



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, February 3, 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: Treasurer Terry I. Green, Fire Chief Dennis Annear

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:01 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):

Open Space Meeting Request:

Park Commissioner Laurie Pike said she would like to work on developing an Open Space Plan for Rowe and would seek assistance from Franklin Regional Council of Governments to complete. The Open Space Committee was now meeting and working on the plan. Having the plan in place could open up opportunities for further grant funding of park projects in the future. Also, she could apply for a Conservation for Small Communities grant that could potentially provide some of the funding for the Open Space Plan work. Board Members were in favor of proceeding with the plans and supported the efforts.

Ongoing Projects:

1. 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 (vote: 2-0-0)

2. Bylaw Review: Tabled for a later date
3. Wage & Salary Chart for FY23:

MOTION TO ADOPT THE WAGE AND SALARY GRADE FOR THE GOAL POST EDITOR: Chair Sokol made a motion to assign the Goal Post Editor Position to a G Grade salaried at 24 hours per month equivalent. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

MOTION TO ADOPT THE STEP GRADE TO WAGE AND SALARY FOR THE CURRENT GOAL POST EDITOR: Chair Sokol made a motion to assign the current Goal Post Editor to step 5. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Chair Sokol invoked the Rule of Necessity to vote on the salary pertaining to the Goal Post Editor as she is his Mother-in-Law.

MOTION TO ADOPT WAGES AND SALARIES FOR THE FIRE DEPT. : Chair Sokol made a motion to assign the following grades to the Fire Department:

Junior Firefighters Grade B

Firefighters Grade C

Senior Firefighter Grade D

Fire Chief Grade H

Deputy Fire Chief Grade F

The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

MOTION TO ADOPT WAGES AND SALARIES FOR THE FIRE DEPT. : Chair Sokol made a motion to assign the following steps to the current Fire Department employees:

Fire Chief: Step 10, salaried at 8 hours per week equivalent

Deputy Chief: Step 4 (hourly)

All other Junior Firefighters, Firefighters, and Senior Firefighters: Step 0

The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Minutes:

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 20, 2022:

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Minutes for January 20, 2022 as written. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Unforeseen Business (within preceding 48 hours):

Donation Check Communications:

There was discussion concerning a check donation that the Paul McLatchy III became aware of in his role of Treasurer for the independent group called the Fire Association and had made the Board aware of the check for \$20,000.00. McLatchy III reported there was a check that was made out to the Town of Rowe and the Fire Association wanted it deposited into their account and let the Board of Selectmen know about it. Police and Fire Chiefs were asked about the and whereabouts of the check on December 20th by Executive Secretary and neither responded. McLatchy III said that there was a \$20,000.00 donation deposited into the Fire Association's Account. Fire Chief joined the meeting and was asked about the check and he said he did not know about it.

Warrants/Contracts:

Fire Truck Purchase Agreement:

Fire Chief Annear presented a contract for the Fire Truck Vehicle for the Board signature and review. Chair Sokol discussed the vehicle that was to be used until the new vehicle arrived and wanted it to be clear that the vehicle be disposed of once the new vehicle arrived.

MOTION FOR TEMPORARY VEHICLE: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the 1982 Mack vacuum tanker fire truck from the federal excess property program, provided it and all associated equipment and accessories received as a part of this truck be retired from service and returned to the federal excess property program upon receipt of the new 2023 Ford F550 fire truck. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

MOTION TO PURCHASE VEHICLE: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Purchase Agreement for the 2023 Ford F-550 CrewCab and Chassis per Specification and the 2023 Marco Attack Apparatus, Build #MAR-308 per Specification from Marco Equipment Sales, LLC for the amount of \$320,000. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Fire Truck Sale 2003 International:

Chief Annear said that he had a buyer for the 2003 International Fire Truck and following discussion, it was decided to contact the buyer and discuss further and present a contract. There was discussion about listing it on putting it out to bid using the Municibid website.

Selectboard Business:

New Business:

Review General Government Budget FY23

The Board reviewed the General Budget and made corrections.

Old Business:

Covid Return to Work Policy:

Following review of the Covid guidelines presented the Board decided to adopt the Covid-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for the General Public from the Mass.Gov website.

MOTION TO ADOPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to adopt the Covid-19 Isolation and Quarantine Guidance for the General Public from the Mass.Gov website and to notify employees of the guidance. 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 FY22W16 and FY21PW16
2. MA Cultural Council Grant FY22:

Documents were reviewed for the participation in the MA Cultural Council's Local Cultural Council Program.

MOTION TO SIGN: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the FY22 MA Cultural Council's Local Cultural Council Program for the amount of \$5,000.00. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

3. Backhaul Sharing Agreement with Heath, Charlemont, Colrain & Leyden:
4. Backhaul Connection Appendix for Crown Castle Connection in Rowe:

MOTION TO SUPPORT AND APPROVE: Following review of the contracts provided by Municipal Light Plant Manager, Chair Sokol made a motion to support and approve the Municipal Light Plant Manager signing the Backhaul Sharing Agreement with Heath, Charlemont, Colrain & Leyden Backhaul Connection Appendix for Crown Castle Connection in Rowe. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Unforeseen Business (within preceding 48 hours):

Franklin County and North Quabbin Age-Friendly Project Membership:

Executive Secretary, Admin Assistant, Maggie Rice and a couple of members of the Council on Aging attended a meeting on Wednesday regarding whether Rowe had interest in joining the Franklin County and North Quabbin Age-Friendly Project. Rowe could form a group with the assistance of the Age-Friendly Director and FRCOG Nurse Meg Ryan to identify needs of the seniors and work on projects following the evaluation of a survey presented to town citizens.

MOTION TO JOIN: Chair Sokol made a motion to join the Franklin County and North Quabbin Age-Friendly Project Membership. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Future Meetings

The next meeting would be Tuesday, February 8, 2022 along with the Finance Committee to continue Budget Hearings at 6:00 pm.

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21p.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 February 3, 2022
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 20, 2022
3. Review General Government Budget FY23
4. Covid Return to Work Policy
5. MA Cultural Council Grant FY22
6. Backhaul Sharing Agreement with Heath, Charlemont, Colrain & Leyden
7. Backhaul Connection Appendix for Crown Castle Connection in Rowe
8. Executive Secretary Updates