

**Town of Rowe**  
Board of Selectmen – Minutes  
Wednesday, August 10, 2016 – 1:00 pm  
Rowe Town Hall

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Wilson at 1:00pm.

**Present:** Chair Wilson, Vice-Chair Quist, Dennis May and Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau

**Also Present:** Tracey Baronas, Joe Markarian

**Minutes** **Motion to accept Minutes of July 27, 2016:** Upon review, a motion was made by Vice-Chair Quist to accept the Minutes of July 27, 2016 with amendments. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. 1:00 pm Meeting with Joe Markarian re: Financial Policies: Select Board Members met with Joe Markarian Financial Management Specialist Consultant from Franklin Regional Council of Governments. (FRCOG) and Town Accountant Tracey Baronas to continue work on the Financial Policies for the Town. There was discussion about policies and Joe Markarian will present an updated version in the near future. It was agreed to have a master copy in the Executive Secretary's office, send Town Departments a copy with a memo and announce to citizens the work that was completed and put a copy on the website. In addition, he offered to work on updating Rowe's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Select Board members agreed it would be a good idea to review the CIP.

2. Appointments: Laurie Pike volunteered to be on the Cultural Council and Planning Board Chair David Roberson recommended Dan Burke to serve on the Planning Board.

**Motion to Appoint:** Chair Wilson made a motion to appoint Laurie Pike to the Cultural Council. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

**Motion to Appoint:** On the recommendation from the Planning Board, Chair Wilson made a motion to appoint Dan Burke to the Planning Board. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Town Clerk - Early Voting- tabled until next meeting
2. Town Clerk – New Public Records Law- tabled until next meeting

3. Discuss Financing of the Last Mile: Chair Wilson discussed financing the Last Mile bringing broadband to Rowe. She presented the costs associated with issuing a bond to pay for the \$860,000.00 to pay for the Town share. She said that the costs to secure the bond would include : Financial Advisor fees, Bond Counsel fees, Rating agency fees, annual auditor's fees and bond insurance premiums. She had devised a way to pay for the amount without obtaining a bond. She explained the required amount could come from: Free Cash, Stabilization, Capital Stabilization in some combination and that it would not have to be paid in the first year. She determined that the savings by not financing could be as high as \$675,000.00. In addition, she found some potential grants for bringing broadband into rural areas that could further reduce costs. It was agreed to present the figures to the Finance Committee for consideration. Chair Wilson provided an informational sheet from the Municipal Securities Board which described the costs associated with issuing municipal securities.

4. Update from Meeting with Clark Rowell About Financing Last Mile: Chair Wilson met with Financial Advisor Clarke Rowell of Unibank and presented the plan to finance the broadband project without obtaining financing. He concurred that the plan she presented was a sound one.

5. Pole Licensing Agreements: Select Board Members reviewed the Pole Licensing Agreements from Verizon and National Grid that were needed prior to start work on the broadband construction project for Rowe.

**Motion to Sign Agreements:** Following review and discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Verizon Pole Licensing Agreement. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

**Motion to Sign Agreements:** Following review and discussion, Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the National Grid Pole Licensing Agreement. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Quist, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

6. Letter from Annette Belanger of Mass Forestry: A letter was received from Annette Belanger of the Massachusetts Forestry Alliance requesting the Select Board to consider converting oil burners in town buildings to pellet stoves. Rowe had just replaced a failing oil boiler with a pellet stove at the DPW and it was agreed that due to the fact there was not enough history established to assess its performance we should wait to make any further decisions. In addition, Chair Wilson said there were studies that stated the particulate matter by-product of pellet stoves was of concern to the health of those exposed. Selectman Quist said he would speak with Annette Belanger about giving a presentation. In addition, it was agreed to look into developing more solar projects with the aid of an independent consultant and promote renewable energies.

7. COA FY17 Grant Allocation for Signing: Select Board Members reviewed the Council on Aging 'FY17 Grant Allocation Statement of Authorization'.

**Motion to Sign:** Following review, Chair Wilson made a motion to sign the Council on Aging 'FY17 Grant Allocation Statement of Authorization'. The motion, seconded by The motion, seconded by Selectman May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

8. Interdepartmental Issues: Chair Wilson said there were some personnel issues that needed to be addressed. Following discussion, it was agreed to ask parties to meet with the Select Board to discuss the matter.

9. Congressman Neal Letter: Congressman Neal sent a letter notifying the Select Board that he was a co-sponsor of "The Interim Spent Nuclear Fuel Storage Site Compensation Act of 2016" in effort to honor the original intent of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982. He indicated he would visit the site in the Fall. Vice-Chair Quist agreed to follow-up and contact his office.

10. Executive Secretary Updates: Janice Boudreau reported the following:

- Tents: one town tent had to be discarded; two other tents were old; and we should consider whether or not to replace them.
- Safety Training: Janice thought that safety training for the Summer Youth should be required before starting on the job and that it was not completed in all cases prior to their employment start date. It was agreed to remedy in the future.
- Painting Bids: Janice completed the painting bid for the Town Hall

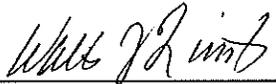
**Warrants:** FY17 W04 and FY17 P04 were reviewed and signed.

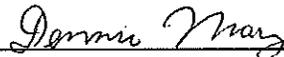
**Adjournment:** Seeing no further business, Chair Wilson made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 4:55 pm. The motion, seconded by Selectman May, unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

Respectfully Submitted,  
Janice Boudreau

Approval Date: August 24, 2016

Approved:   
Marilyn Wilson, Chair

  
Walter J. Quist, Vice-Chair

  
Dennis May, Selectman

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- Agenda 08-10-16
- DLS – Meeting Notice (2 pgs)
- MassDOT bridge inspection
- Letter from Andrew Vitz
- Letter from Richard E. Neal
- Financial Policies – (28 pgs)
- Letter from Charlemont Select Board
- FRCOG Request for Appointment
- BOS Draft Minutes 07-27-16
- COA FY 17 Formual Grant/Allocation – Statement of Authorization
- Planning Board Memo re: Appointment
- MSRB- 'Costs Associated with Issuing Municipal Securities' (2 pgs)