

Town of Rowe – FY2008  
Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee  
Minutes – Wednesday, January 9, 2008 – 6:00pm

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**Call to order:** The Selectboard and Finance Committee each called the meetings of their respective boards to order at 6pm.

**Present:** Selectmen Myra Carlow and Susan Wood; Town Coordinator Ellen Babcock  
Finance Committee members Bill Loomis, Cindy Laffond and Cara Morano

**Absent:** Finance Committee member David Dvore

It was agreed that Finance Committee Chair Loomis would chair the meetings during budget discussions of elected boards, and Selectboard Chair Carlow would chair the discussions of committees and departments under the Selectboard's jurisdiction.

The following boards/commissions/departments presented their respective budgets:

- **Assessors** (Rick Williams) – Change clerk hours from 12 to 15 hours per week due to: photo project, FY09 reval, new mapping system, perhaps change from semi-annual to qrtly tax bills. Some additional monies needed for FY09 reval.  
CIP: HP printer may not need replacing in FY2011.
- **Board of Health** (Danette Reynolds and Dan Poplawski) – Decrease in salary/wage line due to decreased Health Services hours. Transfer Stations Ops increased 15% due to projected 10% increase with renewal of MSW hauling contract and projected 5% increase in fuel surcharges.  
CIP: Would like to add concrete pads for recycling, metal and demolition bins. Getting bids now.  
To do list: Detail of operations budget; bids on concrete pads.
- **Cemetery Commission** (Jim Taylor and Jim Williams) – 8.3% increase. Cemetery Trust has \$20K balance, Cemetery Revolving has \$3K balance.  
CIP: Add driveway repaving of East Cemetery – FY09 \$9,000, and West Cemetery driveway repaving - FY2010 \$6300.
- **DPW** (Jim Taylor) – Reinstitute Asst. Supt. Position with \$1 more per hour over crew. Status of damaged 1999 Ford One-Ton truck unknown. Presented two budget versions...one with new 1-ton truck and one with new equipment pole barn. Insurance appraiser here tomorrow to look at truck. Annual hwy projects increased because prices of all materials have gone way up, e.g., gravel in 2003 \$4/yd...now \$14/yd. Paving project FY09: Pond Rd/Leshure Rd from school to state line. Need to look at pavement reclamation...probably start with Zoar Rd at town line bridge and head up into town. Will look at *Ice Be Gone*. May get a few yards to assess product. Salt \$60/ton...IBG \$80/ton. Requesting total wage increase of 5.0% for FY09 (2.3% COLA and extra 2.7%). Feels 2.3% is inadequate. Chair Carlow stated that she was not in favor. BOS and FinCom already agreed on 2.3%. Comparing Rowe wages with other towns, she says Rowe employees are above them all. Chair Loomis stated that as far as the Finance Committee is concerned the 2.3% is not final number yet.  
CIP/wish list: Would like to add snowblower \$15K.  
To do list: update CIP info, truck damage appraisal, *Ice Be Gone* assessment
- **Planning Board** – did not attend. Ms. Babcock will ask them to come tomorrow night.
- **Veterans' Agent** – Jim Brown will prepare a budget to hand in tomorrow
- **Park Commission** (Russ Jolly and Earl Carlow) – Increased wages to be in line with new MA minimum. \$.25 increase for AR Class I, \$.50 for AR Class II. Added 1 Rec 2<sup>nd</sup> Asst (for total of 4 for FY09). No other hour changes. [BOS agreed to up Grasshopper Supvs to equiv AR I at \$11.25/hour.]  
CIP: Browning Bench repairs—sills, floor joists, some foundation work, some siding—prob cost \$15K, have \$7K...need another \$8K Tennis Courts – have \$10,400. Need \$12,900. Would like transfer of \$2K in FY08 fitness equipment line item to Tennis Court repairs (either STM approval, or end-of-year Selectboard/FinCom approval).  
Bathrooms: Delete #180 \$50K for restroom/septic...same as #157 Outhouse upgrade.  
To do list: Review all CIP Park items.

Rearrange meeting schedule as follows: Add Planning Board to end of Thurs 1/10 meeting, add Broadband at 6pm Monday evening, move School Committee to 6:30. Gen Admin/Selectboard when School budget done.

The Finance Committee ended its meeting.

The Selectboard continued with the following items:

- Ms. Babcock to try schedule two meetings...one for Wed, Jan 16, 2008 at 5:00pm or later and one for Wed, Jan 23, 2008 for 5:00pm or later. One meeting would be for Selectboard to meet with Bob Mitchell of Yankee Atomic (to perhaps go into Executive Session at end of meeting) and one would be to meet with Tax Collector, Treasurer, Town Accountant and Auditor to discuss the DOR Financial Management Review and the Auditor's FY08 Audit Management Letter.
- A draft packet of information needed for the 2008 CDBG funding application was reviewed and approved. Ms. Babcock was asked to revise the cover letter and ready it for Chair Carlow's signature tomorrow.

**Adjournment:** The Selectboard voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 8:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen L. Babcock

Approved:

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Myra B. Carlow, Selectboard Chair

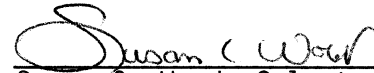


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William Loomis, Finance Committee Chair

June 24, 2008

Date Approved

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James D. Brown, Selectman



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Susan C. Wood, Selectman