



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, June 4, 2020 –6:30 p.m.
VIA TELECONFERENCE

This meeting will be held via video conference, consistent with Gov. Baker's temporary modifications to Open Meeting Law.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION INFORMATION:

Video and/or audio

Meeting Host: zoom.us

Meeting ID: 288-065-7034

URL: <https://zoom.us/j/2880657034>

Telephone: 312-626-6799

Present: Chair Chuck Sokol, Vice-Chair Jennifer Morse, Ed Silva, Selectman and Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau

Audience: Highway Superintendent Lance Larned, MLP Manager David Dvore

Joanne Semanie, Paul McLatchy III Rosemary Gordon, Loretta Dionne, Laurie Pike, Rick Williams

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Sokol at 6:33 p.m. via remote participation.

MOTION: Roll call vote to call to order:

Chair Sokol: yes **Vice-Chair Morse:** yes **Selectman Silva:** yes

Vote: 3-0-0

Announcement of recording devices: two

Noteworthy Announcements: John Magnago was thanked for his work on the Veterans' graves and flower plantings and Danielle Larned was thanked for her volunteer work on the Town Hall grounds and flower donations.

Municipal Light Plant Broadband Project Updates and Discussion:

Siding and Paving Plan for Broadband Hut: Municipal Light Plant Manager David Dvore explained the need for a having a paved area around the broadband hut for 2 repair trucks to have room as it is critical to keep the internet up and running for phone service as well as the internet. Manager Dvore explained the need to keep the area clear and mowed. There was discussion about the siding and making the building resemble the surrounding buildings.

MOTION TO APPROVE WORK: Following review, Selectman Silva made a motion to accept the bids from Barlow Landscaping, Excavation, Paving & Construction Corp. for the amount of \$3,200.00 for landscaping and paving, \$1,840.00 for washed stone and weed block underlayment and Chris Morano LLC for siding and roof installation for the amount of \$11,500.00. The motion was seconded by Chair Sokol.

MOTION: to approve broadband hut work:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

Installations: MLP Manager Dvore said that there were 4 additional installations to homes for fiber cable were performed and the project was winding down. The Board thanked Manager Dvore for his hard work on the project.

Summer Youth Programs:

Highway Superintendent Larned said that he had discussed the "Grasshopper" program for the summer youth and he did not see a way to manage the program safely in the Covid-19 pandemic and that the Board of Health had concurred with him at their recent meeting. It was decided to allocate \$15,000.00 of the budget for roadside mowing. Larned agreed to contact the summer youth applicants.

MTWP Park Grant:

Vice-Chair Morse said she had spoken with Peggy Sloan, Director of Planning & Development at Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) and she has presented an application for the FY21 year to apply for a grant of \$20,000.00 through the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) through the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership (MTWP). The grant was a phase II of the current grant to implement projects identified in work in Phase I that was currently in progress.

MOTION TO SIGN GRANT: Vice-Chair Morse made a motion to sign the Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership Grant Proposal through the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. The motion was seconded by Chair Sokol.

MOTION: to approve broadband hut work:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

Reserve Fund Transfer Request BOH:

The Board of Health requested a Reserve Fund Transfer of \$6,216.86 to cover employee benefits compensation for retiring employee Town Nurse and the retirement was not known until May 20, 2020.

MOTION TO APPROVE RESERVE FUND TRANSFER: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer of \$6,216.86 for buyout of benefits for retiring employee to Town Nurse Wages Account.

MOTION: for RFT FY20-02:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

Line Item Transfer Requests BOH:

1. The Board of Health made a Line Item Transfer Request of \$264.50 from Refuse Garden Operations Account to the Transfer Station Attendants Account. The overage was due to snow removal.

