



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
Minutes – REVISED

Wednesday, January 21, 2026 – 6:00 p.m.

Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1 & Via Remote Participation

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Joanne Semanie, Bill Baker

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Dan Pallotta, Jeff Bailey, Loretta Dionne, Wayne Zavotka

TOWN OFFICIALS: Park Commission Eric Olson, Park Manager Briel Gibson, Planning Board Chair Matt Stine, Board of Assessors Chair Rick Williams, Board of Health Kathy Atwood, Board of Health Chair Herb Butzke, Town Administrator Brooke Shulda

IN-PERSON AUDIENCE: None

ZOOM PARTICIPATION: None

Call to Order: 6:02 pm.

Announcement of recording devices: None

Noteworthy Announcements: None

Selectboard Meeting Minutes for the Joint Selectboard/Finance Committee Meeting

Budget Hearings:

1. Cemetery Commission

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee reviewed the FY2027 Cemetery Commission budget submission. The Cemetery Commission requested that its budget be level-funded.

FY26 VOTED: \$18,500

FY27 REQUESTED: \$18,500

2. Conservation Commission

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee reviewed the FY2027 Conservation Commission budget submission. The Conservation Commission has requested an increase in its budget of \$790. The overall budget requested increased by 42.02%.

FY26 VOTED: \$1,800

FY27 REQUESTED: \$2,670

Increases include:

Conferences/Professional Development

MACC Conference (3/year for 3 members) – FY26: \$720 / FY27: \$1080

Travel Expense – FY26: \$200 / FY27: \$300

Supplies & Misc. Expenses

Printer Supplies – FY26: \$100 / FY27: \$200

Legal Ad Postings: FY26: \$120 / FY27: \$200

Certified Mailing: FY26: \$50 / FY27: \$100
Other Costs: FY26: \$500 / FY27: \$600

3. Planning Board

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee reviewed the FY2027 Planning Board budget submission. The Planning Board has submitted to level fund its budget.

FY26 VOTED: \$6,850
FY27 REQUESTED: \$6,850

4. Park Commission

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee reviewed the FY2027 Park Commission budget submission. The Park Commission requested a \$35 increase to the operations budget line and the expected increase to the Park Manager's salary. The Commission has also increased the wage line for the lifeguard. The overall budget requested increased by 0.87%.

FY26 VOTED: \$156,852
FY27 REQUESTED: \$158,209

5. Board of Assessors

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee reviewed the FY2027 Assessors budget submission. The Board of Assessors has submitted to level fund the operations and reval budget lines and increase the Assessors Clerk wages, which is expected annually. The overall budget requested increased by 0.29%.

FY26 VOTED: \$60,785
FY27 REQUESTED: \$60,962

Assessors Chair Rick Williams briefly discussed that FY2027 is an interim update year and that the next reval is in FY2028.

6. Board of Health

The Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee reviewed the FY2027 Board of Health budget submission. The Board of Health has assessment increases to the refuse garden operations (hauling fees), mosquito control district, and FRCOG health services. The Board of Health Clerk, Town Nurse, and Refuse Garden attendant have an annual expected increase to their wages. The overall budget requested increased by 2.08%.

FY26 VOTED: \$177,866
FY27 REQUESTED: \$181,558

Unforeseen Business:

1. Fire Chief Recruitment Discussion

The Board of Selectmen discussed options for funding a professional services agreement for fire chief recruitment, as the current fire chief will retire in May. The proposed recruitment cost is \$7,000 through Municipal Resources, Inc. Chair Pallotta suggested that the Selectmen request a Reserve Fund Transfer. Chair Semanie requested the Town Admin to prepare the request for the following joint meeting on 1/29/2026.

REVISION: The 1/21/2026 meeting minutes that were originally approved did not reflect the vote taken to approve the Fire Chief Recruitment Services proposal from Municipal Resources, Inc.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Semanie motioned to approve the Fire Chief Recruitment Proposal from Municipal Resources, Inc., as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Future Meetings:

1. Thursday, January 29, 2026 – 6:00 PM – Budget Hearing
2. Thursday, February 05, 2026 – 6:00 PM – Budget Hearing
3. Thursday, February 12, 2026 – 6:00 PM – Budget Hearing
4. Thursday, February 26, 2026 – 6:00 PM – Budget Hearing
5. Thursday, April 16, 2026 – 6:00 PM – Vote FY27 Final Budget

Adjournment: 6:38 PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Semanie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 PM. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke E. Shulda, Town Administrator

Approval Date: 2/12/2026

REVISED Date: 2/25/2026

Approved by:



Joanne Semanie, Chair



VACANT, Vice-Chair



Bill Baker, Selectman

Documents:

1. Agenda for January 21, 2026
2. Department Budgets