

Rowe Finance Committee
June 19, 2017
6:00 P.M.
Rowe Town Hall

Finance Committee: Chair Wayne Zavotka, Loretta Dionne (arrived at 6:20), Paul McLatchy III, Charles Sokol

Audience of Citizens: Lance Larned (Requested by Finance Committee)

Call to Order: Chair Zavotka called the meeting to order at 6:08 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

Agenda: The agenda was approved as submitted.

DPW Presentation: At the request of the Finance Committee, DPW Superintendent Lance Larned attended the meeting to discuss various projects and needs of the town in the future.

Currently the town has rolled over Chapter 90 funds from the last few years, and has accumulated nearly \$580,000 in this account. Mr. Larned informed the committee that these funds had not been used the past few years at the direction of the selectboard, due to the possibility of needing them for projects such as bridge repair/replacement. This has limited the amount of work that has been done on other roads.

The project at the forefront seems to be the bridge leading to King's Highway. Estimates have come in for replacement, with \$480,000 being at the top end. The selectmen are pursuing a grant for up to \$500,000, but all avenues are being explored in case the grant does not come through.

In addition to the King's Highway bridge, Mr. Larned informed the committee that in the next few years, the following work will need to be done:

- Bridge repair work on Cyrus Stage Road.
- The bridge on Leshure Road will definitely need repair, possibly replacement.
- A culvert on Ford Hill Road will need to be replaced as the bottom of it is rotting. An estimate put replacement at \$1 million due to the amount of fill on top of it.
- Determine if Yankee Road belongs to the town or Yankee Atomic. The road has been calculated in the town's Chapter 90 funding formula, but it is unclear if this road had been signed over to the company. If the town is responsible for it, a costly repair of culvert work will need to be done.

The dams in town are inspected every five years. Both the Pelham Lake and Mill Pond dams are fine, contrary to rumors around town.

The bridge to the lower part of Tunnel Road is another concern of Mr. Larned, as it is owned by the railroad and the only other road leading out of that area is currently impassable. It seems that discussions with the railroad company have come to a standstill. Ownership might need to be pursued and looked into in order to qualify for grants.

Mr. McLatchy explained that one of his goals this year was to create a road maintenance plan and with it a funding mechanism, likely through an override vote. Mr. Larned was asked for a copy of the current maintenance plan put in place by the previous superintendent. He agreed to provide this plan. When

asked about the needs of the roads in town, Mr. Larned was happy to provide what information he could, but recommended the committee look into a road scan, which would provide detailed information about all roads in town. Such details would include the depth of the road, number of layers, structural issues, etc... This would provide far more information and be more accurate than information provided by any person. He noted nearby towns had had this done in the last few years.

The last item discussed was the replacement of the 2010 F-550 highway truck. This vehicle is used primarily for the town's dirt roads, which cannot be handled by the larger vehicles. Mr. Larned explained that the vehicle is currently on its third transmission, and has had numerous other problems. He would like to look into the possibility of purchasing a Dodge Ram 5500, which he estimates would cost around \$80,000-\$100,000 fully equipped. While the current vehicle is only seven years old, it's had transmission replacements at \$8,500-10,000, will need some hydraulic work done for another \$13,000, will need a new dump body due to holes estimated at \$7,000, and new fenders at \$6,000. He is estimating approximately \$35,000 in work that will need to be done over the next few years.

Chair Zavotka wanted to make it clear that the Finance Committee's role in relation to the DPW is that of a watchdog. The Board of Selectmen have final authority over the department and will need to be involved in many, if not all, the above mentioned projects. The Committee thanked him for his input and willingness to come on short notice.

Minutes: The minutes of June 14, 2017 were approved as submitted without amendment.

Timeline: Chair Zavotka passed out a draft budget guideline from 2014 that had never been approved. It offers an idea of starting the budget process earlier in the year than normal. As one of his goals is to obtain more citizen feedback, he thought that a longer process might help to increase citizen involvement with the budget. Mr. McLatchy suggested having an "elected officials forum", by which all elected officials in town would meet and discuss what topics they view as important in regards to finances. This might help the various departments to understand the process and see how intertwined all the budgets really are. This idea was received positively and will be brought up at a joint meeting with the selectmen.

Fifth Member: Rachel Holbrook respectfully declined the offer to join the committee, but expressed interest in future involvement. Neither Chair Zavotka nor Mr. McLatchy have heard back from Walt Quist. Chair Zavotka said he would speak with Myra Carlow to see if she would be interested, and Mr. McLatchy will speak with Abi Phelps.

Next Meetings: The following meetings are scheduled:

Wednesday, June 28th at 6:00 P.M. This will be a joint meeting with the Selectmen to appoint a fifth member and possibly begin reviewing the financial policies. The agenda for this meeting was approved.

Monday, July 24th at 6:00 P.M. This will be the July monthly meeting of the Finance Committee.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Mr. Sokol to adjourn. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was closed at 7:45 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: November 1, 2017

Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Loretta Dionne, Member

Charles Sokol, Member

Attachments:

- Agenda for June 19, 2017 Meeting
- Time Line for Budget Preparation
- Calendar of Budget and Financial Events
- Proposed Agenda for June 28, 2017 Meeting