



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
Minutes

Thursday, August 14, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Chair	Joanne Semanie	x	
V-Chair	Marilyn Wilson	x	
Selectmen	William Baker	x	

IN-PERSON AUDIENCE: None.

ZOOM PARTICIPATION: None.

TOWN OFFICIALS: Town Administrator Brooke Shulda

Call to Order: Chair Semanie called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Announcement of recording devices: None.

Noteworthy Announcements: None.

APPOINTMENTS

6:00 PM - Highway Department Job Interview –

Joel Pazsko participated in the interview process for the vacant position of heavy equipment operator and laborer within the highway department. Currently employed with the highway department for the Town of Colrain, Joel brings a wealth of relevant experience to the table. He has accumulated six years of hands-on experience working in highway maintenance and operations, demonstrating his familiarity with the responsibilities and skills required for this role. If selected for the position, Joel would be available to commence work with the Town of Rowe within a two-week notice period, ensuring a smooth transition and immediate contribution to the team.

6:20 PM – Highway Department Job Interview

The applicant did not appear for the scheduled interview.

6:40 PM – Highway Department Job Interview

Douglas Upton was interviewed for a heavy equipment operator and laborer job in the highway department. He doesn't have the necessary licenses. The Selectboard suggested he start getting the licenses now, so he's ready if another job opening comes up.

New Business:

1. National Grid – 1019W1 Project – Abutter Request

National Grid has proposed a comprehensive infrastructure project aimed at installing two new electrical feeders originating from the Bear Swamp Substation. This upgrade is designed to significantly enhance the electrical reliability and stability for the town by providing additional power capacity and redundancy. The project also includes upgrading and installing utility poles on Tunnel and upgrading utility poles along Hazelton Road. The poles are projected to be approximately 4 feet taller than the existing poles.

An abutting property owner is requesting that the Selectboard consider discussing with National Grid the possibility of relocating the proposed project lines underground along the town road along the Tunnel Road portion, rather than cutting a large number of trees to install the new

utility poles. The Selectboard disagreed with the idea of placing the utility lines underground and wishes to proceed with the project as proposed by National Grid.

2. Police Department – 4Runner Update

The Town Administrator informed the Selectboard that the Police Department's Toyota 4Runner is no longer safe to operate. She asked if the Selectboard would like to put the vehicle out for bid, starting with posting in the Rowe Goal Post. The Selectboard approved moving forward.

3. Vacation Request

Chair Semanie signed Treasurer/Collector Ben Gelb's vacation request for the week of August 25, 2025 – August 29, 2025.

Old Business:

1. Fire Chief Succession Plan/Fire District – no update.
2. Personnel Policy Manual – no update.

Ongoing Projects:

Yankee Road: no update.

Tunnel Road Bridge: no update.

Sam Rice Brook Bridge: not update.

Hazelton Road Culvert: no update.

Cyrus Stage Bridge: no update.

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Chair Semanie Reviewed - FY26 Vendor, Payroll and NBSU Warrants #3

Minutes:

1. July 31, 2025 – Meeting Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN MEETING MINUTES: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the July 31, 2025, meeting minutes as written. The motion, seconded by, Vice-Chair Wilson, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

Future Meetings:

1. Thursday, August 28, 2025 – 6:00 PM
2. Thursday, September 11, 2025 – 6:00 PM
3. Thursday, September 25, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Mail: None.

Unforeseen Business: None.

Citizen Comments: None.

Adjournment: 7:04 PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Semanie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 PM. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

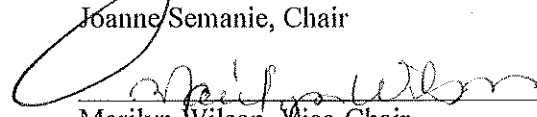
Brooke E. Shulda, Town Administrator

Approval Date: _____

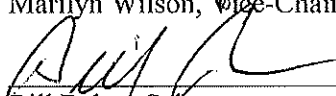
Approved by:



Joanne Semanie, Chair



Marilyn Wilson, Vice-Chair



Bill Baker, Selectmen

Documents:

1. Agenda for August 14, 2025
2. PD – 4Runner Update
3. Vacation Request
4. July 31, 2025 – Meeting Minutes