



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, January 5, 2023–6:00 p.m.
Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1
and Via Remote Participation

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Selectman Silva
Absent: Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie
Present: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Audience: Treasurer Green, Marilyn Wilson, Paul McLatchy III, Hannah Poplawski

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

Announcement of recording devices- One
Noteworthy Announcements- None

6:00 pm: Hannah Poplawski – Mahican-Mohawk Trail Connection Feasibility Project Study Grant:

Hannah Poplawski, Rowe’s Representative to the Woodlands Partnership of Western Massachusetts (WPWM) reported that she is working with Heath member Michael Chicchiara on the \$40,000.00 Grant from the Department of Conservation & Recreation for the extension of the Mahican-Mohawk Trail through Heath and Rowe to eventually connect with the established trails in Charlemont. She reported about a recent meeting that took place with her, Michael, Janice Boudreau and Heath Town Coordinator Hilma Sumner. There has been some delay getting the work on the grant underway and the meeting addressed the issue as well as confirming that Heath is the lead community in the grant and that it would be their responsibility to pay the expenses incurred and then be reimbursed. The Heath Board of Selectmen did not want their Town Coordinator to use town work time to work on the grant. Following discussion, Chair Sokol and Selectman Silva agreed that they did not want Executive Secretary to participate with administration using town work time. It was further agreed to check with Ms. Sumner to confirm that she volunteered personal time to administer the grant finances and that she was still willing to do so.

Ms. Poplawski left the meeting at 6:15 pm.

Minutes:

Board of Selectmen Minutes of December 15, 2022:

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Minutes of December 15, 2022 as presented. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (Vote: 2-0-0)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

New Business:

Tunnel Road Bridge Discussion:

Selectman Silva reported speaking with Superintendent Larned about the bridge owned by Pan Am Railway that serviced 2 Rowe dwellings on lower Tunnel Road. There needs to be some repairs to the planks over the bridge and

that the condition of the bridge is not good. Marilyn Wilson explained some of the past history regarding the bridge and possible solutions. Since it is owned by the Pan Am Railway, the Town of Rowe cannot be responsible for repairs or maintenance of the bridge since it is not our property. It was agreed that Selectman Silva would speak with someone about the issue once the appropriate person was located.

6:30 pm: Paul McLatchy III – Town Clerk Regarding His Status:

Town Clerk Paul McLatchy III reported that he was moving out of Rowe in the near future and he wanted to inform the Board that his resignation was forthcoming. He said he was willing to stay on in the position until the election in May as a temporary appointment. Once he officially moves, he will submit his letter of resignation so the Board can decide a course of action.

Paul McLatchy III left the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

6:45 pm: Marilyn Wilson – Finance Committee – FY24 Wage & Salary Chart and Reserve Fund Transfer:

Reserve Fund Transfer:

Finance Committee Member Marilyn Wilson spoke to the Board about the decision that was made at the last Finance Committee meeting to use a Reserve Fund Transfer to pay for the additional amount needed since the lowest bid to rebuild the tennis court came in higher than previously expected. It was decided that, rather than to have to re-bid which might bring a higher amount, to accept the bid and supplement needed funding with a Reserve Fund Transfer and to reallocate some Park project funds at a later date.

Wage and Salary Schedule:

There was some discussion about the Wage & Salary Schedule and how the figures were arrived at. Chair Sokol explained that the chart had been updated and that the Board of Selectmen recommended a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) increase for the FY24 year. He indicated that the chart reflected the update of 1.24% and the 2.5% was added to it.

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)

Road/Bridge Projects: Yankee Road Project/ Ford Hill Road Bridge/ Cyrus Stage Road Bridge:

There was no discussion.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

Old Business:

Discussion about Pelham Lake and Mill Pond Dams: Tabled Until a Later Date

Fire Chief Succession Planning: Tabled Until a Later Date

Warrants/Contracts:

Review Warrants FY23 W14 & FY23 PW14: Vice-Chair Semanie would review in the near future.

Dept. of Fire Services – MA Standard Contract:

Selectmen reviewed a contract and documents related to a MA Dept. of Fire Services grant for \$10,231.25 to purchase fire equipment.

MOTION TO SIGN CONTRACT: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the MA Standard Contract Form with the Department of Fire Services and the Town of Rowe for a \$10,231.25 Grant for fire equipment. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Silva was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

FRCOG Collective Bid for Alarm Services:

Executive Secretary would follow up on the Collective Bid.

Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates: Tabled Until a Later Date.

Future Meetings:

The next Board of Selectmen meeting would be on January 12, 2022 at 6:00 pm with the Finance Committee.

Adjournment:


MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:51 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *MARCH 9, 2023*

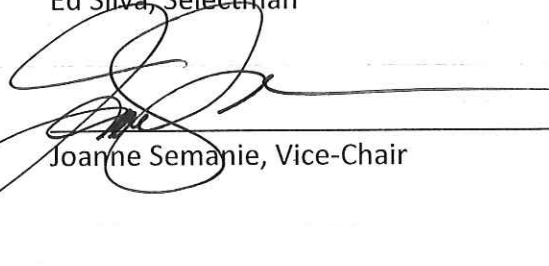
Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda January 5, 2023
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of December 15, 2022
3. Dept. of Fire Services – MA Standard Contract
1. FRCOG Collective Bid for Alarm Services
2. Email- Kin Lam of Lamson Engineering
3. Executive Secretary Updates

Mail:

1. National Grid – re: Herbicide Application
2. Invite- KP Law