



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen Minutes
Thursday, February 2, 2023–6:00 p.m.
Rowe Town Hall – Hearing Room 1
and Via Remote Participation

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

Call to Order: Vice-Chair Semanie called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Announcement of recording devices- One

Noteworthy Announcements:

Vice-Chair Semanie spoke about the sad loss of an old barn at the Bradley property and the great team work of the Fire Department along with other mutual aid departments who responded.

Minutes:

Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 19, 2023 and January 26, 2023:

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 19, 2023 and January 26, 2023 as presented. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (Vote: 2-0-0)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

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)

Old Business:

Tunnel Road Bridge Discussion

Selectman Silva said he had made contact with an employee with Pan Am, the company that owns the bridge that crosses from River Road to Lower Tunnel Road which affects 2 homes in Rowe. He also was in contact with Mark Devylder, District Bridge Engineer from District One MassDOT, and will have more conversation with him.

Marilyn Wilson said that there were supposed to be 'Discontinue Maintenance Signs – Travel at Your Own Risk' signs installed and wondered what had occurred with that. It was agreed to check on whether the signs were installed.

Selectman Silva expressed concern about the residents who live on lower Tunnel Road and what would happen to them if the bridge were to close.

New Business:

FCSWMD Request to Classify Rep and Alt Rep as Special Municipal Employees:

Franklin County Solid Waste Management District (FCSWMD) Director Jan Ameen requested that the two positions for FCSWMD Representative and FCSWMD Alternate Representative be voted to classify as 'Special Municipal Employees' since they receive a stipend from the position.

MOTION FOR SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to designate the position of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Representative as a special municipal employee position for the Town of Rowe pursuant to M.G.L c268A, section 1 (n). The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote 2-0-0)

MOTION FOR SPECIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEE: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to designate the position of Franklin County Solid Waste Management District Alternate Representative as a special municipal employee position for the Town of Rowe pursuant to M.G.L c268A, section 1 (n). 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 bids were opened for the Ford Hill Road Bridge and Gill Engineering provided the Bid Tally Sheet and the 'Recommendation as to Award'. Gill recommended accepting the low bid to Clayton D. Davenport Trucking, Inc. for the amount of \$669,856.00. It was noted that there is a shortfall of \$ 44,997.78 overbudget.

MOTION TO ACCEPT BID: Following discussion, Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to accept the low bid of \$669,856.00 to Clayton D. Davenport Trucking, Inc. per recommendation of Gill Engineering. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (2-0-0)

Selectman Silva requested Executive Secretary to contact MassDOT to see if there any additional funding would be available. They had recently awarded an additional \$90,671.00 after the bid sheet estimate was prepared.

Old Business:

Discussion about Pelham Lake and Mill Pond Dams:

Selectmen discussed issues with the repair components for the Mill Pond Dam. Vice-Chair Semanie reported that the new mechanism had been ordered and Sean Loomis was working with Clayton Miller to modify it. There was discussion about having more frequent openings of the dam each month to prevent problems. It was agreed to ask Henry Dandeneau and Sean Loomis to come to a meeting to discuss the future maintenance of the dams.

Fire Chief Succession Planning:

Vice-Chair Semanie said that the Board should review and approve the Job Description of the Fire Chief prior to the next meeting with Charlemont at next meeting.

Warrants/Contracts:

Review Warrants FY23 W16 & FY23 PW16:

Vice-Chair Semanie would review in the near future.

Opioid Settlement: 'MA State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements':

Tabled until next meeting.

Tax Map Maintenance Contract with CIA Technologies:

The Board of Assessors presented a contract for Tax Map Maintenance with CIA Technologies. It was the standard contract that was approved by the Board of Assessors each year.

MOTION TO SIGN CONTRACT: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to approve the signing of the Tax Map Maintenance Contract with CIA Technologies that had been reviewed and approved by the Board of Assessors. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:

- Rep. Blais Visit Topics:
Topics for discussion with Rep. Blais for the February 16th visit were the Yankee Road, Tunnel Road Bridge, Fire Chief Succession Plan and Police POST Training Requirements
- Maintenance Work:
Executive Secretary asked whether Brandon Sprague could perform maintenance tasks related to shoveling and snow clearing at Town Hall. It was agreed he could do so on an 'on call' basis since there were not that much funding left in the custodian budget.
- CIRPP Items for General Govt.:
The Board reviewed the Capital Improvement, Repair and Property Plan items presented by Executive Secretary. Janice explained that the 1st item which was to replace the boiler at town hall could be put off for a few years but that replacement should be planned for sometime in the near future. There was discussion about item 2 which was for Gracy House Demolition. Due to the fact that it is currently unoccupied it will cost a great deal more to insure. It was agreed to pursue demolition costs. The 3rd item was to continue repairing the water line to the Fire Station since the pipes are copper and greatly deteriorated and redo the access to the water lines in the interior of the building, since the water shut off were housed in the walls. The 4th item was to have the land survey for the extension to the cemetery. Vice-Chair Semanie said she would discuss with the property owner. The 5th item was the underground oil tank removal at the school. Executive Secretary asked to have someone to work on this with her to figure out the replacement fuel and tank since it was not her area of expertise. She did have the oil tank removal set up with C. Davenport Trucking, however, the help with the next part of the process fell through. Selectman Silva said he would contact the school committee to discuss further.
- Review FY24 Gen Govt Budget:
There was discussion about the Elementary School and concerns about the future and whether it will be sustainable in the future with so few new children and families moving to town. Following review of the age breakdown of the town it was acknowledged that the town is half comprised of citizens age 60 and older and the breakdown of younger people is diminishing. It was also noted that the school is not performing well and is low ranking in the state. It was something to discuss further and it was very concerning.

Future Meetings:

The next Board of Selectmen meeting would be on January 9, 2023 at 6:00 pm with the Finance Committee.

Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-0)

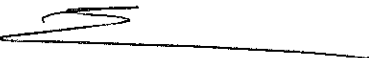
Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *MARCH 2, 2023*

Approved:

Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda February 2, 2023
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 5, 2023
3. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 12, 2023
4. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 19, 2023
5. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 26, 2023
6. Opioid Settlement: 'MA State-Subdivision Agreement for Statewide Opioid Settlements'
7. KP Law – Opioid Settlements: Allocation of Funds
8. FCSWMD Request for Rep & Alt. Rep to Classify as Special Municipal Employees
9. FY 24 Gen Gov Budget
10. Rowe Proposal – Gracy House
11. Executive Secretary Updates