

**Town of Rowe**  
Board of Selectmen – Minutes  
Wednesday, March 6, 2019 – 6:30 pm  
Rowe Town Hall - Hearing Room 1

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Chair Jennifer Morse at 6:30 p.m.

**Present:** Jennifer Morse, Chair, Dennis May, Vice Chair, Member Sokol

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – 6:30 p.m.**

MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B, Reason 3 to discuss pending litigation, with invite to Board of Health Chair and Conservation Commission Chair.

Chair Morse opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. and announced that the Select Board would move to enter into Executive Session for Purpose Number 3- Pending Litigation

*To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;*

and to reconvene into Open Session following the Executive Session.

**Motion to enter into Executive Session:**

Chair Morse: aye

Vice-Chair May: aye

Open Meeting reconvened at 6:59 p.m.

**Motion to re-enter from Executive Session to Open Session:**

Chair Morse: aye

Vice-Chair May: aye

Member Sokol: aye

**OPEN MEETING**

Announcement of recording devices & noteworthy information: one recording device

**Present:** Jennifer Morse, Chair, Dennis May, Vice Chair, Chuck Sokol – Member  
Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau  
Superintendent John Franzoni, School Committee Member Ellen Miller  
Treasurer Joanne Semanie, Police Chief Julie Shippee  
Audience: Russ Jolly

**BUDGET HEARING**

- OPEB/GASB Report:

Select Board Members reviewed the Other Post Employment Benefits Plan (OPEB ) Government Accounting Standards Board Report (GASB) 74/75 supplied from Odyssey Advisors with a valuation date of July 1, 2017. Chair Morse agreed to contact Odyssey Advisors President Parker Elmore to see if he could attend a meeting to explain the report with Finance Committee and the Select Board in the near future.

**7:07 p.m. – Superintendent John Franzoni and School Committee Member Ellen Miller:**

- School Committee Budget: Superintendent Franzoni presented the FY20 School Budget and Capital items. The total budget request for Public Education is \$1,807,591.00, up 8.1% from last year due in part to per student tuition increases from Mohawk Trail Regional School. There was discussion about a Technology Coordinator who has been added and shared with other schools in the North Berkshire District providing support to all students, teachers and advising all school regarding their technology upgrading. Superintendent Franzoni reported that 23 students were from Rowe and 41 were School Choice students. Member Sokol asked about teacher salaries and how they compared with other districts and if they would attract good teachers. Ms. Miller thought that the salaries were in line with the area schools. The paraprofessional teaching assistants' salaries were raised this year to a \$15.00 to \$16.00 per hour wage range, a more comparable area wage. Comparing Rowe to other schools, Superintendent Franzoni said Rowe had a technology advantage with up-to-date technology, added cultural programs, project based learning programs, teachers working together and collaborating. These innovations have brought value to Rowe and contribute to the educational quality. Mr. Franzoni said a new business manager will be hired in a shared position with other schools in the district.
- Discuss OBRA/SS Reimbursements: There was discussion about the issue of the employee deductions for retirement or social security account and that there were errors made. There needs to be more research to see why figures from Ellen Miller differed from those of the Treasurer. It was agreed that Vice-Chair May would review and resolve.

Ellen Miller and Superintendent Franzoni left the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

**APPOINTMENTS**

**7:50 p.m. – Treasurer Joanne Semanie:**

- State House Note: Treasurer Joanne Semanie said that the \$ 500,000.00 loan for the broadband project was in the works and would be coming in soon and needed to be signed by the Select Board. It was agreed Ms. Semanie would let the Select Board know when it was available for signing.

Ms. Semanie left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

**7:56 p.m. – Police Chief Julie Shippee:**

- Applicants for Reserve Officer: Chief Shippee and Select Board Members reviewed four applications for the position of Reserve Officer. Following discussion, it was agreed Chief Shippee would conduct interviews and when completed contact the Select Board with her recommendation for appointment.
- Hiring Process and Policy: Board Members agreed to work on a hiring process and policy for the future to establish hiring procedures for the town.

Police Chief Shippee left the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

## AUDIENCE:

Mr. Jolly entered the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Russ Jolly expressed concerns with two articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant and that articles related to bylaw changes should be placed at the Annual Town Meeting rather than the Special Town Meeting to have more people provide input. Since warrant articles cannot be withdrawn once the warrant is posted, it was agreed to consider at the Annual Town Meeting.

