



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Thursday, December 21, 2023 – 6:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

Board of Selectmen: Vice-Chair Semanie, Selectmen Silva
Absent: Chair Sokol
Town Officials: Town Administrator -Brooke Shulda
Audience: Marilyn Wilson
Zoom Participation: 6:07pm BOH Chair, Herb Butzke

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

Announcement of recording devices: NONE

Noteworthy Announcements: NONE

New Business:

Town Official Appointment(s):

Cultural Council – Alana Calhoun

MOTION TO APPOINT: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to appoint Alana Calhoun as a member of the Cultural Council for a three-year term, effective December 21, 2023, term ending June 30, 2026. The motion, Seconded Selectmen Silva was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Board of Health – Chair, Herb Butzke

-Town Nurse, Wage and Salary: Briefly discussed the Town Nurse’s salary. The Selectboard has agreed to extend the wage and salary sheet to accommodate the Town Nurse wages remain on the wage and salary chart.

-Zoar Road, Tiny House: Briefly discussed the previous steps that were taken in reporting this matter to FRCOG. Ensured the Selectboard action has been taken.

-Brittingham Hill, multiple unregistered vehicles: TA was instructed to further investigate who is responsible for enforcing the “unregistered vehicle” bylaw.

Road/Bridge Projects -

Yankee Road: No discussion.

Cyrus Stage Bridge: No discussion.

Ford Hill Bridge: TA informed Selectmen of the available Chapter 90 funds that will be Requested for the overages in completing this project.

Tunnel Road Bridge: No new information.

Old Business:

1. Police Chief Succession Plan – Finance Committee member, Marilyn Wilson, shared her research on Home Rule on behalf of the Town and its Police Department. Home Rule: “generally signifies the shift of governing power from the state to county or municipal governments to implement principles of the local self-government.” Ms. Wilson also shared a drafted letter addressed to Town Council requesting their guidance and expertise on this specific topic. Concern was expressed on the timeline it may take to establish such rule within Rowe, but Ms. Wilson has the confidence Town Council will help guide the Town through this process.
2. Fire Chief Succession Plan: TABLED
3. DPW Highway Superintendent – request at January 04, 2024, meeting.

2024 ATM/STM Articles:

1. Police Chief – Home Rule – TABLED
2. Town Clerk – Appointed vs. Elected – TABLED
3. Town Administrator – Add job description to Gen. Bylaws – TABLED
4. General Bylaw Revisions: Article III, Section I – TABLED

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Vice-Chair Semanie reviewed, FY2024 Vendor & Payroll Warrants #13.
2. Recycled Product Purchasing Policy

MOTION TO SIGN CONTRACT: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to sign the Recycled Product Purchasing Policy on behalf of the MASSDEP for the Town to apply for grant funding. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Silva was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Minutes:

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes – December 07, 2023

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to approve the December 07, 2023, minutes as written. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Silva was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

2. Board of Selectmen Minutes – December 14, 2023

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to approve the December 14, 2023, minutes as written. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Silva was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Future Meetings:

Thursday, January 04, 2024, at 6:00pm
Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 6:00pm
Thursday, January 25, 2024, at 6:00pm – Joint Meeting BOS/Finance
Thursday, February 01, 2024, at 6:00pm – Joint Meeting BOS/Finance

Adjournment: 6:57pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:57pm. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Silva was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Shulda, Town Administrator

Approval Date:

Approved:

Chuck Sokol, Chair

Ed Silva, Selectman

Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda for December 21, 2023
2. Board of Selectmen Minutes – December 07, 2023
3. Board of Selectmen Minutes – December 14, 2023
4. Recycled Product Purchasing Policy
- 5.