Town of Rowe - FY 2015
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday November 4, 2015 – 3:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall

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

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

Audience: Jodi Brown

Minutes: The Minutes of October 21, 2015 were reviewed.

Old Business

1. Discuss Tunnel Bridge Issues: Chair Wilson discussed the problem with the safety of the Tunnel Bridge and that Pan Am Railroad owns it and has not taken any measures to repair the bridge despite being asked by the Select Board. Chair Wilson is concerned about the 2 Rowe families that need the bridge to get to their homes and need to have service vehicles be able to cross the bridge. Chair Wilson spoke with Town Counsel who recommended Attorney Michael Leon who has dealt with Railroad concerns and might be able to provide valuable insight.

Motion to Consult: Chair Wilson made a motion to consult with Attorney Michael Leon to seek counsel on the Tunnel Bridge issue. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. The motion was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

2. Book Clark Rowell from UniBank for Discussions Re: Financing the Last Mile: Chair Wilson said that she wanted to go over the financing for broadband with Clark Rowell of Unibank to obtain additional information. There will be a meeting scheduled with Finance Committee and Mr. Rowell in the near future. There were questions about auditing procedures that needed clarification and bonding options.

3. Policies Presented by Town Accountant; Review Final Draft: Select Board Members reviewed the final draft of the Town Accountant Policies following Town Counsel review.

Motion to Adopt Policies: Chair Wilson made a motion to adopt the Policies presented by Town Accountant with Town Counsel revisions. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

4. FC Regional Housing Authority – Review Draft Community Development Strategy: Select Board Members reviewed and amended the Community Development Strategy (CDS)Draft Plan as part of the application process for a Franklin County Regional Housing Authority Block Grant for 2016. A date for the proposed hearing to present the CDS Draft Plan was discussed and Administrative Clerk will follow up.

New Business

1. Council on Aging Contract: Select Board Members reviewed a Council on Aging Contract for $1,357.58 with the MA Department for Elderly Affairs.

Motion to sign Contract: Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Council on Aging Contract for $1,357.58 with the MA Department for Elderly Affairs. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

2. Request from Kimberly MacPhee of FRCOG Access MEMA website for Rowe: Select Board Members reviewed a request from Kimberly MacPhee of Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) to access the MA Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) website on behalf of Rowe to update the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Motion to Allow Access to MEMA: Chair Wilson made a motion to allow Kimberly MacPhee of FRCOG to access the MEMA website on behalf of Rowe to update the Multi Hazard Mitigation Plan. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

3. Discuss New Wired West LLC Agreement: Chair Wilson discussed the new WiredWest Agreement that arrived and had spoken with Town Counsel about it and since she is reviewing it for several other area towns, it would be less costly since she agreed to divide the cost evenly between towns.

Motion to Engage Town Counsel to Review: Chair Wilson made a motion to have Town Counsel review the Operating Agreement of WiredWest Municipal Light Plant Cooperative LLC for Rowe, sharing the expense with other Towns. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

4. Review Financing Last Mile Options: Jim Drawe of WiredWest sent financing options for the Last Mile. It was agreed to review with Finance Committee and Unibank Consultant Clark Rowell.

5. Plan December Special Town Meeting: Chair Wilson said a Special Town Meeting may be needed to clear up some accounting issues and that Free Cash may be certified by November 30th. It would be good to have it after Free Cash certification.

6. North Adams Ambulance Service: Chair Wilson presented the North Adams Ambulance Service Agreement with an addendum vetted by Town Counsel. Due to the fact that Charlemont Ambulance did not respond to a majority of the emergencies it was a priority. Of 32 calls from Rowe in 18 months, only 12 were answered by our primary ambulance, Charlemont Ambulance.

Motion to Sign Agreement: Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the North Adams Ambulance Service Agreement with an addendum vetted by Town Counsel. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

7. Administrative Clerk Updates: Janice Boudreau updated the Select Board of the status of the alarm, elevator inspection and repairs needed. Heating and using the thermal quilts at Town Hall was also discussed.

8. Email from Citizen: Paul Hurtig of King's Highway sent an email to inquire about the cleaning of the dams at Lake Pelham and King's Highway. The dams required a 'key' to open valves. Chair Wilson agreed to speak with Mr. Hurtig and contact Henry Dandeneau who was thought to be in charge of the dams in the event of emergency. General maintenance of the damswas discussed.

Warrants: Review FY16W10 and FY16PW10

Audience of Citizens: None

Warrants: Review FY16W010 and FY16PW10

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting 5:20 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,
Janice Boudreau

Approval Date: DECEMBER 2, 2015

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Walter J. Quist, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 11/04/15
- Draft Agreement for Borrowing Town Propery
- Draft Community Development Strategy (5 pgs)
- Draft Accounting Policies (7 pgs)
- Email from citizen – P. Hurtig - Re: Town dams
- Email – Sharon Fleck re: WiredWest
- Contract COA
- Draft Operating Agreement of WiredWest Municipal Light Plant Coop LLC (41 pgs)
- FRCOG Request to Access MEMA Website
- North Adams Ambulance Agreement rev. 11-04-15 (3 pgs)