



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, June 23, 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 Semanie
Present: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Audience: Conservation Commission Members: Ramon Sanchez, Bob Clancy, Dana Williams (via Remote), Virginia Gabert (via Remote)
Rebecca Bradley, Cathy Snyder, Mark Stinson (via Remote), Terry I Green (via Remote), Rosemary Gordon (via Remote)

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M.

Announcement of recording devices- One
Noteworthy Announcements- None

New Business:

Appointment:

6:00 pm - Rowe Conservation Commission – Discussion about Tree Removal Process and Farming Practices:

Chair Sokol asked Conservation Commission to explain the process a landowner must follow when better understand the process when someone is making changes to their land for the sake of helping and guiding others. Chair Sanchez explained that what triggers the Conservation Commission to get involved is if a shovel is to go into the ground the person should contact Conservation Commission as they have authority to protect the wetlands and the applicant needs to submit a Request for Determination Application (RDA)

In regards to the questions raised to the Board in a prior meeting from a person performing work for a Rowe landowner, Chair Sanchez said that there were chickens in the road and, in the role of Animal Control Officer, he investigated a complaint about chickens running in the road and a trailer was placed on the land. He then noticed a significant amount of activity on the property and that wetlands were disturbed. Conservation Commission then issued an enforcement order to stop the work he was doing and contacted the landowner to explain that the and what he was doing was illegal and that what he was doing would cause her problems if he did not follow the proper procedures. The land not been farmed in over 20 years so the agricultural exemption does not apply.

Chair Sokol said the goal of the Board was to work with Conservation Commission to resolve the issue and to better understand how to lead people in the right direction.

It was noted that a landowner is removing a significant number of trees an application must be filed along with a plan by an engineer to the MA Forestry Dept. The Forester forwards a copy to the Conservation Commission for their review and input.

Mark Stinson, Environmental Analyst for the MA Dept. of Environmental Protection (DEP) for the Western region, confirmed that new agriculture was excluded from agricultural exemption, and that it expired after 5 years of

non-agricultural activities. The Wetlands Protection Act has been in effect since 1972 and must be followed. Mr. Stinson noted that the DEP map overlay does show some wetlands in the property discussed and he went to the site and assisted them on the Enforcement Order. The Order included a requirement to remove the logs on the stream that were cut and placed and that Mr. Austin should work with a Wetlands Consultant to be delineate wetlands. If not remedied DEP could step in deal with the enforcement.

Chair Sanchez said that the second Enforcement Order to stop work was sent and did stop work and told Mr. Austin that it needs to stop, otherwise the landowner could be subject to fines.

6:42 The Conservation Commission and Mark Stinson left the meeting.

Audience:

Chair Synder and Rebecca Bradley asked for the Board for an appointment. The Library Trustees recommended that Lauren Werner be appointed to serve as Library Trustee as the person who won the election has declined the position. Lauren came in second in the election and was very interested in serving.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Lauren Werner to the Library Trustees to fill the outstanding term for the vacant position until the next town election in May. Selectman Silva seconded the motion.

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

Old Business:

WRAP Grant:

Selectman Silva spoke with Highway Superintendent about the use of the \$117,598 awarded to Rowe from the Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP). Superintendent asked it be spent on the parking lot at town garage to regrade the parking lot to gravel and new pavement with a 3" binder and 2" of topcoat. It was agreed that was a appropriate task to take on.

Highway Planning:

Selectman Silva discussed the larger project in the process that could be accomplished with the loan monies voted on at town meeting. He said Superintendent was in the process of mapping it out and will speak again to fine tune. He explained why he would overlay rather than grinding up roads. Chapter 90 funds will finish roads right to Vermont border this Summer. Treasurer asked about the length and duration of the loan needed for the road work and 5 years was discussed.

MINUTES

Board of Selectmen Minutes of June 7, 2022:

Board of Selectmen Minutes of June 9, 2022:

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 7, 2022 and the Minutes of June 9, 2022 as written. Selectman Silva seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Chair Sokol yes Selectman Silva: yes (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 Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

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

New Business:

Fire Chief Regarding Permitting Walk-through:

Rowe Camp and Conference needs an inspection by the Rowe Camp and Conference Center and the Fire Chief has not responded. Chair Sokol sent a message to Fire Chief.

Compensated Holiday Review:

Executive Secretary reviewed the information about Juneteenth or June nineteenth as it was added to federal and state legal holidays. She contacted Town Counsel and information was provided that indicated that offices should be closed on the Holiday. Holidays observed by town employees were reviewed.

MOTION TO ADD HOLIDAY: Chair Sokol made a motion amend the holidays observed by the Town of Rowe, that in accordance with MGL Chapter 136 section 12: The public offices shall be closed on all legal holidays except March seventeenth, May twentieth, and June seventeenth; provided, however, in Suffolk county such offices shall be closed on March seventeenth and June seventeenth or the day following when either of said days occurs on Sunday and amend the Personnel Policy Manual to reflect the change. Selectman Silva seconded the motion.

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

MOTION TO RETAIN HOLIDAY: Chair Sokol made a motion to add, in addition to the holidays observed by the Town of Rowe as required by law, that the day after Thanksgiving remain as a compensated holiday for town employees. Selectman Silva seconded the motion.

