

Town of Rowe – FY2008  
Board of Selectmen/Finance Committee  
Minutes – Monday, January 14, 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 and Jim Brown; 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:

- **Broadband** (Russ Jolly) – Mr. Jolly briefed the group on the following three (3) options that will be outlined in a report that will be forthcoming from the committee's consultant Doug Norton who was engaged to provide information pertaining to high speed internet access options for town residents:
  1. **Low End 900MHz Wireless** – Approx \$160K
  2. **Hybrid System** – Approx \$500K
  3. **High-End All Fiber** – approx \$1.4 million

Information summarizing the above three options is supplied in committee member David Dvore's 10-17-07 email attached. Mr. Jolly reported that although their committee has not voted on their recommendation to the town due to the lack of a quorum, that two (2) committee members (he and Evelyn Dandeneau) are in favor of option 1 and member David Dvore is in favor of option 3. Member Dan Wessman, who reportedly resigned due to family obligations, favored option 2. The fifth committee member declined reappointment in July 2007.

Mr. Jolly stated that the Broadband Committee would like to bring two articles to the May Annual Town Meeting— 1) an article listing the three options, asking voters which option they would like; and 2) an article asking voters how they would like to pay for the option chosen in the first article.

- **School Committee** (Margaret Rice, Lisa Danek-Burke, Becky Richardson, Michael Buonoconti, Joanne Blier, Bob Clancy) – School Committee Maggie Rice called the School Committee to order at 6:35pm. Supt. Buonoconti disseminated copies of a power point presentation of the FY09 Rowe school budget of \$1,124,630, which represents a 2.5% increase over FY08 budget of \$1,097,156 (see budget attached). The School Committee plans to formally adopt the budget at their next regular meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. The major change over previous year—elimination of separate Science teacher position. Fifth/sixth grade teacher is retiring. Science teacher is to take that position. Will teach differently— ½ year science / ½ year social studies. Enrollment at Rowe School for FY09 is expected to be 65. May have six additional for total of 71. Currently there are 61 students—23 of which are school choice (includes Pre-K). Agreement for **Shared Service costs** for central office staff is under review. Currently 80% is paid by Mohawk district, 13% by Hawlemont district, and 7% by Rowe district. The new agreement, to be voted on in mid-February, will flex with student populations.  
**To do list:** Formally adopt budget.  
**CIP:** Review/update CIP

**THE BOARDS RECESSED FOR 10 MINUTES at 7:50PM.**

- **General Administration** (Ellen Babcock) – See preliminary worksheet attached.  
**To do list:** Review dam engineering studies, provide detail for IT budget line, decide on elevator contract for FY09, study health insurance options (FinCom), Gracy house options, donation for new Charlemont ambulance, cost of TH phone system, vote on MCSF appropriation, get final # re FRCOG statutory assessment.  
**CIP:** Review/update CIP
- **Veterans' Agent** (Jim Brown) – No budget submitted.

**TO DO:**

- Chair Carlow will get in touch with departments and boards to update the CIP.
- Chair Loomis will make a list of outstanding budget items and will get list to Ms. Babcock for dissemination. (see list attached.)
- Ms. Babcock will update budget spreadsheet with preliminary budget requests submitted to date

**Adjournment:** The Finance Committee and Selectboard both adjourned their meetings at 8:50pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ellen L. Babcock

Approved:

June 24, 2008  
Date Approved

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Myra B. Carlow, Selectboard Chair

William Loomis  
William Loomis, Finance Committee Chair

James D. Brown  
James D. Brown, Selectman

Susan C. Wood  
Susan C. Wood, Selectman