



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2023–6:00 p.m.
Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1
and Via Remote Participation

Board of Selectmen: Vice-Chair Semanie, Selectman Silva
Absent: Chair Charles Sokol
Present: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Audience: **Finance Committee:** Marilyn Wilson, Loretta Dionne, Dan Pallotta, Wayne Zavotka, Rick Williams, Sean Loomis, Laurie Pike, Hannah Poplawski, Terry I. Green, Herb Butzke

Call to Order: Vice-Chair Semanie called the meeting to order at 6:02 P.M.

Announcement of recording devices- One
Noteworthy Announcements- None

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Budget Hearings 6:00 pm:

Cemetery Commission:

Joanne Semanie presented the Cemetery Commission with a 3% increase due to the mowing charge increase. It is a subcontracted and they are doing a very good job.

Conservation Commission:

Presented the budget as level funded.

Planning Board:

Presented their budget level funded.

Board of Health:

Board of Health Chair Herb Butzke presented the Board of Health (BOH) budget due to increase in haulage. Salaries and wages were discussed. The BOH increased wages in line with the Wage & Salary Chart and added a 2.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The Operations budget has not been finalized as yet.

Board of Assessors:

Board of Assessors Chair Rick Williams said there were no increases in the clerk wages. He explained that, due to a settlement for Payment in Lieu of Taxes Agreement made with a company and a sale of another company, that the legal issues that were pending in Appellate Tax Board, with appeals in abatements, the legal support may not be needed any longer. That could mean a release of funds in the Assessors Overlay Account which was funded due to the pending cases and has a balance of \$430,000.00.

Parks and Recreation:

Park Ranger explained his salary and wages and would be reworked and resubmitted following discussion with additional information. He explained that the minimum wage had risen to \$15.00 per hour. He adjusted wages accordingly. Park project requests included: Beach sand which has not been added for many years, a new truck for the park since the current truck is rusting away.

The tennis court bid was discussed and the Reserve Fund Transfer paperwork needs to be completed.

Minutes:

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 5, 2023: Tabled until a later date
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 12, 2023: Tabled until a later date

Ongoing Projects:

Policy Updates and Review:

- Police Policies Review Submissions:

MOTION TO DELAY: Vice-Chair Semanie 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:

The Engineer reported that he would have finalized plans in January.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

New Business:

DLTA – FRCOG Request for Local Technical Assistance Request 2023:

Executive Secretary would review and finalize requests for the questionnaire to Franklin Regional Council of Governments.

2023 Mileage Reimbursement Charge:

Executive Secretary asked whether the Board would update the mileage rates for 2023 to the Internal Revenue Service recommendation of .0655.

MOTION TO CHANGE: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to update the mileage allowance for 2023 to .065 per mile. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva was accepted. (vote 2-0-0)

Old Business:

Discussion about Pelham Lake and Mill Pond Dams:

Vice-Chair Semanie said there should be some more discussion in the near future. In the interim, she planned to speak with the Keeper of the Dams about a plan for the future.

Fire Chief Succession Planning – Review Job Description:

Vice-Chair Semanie said that following a recent meeting with Charlemont regarding the succession planning for the Fire Chief position, that a review and approval of the Job Description is needed and that there needs to be more discussion about the financial planning and recruitment.

Warrants/Contracts:

Review Warrants FY23 W15 & FY23 PW15:

Vice-Chair Semanie said that she had reviewed payroll and vendor warrants FY23 W15 and all was in order.

Collective Highway Bids Authorization Form – FRCOG:

Following review, Vice-Chair Semanie signed the Collective Highway Bids Authorization Form – FRCOG for the coming year.

Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:

- a) Rep. Blais Visit Update: topics need to be presented for the meeting on February 16, 2023.
- b) Police Regionalization: tabled discussion until a further date
- c) Maintenance Work: tabled discussion until a further date
- d) Generator at the School: tabled discussion until a further date
- e) Gracy House Future: tabled discussion until a further date

Citizen Comments: None

Correspondence Review: No response Required

Future Meetings:

The next Board of Selectmen meeting would be on January 26, 2023 at 6:00 pm with the Finance Committee.

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:21 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

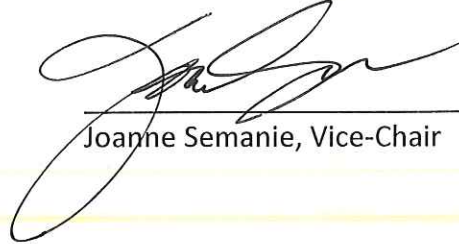
Approval Date: *FEBRUARY 2, 2023*

Approved:

Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda January 19, 2023
2. Cemetery Commission Budget
3. Conservation Commission Budget
4. Planning Board Budget
5. Board of Health Budget
6. Board of Assessors Budget
7. Parks and Recreation Budget
8. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 5, 2023
9. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 12, 2023
10. Draft Job Description – Fire Chief
11. DLTA – Local Technical Assistance Request Form
12. Executive Secretary Updates

Mail:

1. MassDOT – Rowe Rd. Pelham Brook Bridge Inspection Report