



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, March 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, Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie
Present: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Audience:
Participation via Remote: Treasurer Terry I. Green, Laurie Pike, Ashley Brown

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:04 P.M.

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

Announcement of recording devices- One

Noteworthy Announcements- Chair Sokol welcomed the return of Vice-Chair Semanie following her recent medical leave

Appointment: 6:00 pm - Laurie Pike, Park Commissioner re: MTWP – Request for Quotes Forest Stewardship Plan Implementation Projects:

Park Commissioner Chair Laurie Pike presented the Board with the final draft for the Request for Price Quotes (RFQ) for the Forest Stewardship Implementation Projects for 2022. The Projects include:

- Task 1: The treatment of 10 White Ash Trees to inoculate them against the Emerald Ash Borer
- Task 2: Identify and Install 4 Hemlock Monitoring Plots and Develop Monitoring Protocols and Conduct Training
- Task 3: Identify a 20-acre Old Growth Forest Reserve and Design an Old Growth Forest Trail and Interpretive Materials
- Task 4: Planting of one hundred Red and 100 White Oak Seedlings with tree protectors

Laurie explained that the work was a continuation of a previous grant.

MOTION TO ACCEPT AGREEMENT: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Request for Price Quotes (RFQ) Agreement for the Forest Stewardship Implementation Projects for 2022 as presented and prepared by Franklin Regional Council of Government. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

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

Laurie further explained that there was support forthcoming for work to complete an Open Space Plan and that there was a potential grant to work on projects through the Municipal Vulnerability Plan Projects and would be informing the Board in the near future and asking whether there is a desire to support the plans.

Laurie Pike left the meeting at 6:15pm.

Minutes:

Board of Selectmen Minutes of February 17, 2022:

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Minutes for February 17, 2022, as corrected. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

Roll Call vote: Chair Sokol: Yes Selectman Silva: Yes Vice-Chair Semanie: Abstain (vote: 2-0-1)

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 Selectman Silva.

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

Bylaw Review: tabled until a later date

Wage & Salary Chart for FY23: Completed at this time

Selectboard Business:

New Business:

Set Mileage Rate for 2022 (IRS 58.5):

MOTION TO SET MILEAGE RATE FOR 2022: Chair Sokol made a motion to set the town mileage rate for 2022 at .585 cents as recommended by the Internal Revenue Service. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

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

Town Clerk Bylaw Request:

Town Clerk requested a bylaw which was vetted by Town Council pertaining to the swearing in of appointed officials be added to the annual town meeting warrant for consideration to be added to the town bylaws. Due to Appointed officials routinely neglect to get sworn in after being appointed. While being sworn in is a simple, quick, and painless process, it is nevertheless an important step to take whenever a person is appointed or reappointed to a town position.

MOTION TO ADD TO WARRANT: Chair Sokol made a motion to add an article proposed Article to the Annual Town Meeting Warrant:

"Article X: To see if the town will vote to adopt a new bylaw under Article III, Section 12 of the Town's General Bylaws:

Any individual appointed to a position that has not been sworn in by the Town Clerk, Moderator, or a Justice of the Peace within 60 days of their appointment shall be deemed to have declined the position. Or take any other action in relation thereto."

The Motion was seconded by Vice- Chair Semanie.

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

Treasurer Letter and Compensation Discussion:

Selectmen reviewed a request by Treasurer for compensation for all the extra time she has been putting in without pay. Discussion continued about the time and how to compensate for it. It was decided that the funds could be transferred by a Line Item Transfer to the Treasurer's Salary from the Administrative Salaries Line or 01-124-5100 in May. It was agreed that the Treasurer's hours could be increased to 40 hours for the rest of the year starting immediately.

Warrants/Contracts:

1. **Review Warrants FY22W18 and FY21PW18:**
Chair Sokol reviewed and signed warrants.
2. **UFSAI Municipal Loan Note for Broadband:**
Treasurer Terry I. Green presented the Board with the Broadband Bond for \$400,000.00 for renewal with the interest rate was at 0.750%.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Town of Rowe Renewal Anticipation Serial Loan related to Broadband for \$400,000.00 at the rate of 0.750 percent per annum. The motion was seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie.

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

Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:

1. **Executive Secretary Updates:** FY 2023 Budgets were discussed.

Executive Session:

(1) To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

Executive Session was cancelled.

– Executive Session was cancelled.

Citizen Comments: None

Correspondence Review:

The Board reviewed a letter addressed to Superintendent John Franzoni about the 2020-2021 End of Year Reports were past due and the MA State Department of Elementary and Secondary Education said they were going to withhold Chapter 70 Funds until the report is complete. Chair Sokol agreed to write an email expressing the concern of the Board about the matter.

Unforeseen Business (within preceding 48 hours): None

Future Meetings: Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 17th.

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:08 p.m. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

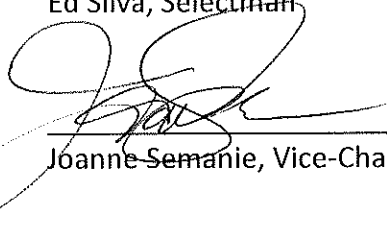
Approval Date:

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair

Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda March 3, 2022
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of February 17, 2022
3. RFP – Forest Stewardship Plan Implementation Projects MTWP
4. Bond Anticipation Note Broadband \$400,000.00
5. Town Treasurer Letter
6. Town Clerk Bylaw Request

Mail:

1. Email from DESE