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

Line Item Transfer Requests:

Board Members reviewed the Line Item Transfer Requests approved by the Finance Committee.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Line Item Transfers approved by the Finance Committee for the following:

<u>\$ 500.00</u>	<u>from Emergency Management Operations to FD/EMS Personnel Payroll</u>
<u>\$6000.00</u>	<u>from Board of Health Operations to Refuse Gardens Operations</u>
<u>\$4,180.43</u>	<u>from Board of Health Nurse Wages to Board of Health Clerk Wages</u>
<u>\$ 800.00</u>	<u>from Assessors Consultant Legal Support to Administrative Assistant Wages.</u>

Selectman Silva seconded the motion.

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

Old Business:

FY23 Appointments:

Board Members reviewed FY23 Appointments.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint the following for a one-year term ending June 30, 2023:

Animal Control Officer	Ramon Sanchez
Animal Control Officer, Relief	Henry Dandeneau
Animal Inspector	Ramon Sanchez
Assistant Treasurer	VACANT
Carl Nilman Scholarship Fund	Carol Lively
Constable (Appointed)	Robert Beaumier
DPW Superintendent	Lance Larned
Emergency Management Director	Dennis Annear
Emergency Management Director, Assistant	
FCCIP Representative	Janice Boudreau
Fence Viewer	Edward Silva
Fence Viewer	Charles Sokol
Field Driver	Edward Silva
Field Driver	Charles Sokol
Fire Chief	Dennis Annear
Forest Fire Warden	Brandon Sprague
FRCOG Council	Janice Boudreau
FCCIP Representative	Janice Boudreau
Fence Viewer	Edward Silva
Fence Viewer	Charles Sokol
Field Driver	Edward Silva
Field Driver	Charles Sokol
Fire Chief	Dennis Annear
Forest Fire Warden	Brandon Sprague
FRCOG Council	Janice Boudreau
HCGIT Representative	Terry I Green
HCGIT Representative, Alternate	Janice Boudreau
Inspector of Buildings	James Hawkins
Inspector of Electrical	Tom McDonald
Inspector of Plumbing & Gas	Andy French
Keeper of the Dams	Henry Dandeneau
Keeper of the Dams, Alternate	Julie Shippee
Local Inspector	Jeff Gougeon
Measurer of Wood, Bark, and Lumber	Robert Rice
Measurer of Wood, Bark, and Lumber	Thomas Danek
Mohawk Woodlands Partnership Rep.	Hannah Poplawski
Police Officer - Special	Austin Willis
Police Officer - Special	Francis Noyes

Police Officer -	
Police Officer -	
Police Officer - Part-time- Reserve	Christopher Hyytinen
Police Officer - Part-time- Reserve	Kyle Sweeney
Superintendent of Pest/Elm Disease Control	Lance Larned
Town Collector	Terry Green
Town Counsel	KP Law
Tree Warden	Lance Larned
Veterans Burial Agent	John Magnago
Beautification Committee	Cindy Stetson
Beautification Committee	Dawn Beaumier
Beautification Committee	Myra Carlow
MLP Manager	David Dvore
MLP Manager, Deputy	Charles Sokol
Wired West Delegate	David Dvore
Wired West Delegate, Alternate	Russell Jolly

Chair Sokol indicated that the MLP Deputy was an unpaid position. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint the following to three-year term positions:

Zoning Board of Appeals	Gail May
Zoning Board of Appeals	Henry Dandeneau
Conservation Commission	Dana Williams

The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Warrants/Contracts:

Review Warrants FY22W26 and FY21PW26:

Chair Sokol said they would be reviewed by Vice-Chair Semanie next week.

Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Crown Castle Fiber, LLC Connection in Rowe:

Chair Sokol said the Appendix had been reviewed by Town Counsel, representatives of 5 towns and MLP Manager David Dvore.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Crown Castle Fiber, LLC Connection in Rowe. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Backhaul Service and Cost Sharing Agreement:

Chair Sokol said the Backhaul Service and Cost Sharing Agreement had been fully vetted as was the prior agreement.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept and sign the Backhaul Service and Cost Sharing Agreement with the towns of Leyden, Charlemont, Colrain, and Heath. The motion was seconded by Selectman Silva.

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

Carter Austin left the meeting at 7:53 pm.

Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:

School Issues: Janice Boudreau discussed issues with two employees that involved school employees and she discussed with Superintendent the possibility of improving a Personnel Policy Manual and the method of documenting issues with employees. Superintendent Franzoni agreed with the ideas and will pursue further.

Water Issue: Ms. Boudreau said that she and Superintendent Larned met with Lynde Well Drilling about resolving a leaking pipe. She is awaiting a date for the next step and Mr. Lynde thinks it may be where the pipes are joined at Fire Dept. and DPW.

Future Meetings: Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, July 7, 2022.

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date:

AUGUST 4, 2022

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman

Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda June 23, 2022
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of June 7, 2022
3. Board of Selectmen Minutes of June 9, 2022
4. Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Crown Castle Fiber, LLC Connection in Rowe
5. Backhaul Service and Cost Sharing Agreement
6. Town Counsel Response to Holiday Observance Question
7. Excerpt From Personnel Policy Manual re: Compensated Holidays
8. FY23 Appointments
9. Executive Secretary Updates
10. Line-Item Requests

Mail:

1. Rowe Opt Out Mosquito Spraying Approval
2. Mosquito Control Resources
3. County of Plymouth Ticket Processing Services