



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Thursday, January 6, 2022–6:00 p.m.  
Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1  
and Via Remote Participation

**Board of Selectmen:** Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Ed Silva (via Remote), Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie  
**Present:** Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau  
**Audience:** Laurie Pike (left meeting at 6:10 pm)

**Call to Order:** Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes**

Announcement of recording devices- One  
Noteworthy Announcements- None

**Minutes:**

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes of November 16, 2021:

**MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Minutes for December 9, 2021 as written. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Y Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes**  
**(vote: 3-0-0)**

**Audience of Citizens:**

Laurie Pike of the Park Commission asked the Selectmen whether the Commission could apply for a MA Trails Grant which would allow them to apply for a mini excavator for trail work. The grant would be a reimbursable grant to cover 80% of the cost and the town share would be 20% . Before proceeding further, she wanted to make sure that the Board agreed with applying for the grant and that Franklin Regional Council of Governments would assist with the process.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to support the Park Commission in their efforts to apply for a \$30,000.00 MA Trails Grant which would be reimbursed at 80% of the amount. The town share would be at 20%. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Y Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

Laurie Pike left the meeting at 6:10 pm

**Ongoing Projects:**

**Policy Updates and Review:**

Police Policies Review Submissions:

**MOTION TO DELAY: Chair Sokol made a motion to delay approving the police policies until further review and editing. The motion was seconded by Selectmen Silva.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

Bylaw Review: Tabled until a later date

Wage & Salary Chart for FY23:

Highway Dept: Selectmen worked on the Wage & Salary Chart for FY23 and discussed the Highway Department salaries.

**MOTION TO ASSIGN GRADE: Chair Sokol made a motion to assign the following grades to the Highway Department positions: Heavy Equipment Driver Grade I, Assistant Highway Superintendent Grade K and Highway Superintendent Grade N. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

Fire & Police Depts.: Following discussion about the salaries and grades of the Fire Department and Police Department, Chair Sokol said he would reach out to the Fire Chief to discuss his FY23 Budget Submission which did not include wages. He would also reach out to Police Chief to review the Wage & Salary Chart.

Treasurer/Tax Collector: The Treasurer and Tax Collector positions were discussed and it was agreed to combine the two positions at Annual Town Meeting and budget accordingly. It was agreed that the positions had become more involved and needed the hours to be increased as a result.

**MOTION TO ASSIGN GRADE: Chair Sokol made a motion to assign the Treasurer/Collector position a Grade L and the current Treasurer receive a \$29.00 per hour salary at 40 hours per week. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

Executive Secretary: There was discussion about the increase of duties and responsibilities that were added to the job description without any change in compensation.

**MOTION TO ASSIGN GRADE: Chair Sokol made a motion to assign the Executive Secretary position a Grade N and the current employee at step 6 for 32 hours at \$33.79 per hour. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

**Selectboard Business:**

**New Business:**

Update 'Buy Recycled' Policy for 2022:

Executive Secretary presented the updated 'Buy Recycled Policy for 2022' which was a requirement by the MA Dept. Environmental Protection to participate in their annual recycling grant.

**MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the 'Buy Recycled Policy for 2022' to be distributed to all town departments and committees. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

Appointments: Council on Aging:

Two names were presented by Council on Aging current Chair Susan Tomlinson for appointment to the committee.

**MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Barbara Roche and Loretta Dionne to the Council on Aging Committee. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

Appointments: Open Space Committee:

Laurie Pike requested that an Open Space Committee be organized and the following appointments to the committee: Laurie Pike, Alex Reisman and Dana Williams. It would enable them to complete an Open Space Plan and seek additional grants.

**MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Laurie Pike, Alex Reisman and Dana Williams to the Open Space Committee. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

Special Town Meeting

There was discussion about having a Special Town Meeting for the sole purpose of funding the Fire Truck bid which was for \$26,000.00 and the vendor gave an extension to February 10, 2022. Possible dates discussed were January 29<sup>th</sup> or February 5<sup>th</sup>. Executive Secretary would contact Moderator and Town Clerk to determine.

**Old Business:**

Town Counsel Response to Snow Removal Liability:

Board members reviewed Town Counsel's response to the question about the liability of the town in the event of damage to private property due to snow plowing. In summation, the town has the legal requirement to keep the roads open and safe and that damage caused would have to be reviewed on a case by case basis or if there was employee negligence. Chair Sokol will draft a letter to Mr. Fensky.

**Warrants/Contracts:**

Review Warrants FY22W14 and FY21PW14:

Vice-Chair Semanie reviewed the Warrants and signed them with no comment.

Mayflower Valuation, Ltd. – FY23 Quinquennial Certification Real and Personal Property Contract:

Agreement between the Board of Assessors and G.E. Sansoucy for appraisal of Yankee ISFSI for FY23 Revaluation:  
Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee for G.E. Sansoucy:

Contracts were reviewed and signed by the Board of Assessors for Board of Selectmen review including Mayflower Valuation, G.E. Sansoucy for the appraisal of Yankee ISFSI for FY23 Revaluation and Special Municipal Employee for G.I. Sansoucy.

**MOTION TO SIGN CONTRACT: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Mayflower Valuation, Ltd. – FY23 Quinquennial Certification Real and Personal Property Contract with the Town of Rowe, Agreement between the Board of Assessors and G.E. Sansoucy for appraisal of Yankee ISFSI for FY23 Revaluation and the Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee for G.E. Sansoucy as approved by the Board of Assessors. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

**Agreement between Northern Berkshire EMS and the Town of Rowe:**

Executive Secretary said a contract with Northern Berkshire EMS who handle our ambulance calls require the new radios on the MA CmMIRS System to use as our ambulance provider. It states that they are on loan as a requirement of the grant that paid for the four radios and that they are to be returned if service is terminated.

**MOTION TO SIGN AGREEMENT: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Agreement between Northern Berkshire EMS and the Town of Rowe for four radios on loan to service the emergency needs of the town. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

**Agreement for Services by and between the Town of Rowe and FRCOG re: Police Training:**

Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) sent an agreement for reimbursement for police academy training for officers with the last name starting with the letter A through H. There is an initial grant for \$100,000.00 to be distributed to the FRCOG towns.

**MOTION TO SIGN AGREEMENT: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Agreement between the Town of Rowe and FRCOG for Police Reform Earmark for Officers to Attend Bridge Academy Training. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

### **Future Meetings**

The next meeting would be January 20, 2022 and Finance Committee Budget Hearing on January 25, 2022 both at 6:00 pm.

### **Adjournment:**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.**

**Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Yes (vote: 3-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *JANUARY 20, 2022*

Approved:



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Chuck Sokol, Chair



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Ed Silva, Selectman

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Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

**Documents:**

1. Agenda January 6, 2022
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of December 9, 2021
3. 'Buy Recycled' Policy for 2022
4. Wage & Salary Chart for FY23
5. Mayflower Valuation, Ltd. – FY23 Quinquennial Certification Real and Personal Property Contract
6. Agreement between the Board of Assessors and G.E. Sansoucy for appraisal of Yankee ISFSI for FY23 Revaluation
7. Disclosure by Special Municipal Employee for G.E. Sansoucy
8. Agreement between Northern Berkshire EMS and the Town of Rowe
9. Agreement for Services by and between the Town of Rowe and FRCOG re: Police Training
10. KP Law – Response to Snow Removal Liability
11. KP Law - Invoice
12. Executive Secretary Updates

**Mail:**

1. Dept. of Public Utilities Dept. of Telecommunications and Cable