

Town of Rowe
Joint Meeting
Finance Committee & Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Thursday, January 25, 2024 – 6:00 pm
Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

Board of Selectmen: Chair Sokol, Vice-Chair Semanie, Selectmen Silva
Finance Committee: Chair Pallotta, Vice-Chair Wilson, Loretta Dione, Susan Gleason, Wayne Zavotka (via zoom)
Town Officials: DPW Superintendent - Lance Larned, Library Director - Molly Lane, Town Clerk - Kevin Balawick, Town Administrator - Brooke Shulda
Zoom Participation: Rosie Gordon

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

Announcement of recording devices: NONE

Noteworthy Announcements: NONE

6:00pm Budget Hearings

Highway Department Hearing Discussion –

1. Electricity – added \$1,800.00
2. Roadside Mowing – Request for Proposal (RFP) at Town Meeting
3. Fin Com/BOS are requesting more details and breakdown within each requested line for the following FY budget requests

Library –

1. Briefly discussed CWMARS membership and qualifications
2. ADA Study vs. Feasibility Study – Feasibility Study recommended to identify all building issues
-Feasibility Study – estimated \$50,000.00
3. Will inform Fin Comm if current FY billing goes beyond budget

Town Clerk –

1. Briefed on the year-to-year elections that will impact the amount that needs to be requested
2. Briefly discussed Town Clerk trainings and costs
- Town Clerk will re-submit a budget that reflects the upcoming elections for FY2025

Council on Aging –

1. Requested additional \$4,200.00 to cover 14 foot clinics for FY2025 – Total amount requested \$8,000.00

Board of Selectmen Business:

New Business:

1. Reserve Fund Transfer Request – Presented to the Selectboard by TA for approval to request. TA requested an amount of \$5,000.00 for the Facilities Maintenance Manager position that was approved for FY2024 but does not have an operating budget for FY2024. The Selectboard, in agreement, approved that the request be submitted to the Finance Committee.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve the Reserve Fund Transfer Request presented by the Town Administrator as written. Seconded, by Vice-Chair Semanie the motion was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

2. Yankee Road Engineering Costs – TA provided the Selectboard with the expended to date engineering costs.
3. Eco-Nuclear Solutions Email – The Selectboard made it very clear that the Town is not interested in Eco-Nuclear Solutions. TA was requested to inform sender.
4. Zoning Board of Appeals – Henrey Dandeneau requested TA inform Selectboard of the vacancy on the ZBA.

Old Business:

1. Fire Chief Succession Plan: Vice-Chair Semanie briefly went over topics of discussion had between Charlemont and Rowe Officials from the January 17th meeting with Chair Sokol. Vice-Chair and TA will meet with Charlemont again on February 08, 2024, at 9:00am for further discussion.
2. 2022 Audit – awaiting response from Scanlon & Associates
3. Town Line Sign – awaiting sign measurements from DPW Superintendent
4. Safety Complex – Exterior Paint – Administrative Assistant has been in communication with Franklin County Sheriff’s Office

2024 ATM/STM Articles:

1. Police Chief – Police Chief vs. Police Commissioner – **Informed Chair Sokol of previous meeting inquires**
2. Town Clerk – Appointed vs. Elected – **TABLED**
3. Town Administrator – Add job description to Gen. Bylaws – **TABLED**
4. Gracy House Funding – Stabilization of Structure - **TABLED**
5. Fire/EMS District – **DISCUSSED ABOVE**
6. North Cemetery Donation Compensation – **DISCUSSED ABOVE**
7. Highway Department – RFP – Roadside Mowing
8. Library - Feasibility Study

Road/Bridge Projects:

Yankee Road: Selectmen Silva informed Chair Sokol.

Cyrus Stage Bridge: No discussion.

Ford Hill Bridge: No discussion.

Tunnel Road Bridge: No discussion.

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Presidential Primary Warrant

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Sokol made a motion to approve and sign the March 5th, 2024, Presidential Primary Warrant as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

Unforeseen Business:

None

Minutes:

1. Board of Selectmen Minutes – January 18, 2024

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES: Vice-Chair Semanie made a motion to approve the January 18, 2024, minutes as written. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Silva was approved. (vote: 2-0-1)

Citizen Comments:

Future Meetings:

Thursday, February 01, 2024, at 6:00pm – Joint Meeting BOS/Finance
Thursday, February 08, 2024, at 6:00pm – Joint Meeting BOS/Finance
Thursday, February 15, 2024, at 6:00pm – Joint Meeting BOS/Finance
Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 6:00pm – Joint Meeting BOS/Finance

Adjournment: 8:03pm

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Sokol made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:03pm. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Semanie was approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke Shulda, Town Administrator

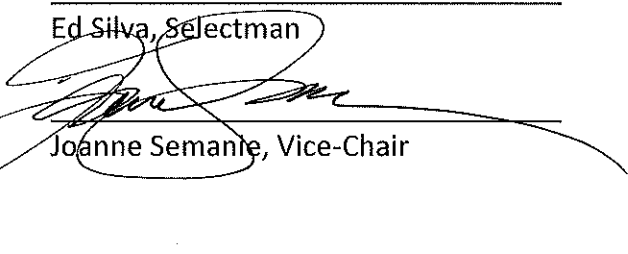
Approval Date:

Approved:



Chuck Sokol, Chair

Ed Silva, Selectman



Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Documents:

1. Agenda for January 25, 2024
2. Reserve Fund Transfer Request
3. Yankee Road Engineering Costs
4. Eco-Nuclear Solutions Email
5. Police Commissioner Job Description
6. Zoning Board of Appeals – Vacancy
7. Presidential Primary Election Warrant
8. Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes from January 18, 2024