

Rowe Finance Committee
December 13, 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 6:36 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and budget work was added.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Dionne and seconded by Chair Zavotka to approve the minutes of November 29th as submitted. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Correspondence: The following items were addressed:

Sharon Hudson Letter: The response to Sharon Hudson's letter was reviewed and signed by all three members. Mr. McLatchy will mail it out tomorrow.

Letter from Betty Lenth: Chair Zavotka read out a letter from Betty Lenth to Sharon Hudson that was copied to the Finance Committee. She spoke in favor of the park and its staff.

Open Letter from Jodi Brown: Chair Zavotka read out an open letter from Jodi Brown, where she advocated for the park services.

Finance Committee Handbook: A letter was received from the Massachusetts Association of Finance Committees, informing the committee that the 2017 edition of the Finance Committee Handbook was available for download. The link is <http://goo.gl/ZGVe5Y>

Budget Calendar: So far the committee has not received budgets from the police, fire, general government departments, nor from the conservation commission or the planning board. It was agreed to set a deadline of December 31st. For the FY18 budget, a \$3,679,804 operating budget was approved. An additional \$196,812 was raised for the capital stabilization fund. This year the town has certified free cash at \$200,256.

New Member: Jenna Crowningshield is interested, but she is concerned about her involvement as her father is an employee of the town and she would have to abstain on matters related to him. All members were still in favor of asking her to serve.

Goals: The committee spoke about goals for the coming budget season. Mr. McLatchy suggested that the committee look into lumping fixed costs together on the warrant, and to help departments affected by uncontrollable increases in their budgets. Chair Zavotka would like to see more information on the budget presented to voters prior to the annual town meeting.

Temporary Chair: During Chair Zavotka's coming absence, Mr. McLatchy will take on the role of acting chair and will be responsible for running meetings and having the agendas posted.

Next Meeting: The Finance Committee may meet after Christmas, but no date was selected.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Ms. Dionne and seconded by Chair Zavotka to adjourn. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was closed at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: December 28, 2017

Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Loretta Dionne, Member

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. December 13th - Letter to Sharon Hudson
3. November 16th - Letter from Betty Lenth to Sharon Hudson
4. November 10th – Open Letter from Jodi Brown