Town of Rowe - FY 2015
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday September 9, 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: JoAnn Brown, Rosie Gordon, Betty Lenth, Jenn Morse, Brandon Sprague

Minutes:

Motion to accept Minutes of August 26, 2015: Upon review, a motion was made by Vice-Chair Gleason to accept the Minutes of August 26, 2015 as presented. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was accepted. (2/0/1)

Old Business

1. FC Regional Housing Authority Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority Agreement: There was discussion concerning the Franklin County Regional Housing Authority and Redevelopment Authority Agreement to participate with the grant program so low income citizens could improve their properties for health and safety issues. Selectman Quist said that that once improvements were made it might enable citizens to qualify for energy programs to further save them money.

Motion to Sign Agreement: Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Agreement for Participation in the Housing Rehabilitation Revolving Loan Program By and Between the Town of Rowe and the Franklin County Regional Housing and Redevelopment Authority. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

2. Discuss Charlemont Ambulance: Chair Wilson raised the issue of the response to a recent emergency issue which came up in Town Hall and the long response time from the ambulance. She spent time reviewing the Emergency Dispatch logs and noted that in 2013 three out of 18 calls were responded by Charlemont Ambulance, and from mid-January to present they responded to 3 out of 35 emergency calls. Chair Wilson expressed concern with response from Charlemont. It was noted that North Adams Ambulance was staffed with paramedics at most times and that it could save time if the ambulance was staffed with paramedics as they could start an IV, administer medications and start a12 lead EKG machine. It was agreed that a paramedic staffed ambulance would be the best option for Rowe due to the length of time it took to transport patients to hospitals. Chair Wilson was discussing the matter with Charlemont Ambulance Director Johnson expressing concerns over the lack of Charlemont response. Since it is a critical issue Chair Wilson called for a meeting to take place next week to address the issue with Emergency Medical Services Director Hyytinen.

3. Urban Green Technologies Proposal for Net Metering Credits – Less Enthusiastic Upon Learning How Small We Are: Chair Wilson said that Urban Green Technologies had approached

Rowe with a Net Metering Proposal. She noted that once they learned how small the town is, they have not been in contact again.

4. Sam.gov Update: Chair Wilson reported that Rowe is now successfully enrolled with the Federal System for Award Management (Sam.gov) and received confirmation which can make Rowe eligible for grant programs.

5. Review Gazebo Painting Quote: Vice-Chair Gleason reported on speaking with the contractor regarding the leaks in the gazebo roof. Following discussion, it was agreed the Vice-Chair Gleason would speak with the contractor about the leaks. A contractor painting quote was reviewed and it was deemed was too high and an alternative approach would be needed. It was agreed to consider a community work bee to remedy the situation.

6. IT Issues: Chair Wilson received a question from Northeast IT Systems President Joel Mollison asking whether the Select Board should conduct a prior approval on any work over and above normal monthly maintenance. It was agreed to do so.

New Business

1. FC Regional Emergency Planning – Emergency Response Transportation: Documents were reviewed concerning Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning and their plan with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority to prepare for transporting individuals during a natural disaster or other emergency event to have a member of the Fire Dept. drive citizens. Selectman Quist spoke with the Director and had Emergency Management Director and Fire Chief review materials and both agreed with the plan.

Motion to Sign Agreement: Following review and discussion Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Franklin County Regional Emergency Planning with the Franklin Regional Transit Authority 'Memorandum of Agreement for Emergency Response Transportation'. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

1. Community Compact Program: Materials were presented by Franklin Regional Council of Governments with information about the recently enacted Community Compact Program by the Baker administration. It was agreed to review and discuss at next meeting.

2. Status of HCOG's Municipal Electricity Aggregation Program: Chair Wilson reported that the Hampshire Council of Governments Municipal Electricity Aggregation Plan was stalled by the Department of Public Utilities.

3. Appointments: Requests were made for the following appointments: Kevin Parent to Old Home Day Committee Kelle Quist & Michael Phillips to Energy Committee.

Motion to Appoint: Chair Wilson made a motion to appoint Kelle Quist and Michael Phillips to the Rowe Energy Committee. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (2/0/1) Walt Quist abstained from the vote.

Vice-Chair Gleason left the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Motion to Appoint: Chair Wilson made a motion to appoint Kevin Parent to the Old Home Day Committee. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was accepted. (2/0/1)

3. Request from EMS Director for Funds to Update AED's: Chair Wilson raised the issue that the Automatic External Defibrillators (AED) in town were all not functioning as the batteries were not working, the pads were needing replacement and the software was obsolete. It was agreed we need to fund the proper functioning of the AEDs at the next Special Town Meeting.

4. 5:00 pm : Fire Dept. Issues – Jenn Morse & Brandon Sprague: Fire Dept. Administrative Assistant Jenn Morse and Fire Chief Brandon Sprague reported on recent activities and concerns:

   a. Fire Extinguishers: Fire Dept. Admin Assistant Jenn Morse said that the fire extinguishers that had not been serviced since 2007 and 2010 were recharged and, where required, replaced.
   b. Fire Dept. Door: Jen Morse reported some problems with the Fire Dept. Door and was looking into the replacement cost as well as a keypad for the door lock.
   c. First Responder Course: The Fire Dept. is offering a First Responder course starting September 23, 2015.
   d. Park Concerns: Fire Chief raised the issue of fire safety at the new lean-to the park had built for camping. It was agreed to have further discussion and reporting to the Select Board following a visit to the site by next Thursday. Other concerns were raised about whether the structure had been inspected and whether it violated the Park Covenant. It was agreed the Select Board would meet with the Park Commission.
   e. Truck Concerns: Fire Chief reported electrical problems with Engine 4 and that it would need an evaluation of the cost to repair.

7. Administrative Clerk Updates: Administrative Clerk asked Select Board to review the Policies presented by Town Accountant for approval. It was agreed to review and discuss at the next meeting. Ordering flags for Veterans' graves was discussed and it was agreed to speak with Carlos Heligmann about the matter. A request was made by Town Nurse to print a MA Public Health Emergency Prepardness Plan for the 5 area towns. It was agreed it was fine to do.

Warrants: Review FY16W06 and FY16PW06

Audience: Rosie Gordon asked a question about the EMT issue.

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 6:00 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was accepted. (2/0/1)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau

Approval Date: OCTOBER 21, 2015

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Walter J. Quist, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 09/09/15
- FC Regional Emergency Planning Committee Agreement (3 pages)
- FC Reg Housing and Redevelopment Authority Agreement (11 pages)
- Painting Proposal Quotation
- Upper Pioneer Valley Veteran's Service District Letter re: gravesite flags
- Email request from Town Nurse