

Town of Rowe

Board of Selectmen

Minutes

Friday, May 22, 2026 – 8:00 AM

Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Joanne Semanie, Ed Silva, Bill Baker

SCHOOL COMMITTEE: Susie Zavotka, Matt Stine

TOWN OFFICIALS: Assessors Chair Rick Williams, Open Space and Recreation Committee member Teresa Aguinaldo

IN-PERSON AUDIENCE: None

Call to Order: Chair Semanie called the meeting to order at 8:00 AM

Announcement of recording devices: No recording devices.

8:00 AM

School Committee Vacancy Appointment

The Board of Selectmen met jointly with the School Committee to fill the School Committee vacancy. School Committee members Susie Zavotka and Matt Stine recommended appointing Patrick Gonder to fill the vacant position. The Selectboard agreed to this recommendation.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Semanie moved to appoint Patrick Gonder to the vacant spot for the unfulfilled term on the School Committee, as recommended by the two remaining School Committee members. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

School Committee member Susie Zavotka departed the meeting after the School Committee adjourned their meeting at 8:01 AM.

Board of Selectmen Business:

Appointments:

8:15 AM – Planning Board Chair – Clean Energy Project Siting and Permitting

Planning Board Chair Matt Stine stayed in the meeting to update the Selectboard on the new state regulations regarding the Clean Energy Project Siting and Permitting. He thinks some parts of these regulations might be outside the Planning Board's authority and that the Town may not be able to handle local reviews of potential projects. He also emphasized that it's important for the Town to plan how it will manage interactions and applications if a developer contacts them.

Stine mentioned that the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) is holding an information session on Tuesday, May 26th, and suggested it would be helpful for at least one Selectboard member to attend.

8:30 AM – Open Space and Recreation Committee – Committee Member Teresa Aguinaldo

1. Land Donation

Open Space and Recreation Committee (OSRC) member Teresa Aguinaldo attended the meeting to inform the Selectboard that the Lendth family has approached the committee expressing their intention to donate 122 acres of property located on Tunnel Road to the Town. If accepted, this property would be designated for conservation and recreational use. Teresa explained that the Lendth's are planning to survey the property and assured the

board that the Committee would provide updates as they become available. The Selectboard expressed that they were fully on board with this donation.

2. Tunnel Road Land Acquisition Update

Teresa also provided a brief update on the Tunnel Road Land Acquisition on behalf of the OSRC. She explained that the survey has been delayed, the committee is working to fulfill the grant requirements and is in good shape, and that the deed's status is still in progress but should be available shortly.

Committee member Aaron Poulin joined the meeting to inform the board that the closing date was updated to June 15th and to request to use the Town Seal on the Tunnel Road signage required by the Land Grant for the property. Chair Semanie gave the committee the okay to utilize the Town Seal for the required signage.

Chair Semanie expressed that the deed must be reviewed prior to the board signing the approval of acceptance of deed.

New Business:

1. Board of Health – *To consider and approve the exemption request from Christine Bailey pursuant to the Conflict of Interest Law, G.L. c.268A, §20(d), relative to Ms. Bailey's financial interest as a member of the Board of Health while continuing to serve as the Board of Health Clerk. - TABLED*
2. Tunnel Road Land Acquisition – Approval of Acceptance of Deed - **TABLED**
3. Library Addition/Renovation Project – Bids

MOTION TO AWARD BID: Chair Semanie motioned to award the Library Addition and Renovation Project bid to Diversified Construction Services LLC, as submitted. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

4. Review Draft Exit Interview Policy and Procedure/Exit Interview Survey Questionnaire

The board reviewed the draft exit interview policy and procedure and exit interview survey questionnaire. They requested minor changes be made prior to the approval of the policy.

5. Job Descriptions: - **TABLED**
 - Heavy Equipment Operator/Laborer
 - Seasonal Spare Plow Truck Driver
6. Vacation Requests

Chair Semanie signed the vacation requests submitted.

7. Park Commission – Pontoon Board/Trailer Bid Advertisement – **TABLED**

Old Business:

1. Fire Chief Succession Plan – update available. – no discussion.
2. Town Clerk Succession Plan – The board requested to schedule interviews for the June 4th meeting and requested that the current Town Clerk attend the interviews if available.
3. Personnel Policy Manual – no update.

Ongoing Projects:

Roads/Bridges:

Yankee Road: no update.
Zoar Rd. Bridge over Sam Rice Brook: no update.
Hazelton Road Culvert: TA update.
Steel Brook Road Bridge: no update.
Cyrus Stage Road Bridge: no update.
Tunnel Road Bridge: no update.

Other Projects:

Oil Tank Removal: no update.
National Grid – 10W19: no update.

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Review and Sign Warrants - FY26 AP, Payroll, Deduction & NBSU Warrants #23, and AP Warrant #22A.
2. Park Commission – MVP Grant, Admin Amendment/Budget Revision

MOTION TO ACCEPT AND SIGN: Selectman Baker moved to accept and sign the revised MVP Grant, as provided by the Park Manager. The motion, seconded by Chair Semanie, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

3. Zoar Road Bridge over Sam Rice Brook - MassDOT – FAIR Funding Contract

MOTION TO ACCECPT AND SIGN: Chair Semanie moved to accept and sign the MassDOT FAIR Funding Contract for the Zoar Road Bridge over Sam Rice Brook project as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

Mail:

1. National Grid – 1019W1 Project – Notification to Abutters

Minutes:

1. April 16, 2026 - Meeting Minutes - **TABLED**
2. May 11, 2026 – Meeting Minutes - **TABLED**

Future Meetings:

1. Thursday, June 4, 2026 – 6:00 PM
2. Thursday, June 18, 2026 – 6:00 PM
3. Thursday, July 02, 2026 – 6:00 PM – Reschedule?
4. Thursday, July 16, 2026 – 6:00 PM
5. Thursday, July 30, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Unforeseen Business (within preceding 48 hours): None.

Adjournment: 9:30 AM

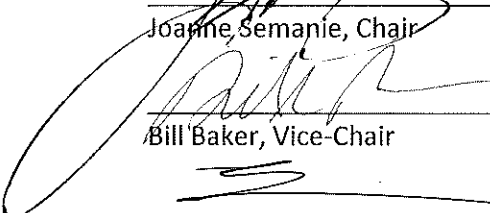
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Semanie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 AM. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

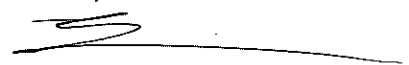
Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke E. Shulda, Town Administrator

Approval Date: 8/13/2026

Approved by:



Joanne Semanie, Chair

Bill Baker, Vice-Chair

Ed Silva, Selectman

Documents:

1. Agenda for May 07, 2026
2. Election Warrant
3. FY27 MLP Budget
4. Fire Chief Email RE: Fire Department Bay Door Repair
5. Vacation Requests
6. MAIL: Green Mountain Power
7. February 25, 2026 -- REVISED Meeting Minutes
8. March 12, 2026 -- Meeting Minutes -- Select Board