



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Thursday, August 4, 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:** Chris Brown, ACO Ramon Sanchez,  
**Participating Via Remote:** Rosie Gordon, Lisa Hayden NE Forestry Foundation, Hannah Poplawski, Bella Levavi

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

Announcement of recording devices- One  
Noteworthy Announcements- None

**APPOINTMENT: 6:00 pm – PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE – NUISANCE OR DANGEROUS DOG**

Chair Sokol opened the Hearing to determine if the dog is a nuisance or dangerous dog. Chair Sokol read the Animal Control Officer complaint about an incident that occurred on July 9, 2022 at the home of Chris Brown where 2 dogs that were owned by his daughter were visiting his residence on 110 County Road. A cyclist passing by the property was chased by one of the dogs and subsequently bitten by “Blue”. It was then reported to the Dog Officer by the cyclist following the incident and he did seek medical attention due to the puncture wound.

The dog owner, who resides in Buckland, said that there was a miscommunication about her dogs “Blue” and “Enzo” and that they had no history of the dogs biting. Chair Sokol noted that the breed of dog according to Mass General Law will not influence the decision. The Rowe property owner Chris Brown said that the dogs do not have a history of biting or aggressive.

Animal Control Officer (ACO) for Rowe Ramon Sanchez said he contacted the Dog Officer in the county and he told him about the incident and the dog was not in a confined space and that it occurred on a public road and the public should be able to pass safely. He suggested that the dogs be restrained or in a fenced in area and prevented from leaving the property.

Chair Sokol asked if there is a risk and how to mitigate risk. Chair Sokol said the complaint does not seem to be a frivolous complaint and that after review of Chapter 140, Section 157 the goal is the prevent it from happening again. It was determined that it was the dog “Blue” was the dog in the incident and the second dog was not involved.

Following discussion, the Board agreed that “Blue” be restrained when visiting and the second dog was not involved in the incident, despite ACO Sanchez opinion that both dogs were a threat.

MOTION TO ORDER RESTRAINT: Following the review of materials submitted and testimony by the Animal Control Officer and the Dog Owner, Chair Sokol made a motion to impose the following guidelines on the dog owned by Amanda Rivera known as "Blue":

Under Chapter 40 Section 157 in Massachusetts General Law (MGL)

(c) If the hearing authority deems a dog a dangerous dog, the hearing authority shall order one or more of the following:

(i) that the dog be humanely restrained; provided, however, that no order shall provide that a dog deemed dangerous be chained, tethered or otherwise tied to an inanimate object including, but not limited to, a tree, post or building;

The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

Chair Sokol said a copy of Minutes will be sent to Mr. Brown with the Board of Selectmen vote and that if there are any other incidents with the dog in the future, the decision will have to be revisited.

Ramon Sanchez, Chris Brown and Amanda Rivera left the meeting at 6:34 p.m.

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:**

**New Business:**

**Appointment: Appointments - Town Clerk**

Town Clerk Paul McLatchy III presented recommendations for appointments.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint the following:

Doug Wilson	Election Teller
Barbara Roche	Election Teller
Daniel Wessman	Election Teller

The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

**Old Business:**

**FY 23 Appointments – Board of Health:**

In lieu of a joint meeting, the Board of Health recommended Joanne Semanie for the Board of Health to fill the vacancy.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Joanne Semanie to the Board of Health to fill the vacancy. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-1)

Vice-Chair Semanie abstained from the vote.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Dan Poplawski as the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Representative and Herb Butzke as the Cooperative Public Health Service Oversight Board Representative. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

Fire Department – Wage & Salary Amendments: Tabled until a later date

**APPOINTMENT: 7:00 pm – Administrative Assistant Interview – Cancelled**

**New Business:**

Town Election Caucus:

Executive Secretary said Town Counsel was contacted about adding holding a caucus to determine candidates for election each year requiring a minimum of twenty-five people attend. Caucus could be an option used in addition to the traditional method of obtaining the required number of signatures to a nomination paper. Special legislation could be obtained to reduce the number of people required to be needed. Counsel said that the caucus would require town meeting vote. Once voters agreed in having a caucus must be held for 3 years in a row before deciding to eliminate. The Moderator could run the caucus. It was decided to initiate a request from Town Counsel to go to the next step and draft a warrant article to move forward.