## OLD BUSINESS

- MLP Updates: It was noted that 2 poles on Hazelton Road did not have the make ready work completed for the broadband project. There was discussion about Sertex not being able to provide advance notice of where they were working each day. The difficult weather conditions were discussed and that they were impeding the progress.

Mr. Jolly left the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

- Special Town Meeting Articles: Board Members reviewed the articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant and decided who would present each article.
- Bridge's Update (King's Highway, Zoar Rd/Shippee Brook, Ford Hill Rd): A letter from Gill Engineering was reviewed from the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program in response of revised King's Highway Bridge Plans that included the design change of the temporary bridge. The letter confirmed no change was required with the plan change. Chair Morse said that Superintendent Larned spoke with Gill Engineering regarding the Zoar Road over Shippee Brook bridge and that Gill could do the engineering for the bridge for \$6,000.00. Superintendent Larned said he had money in his budget to pay for the permanent repair to perform soon before the King's Highway Bridge materials are shipped to the site. Chair Morse said she had tasked Paul McLatchy with MassDOT and Gill Engineering to work on the grants related to the bridge projects.

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY UPDATES

- Select Board Annual Report: Ms. Boudreau presented a draft of the Select Board Report for the Annual Town Report 2018. Following a change, it was agreed the report was completed.
- Oil Tank Replacement: Ms. Boudreau said that White Heating would be installing the oil tanks for the town hall furnace on Wednesday and Superintendent Larned had taken care of removing the stairs. They would have to be replaced at the end of the project.
- EAP Proposals: Ms. Boudreau said there was another proposal from CDR Maguire, Inc. for providing an Emergency Action Plan for the Mill Pond and Pelham Lake Dams. Following discussion, it was agreed to conduct further research and check references for the firms that have provided proposals.

## NEW BUSINESS

- Northeast IT Recommendations: Select Board Members reviewed Northeast IT recommendations for the next year. President Joel Mollison recommended 2 servers be replaced as well as updating Microsoft Office to the 2019 version with new licenses for 15 computers. In addition, it was recommended to move the email to Office 365 which offers

archiving to meet record retention requirements. Following discussion, it was agreed to pursue the options that were recommended by requesting the Server replacement as a Capital project and the other two from special projects for FY20 .

- FC Select Board Association Dinner: Chair Morse asked if any member would be interested in attending the Franklin County Select Board Association Dinner on March 28<sup>th</sup>. Chair Morse said she was considering attending with the Finance Committee Chair.

## MINUTES

**Motion to accept Minutes of January 30, 2019:** Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Morse to accept the Minutes of January 30, 2019 as presented. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

**Motion to accept Minutes of February 6, 2019:** Upon review, a motion was made by Vice-Chair May to accept the Minutes of February 6, 2019 as amended. The motion, seconded by Chair Morse, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

**Motion to accept Minutes of February 20, 2019:** Upon review, a motion was made by Chair Morse to accept the Minutes of February 20, 2019 as amended. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

## WARRANTS:

FY19 W19 and Payroll FY19 W18 were reviewed and signed.

Vice-Chair May invoked the Rule of Necessity since he had a family member on the payroll.

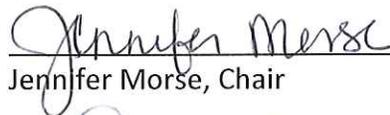
**AJOURNMENT:** Seeing no further business, Member Sokol made a motion to adjourn the Meeting at 9:30p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair May, was unanimously accepted. (3/0/0)

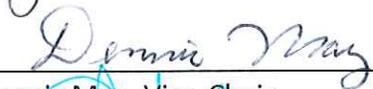
Respectfully Submitted

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: March 20, 2019

Approved:

  
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Jennifer Morse, Chair

  
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Dennis May, Vice-Chair

  
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Chuck Sokol, Select Board Member

Documents:

- DRAFT Minutes – 1/30/19, 2/6/19, 2/20/19
- FY20 School Budget Proposal, Capital Request, School Programs Revolving Fund
- OPEB/GASB Report – Odyssey Advisors Cover Letter
- OPEB/GASB Report – Odyssey Advisors Report
- Gill Engineering : Kings Highway Bridge Replacement Revised Plans
- Letter Gill Engineering Re: Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program response of Revised King's Highway Bridge Plans
- Police Reserve Officer Applications (3 candidates)
- Special Town Meeting Warrant
- EAP Proposal CDR Maguire, Inc.
- 2018 DRAFT Select Board Report for Town Annual Report

Mail:

- FC Select Board Association Dinner 3/28/19
- NEIT Letter