

Rowe Finance Committee  
November 15, 2017  
6:00 P.M.  
Rowe Town Hall

**Finance Committee:** Chair Wayne Zavotka, Loretta Dionne, Paul McLatchy III  
**Audience of Citizens:** Selectman Jennifer Morse

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Zavotka at 6:16 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

**Budget Submissions:** Chair Zavotka has received budget submissions from the Board of Health, the Tax Collector, the Council on Aging, and the Library. He read out an email he received from school superintendent John Lev, in which Superintendent Lev asked for guidance on the budget as it is still “early”. Selectman Morse and Chair Zavotka reported that some committees and departments are a bit concerned about submitting budgets as they may be held to them and might not be able to produce the most accurate submission at this time. All three members of the Finance Committee agreed that these submissions are preliminary, and that they will have flexibility. Departments are simply being asked to use their “best educated estimate” when sending in a budget.

**Other Members:** Chair Zavotka said that he has a possible candidate, and that that individual is speaking with his/her significant other on the subject. The individual has asked to remain anonymous at this point, but Chair Zavotka did note that the individual has been brought up in prior conversations when discussing possible candidates. Mr. McLatchy spoke with Abi Phelps, who will be moving out of town in the near future, and is thus ineligible.

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and approved with no changes.

**Minutes:** The minutes of November 1<sup>st</sup> were approved and signed. The minutes from September 20<sup>th</sup> were signed.

**Eligibility:** Mr. McLatchy presented research he had prepared for a town meeting in 2014 when a bylaw proposal went before voters asking them to broaden the eligibility for finance committee membership. He made it very clear that the information had not been updated in the last three years, and may potentially be out-of-date if some towns changed their bylaws. After reviewing his spreadsheet (attached), Ms. Dionne commented that she doesn’t see much of an issue with elected officials also serving on the Finance Committee. Chair Zavotka noted that Huntington had a rather open policy- only Selectboard and School Committee members could not serve. Mr. McLatchy has been an open advocate for expanding membership eligibility, but did not want to move forward with proposing a change without the support of the Finance Committee. Chair Zavotka asked Mr. McLatchy to come back to the next meeting with a motion to recommend changes to the Bylaw Review Committee.

**Budgets:** The committee began reviewing the budgets that have been submitted. Some comments were made, but no substantial discussion took place, as these are all still preliminary and may require more information.

**Next Meeting:** The Finance Committee will meet on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. Meetings will take place at 6:30 rather than 6:00.

**Adjourn:** A motion was made by Ms. Dionne and seconded by Mr. McLatchy to adjourn. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was closed at 7:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: November 29, 2017

---

*Wayne Zavotka, Chairman*

---

*Paul McLatchy III, Secretary*

---

*Loretta Dionne, Member*

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Current Finance Committee Bylaw (Article III, Section 11)
3. Other Town Finance Committee Spreadsheet