



Town of Rowe  
**Board of Selectmen** Minutes  
Thursday, July 20, 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, Selectmen Ed Silva  
**Present:** Town Administrator Janice Boudreau, Interim Town Administrator Brooke Shulda  
**Audience:** Treasurer/Collector Ben Gelb, Kathy Atwood, Bill Reardon, Hanna Poplawski

**Call to Order:** Chair Sokol called the meeting to order at 6:07 P.M.

Announcement of recording devices- One

Noteworthy Announcements: None

**APPOINTMENTS:**

**6:00 p.m.:** 6:07pm-6:21pm, Applicant F – Bill Reardon – Facilities Manager position

**6:15 p.m.:** 6:22pm-6:32pm, Hannah Poplawski – Woodlands Partnership Grant, Support Letter.

**MOTION TO SUPPORT GRANT: Chair Sokol made a motion to support the Woodlands Partnership Grant letter. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)**

Benjamin Gelb – Fire Department

**MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Treasurer/Collector Benjamin Gelb as a Town of Rowe Fire Fighter, assigning him to Grade C, Step 0. The motion seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)**

Gerard Furgeson – Facilities Maintenance Manager

**MOTION TO OFFER POSITION: Following discussion, Chair Sokol made a motion to offer Gerard Furgeson the position of Facilities Maintenance Manager, assigning him to Grade H, Step 5. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN BUSINESS:**

**Vacation Request:**

Assessors/Board of Health Clerk, Christine Bailey formally requested to utilize 20 hours of her vacation time one week after the vacation deadline, September 01, 2023. Mrs. Bailey was pre-approved by the Board of Assessors as well as the Board of Health.

**MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the vacation request presented. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)**

**Minutes:**

Board of Selectmen Minutes June 22, 2023

Board of Selectmen Minutes July 06, 2023

**MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 22, 2023, and July 06, 2023, as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (vote: 2-0-1 Selectman Silva abstained from the vote)**

**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)**

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

Nothing further to discuss at this time.

Tunnel Road Bridge Discussion: Small discussion regarding the Town's responsibility to the bridge – the Town has *NO* responsibility for maintaining this bridge as it is *NOT* owned by the Town.

\*It was decided to remove this topic from the meeting agenda\*

**Town Administrator Updates:**

1. **Admin Assistant Interviews** - One interview conducted Wednesday July 19, 2023, at 1:00pm. Two additional interviews are scheduled for Wednesday July 26, 2023, at 1:00pm. The recommendation will be made by the Town Hall Administration who will provide the necessary documentation to the Board of Selectmen at the Wednesday August 02, 2023, meeting at 6:00pm.
2. **Town Hall Copier** - briefed on printer replacement research.
3. **Custodian Resignation** – discussion regarding the possibility of offering the custodial position to one of the Facilities Maintenance applicants. It was decided not to go that route.
4. **Benjamin Gelb – HCGIT Representative**

**MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Sokol made a motion to appoint Treasurer/Collector Benjamin Gelb as Hampshire County Group Insurance Trust (HCGIT) Representative. The motion seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously accepted. (vote: 3-0-0)**

5. **Board of Health/Conservation Commission - Title IV Involvement:** Board of Health member Kathleen Atwood discussed with Selectmen the Con. Comms involvement with a Title IV that will be taking place on 169 Ford Hill Road. Due to an unpleasant history between Con. Comm. Chair, Ramon Sanchez and landowner of 169 Ford Hill Road, John Magnago, it was decided that Ramon will reclude himself from attending said Title IV. Another member of the Con. Comm. will be assigned to assist with the Title IV process.

6. **American Farmland Trust – Farmland of Local Importance:** The Town was approached by Sarah Gardner, via email, requesting to conduct a soil analysis survey of the “locally important soils” in Town. This will allow people owning land with locally important designation will have expanded eligibility for federally funded farmland preservation programs as well as the Mass APR program.

**MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to allow American Farmland Trust to conduct an in-town soil survey. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)**

7. **Old Post Cane Presentation** - Brief discussion on Selectmen’s involvement passing along of the Old Post Cane to the oldest town resident, Helen Shields. It was decided to attempt the passing of the cane at the next Council on Aging event, Third Thursday Coffee and Social scheduled on Thursday August 17, 2023, from 10:00am-1:00pm.
8. **Safety Complex Solar Panel Donation** – Greenfield Resident, Bill Ashley approached Town Administrator, Janice Boudreau last fall to see if the Town of Rowe would be interested in accepting a solar panel donation. It was decided the safety complex would benefit most. PV Squared is responsible for designing the installation of the panels. Mr. Ashley’s cap: \$35,000.00 providing 9.72kw.

**Warrants/Contracts:**

**Review Warrants FY24 W01 & FY24 PW01:**

Vice-Chair Semanie reviewed the Warrants and found everything in order.

Gill Engineering –

**MOTION TO SIGN FEE PROPOSAL: Chair Sokol made a motion to sign the Gill Engineering Fee Proposal on behalf of the Ford Hill Road Bridge revision; Revise Drawing, Prepare Change Order, Coordinate with MassDOT and other Agencies. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was approved unanimously. (vote: 3-0-0)**

**Future Meetings:**

The next Board of Selectmen’s Meeting will take place on Wednesday August 02, 2023, at 6:00p.m.

**Adjournment:**

**MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 P.M. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie, was accepted. (Vote: 3-0-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Shulda, Interim Town Administrator

Approval Date: **Thursday August 17, 2023**

Approved:

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Chuck Sokol, Chair



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Ed Silva, Selectman



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Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

**Documents:**

1. Agenda for July 20, 2023
2. Facilities Manager Employment Application
3. Employee vacation extension request
4. Town Administrator Office Updates