



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

Board of Selectmen: Chair Charles Sokol, Vice-Chair Joanne Semanie, Selectman Silva
Present: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Audience: Treasurer Green, Brooke Shulda, Jay Williams, Jim Williams

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

Announcement of recording devices- One

Noteworthy Announcements: Selectman Silva recognized the efforts of the Fire Department for their great efforts at recent fires and especially at the Danek house which saved the dwelling.

Minutes:

Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 5, 2023:

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 5, 2023 as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva was accepted. (Vote: 2 -0-1 Vice-Chair Semanie abstained from the vote)

Board of Selectmen Minutes of February 2, 2023:

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to approve the Minutes of February 2, 2023 as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva was accepted. (Vote: 2 -0-1 Chair Sokol abstained from the vote)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:

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 Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

APPOINTMENT: 6:15 Cemetery Commission – Re: Expansion of North Cemetery

Jim Williams explained that lots were filled in North Cemetery and that there was a great deal of interest from people to have lots there. He said that he and Jay had cleared out trees and pulled out stumps and spoke about receiving compensation for the time improving the land. There was discussion about needing to agree to accepting

the land, have it surveyed and have Town Counsel prepare a deed. Mr. Williams was asked to prepare an estimate for their time improving the land. It was agreed that the Board would visit the cemetery with Mr. Williams and see the land and finalize a decision to accept it, once accepted a survey needed to be scheduled.

Jim Williams and Jay Williams left the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

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

There was no new information to report.

Tunnel Road Bridge Discussion:

Executive Secretary shared the meeting minutes concerning Tunnel Road and said that she had spoken to Superintendent Larned and confirmed that signs were in place that said travel at your own risk.

New Business:

Loan Repayment Decisions- Terry I. Green:

There was discussion about the loans for the Broadband, \$300,000.00 was outstanding on that loan and \$ 1.8 million loan needed for the road pavement process. There was discussion about whether to consolidate the 2 loans and terms were discussed. The use of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to apply as a payment for the road paving was considered. It was agreed to consolidate the loans for a shorter term and refinance after 9 months.

Appointment – Kerri McLatchy Registrar:

Town Clerk recommended that Kerri McLatchy be appointed to the Board of Registrars for a three year term as her term is ending at the end of the month.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol make a motion to appoint Kerri McLatchy to the Board of Registrars for a three-year term ending in 2026. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund for FY24:

Board of Assessors Chair Rick Williams asked that Selectmen take their vote for the Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund appropriation for FY24. The FY23 figure is last year's figure plus 2.5%: $\$217,242.00 \times 1.025 = \$222,673.00$

MOTION:

MOTION TO VOTE OVERRIDE AMOUNT: Chair Sokol made a motion to set the Capital Stabilization Override Amount at \$222,673.000 for FY24. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote 3-0-0)

Discussion About Outstanding Items From 2005 ATM:

Executive Secretary said that she was made aware of some items that should have been followed up on and had not been from the 2005 Annual Town Meeting Warrant. One item was a vote regarding a small piece of land owned by Leann and Sean Loomis, an agreement with the Ground Water Lease Agreement with the Rowe Community

Church and easements for the Rowe fire ponds. It was agreed to continue to follow through with the agreements when time allowed.

Warrants/Contracts:

Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Verizon Connection in Charlemont:

David Dvore sent in the Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Verizon Connection in Charlemont:

MOTION TO Sign: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Verizon Connection in Charlemont. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (Vote: 3-0-0)

Old Business:

Opioid Settlement Follow Up – KP Law

Executive Secretary followed up with KP Law regarding the acceptance of the funds from the Opioid Settlement and reviewed the materials with the Board.

Warrants/Contracts:

Review Warrants FY23 W18 & FY23 PW18:

Vice-Chair Semanie reported all was in order with the warrants.

Gill Engineering – Fee Proposal for Engineering Services:

There had been a fee proposal from earlier in the year that had been overlooked for services from Gill Engineering for the Ford Hill Culvert Road Project for the amount of \$4740.00.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Fee Proposal for Professional Engineering Services relate to additional permitting assistance for the Ford Hill Road Project. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

FRCOG Professional Services Agreement for Milling and Paving Outside County Bids – 8 roads:

A professional service agreement was presented to the Board for bidding work and necessary documents performed by Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) for the 8 roads to be paved in town. Superintendent Larned decided to go outside of the regular bid so it could be done this summer.

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the FRCOG Professional Services Agreement for Milling and Paving Outside County Bids – 8 roads. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

FRCOG Professional Services Agreement for Milling and Paving Outside County Bids – Town Parking Lot:

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the FRCOG Professional Services Agreement for Milling and Paving Outside County Bids – Town Parking Lot. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

Executive Secretary/Administrative Assistant Updates:

Date for Natalie Blais Visit:

Following discussion, members asked to meet with Rep. Natalie Blais on the 23rd of March.

Update Employee Hire Letters:

A hire Letter for Brooke Shulda was updated reflecting the increase in hours. An updated hire letter was made for Brandon Sprague for on call snow shoveling for Town Hall.

Payroll Training:

Selectman Silva asked about the payroll training and whether Admin Assistant was trained. Following discussion, it was agreed that Ms. Shulda perform the payroll from start to finish without assistance the next payroll cycle.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

A citizen raised the issue of the great increases in the school budget and the low scores of children that was very concerning. Following discussion, it was agreed to compile questions for the School Committee, Principal and Superintendent Franzoni and meet to discuss further.

Future Meetings:

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

Adjournment:

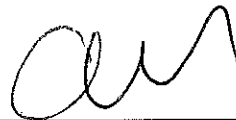
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:14 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

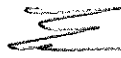
Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary

Approval Date: *MARCH 30, 2023*

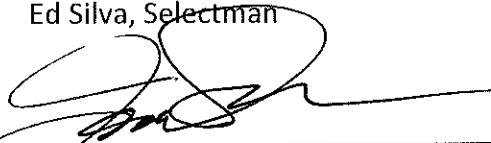
Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda March 2, 2023
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes of January 5, 2023
3. Board of Selectmen Minutes of February 2, 2023
4. ROWE MAP 403 for reference
5. Rowe BAN Renewal Estimates
6. Discontinuance of Maintenance Tunnel Road Reference & Signage (BOS Mtg Minutes)
7. KP Law – re: Cemetery Commission
8. Employee Hire Letter Update
9. Gill Engineering – Fee Proposal for Engineering Services
10. ATM Warrant 2005
11. FRCOG Professional Services Agreement for Milling and Paving Outside County Bids – 8 roads
12. FRCOG Professional Services Agreement for Milling and Paving Outside County Bids – Town Parking Lot
13. Backhaul Connection Appendix for a Verizon Connection in Charlemont (rev. 02-28-23)
14. KP Law – Opioid Settlements: Allocation of Funds email
15. Executive Secretary Updates