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. (vote: 3-0-0)**

**Minutes:**

Board of Selectmen Minutes of June 23, 2022:

**MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Minutes of June 23, 2022 with a correction. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-1) Vice-Chair Semanie abstained from the vote.**

Board of Selectmen Minutes of July 21, 2022:

**MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to accept the Minutes of July 21, 2022 as presented. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-1) Selectman Silva abstained from the vote.**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:**

**New Business:**

Appointment & Wage & Salary Letter Police Officer:

Police Chief Julie Shippee recommended hiring Francis Noyes as a part-time officer.

**MOTION TO HIRE: Chair Sokol made a motion to hire Francis Noyes to the Police Department and provide a Wage and Salary documentation to Frances Noyes. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)**

Problems Along River:

There was discussion about some incidents happening in the area on the weekends including violence and another person sustaining burn injuries and Ed Silva is concerned about the activity along the rivers are putting officers at risk and that there are not enough officers to handle the volume of problems that come up with parking, sanitation and drinking. It would cost a great deal to the area small communities to manage the volume of traffic. It was agreed that there is no immediate solution, however, to continue to discuss to seek some aid to deal with the issues the increased tourist volume is creating.

**APPOINTMENT: 7:20 PM – MTWP Hannah Poplawski – Lisa Hayden**

Rowe Representative to the Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership (MTWP) Hannah Poplawski and Lisa Hayden from NE Forestry Foundation spoke to the Board about MTWP plans since it has been 10 years since the inception and it was time to review and revise goals and projects. Hannah invited the Board or citizen to attend a Public Listening Session seeking comments and suggestions for ways that the MTWP could support Rowe, and any ideas moving forward for the 2023-2033 plan. They are virtual and dates and times can be obtained from the MTWP website. There are more than 30 members on the MTWP Board and a main focus is on forest climate best practices for forest resiliency. Chair Sokol expressed appreciation to Hannah and Lisa for all their work.

Hannah Poplawski and Lisa Hayden left the meeting at 7:33 p.m.

**Warrants/Contracts:**

Review Warrants FY23W03, FY23PW03:

Vice-Chair Semanie reviewed warrants and all was in order.

Warrant for MA Primary Election 09-06-2022:

**MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Warrant for the Massachusetts Primary Election on September 6, 2022. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)**

**Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:**

Executive Secretary Updates

Janice Boudreau recommended hiring Brooke Shulda for the position of Administrative Assistant since following up with her references all concurred she was an exceptional employee with a great deal of potential.

**MOTION TO HIRE: Chair Sokol made a motion to hire Brooke Shulda for the position of Administrative Assistant at Grade G Step 0. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (3-0-0)**

Correspondence Review

Mail was reviewed and no action required.

**Future Meetings:** Next Meeting will be held on Thursday, August 18, 2022.

**Adjournment:**

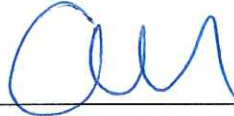
**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:56 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *AUGUST 18, 2022*

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 August 4, 2022
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of June 23, 2022
3. Board of Selectmen Minutes of July 21, 2022
4. Animal Control Incident Report
5. Dog Bite Incident Letter
6. Dog Incident Confirmation of License
7. Resume of Admin Assistant Applicant
8. FY23 Appointment Requests for Board of Health
9. Warrant for MA Primary Election
10. Executive Secretary Updates

**Mail:**

- Rep. Natalie Blais re: Rural Schools Report
- Rural Schools PPT
- Rural School Commission Report Final