ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – FY2020

Town of Rowe

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Town Clerk: Kathy Sprague
Moderator: Robert Clancy
Town Counsel: Donna MacNichol
Tellers: Lisa Danek Burke, Mary Paige, Robin Reed and Ramon Sanchez

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 13, 2019 at the Rowe Elementary School, 86 Pond Road. The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Moderator Clancy. There were approximately 60 registered Voters and 10 audience members present at the start of the meeting.

Moderator Clancy asked for a moment of silence for the Rowe residents who had passed in 2018; Howard Crowningshield, Elizabeth Vernes, Hal Dandeneau and Barbara Stickney.

ARTICLE 1: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to act on reports of the Town officers and committees.

Article 1 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 2: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to see if the Town will vote to set the salary compensation for all elected officials of the town as provided by M.G.L. c. 41, section 108, to be made effective from July 1, 2019 as contained in the budget, or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 2 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 3: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to transfer the authority over printing, publishing, and distribution of the Goal Post from the Planning Board to the Board of Selectmen, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 3 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 4: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE** and **APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the conduct of **General Government,** including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, and compensation for elected and appointed officials for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Administration

General Administration	$116,809.00
Municipal Audit	8,000.00
Executive Secretary	48,037.00
Administrative Assistant to the Boards	41,600.00
Town Hall Custodian Wages	18,485.00
Custodian Expenses	3,775.00
Moderator Stipend	439.00
Select Board Stipends	5,928.00
Legal	6,000.00
Town Collector Stipend	8,320.00
Town Collector Operations	9,186.00
Treasurer Stipends and Wages	21,240.00
Treasurer Operations	10,590.00
Town Clerk Stipend	13,835.00
Town Clerk Expenses	4,675.00
Conservation Commission	1,477.00
Council on Aging	3,800.00
Goal Post Editor Wages	6,000.00
Goal Post Operations	6,000.00
Veteran's Services	2,795.00
FRCOG Services	23,574.00
Town Accountant	18,119.00
Town Accounting Expenses	2,075.00
Subtotal General Government	$380,759.00

Assessor's Office

Assessors' Stipends and Wages	17,354.00
Assessors' Operations	32,200.00
Subtotal Assessors	$49,554.00

Planning Board

Planning Board Operations	2,000.00
Planning Board Consulting and Legal Expenses	5,000.00
Subtotal Planning Board	$7,000.00

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM TAXATION **$ 437,313.00**

Article 4 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 5: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **$20,000.00** to be used as a **Reserve Fund** pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6 for the extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 5 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 6: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the operation and maintenance of **Public Works and Facilities** for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Highway Department

DPW Salary and Wages	$ 306,912.00
DPW Operations	210,408.00
Winter Roads	68,612.00
Subtotal Highway Department	$ 585,932.00

Other Public Works & Facilities

Street Lighting	$5,500.00
Municipal Light Plant	7,800.00
Dam Maintenance/Repair	1,200.00
Subtotal Other Public Works & Facilities	$14,500.00

Cemetery $15,000.00

TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES FROM TAXATION **$615,432.00**

Article 6 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 7: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **Appropriate** from available funds the sum of **$142,143.00** for the maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town highways, or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 7 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 8: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Safety** for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Police Department

Police Salaries	$53,634.00
Police Operations	9,450.00
Subtotal Police Department	$63,084.00

Fire Department

Fire Department Stipends	$34,000.00
Fire Department General Operations	40,028.00
Subtotal Fire Department	$74,028.00

Emergency Management		
Emergency Management Director	$3,864.00	
Emergency Management Operations	4,000.00	
Subtotal Emergency Management	$7,864.00	
Animal Control and Inspection		
Animal Control Stipends	$1,157.00	
Animal Inspector	532.00	
Regional Dog Kennel	350.00	
Subtotal Animal Control	$2,039.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY FROM TAXATION		**$ 147,015.00**

Article 8 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 9: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 48 § 42:

