



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, June 9, 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, Selectman Ed Silva (Participating Remote)
Present: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Audience: Highway Superintendent Lance Larned, Park Manager Sean Loomis, Carter Austin

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 Park Manager & Highway Superintendent: Discuss Summer Youth Program:

Superintendent Larned reported he had one applicant for the Grasshopper Youth Program. It was confirmed that last year monies for the “Grasshopper Program” were transferred to the Park Program due to Covid-19 restrictions. Park Manager Sean Loomis reported that without additional funds there would be 6 kids without jobs for 16 and younger. There had been concern expressed from citizens about seeing the Summer Youth change and potentially the “Grasshopper Program” be eliminated and not have the road maintenance. Mowing was discussed and a plan for the summer mowing if there were not adequate youth for the program. Selectman Silva asked about altering the program to have them do roadside work. There was discussion about whether the program and its inception was to provide the town youth jobs and it was acknowledged that there were more opportunities outside of town than there were in the past. Following discussion, it was agreed to have the monies be transferred to the Park so the additional applicants would have work. It was decided to request at a Special Town Meeting to have the funds transferred to the Park since there would be need for a Special Town Meeting in the near future.

Lance Larned and Sean Loomis left the meeting 6:23pm

Old Business:

Letters to Employees Stating Grade and Step number and Wage:

Chair Sokol prepared letters for each employee overseen by the Board of Selectmen indicating their Grade and Step from the Wage & Salary Chart. It was decided to send a copy of the letter to each employee and include one in their personnel file. In the package would include a cover letter with explanation and detail and the Wage and Salary Chart approved by the Board. It was agreed to send information to the other Boards and Committees and the templates for them to use if they chose.

New Business:

Review Board Roles and Liaison:

There was discussion about Liaison work and Chair and Vice-Chair positions. Following discussion, it was agreed to continue with the current Liaisons of Chair Sokol for Police & Fire Depts., Ed Silva for Highway Dept. and Vice-Chair Semanie for Town Hall employees. Selectman Silva added that he was happy with the work on the roads the Highway Dept. was doing and that he is no longer receiving complaints.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to resume the same positions for the Board of Selectmen as the prior year, with Chuck Sokol serving as Chair and Joanne Semanie as Vice-Chair. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva was unanimously accepted.

Roll call vote: Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes Selectman Silva: yes (vote: 3-0-0)

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to resume the same Liaison positions for the Board of Selectmen as the prior year, with Chair Sokol serving as Liaison for the Police and Fire Departments, Vice-Chair Semanie serving as Liaison with Town Hall Staff and Selectman Silva serving as Liaison to the Highway Department. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva was unanimously accepted.

Roll call vote: Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes Selectman Silva: yes (vote: 3-0-0)

Highway Projects, Priorities:

Selectman Silva said he would contact Superintendent Larned to discuss future projects for next year. In addition, the Winter Recovery Assistance Program award letter and overview was reviewed and discussed for using the \$117,598.22 award.

Minutes:

Board of Selectmen Minutes of May 26, 2022:

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Board of Selectmen Minutes for May 26, 2022 as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted.

Roll call vote: Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes Selectman Silva: yes (vote: 3-0-0)

Council on Aging – Meeting Location Discussion and Appointments

There was discussion about the Council on Aging and that there has been no effort coming from the Committee. It was agreed that there needs to be reviewed and consider who might Chair the Committee.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

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 unanimously accepted

Roll call vote: Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes Selectman Silva: yes (vote: 3-0-0)

Borrowing for Highway Projects:

Selectman Silva said he would speak with Superintendent Larned about setting priorities and planning a comprehensive road plan.

Town Council Process re: Special Town Meeting (Janice):

Following discussion, it was decided that it was acceptable to have Board of Assessors Chair Rick Williams speak directly with Town Counsel for payment in lieu of taxes negotiations and the process.

Special Town Meeting Preparation:

Discussion was that the Finance Committee Bylaw change should be added to the Special Town Meeting Warrant, the Assessors required vote to negotiate for payment in lieu of taxes and the transfer of Summer Youth wages from the Highway Department to the Park budget.

FY23 Appointments: Tabled Until Next Meeting

Old Home Day:

It was reported that, due to late planning, it was too late to pull together the event.

Warrants/Contracts:

Review Warrants FY22W25 and FY21PW25:

Vice-Chair Semanie reviewed Warrants FY22W25 and FY21PW25 and reported everything was fine.

Executive Office of Public Safety MA Standard Contract:

Chief Annear presented a Standard Contract for Executive Office of Public Safety MA Dept. of Fire Services for a grant of \$9, 953.76 for fire safety equipment.

MOTION TO SIGN: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the MA Standard Contract from the Executive Office of Public Safety MA Dept. of Fire Services for a grant of \$9, 953.76 for fire safety equipment. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously accepted.

Roll call vote: Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes Selectman Silva: yes (vote: 3-0-0)

Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:

Executive Secretary Updates:

- An appointment was made with Lynde Well Drilling to address the water leak affecting the town buildings water system.
- Work is scheduled to re-paint the handicap accessible aisle and parking spaces at Town Hall, Library and some lines added to the Fire Station to aid in backing into station.

- Electrical work was discussed at the Fire Station to obtain a new generator and improve air circulation for the IT closet
- The Administrative Assistant position was posted and there has been a few responses.

Audience:

Carter Austin complained that Conservation Commission Chair Ramon Sanchez showed up on a property that he has permission to farm 20 acres and is in the process of restoring the land to its former farmland. Mr. Austin said that he was right to cut down trees on property with permission from the landowner. He complained about the Conservation Commission issuing a Cease and Desist Order for his removal of trees and that it did not affect the wetlands.

Future Meetings: Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, June 23, 2022. It was agreed to ask Conservation Commission to attend.

Unforeseen Business:

There was discussion about a citizen feeding a bear and discussion about having a town bylaw to prevent feeding was discussed.

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:41 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

Roll call vote: Chair Sokol: yes Vice-Chair Semanie: yes Selectman Silva: yes (vote: 3-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *JUNE 23, 2022*

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman

Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda June 09, 2022
2. Minutes of May 26, 2022
3. Wage & Salary Chart
4. Jeff Blake, Esq. response
5. DLS Bulletin BUL-2021-3
6. WRAP Overview
7. Appointments FY23
8. Executive Office of Public Safety and Security Award Letter
9. MA Standard Contract for Dept. of Fire Services for \$9, 953.76
10. Executive Secretary Updates

Mail:

1. WRAP Award from MassDOT
2. Andognini Letter