MOTION TO APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFER: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Line Item Transfer of \$264.59 from the Refuse Garden Operations Account to the Transfer Station Attendants Account. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: for FY20 LIT-02:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes

Vote: 3-0-0

2. The Board of Health made a Line Item Transfer Request of \$1600.00 from the Board of Health Operations to the Board of Health Clerk Wages Account. The overage was due to the additional work due to Covid-19 pandemic.

MOTION TO APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFER: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Line Item Transfer of \$1600.00 from the Board of Health Operations Account to the Board of Health Clerk Wages Account. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: for FY20 LIT-03:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes

Vote: 3-0-0

3. The Board of Health made a Line Item Transfer Request of \$4200.00 from the Board of Health Operations to the Board of Health Operations Account. The overage was due to the additional work due to Covid-19 pandemic.

MOTION TO APPROVE LINE ITEM TRANSFER: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Line Item Transfer of \$4,200.00 from the Board of Health Operations Account to the Town Nurse Wages Account. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: for FY20 LIT-04:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes

Vote: 3-0-0

Contracts:

1. Agreement Between Rowe, Charlemont & Monroe for Shared Accountant Services: Board Members reviewed the three town agreement for shared accounting services. It was noted that Charlemont's town meeting date had not been set and that the agreement could not be in effect until the three towns had all voted.

MOTION TO SIGN AGREEMENT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept and sign the Intermunicipal Agreement between the Towns of Rowe, Charlemont and Monroe for Shared Town Accountant Services pending the participation of the three towns. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: for Shared Services for Town Accountant:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes

Vote: 3-0-0

2. Amendment to the Agreement for Services By and Between FRCOG and the Town of Rowe: Board Members reviewed an Agreement for Services between FRCOG and the Town of Rowe to amend the Agreement for Services due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

MOTION TO APPROVE AMENDMENT: Chair Sokol made a motion to amend the Agreement for Services by and between the Franklin Regional Council of Governments and the Town of Rowe for and extension from June 15,2020 to June 30, 2021. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

MOTION: for FRCOG Agreement extension with FRCOG for the MVP:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

FY21 Budget Finalization

General Government: There was discussion about combining the Administrative positions into one line and review later, once the Town Administrator position was approved at town meeting. Finance Committee member Laurie Pike questioned changing positions without the approval of townspeople and she felt there had not been transparency about the proposal of Town Administrator position. Following discussion, the board decided they were short on time to come to any resolution on the matter and would proceed with the current funded positions of Executive Secretary and Administrative Assistant.

MOTION TO APPROVE GENERAL GOVERNMENT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept Article 11 for General Government for the amount of \$ 473,396,000.00. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: to approve General Government:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

It was decided to contact Planning Board to explain their request for stipends had not been approved.

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 12: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 12 for the sum of \$ 5,000.00 to establish a Legal/Consulting Revolving Fund for FY2021. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 12:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 13: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the sum of \$20,000.00 be used for the Reserve Fund pursuant to MGL General Laws Chapter 40 §6. The motion seconded by Selectman Silva.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 13:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 10: Vice-Chair Morse made a motion to approve the sum of \$20,000.00 be used for the Reserve Fund pursuant to MGL General Laws Chapter 40 §6. The motion seconded by Selectman Silva.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 10:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

Highway Dept. Budget for the Summer Youth Program:

There was discussion about Superintendent's meeting with the Board of Health to determine whether the Grasshopper program could operate safely. Due to the Covid-19 safety measures it was decided he could not run the program safely. It was decided add a line in the budget to fund Roadside Mowing for \$15,000.00.

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 14: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the sum of \$615,432.00 for the Public Works and Facilities Budget. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 14:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 15: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 15 to accept the Chapter 90 Funds of \$156,357.00 as written. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 15:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

Public Safety Budget:

The proposal submitted by the Fire Dept. to fund a part-time shift worker to have coverage for the town during the day when there are no first responders available. It was noted that the position does not have grant funding and is not supported by Charlemont as it was initially proposed to be a part-time position there as well.

