



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, January 20, 2022–6:00 p.m.
Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1
and Via Remote Participation

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Ed Silva
Absent: Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie
Present: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Audience: Rosie Gordon

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:22 P.M.

Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes

Announcement of recording devices- One
Noteworthy Announcements- None

Unforeseen Business (within preceding 48 hours):

There was discussion about the letter that was sent to Mr. Fensky concerning the question about the town snow plowing causing damage on his property. Executive Secretary said she had not received the returned receipt from the Post Office as yet. There was discussion about the danger imposed by the posts that Mr. Fensky installed on what is thought to be the town's right of way. It was decided to ask Jim Hawkins, Building Commissioner for advice on how to proceed with the issue since we are afraid that Mr. Fensky's posts will potentially cause harm to a passerby or to the town vehicles.

Minutes:

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 6, 2022 and January 13, 2022:

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Minutes for January 3, 2022 and January 13, 2022 as written. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes
(vote: 2-0-0)

Ongoing Projects:

Policy Updates and Review: Tabled until a later date.

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 (vote: 2-0-0)

Bylaw Review: Tabled until a later date

Wage & Salary Chart for FY23:

Chair Sokol said he had met with Police Chief to discuss the Police Budget and to discuss the Wage & Salary Chart in greater detail. He also expressed that she would have to come up with a compelling argument for having a second cruiser.

Selectman Silva expressed concern with the way the Wage and Salary Chart has been going and thought that it was designed to make it easier for hiring and that it has turned into something else, which is to increase the wages of a majority of town employees. Following discussion, it was agreed that it should be used as a guide only, a tool and resource along with looking at the current wages of other areas towns. It was agreed that it would need to be reviewed in each individual case. There were some individuals that may be underpaid, however, it was not meant to be given across the board.

Selectboard Business:

New Business:

FRCOG Request- District Local Technical Assistance Project Requests (DLTA)

Selectmen reviewed the District Local Technical Assistance Project Requests (DLTA) from Franklin Regional Council of Governments and agreed to have Executive Secretary complete the request.

Return to Work Covid-19 Policy

Executive Secretary spoke with Maggie Rice to come up with a policy for Town Employees to return to work if they test positive for Covid-19 or are exposed to someone who tests positive since cases are approaching our town. It was decided to wait for Board of Health input.

Reserve Fund Transfer Request FY22-RFT02 – Approved by Finance Committee:

The Finance Committee met on Tuesday night and approved a Reserve Fund Transfer Request from the Tax Collector for items that had not been adequately budgeted for by her predecessor.

MOTION TO SUPPORT TRANSFER: Chair Sokol made a motion to support the Reserve Fund Transfer FY22-02 for \$1800.00 to transfer to Account 01-146-5701 to Collectors Operation Account due to inadequate budget preparation. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes (vote: 2-0-0)

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Review Warrants FY22W15 and FY21PW15
2. Public Safety & Security and Dept. of Fire Service and the Town of Rowe Grant Contract:
Chief Annear presented a contract for \$9,953.00 Public Safety and Security and the Dept. of Fire Services.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve and sign the contract for \$9,953.00 Public Safety and Security and the Dept. of Fire Services for FY22 funding for the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program.

Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes (vote: 2-0-0)

3. Backhaul Sharing Agreement for Rowe, Heath, Charlemont, Colrain & Leyden:
The Board reviewed the Backhaul Sharing Agreement for Rowe, Heath, Charlemont, Colrain & Leyden and supported Municipal Light Plant Manager (MLP) David Dvore using authority to sign for the town.
4. Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Crown Castle Connection in Rowe:
The Board again supported MLP Manager Dvore using authority to sign for the town.
5. MOU State Police Dispatch Services Renewal (2022):
The Board reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding Renewal Notice for 911 services with the Commonwealth of MA Dept. of State Police.

MOTION TO SIGN: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the 'Memorandum of Understanding Renewal Notice for 911 Services with the Commonwealth of MA Dept. of State Police' for 5 years at no cost and automatic renewal for an additional 5 years.

Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes (vote: 2-0-0)

Future Meetings

The next meeting would be Tuesday, January 25, 2022 along with the Finance Committee to start Budget Hearings at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

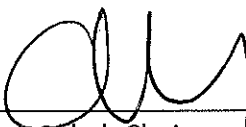
Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes (vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,


Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date:

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman

Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda January 20, 2022
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 6, 2022
3. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 13, 2022
4. FY22 FRCOG – FC Municipal Wage & Salary Information
5. Reserve Fund Transfer Request FY22-RFT02 – Approved by Finance Committee
6. Public Safety & Security and Dept. of Fire Service and the Town of Rowe Grant Contract
7. Backhaul Sharing Agreement for Rowe, Health, Charlemont, Colrain & Leyden
8. Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Crown Castle Connection in Rowe
9. MOU State Police Dispatch Services Renewal (2022)
10. Executive Secretary Updates

Mail:

1. Local Election Districts Review Commission