Town of Rowe - FY 2015
Board of Selectmen – Minutes
Wednesday, December 16, 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: Eric Misbach, Community Solar Project Manager, Loretta Dionne, Ray Wilson, Wayne Zavotka

Minutes:

Motion to accept Minutes of December 2, 2015 – 3:00pm: Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Wilson to accept the Minutes of December 2, 2015 as presented. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

The Minutes of the November 19, 2015 Hearing: Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Minutes of November 19, 2015 which were approved at the meeting of December 2, 2015. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason was accepted. (3/0/0)

Business

1. Eric Misbach from Nexamp Solar 3pm: Eric Misbach of Nexamp Solar met with the Select Board to discuss the possibility of the Town purchasing solar net metering credits to reduce energy supply bills by 15%. He explained that Nexamp builds, owns and operates large scale solar farms and sells their earned solar credits to entities through virtual net metering which in turn reduces their supply costs. The solar farms have a 20-year life expectancy, therefore, offer 20-year agreements which can be opted out in a 6 month interval at any time. In addition, opportunities for citizens to participate can be offered.

Mr. Misbach left the meeting at 2:55 pm.

Finance Committee Members joined the meeting at 3:51 pm.

2. STM Warrant: Finance Committee joined the meeting and discussed their plan to have members act as liaisons with Departments to help manage and plan their budgets. The Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant Articles of January 6, 2016 were reviewed and discussed.

3. Discuss Wired West LLC Operating Agreement and MBI- MBI/MTC Joint Board Meeting in Boston Dec. 10, 2015 & MBI meeting Dec. 14, 2015: Chair Wilson explained what had taken place in meetings between western Massachusetts towns, Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI) and WiredWest. There are problems that have been occurring with MBI and WiredWest which was jeopardizing the plan to build and operate a regional fiber-optic network to western Massachusetts. She had been involved in a Press Conference to make citizens aware that the Towns wished to continue working with WiredWest in a cooperative venture. MBI had publically voiced a lack of confidence in WiredWest and denying funding was causing problems.

WiredWest had countered that the MBI claims and criticism were unsubstantiated. Chair Wilson said she would continue to work on the issue.

Walt Quist left the meeting at 5:00pm.
Finance Committee Members left the meeting at 5:30pm.

Motion to Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant: Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Special Town Meeting Warrant for January 11, 2015. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (2/0/1)

4. Review and Vote to Accept Updated Community Development Strategy 2015: Select Board Members reviewed the final version of the Community Development Strategy.

Motion to Accept the Community Development Strategy 2015: Upon review and discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to accept the Community Development Strategy 2015. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (2/0/1)

5. Update on Hazard Mitigation Plan Meetings: Discussion tabled to next meeting.

6. Personal Property Refund – Tax Collector: Select Board Members reviewed a request from Tax Collector to refund personal property tax that was billed in error.

Motion to Approve: Chair Wilson made a motion to approve a personal property tax bill for the amount of $115.91 that was billed in error. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (2/0/1)

7. FRCOG – Local Technical Assistance (LTA): It was agreed to take home and review.

8. Discuss Executive Secretary Position: Tabled until a later date.

5. Discuss Record Retention: Tabled until a later date.

6. Tree Removal: There was a brief discussion about the need to remove 2 trees in the front of Town Hall because they were too close to the building and causing rot on the siding and trim boards.

7. Fire Dept. Administrative Assistant to Discuss Landing Zone: Chair Wilson reported that the utility pole could be moved near the DPW to create a large enough area to allow a helicopter to land in the event of an emergency. It was agreed to speak with Highway Superintendent about a road sand pile that would need to be moved.

8. Sandri Contract for Library Heating System: Select Board Members reviewed the Contract with Sandri Energy from the Energy Committee to supply and install mini split and energy recovery ventilator system at Rowe Library through an energy grant.

Motion to Sign Contract: Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the contract with Sandri Energy to supply and install mini split and energy recovery ventilator system at Rowe Library through an energy grant for the amount of $20,242.00. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Gleason, was accepted. (2/0/1)

9. Administrative Clerk Updates: Tabled until next meeting.

Warrants: Review FY16W13 and FY16PW13

Audience of Citizens: None

Adjournment: Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 6:30 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau

Approval Date: DECEMBER 21, 2015

Approved:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Susan Gleason, Vice-Chair

Walter J. Quist, Selectman

Attachments:

- Agenda 12/16/15
- Town of Rowe- Net Metering Credit Proposal – Nexamp (8 pgs.)
- Contract with Sandri Energy (20 pgs.)
- Personal Property Refund
- Community Development Strategy 2015 Final (5 pgs.)