Discuss merging Fire & Police Departments: Chair Wilson asked the Select Board to consider whether or not to merge the Departments. Following discussion it was agreed not to be a good idea.

    b. Concept of EMS separate from Fire Dept.: It was determined that the EMS had to be associated with the Fire Dept. and could not act alone

    c. Continue work on Fire Dept. recommendations in Maruca Report: Select Board Members continued to work on the recommendations of Joe Maruca:

        -Establish a Policy for all Departments and Committees to submit to the Select Board a report, on a quarterly basis, on their activities including Fire Chief as well as other Departments: DPW, Police Chief, Town Accountant & Treasurer

        -Communications are limited due to lack of cell phone towers. It was agreed to speak with the Broadband Committee about the possibilities of radio repeaters to cover the Town.

        - The Weak Chief designation pursuant MA General Law Chapter 48 was established in Town

        - Volunteer Firefighter Job Description: It was agreed to work on a Firefighter Job Description, have an interview process and CORI check

- Administrative Assistant: Select Board Members agreed to add it to the Fire Dept.'s budget for consideration

- Consider out of town residents: Chair Wilson consulted with Town Counsel regarding the matter of whether out of town residents could be on the Fire Dept.

- Recruitment: There was discussion about motivating volunteers to join the Department and improving methods of communication

- Create a Firefighter 'Code of Conduct': It was agreed to establish a draft 'Code of Conduct' for next meeting.

- It was agreed to establish a Protocol for Grievances for posting and review by each member of the Fire Dept.

- To further morale it was agreed to urge the Fire Association to have t-shirts and hats made for the Department

Paul McLatchy III arrived at 4:30 p.m.

2. Wired West Letter: Chair Wilson presented the ' Projected Debt Service' from FRCOG Consultant Joe Maruca detailing the projected cost of bringing in fiber optic service to the Town. Chair Wilson asked to consider bringing in fiber optic to the junction of each household. A draft letter from WiredWest was reviewed and amended that will be sent to each Rowe household.

Motion to Approve WiredWest Letter: Following review and amended draft WiredWest letter,Chair Wilson made a motion to approve the Letter for Town residents to accompany information from WiredWest concerning establishing a fiber optic network in Rowe. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Old Business

1. Review Capital Improvement Plan: Item tabled until later

2. Discuss Grants: Chair Wilson expressed the need for Rowe to participate in the Franklin County Rehabilitation Program to assist qualifying homeowners to borrow money to improve the safety of their home. It was agreed to contact a Program representative for further details.

3. Old Home Day Requests: The Old Home Day Committee requested that the Town purchase a bouncy house to use at Old Home Days and possible use at other events. Chair Wilson learned that the bouncy house and similar amusement devices cannot be covered by the Town's Insurance Policy as they are considered dangerous making such a purchase not possible.

Motion Regarding Recreational 'Bouncy House' Purchase: Chair Wilson made a motion to allow the rental rather than purchase, of a 'bouncy house' for recreational purposes as long as the provider assumed liability insurance coverage along with the rental. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

FY15W17 and FY15PW17 Warrants were reviewed.

Audience: Paul McLatchy III spoke to the Select Board about the Old Home Day Committee obtaining a membership card from BJ's for Old Home Day purchases.

Adjournment:

Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 5:25 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (3/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau

Approval Date: FEBRUARY 25, 2015

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Walter J. Quist, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 02/11/15
- WiredWest Letter (2 pgs.)