> "Towns accepting the provisions of this section, or which have accepted corresponding provisions of earlier laws may establish a fire department to be under the control of an officer to be known as the chief of the fire department. The chief shall be appointed by the selectmen, and shall receive such salary as the selectmen may from time to time determine, not exceeding in the aggregate the amount annually appropriated therefor. He may be removed for cause by the selectmen at any time after a hearing. He shall have charge of extinguishing fires in the town and the protection of life and property in case of fire. He shall purchase subject to the approval of the selectmen and keep in repair all property and apparatus used for and by the fire department. He shall have and exercise all the powers and discharge all the duties conferred or imposed by statute upon engineers in towns except as herein provided, and shall appoint a deputy chief and such officers and firemen as he may think necessary, and may remove the same at any time for cause and after a hearing. He shall have full and absolute authority in the administration of the department, shall make all rules and regulations for its operation, shall report to the selectmen from time to time as they may require, and shall annually report to the town the condition of the department with his recommendations thereon; he shall fix the compensation of the permanent and call members of the fire department subject to the approval of the selectmen. In the expenditure of money the chief shall be subject to such further limitations as the town may from time to time prescribe. The appointment of the chief of the fire department in any town or district having a population of five thousand or less may be for a period of three years."

Or take an action in relation thereto.

Article 9 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 10: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to accept MGL Chapter 41, § 97A:

> "Section 97A. In any town which accepts this section there shall be a police department established by the selectmen, and such department shall be under the supervision of an officer to be known as the chief of police. The selectmen of any such town shall appoint a chief of police and such other officers as they deem necessary, and fix their compensation, not exceeding, in the aggregate, the annual appropriation therefor. In any such town in which such appointments are not subject to chapter thirty-one, they shall be made annually or for a term of years not exceeding three years, as the selectmen shall determine, and the selectmen may remove such chief or other officers for cause at any time after a hearing. The chief of police in any such town shall from time to time make suitable regulations governing the police department, and the officers thereof, subject to the approval of the selectmen; provided, that such regulations shall become effective without such approval upon the failure of the selectmen to take action thereon within thirty days after they have been submitted to them by the chief of police. The chief of police in any such town shall be in immediate control of all town property used by the department, and of the police officers, whom he shall assign to their respective duties and who shall obey his orders. Section ninety-seven shall not apply in any town which accepts the provisions of this section. Acceptance of the provisions of this section shall be by a vote at an annual town meeting."

or take any action in relation thereto:

Article 10 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 11: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Health and Sanitation** for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Health Department Stipends and Wages	$83,565.00
Board of Health Operations	$56,676.00

TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION FROM TAXATION **$ 140,241.00**

Article 11 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 12: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and the Town of Rowe General Bylaws, to use a revolving fund with a limit of $2,000.00 for fiscal year 2020 to accept receipts related to the Town's **Board of Health**, for the operation of the Refuse Gardens, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2021, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 12 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 13: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will to vote to authorize, pursuant to General Laws Chapter 44 § 53 E ½ and the Town of Rowe General Bylaws, the following sums for **Revolving Funds**, or take any action in relation thereto:

Revolving Fund	**Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund**	**Fees, Charges, or Receipts Credited to Fund**	**Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund**	**Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund**	**Fiscal Years**
Emergency Dispensing Site	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Emergency Dispensing Site Operations	Dispensing medicines or medical supplies during an emergency	Limit of $1,000.00	Fiscal Year 2020
Recycling Program	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Recycling Program	Operation of solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products	Limit of $5,000.00	Fiscal Year 2020
Vaccine Services	Board of Health	Receipts from Insurance Billing	Vaccine Services	Limit of $6,000.00	Fiscal Year 2020
School Programs	School Committee	Fees for School Programs	Offset Department Costs of School Programs	Limit of $10,000.00	Fiscal Year 2020
Old Home Day	Old Home Day Committee	Receipts Generated by Old Home Day Activities and Programs	Expenses of Old Home Day	Limit of $2,000.00	Fiscal Year 2020

Article 13 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 14: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will to vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Schools** for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

School Committee Stipend	$4,564.00

Rowe School Budget

Rowe School Pre K-6 Operating Budget	$ 1,040,483.00	
Rowe School Secondary 7-12	$515,344.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM TAXATION		**$ 1,560,391.00**

Article 14 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 15: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **Rowe Town Library** for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Library Salaries and Wages	$41,887.00	
Library Operations	$28,478.00	
TOTAL ROWE TOWN LIBRARY FROM TAXATION		**$ 70,365.00**

Article 15 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 16: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **management and operation of Pelham Lake Park** for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Park Wages	$92,454.00	
Operation and Maintenance	$22,000.00	
TOTAL PARK FROM TAXATION		**$ 114,454.00**