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 16: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 16 to approve the budget of \$147,015.00 for Public Safety. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 16:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 17: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 17 to approve the budget of \$147,015.00 for Public Safety. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

School Budget: There was discussion about the school budget and Vice-Chair Morse said there should be a plan in place to address the shortfall that will occur with state funding due to the effects of the pandemic and step up to find some savings. The reduction in Chapter 70 funds should be addressed. There was discussion on how to stabilize growth in the future since a growth of 6% or more is not sustainable for the future compared to other departments. It was also noted that the school choice expenditures exceeded what was taken in. Should the state aid be reduced, it might mean an adjustment in the tax rate for next year. It was decided to communicate with the school and the school committee and ask for a 5% reduction in the Rowe School Pre K-6 Operating Budget. There was discussion about being more involved with the School Committee in the future.

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 18: Vice-Chair Morse made a motion to accept the Rowe School Committee Stipend for \$4,564.00, the Rowe School Pre K-6 Operating Budget of \$985,262.00 and Rowe School Secondary 7-12 of \$552,675.00. The motion was seconded by Chair Sokol.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 18:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 19: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 19 for the Rowe Town Library for \$71,225.00. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 19:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

Pelham Lake Park:

It was noted that the park will have family oriented programs planned for this summer and that a small crews were performing trail work and there were kids monitoring the beach and cleaning and that they are working very hard to meet the state guidelines.

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 20: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 20 for the management and operation of Pelham Lake Park for \$117,185.00. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 20:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 21: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 21 for the Gracy House Operations and Beautification for \$1,500.00. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 21:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 22: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 22 for Pensions and Insurance for \$853,839.00. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 22:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 23: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve Article 23 for appropriation of \$200,000.00 from the Last Mile Grant Account to the principal on borrowing related to the Municipal Broadband network construction. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Morse.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 23:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 24: Vice-Chair Morse made a motion to approve the appropriation from Free Cash for a School Fire pump controller for \$7,000.00, a School Dishwasher Booster for \$3,050.00, and Assessors Consulting and Legal Support for \$50,000.00. The motion was seconded by Chair Sokol.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 24:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes
Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 25: Vice-Chair Morse made a motion to approve the appropriation from the Capital Stabilization Fund for a DPW Front end loader for \$200,000.00 and a Board of Health paper compactor for \$15,000.00.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 25:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes

Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Warrant Articles presented by the Finance Committee and the Board of Assessors as written.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes

Vote: 3-0-0

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE 1, 2, 3, and 4: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Warrant Articles presented with a change to the Board of Health revolving fund from \$2,000.00 to \$5,000.00.

MOTION: to Approve ARTICLE 1,2,3 and 4:

Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Morse: yes Selectman Silva: yes

Vote: 3-0-0

Adjournment:

MOTION: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice Chair Morse.

A roll call vote was taken:

Chair Sokol: yes

Vice-Chair Morse: yes

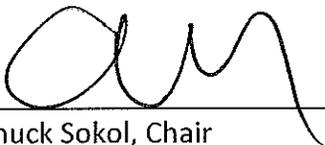
Selectman Silva: yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: July 13, 2020

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair

Selectman Jennifer Morse, Vice-Chair



Selectman Ed Silva

Documents:

1. Agenda 06/04/20
2. FY21 Draft Budget
3. Draft ATM Warrant
4. Draft Town Administrator Bylaw
5. Town Counsel Responses
6. Town Moderator Letter
7. Broadband Hut Plan
8. Barlow Landscaping, Excavation, Paving & Construction Corp. Estimates
9. Siding View- Broadband Hut
10. Intermunicipal Agreement Between the Towns of Rowe, Charlemont, and Monroe for Shared Town Accountant Services
11. School Generator email
12. School Generator quote
13. Reserve Fund Transfer Request BOH
14. Line Item Transfer Requests BOH
15. Amendment to the Agreement for Services By and Between FRCOG and the Town of Rowe