

Rowe Finance Committee  
November 29, 2017  
6:30 P.M.  
Rowe Town Hall

**Finance Committee:** Chair Wayne Zavotka, Loretta Dionne, Paul McLatchy III  
**Audience of Citizens:** None

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Zavotka at 6:35 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

**Agenda:** The agenda was reviewed and adopted without any changes.

**Minutes:** The minutes of November 15<sup>th</sup> were approved as submitted.

**Additional Members:** The individual Chair Zavotka was talking to has had to decline. Another individual also declined. Jenna Crowningshield may be interested and will let the committee know if she is able to commit.

**Eligibility:** Mr. McLatchy presented an updated spreadsheet with five additional towns' eligibility requirements for their finance committees. He passed out a proposal (attached) with a recommendation for a change to the town's bylaw. The proposal eliminates the restriction on all offices and positions except for the Board of Selectmen and School Committee. It also add a provision that any person holding another office or position must recuse themselves on any matters pertaining to that position/office. Chair Zavotka made a motion to recommend to the Bylaw Review Committee and the Board of Selectmen that the proposal be placed on the annual town meeting warrant. Ms. Dionne seconded the motion, and the vote was 3-0 in favor.

**Budgets:** Ms. Dionne wanted to get a clarification that the Finance Committee is requesting budgets be prepared based on dollars spent, not based on previous allotments. The members agreed that this is what is being requested.

Library: The library is seeking an overall 1.3% increase over last year. The library is unique in that it requires minimum levels of funding in order to stay certified with CWMARS, an inter-library program with the state. A question was raised about the staffing requirements- they are requesting 38 hours a week while only being open 24 hours. Ms. Dionne will seek clarification on why there is such a large difference.

Board of Health: The Board of Health is requesting a 10.5% increase in the nurse's salary line, well above the 2% COLA that has been approved. There is also a 3.17% increase in the transfer station attendants line. Mr. McLatchy will speak with the board's clerk to ask for why there are increases.

Tax Collector: There is a 15% overall increase in the Tax Collector's budget. It appears that most of the increase if from a new line for envelopes and postage.

Council on Aging: The Council on Aging is requesting a \$100 increase over last year's budget. There was some discussion about Council policies on mileage reimbursements and whether they were necessary.

School: The budget number received from the school is **very** preliminary, and should be taken with a large grain of salt. It is estimated that the school will be requesting a 6.1% increase in their budget. The tuition rate for Mohawk students will rise by approximately \$1,000 per student, and there is a staff member retiring this year, requiring a buyout of leave. The proposed budget does not reflect any school choice

moneys yet, though. There is also a question of insurance affecting the school budget, since it hasn't been included in that line in years past.

Assessors: There is a large increase in the Assessors' office, which is primarily due to an increase in software fees.

**Goals:** The Committee would like to spend some quality time trying to line out our goals in the coming years.

**Letter:** A letter was approved in response to Sharon Hudson's letter to the Finance Committee.

**Next Meeting:** The Finance Committee will meet on December 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M.

**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 8:23 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: December 13, 2017

---

Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

---

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

---

Loretta Dionne, Member

**Attachments:**

1. Agenda
2. Updated Spreadsheet on Finance Committee Eligibilities
3. Proposal to Change Finance Committee Bylaw
4. School Budget Email
5. School Contract Regarding Retirement Benefits
6. Two Draft Letters to Sharon Hudson