Article 16 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 17: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Park Commission, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½ and the Town of Rowe General Bylaws, to use a revolving fund with a limit of $2,000.00 for fiscal year 2020 to accept receipts related to the Town's **Pelham Lake Park**, for the operation of the Park Programs, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2021, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 17 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 18: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Culture and Recreation** items for 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Gracy House Operations	$ 4,500.00	
Beautification	$ 500.00	
TOTAL GRACY HOUSE and BEAUTIFICATION FROM TAXATION		**$ 5,000.00**

Article 18 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 19: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of $5,000.00 for Old Home Day Fireworks for 2020 for **Old Home Day,** or take any action in relation thereto:

Article 19 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 20: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE to the Old Home Day Revolving Fund** the sum of $2,000.00 for 2020**,** or take any action in relation thereto:

Article 20 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 21: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Pensions and Insurance** for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Franklin County Retirement Assessment	$144,357.00	
Unemployment Insurance	1,000.00	
Group Health/Dental/Life Insurance	621,565.00	
FICA/Medicare Tax – Town Share	55,000.00	
TOTAL PENSION & INSURANCE FROM TAXATION		**$ 821,922.00**

Article 21 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 22: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of $ $12,167.00 for **Interest on borrowing related to the Municipal Broadband network construction** for the 2020 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 22 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 23: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Treasurer to enter into compensating balance agreements during the 2020 fiscal year pursuant to M.G.L. c. 44, section 53F, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 23 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 24: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to enter into a ten (10) year contract, commencing on July 1, 2020 with the qualified vendor selected by Mass DEP through a competitive bid process for recycling processing services for the Town, subject to the Board of Selectmen's determination that the contract is in the best interests of the Town and subject to Town Meeting approval in the Spring of 2020 for funding for these services and/or take any vote or votes in relation thereto.

Article 24 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 25: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from **FREE CASH** the following sums:

POLICE – Radar Speed Limit Sign	**$ 2,500.00**
POLICE – Police Vests	**$ 5,600.00**
CEMETERY COMMISSION - Land purchase to enlarge North Cemetery	**$ 5,000.00**
GENERAL GOVERNMENT - Fund an Unemployment Assistance Bill	**$ 38,000.00**
GENERAL GOVERNMENT - Update and Replace Town Server	**$ 11,846.00**
GENERAL GOVERNMENT – Septic Systems Pump Out	**$ 1,300.00**
BOARD OF ASSESSORS - Assessors Consulting and Legal Support	**$ 25,000.00**
FIRE DEPT. – OSHA Required Filter for Engine 1	**$ 10,000.00**
TOTAL FREE CASH PROJECTS	**$99,246.00**

Article 25 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 26: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **$3,063.00** to be used funding a Department of Conservation and Recreation a Volunteer Fire Association 50% Grant Match for the purchase of six (6) new sets of Forest Fire Personal Protection Equipment and five hundred (500) Feet of Forestry Fire Hose, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 26 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 27: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND,** the following sums for **capital repairs and improvements,** or take any action in relation thereto:

POLICE – Police Cruiser	**$ 49,000.00**
GENERAL GOVERNMENT - New Physical Server	**$ 8,695.00**
FIRE DEPT. - Fire Station Generator	**$15,500.00**

FIRE DEPT. – Fire Engine from Town of Charlemont	**$72,000.00**
FIRE DEPT. – Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Equip.	**$75,016.00**
LIBRARY – ADA Specified Handicap Ramp	**$10,000.00**
BOH – Transfer Station Drainage Repair	**$12,000.00**
SCHOOL – Tech Equipment	**$10,000.00**
SCHOOL – Parking Lot Improvements	**$5,000.00**

TOTAL CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND **$257,211.00**

Article 27 Passed by Show of Hands with a Two-Thirds
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 28: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to AMEND the Town of Rowe General Bylaws, Article II §5, by replacing the following wording:

"The annual Town Report shall be *delivered* to the voters not less than seven (7) days before the date of the annual meeting."

