

Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen & Finance Committee**

AGENDA

Wednesday, January 16, 2019 – 6:30 p.m.

Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1

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**OPEN MEETING**

Announcement of recording devices & noteworthy information

**BUDGET HEARINGS**

Cemetery Commission	6:30 p.m.
Town Library	6:45 p.m.
Planning Board	7:00 p.m.
Park Commission	7:15 p.m.
MLP (Broadband)	7:30 p.m.

**MINUTES**

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes
2. Finance Committee Minutes

Citizen Comments

Adjournment

Rowe Board of Selectmen  
Jennifer Morse, Chairman  
Rowe Finance Committee  
Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

*The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which **may** be discussed at the meeting.  
Not all items listed **may** in fact be discussed, and other items not listed **may** also be brought up  
For discussion to the extent permitted by law.*







Town of Rowe  
MASSACHUSETTS

01367

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PLANNING BOARD

December 17, 2018

FROM: Rowe Planning Board; David Roberson, Chairman

TO: Board of Selectmen  
Finance Committee

RE: Planning Board's FY2020 budget request for Annual Town Meeting

Colleagues:

The Planning Board submits the following budget request for Fiscal year 2018, to be placed on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

Operations:	2,000.00
Consulting and Legal:	10,000.00
Planning Board Stipend:	5,000.00
Total Planning Board:	17,000.00

(This request was approved by vote of the Planning Board on Wednesday, December 5, 2018.)

My brief attempt at summarizing the board's deliberations and decision follows.

After several decades of publishing the Goal Post, the board has come to feel that the amount of time we've had to devote to this subject at our meetings has prevented more important work from being done. A full detailing of this decision would be over long for the purposes of this memorandum, but the recent announcement by the Board of Selectmen's chairman of her intention to institute a town newsletter independent of the Goal Post and prohibit departments under the BoS from submitting articles to the Goal Post was given appropriate weight in our decision. As a result, the Planning Board has voted (4-0-1) to cease publication of the Goal Post at the end of the current fiscal year.

The board is requesting a doubling of both Operations and Consulting and Legal. Note that our recent requests for inflation-adjusted increases to these line items have been refused by the BoS and FinCom.

The practical effect is that the actual purchasing power of these items is being eroded by inflation. Also worth mentioning is that the Planning Board's budget is at least 10,000 less now than it was ten years ago.

With regard to the Operations line-item, the Planning Board is hopeful that we will be bringing a suggested update to the town's zoning laws in the coming year, and anticipates an increase in costs for notifying the public and holding hearings for this purpose.

As to Legal and Consulting Expenses, the Planning Board and its members are subject to legal action by parties who may feel aggrieved by the board's decisions as the Special Permit Granting Authority. Most recently, this occurred when the Planning Board's denial of a Special Permit for a large solar installation was contested by the applicant until after several months of legal action their lawsuit was ultimately withdrawn. Under the terms of the town's relatively recent bylaw specific to solar installations, most of this cost was borne by the applicant. Many of our other bylaws, however, do not specifically provide for this model of funding. Until the town's bylaws are updated, there is a significant risk that another legal appeal of a decision by the Planning Board would be borne by the town. In such an instance, if the Planning Board's defense were restricted until such funding might be authorized by emergency action of the Selectmen or Town Meeting would impede the Planning Board's defense and introduce an element of uncertainty that could be exploited by any party.

Please note that Consulting and Legal should appear as a separate line item. At Annual Town Meeting in 2012, voters approved an article to amend Rowe's General By-laws at Article III, General Government – Section 18, Planning Board, by adding the following to the end of said section:

*The Planning Board shall have authority to hire such legal counsel as it deems necessary and appropriate, subject to a prior appropriation of Town Meeting specifically for such purpose.*

The intent of this bylaw change, as discussed at Town Meeting and among our respective boards at the time, was to guarantee the ability of the independently-elected Planning Board to exercise autonomy in hiring counsel. The language of the bylaw does require a specific appropriation, hence our request that this item be listed as an individual line item in the Planning Board's budget.

Finally, the Planning Board is requesting for the first time a line-item for a stipend of 5,000 to be paid in equal amounts of 1,000 to each member annually. The board considered the Planning Board's role in town government, our projected workload in finalizing the bylaws for presentation to Town Meeting voters, the likelihood of major new proposals coming before the board, and whether it was appropriate to encourage participation with a financial incentive and, if so, what a reasonable amount would be, and the board voted 4-1-0 to approve this request.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

*[signed]*

David Roberson

Chairman, Rowe Planning Board

413-339-4220



**Rowe Park - OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE - FY2020**

	FY2004	FY2005	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Swimming lessons	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,050	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,400	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 300	\$ 800	\$ -
Rec & Adventure progr	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 800	\$ 800.00
Park passes	\$ 210	\$ 210	\$ -	\$ 200	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Uniforms	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 500.00
Portable toilets	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 750	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 125	\$ 125	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Comp toilet pumping	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 325	\$ 325	\$ 325	\$ 325	\$ 325	\$ 325	\$ 325.00
Septic Pump	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Fish stocking	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Picnic tables	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ 400.00
Mileage	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 100	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 50	\$ 100.00
Community programs	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,300	\$ 1,250	\$ 1,000	\$ 700	\$ 560	\$ 2,280	\$ 1,780	\$ 2,060.00
Bridge maint	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 600	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000.00
Maint & Supplies	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,350	\$ 5,850	\$ 6,647	\$ 5,950	\$ 4,750	\$ 5,969	\$ 5,960	\$ 5,510.00
Adm/Off/Tech	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 325	\$ 1,325	\$ 1,182	\$ 700	\$ -	\$ 300.00
Park Vehicle	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 740	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -
Signage	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 800	\$ 800	\$ 200	\$ 200	\$ 100	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 650	\$ 550.00
Docks install/removal	\$ 960	\$ 960	\$ 960	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,200	\$ 1,200	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Comp toilet maint	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 550	\$ 550	\$ 275	\$ 275	\$ 275	\$ 750	\$ 325.00
Percy Brown PM	\$ 750	\$ 750	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 150	\$ 150	\$ 350	\$ 235	\$ 300	\$ 150	\$ 650.00
Kayak Lesson	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 400	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ -
Tennis Lessons	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Landscaping	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 500	\$ 250	\$ 237	\$ 500	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 800.00
New Equipment	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 5,050	\$ 4,005	\$ 3,305	\$ 3,980	\$ 4,840	\$ 6,231	\$ 5,431	\$ 6,765	\$ 5,680.00
	\$ 22,420	\$ 22,420	\$ 21,260	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,500	\$ 22,500	\$ 21,700	\$ 22,200	\$ 22,755	\$ 19,505	\$ 19,952	\$ 19,952	\$ 19,348	\$ 19,830	\$ 19,830	\$ 19,000.00





