



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Thursday, April 28, 2022–6:00 p.m.  
Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1  
and Via Remote Participation

**Board of Selectmen:** Chair Charles Sokol, Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie  
**Absent:** Selectman Ed Silva  
**Present:** Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau  
**Audience:** Laurie Pike, Josh Rapp of Audubon and Rosie Gordon all via remote participation

**Call to Order:** Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

Announcement of recording devices- One  
Noteworthy Announcements- None

**APPOINTMENT:** 6:00 pm: Josh Rapp, Conservation Scientist at Mass Audubon re: MVP Grant Application

Josh Rapp presented information regarding the proposed Municipal Vulnerability Plan (MVP) Grant to have Rowe take on the lead community for a regional forest climate resiliency grant. The grant would involve climate resiliency practices, helping to update the forest stewardship plan, implement forest resiliency practices and use the park as a demonstration site to educate landowners on forest resiliency practices. There would also be a website for educational purposes. Massachusetts Audubon, Franklin Regional Council of Governments, NE Forestry Association and Mohawk Trail Woodlands Partnership would be among the participants implementing the many facets of the grant and would involve up to six additional communities.

The formal award would be made in August and the procurement would begin in the Fall. Thus far Conway, Heath, Shelburne Falls, North Adams and Williamstown have expressed interest in participation. Logistics for completion of the application was discussed and that there was the necessary matching funding coming from a US Forestry Grant.

**MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve submission of the Municipal Vulnerability Plan Application for the Forest Climate Resiliency Plan Pilot Program. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)**

It was noted that there needed to be a yearly update to the MVP plan that was approved last Summer.

Laurie Pike and Josh Rapp left the meeting at 6:21 pm  
Bob Clancy, Town Moderator joined the meeting at 6:21 pm

**Old Business:**

Annual Town & Special Town Meeting Final Details

Bob Clancy joined the meeting to discuss details regarding the Annual Town Meeting on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Station.

Bob Clancy left the meeting at 6:29 pm.

Rosie Gordon joined the meeting at 6:30 pm

**Minutes:**

Board of Selectmen Minutes of April 14, 2022:

Board of Selectmen Minutes of April 20, 2022:

**MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Minutes for April 14, 2022 and April 20, 2022 as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0).**

**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, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)**

**Selectboard Business:**

**New Business:**

Highway Dept. Vehicle for F150 2006:

Executive Secretary explained that the Ford F150 which had been the park's and was used to transport the summer youth "Grasshopper" program had a bent frame and the bed was rusted out. It was no longer safe to operate, so was not appropriate for resale. Highway Superintendent recommended decommissioning and selling as scrap metal.

**MOTION TO DISPOSE: Chair Sokol made a motion to dispose of the 2006 Ford F150 since it was no longer safe to drive. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)**

**HEARING: Mosquito Opt-Out Spraying Application:**

The Mosquito Opt-Out of Spraying Application was reviewed. Opting out of spraying for mosquitos was discussed in detail with the Board of Health at their April 20, 2022 meeting and it was mutually decided to continue the same practice as the prior year, which was to continue membership in the Pioneer Valley Mosquito District and educate the public with continued information distribution through the town website, town newspaper, the town nurse educating and making townspeople aware of the dangers. The Rowe Elementary School would be included in the public awareness messaging. No public comments were made.

**MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve and sign the 2022 Mosquito Opt-Out of Spraying Application, with the approval of the Board of Health obtained at their April 20, 2022 meeting, for the 2022 year. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)**

Warrant Annual Town Election:

The Annual Town Election Warrant was reviewed and signed. There was discussion about the lack of volunteers for vital town positions.

**MOTION TO SIGN WARRANT: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Annual Town Election Warrant. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)**

**Warrants/Contracts:**

Review Warrants FY22W22 and FY22PW22:

Vice-Chair Semanie reported reviewing the Warrants and had nothing to report.

Ford Hill Project – Request for Signature for Application for Army Corps:

Keith Nelson, Engineer with Gill Engineering presented an “Application for Department of the Army Permit US Army Corps of Engineers” for the Ford Hill Culvert Replacement Project.

**MOTION TO SIGN APPLICATION: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Application for Department of the Army Permit US Army Corps of Engineers” for the Ford Hill Culvert Replacement Project. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)**

**Unforeseen Business (within preceding 48 hours):**

Board of Health Member Herb Butzke joined the meeting at 6:55 pm

Herb Butzke said that the Board of Health Members expressed that they felt the Board of Selectmen “bullied” them regarding where to hold the Annual Town Meeting. They felt, “in the spirit of working together”, rather to dictate their views, that the Board should have been more open to hearing the basis of their decision rather than to try to impart their will and as a result, felt like they were “ambushed”. The Board of Selectmen accepted the information and agreed for the need to work in a cooperative manner.

Herb Butzke left the meeting at 7:03 pm.

**Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:**

Town Report

The Town Report was finalized and prepared 50 copies – will do 20 more for Town Meeting

ATM/STM

Mailers going out tomorrow morning for the ATM, STM & Supplemental Information.

Reporting for ARPA/SLFRF Grants

Executive Secretary reported taking a webinar to learn how to complete reporting due for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State & Local Fiscal Recovery Fund (SLFRF) Grant Program that was due 4/30. There is a need to decide how to use the \$116,000.00 funding. The process is quite involved on the federal Treasury website.

Fuel Bids:

The FRCOG Fuel Bids are going out a bit later than usual due to the current volatility of the market.

We will need to have a quick Fuel Bid review meeting between Monday, June 6 and no later than noon on Wednesday, June 8.

Easement:

Janice Boudreau reported working on an Easement on the Park Land tract on Cyrus Stage Road for the Bridge Repair.

Vacation:

Janice Boudreau said she would be taking the week of May 22<sup>nd</sup> off for a vacation.

**Citizen Comments:** None

**Future Meetings:** Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 26, 2022.

Adjournment:

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date:

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 April 28, 2022
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of April 14, 2022
3. Board of Selectmen Minutes of April 20, 2022
4. Engineer Keith Nelson Memo
5. Opt-Out Mosquito Spraying
6. Warrant for Annual Town Election
7. Application for Dept. of the Army Permit
8. Executive Secretary Updates

A True Copy, Attest:

5/16/2022

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Paul McLatchy III, Rowe Town Clerk