With:

"The annual Town Report shall be *made available* to the voters not less than seven (7) days before the date of the annual meeting."

or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 28 Passed by Show of Hands
Not Unanimous

ARTICLE 29: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to act on the following citizen's petition:

Citizen's petition to the Rowe Board of Selectmen: To see if the town will vote to adopt the following Resolution:
Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag and Seal of Massachusetts

Whereas the history of the State of Massachusetts is replete with instances of conflict between the European Colonists and the Native Nations of the region, who first extended the hand of friendship to the Colonists on their shores in 1620, and helped them to survive starvation during the settlers' first winters on their land;

Whereas members of the Native Nation for whom the State of Massachusetts is named were ambushed and killed by Myles Standish, first commander of the Plymouth Colony, in April of 1623, barely two years after the Pilgrims arrived on their shores;

Whereas the naked Colonial broadsword brandished above the head of the Native man on the Massachusetts State Flag and Seal is modeled over Myles Standish's own broadsword, borrowed from the Pilgrim Hall in Plymouth by the illustrator Edmund Garrett in 1884;

Whereas the belt binding the Native's cloak on the Flag and Seal is modeled after a belt worn by Metacomet, known to the English as King Philip, who was among the Wampanoag leaders who resorted to a mutually destructive war in 1675-76 in defense of Native lands against Euro-Colonial encroachment;

Whereas the proportions of the body of the Native man in the Flag and Seal were taken from a Native skeleton kept in Winthrop, the bow modeled after a bow taken from a Native man shot and killed by a colonist in Sudbury in 1665, and his features taken from a photograph of an Ojibwe chief from Great Falls, Montana, considered by the illustrator to be a "fine specimen of an Indian," though not from Massachusetts;

Whereas the history of relations between Massachusetts since Colonial times and the Native Nations who continue to live within its borders includes the forced internment of thousands of so- called "praying Indians" on Deer Island, in Boston Harbor, where they died by the hundreds of exposure in 1675, their subsequent enslavement in Boston, Bermuda, and the Caribbean Islands, the offering of 40 pounds sterling as bounty for the scalps of Native men, women and children in Massachusetts beginning in 1686, increased to 100 pounds sterling for the scalps of Native adult males by 1722, half that amount for Native women and children;

Whereas Native Nations within the boundaries of Massachusetts were kept in a state of serfdom, and their members legally considered incompetent wards of the state until the nonviolent action of the so-called

Mashpee Rebellion of 1833 led to the granting of Native self-rule by the Massachusetts legislature in 1834, as if the sovereign right of Native self-government was the Massachusetts legislature's to confer;

Whereas Native Americans were legally prohibited from even stepping foot into Boston from 1675 until 2004, when that law was finally repealed;

Whereas the 400th anniversary of the landing of the Euro-Colonists at Plymouth Plantation, which gave rise to the long chain of genocidal wars and deliberate policies of cultural destruction against Native Nations of this continent, is approaching in the year 2020, affording every citizen of the Commonwealth a chance to reflect upon this history and come to a new awareness of a better relationship between the descendants of the Euro-Colonial immigrants and the Native Nations of the Commonwealth;

And whereas Native Americans have long suffered the many abuses of racism, the appropriation of their symbols for public schools and sports teams, the diminution and pollution of their ancestral lands and the encroachment of their cultural lifeways;

Now, therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that the citizens of Rowe hereby adopt this resolution in support of HD.2968 and SD.1495, a Resolve Providing for the creation of a Special Commission relative to the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth," and request that Senator Adam G. Hinds, and Representatives Paul W. Mark, representing Rowe, co-sponsor, support and vote for the aforementioned Resolve (HD.2968 and SD.1495) in the General Court, and that the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight, after holding a public hearing on the Resolve report it out favorably, and if he legislation shall pass that the governor shall sign it and work with members of the General Court to ensure its enactment.

Article 29 Passed by Count of Hands
28 – Yes
21 – No

ARTICLE 30: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **$67,919.02** to the Stabilization Fund, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 30 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 31: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **AUTHORIZE** the Board of Selectmen to apply for, accept, and expend federal and state grants as may be available, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 31 Passed by Show of Hands
Unanimous

ARTICLE 32: A motion was made and seconded to transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

- A Sense of the meeting with regards to the direction the Town should take regarding the Gracy House. $58,000 was appropriated at the last Special Town Meeting to address the mold issue and the request to form a committee to discuss the issues with regards to the future of the Gracy House. In addition, there may also be an issue with the current septic system. At this time only one person had come forward to be on the committee, Mary Paige volunteered to be an additional member on the committee.

- **A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.**
  The motion to Adjourn Passed Unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted:

Katherine Sprague, Rowe Town Clerk
May 14, 2019

A true copy, Attest: _____
Town Clerk