

Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
MINUTES
Monday, April 13, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chair Sokol, Vice-Chair Semanie,
ALSO PRESENT: Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau, Administrative Assistant Brooke Shulda
AUDIENCE: Finance Committee: Loretta Dionne, Marilyn Wilson, Dan Pallotta, Wayne Zavotka
Fire Chief Annear

Call to Order: Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:01PM

Announcement of recording devices: One

Noteworthy Announcements: None

JOINT MEETING WITH FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Assessors Overlay Surplus Account:

Assessors Chair Rick Williams discussed the Assessors' Overlay Account and that the Board released \$250,000.00 of the funds due to recent settlements of the abatement filings. Since it is a one-time sum of money the Finance Committee said it should be used for capital expenses rather than to reduce the tax rate. Following discussion, it was agreed to be used to reduce the debt for the road project of \$1,850,000.00.

Review and Discuss FY24 CIRPP Requests:

CIRPP Requests:

Capital Improvement, Repair, and Property Plan Requests were reviewed and requested.

Generator for the Safety Complex:

\$15,000.00 for the generator to add to \$15,000.00 in place for a new generator was reviewed. It was decided to use American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the purpose.

Fire Chief joined the meeting at 6:24 pm

Pagers for the New System 800 mhz:

The Fire Chief said that Franklin Regional Council of Governments received a grant for the pagers, so the funding was not required.

Tanker Remount on New Chassis:

The Tanker is a federal surplus vehicle which needs to be returned. It is a 1981 Mack Chassis and Rowe will retain the pumper parts. If we keep, it will have to be maintained. If we buy a new truck it will last another 25-30 years. The \$340,000.00 request includes the remounting and refitting of the current parts. Chief said it had been a good opportunity to try the style of truck for the last year and saw it worked well. Two people could operate the vacuumed tanker which is key in this town.

MOTION TO FUND THE \$340,000 FOR THE TANKER REMOUNT: Chair Sokol made a motion to fund the Tanker Remount on a New Chassis with funding from the Capital Stabilization Fund. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

New Roof at Safety Complex:

Chief Annear explained that the roof has needed replacement for some time and is leaking in places. Following discussion, it was agreed to fund the project with Free Cash for \$255,000.00.

Building Addition Request:

Chief Annear requested funding for a study to expand the for Police and determine space needs. Following discussion, it was agreed not to fund at this time.

Water Line at Safety Complex:

Executive Secretary had worked with Lynde Well Drilling to repair a section of the water line to the Safety Complex and repair the shut off valves in the building. The copper piping had developed holes and was leaking. This would expand and complete the project started last spring. It was decided to use ARPA funds to complete the project.

Taser:

Police Department asked for a Taser and it was decided to use Free Cash as a funding source for it.

Consultant/Legal Support:

The Board of Assessors asked for funding for Legal and Consulting support services to complete the work needed for abatement filings. It was agreed to use Free Cash for the funding.

Mini Excavator:

Park Manager was waiting to hear back whether it was acceptable for them to use grant funding to purchase the mini excavator if it was not made in the USA. Unless allowed, they would not be purchasing the machine.

Septic Systems Pumped:

Executive Secretary asked for funding to pump the septic systems of the town buildings and it was decided to fund from Free Cash.

Gracy House Demolition:

Executive Secretary said at the last meeting it was decided to put in a separate article to develop specifications and estimate for removal of the structure known as the Gracy House in order to let the voters decide. It was agreed to ask for \$10,000.00 to be funded from Free Cash for this purpose.

Special Town Meeting Articles:

Park Requests:

Park Commission asked for funds related to the tennis court asking first for funding to be transferred from a special project approved at last town meeting for the cleaning of the tennis courts which was not used and asked for this funding to be used to for relocating the fence to accommodate the new tennis court. There was discussion about funding a project from a prior project and the best practice for doing so.

The second article asked for a transfer of funds from the VTV and Accessories special project account to transfer \$2,000.00 to remove the second court.

The third article involved transferring unused funds from the VTV and Accessories special project account to transfer \$2,000.00 to reimburse Park Operations account for a snowmobile which was less costly than the grooming accessories for the UTV.

The fourth article asked for Capital Stabilization funds to expand the scope of the original Tennis Court rehabilitation project to include the second court, since all the funds and construction are in place, adding the second court would be cost effective. If added later, it would be a substantial amount.

The fifth article asked for the transfer of the DPW Summer Youth funds to the Park since the DPW "Summer Youth Grasshopper" program did not run. It had been agreed that the monies would be transferred.

Fire Department:

The last article was requested by the Fire Chief to cover payroll due to the extra emergency instances this year.

The Finance Committee approved the Articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

The Finance Committee left the meeting at 7:42pm.

BOS Continue Meeting:

Special Town Meeting Warrant:

Following review and discussion the Board supported Articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant except the Article for expanding the Tennis Court project to include the 2nd court for an additional \$45,000.00.

BOS Review FY24 Omnibus Budget presented by Finance Committee:

Free Cash Amount:

MOTION TO TRANSFER: Chair Sokol made a motion to put \$21,057 into Capital Stabilization Fund as the balance of the Free Cash after funding projects. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

- Bid Tabulation and MASS DOT approved list for Roads Bid – Tabled until Later Date

Article 22 to add Town Administrator position:

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the amendment to the General By-Laws Article III to add Town Administrator as one of the positions appointed by the Board of Selectmen – in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 41 c23A of the Massachusetts General Laws. The motion, The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

Article 23 to petition to allow Rowe Firefighter to work past age 65:

There was discussion about having Fire Chief Annear work past age 65 while working on a shared Fire Chief solution with the Town of Charlemont. Once approved, it will allow the Chief to work on emergency scenes in the role of directing and managing emergency personnel.

MOTION TO APPROVE ARTICLE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the article regarding allowing submitting legislation to allow the Fire Chief to work past the mandatory retirement age. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

Change Order:

The Park Commission presented a 'Change Order' for the Tennis Court rebuild project to extend the completion timeline due to changes in the project.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the 'Change Order with C. Davenport Trucking, Inc. for an extension to the completion date for the tennis court project as requested by the Park Commission. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)

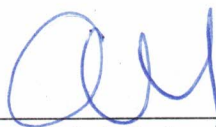
Adjournment:

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:23 p.m. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)


Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Boudreau, Executive Secretary
Approval Date:

Approved: *MM 4, 2023*



Chuck Sokol, Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

- CIRPP Requests FY24
- CIRPP Requests FY24 - Detail
- ATM DRAFT Warrant
- STM DRAFT Warrant
- FY24 Omnibus Budget Presented by Finance Committee