



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
Minutes

Thursday, July 16, 2026 – 6:00 PM
Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

BOARD OF SELECTMEN: Joanne Semanie, Ed Silva, - Via Telephone Participation – Bill Baker

TOWN OFFICIALS: Finance Committee Chair Dan Pallotta (joined at 6:31 PM), Police Chief Christopher Hyytinen (joined at 6:40 PM), Town Administrator Brooke Shulda

AUDIENCE: None.

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

Announcement of recording devices: No recording devices.

New Business:

1. NBSU Shared Services – Intermunicipal Agreement – Town of Clarksburg

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Semanie motioned to approve the Northern Berkshire School Union shared services intermunicipal agreement between the Town of Rowe and Town of Clarksburg, as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (roll call vote: Joanne Semanie – yes, Ed Silva – yes, Bill Baker – yes (3-0-0))

MOTION TO AUTHORIZE: Chair Semanie motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Northern Berkshire School Union shared services intermunicipal agreement between the Town of Rowe and the Town of Clarksburg. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (roll call vote: Joanne Semanie – yes, Ed Silva – yes, Bill Baker – yes (vote: 3-0-0))

2. NBSU Shared Expenses – Draft Intermunicipal Agreement – Town of Rowe

The Selectboard reviewed the draft shared expenses intermunicipal agreement between the Town of Rowe and the participating towns in the Northern Berkshire School Union and requested that the Town Administrator include language specifying that payments are due within a 30-day period upon receipt of invoice. The intermunicipal agreement will be voted on and approved at the following meeting on 7/30.

3. Shared Fire Chief Services – Intermunicipal Agreement

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the shared Fire Chief Services intermunicipal agreement between the Town of Rowe and Town of Charlemont, as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (roll call vote: Joanne Semanie – yes, Ed Silva – yes, Bill Baker – yes (3-0-0))

4. Pole Petition – National Grid – Hearing Date Request

The pole petition was submitted by National Grid to install 1 solely owned 35ft class 4 stub pole on Tatro Road for the purpose of supporting P77 with removal of one tree guy wire. The board agreed to hold the pole hearing on Thursday, September 10th, at 6:00 PM.

5. Open Space and Recreation Committee – Appointment

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Semanie motioned to appoint Jocelyn Brown-Hall to the Open Space and Recreation Committee, as recommended in the recommendation letter submitted by the Open Space and Recreation

Committee. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (roll call vote: Joanne Semanie – yes, Ed Silva – yes, Bill Baker – yes (3-0-0))

There was a discussion regarding an influx of non-voting residents serving as board/committee/commission members. The board expressed concern about whether non-voting residents are legally permitted to serve on such boards/committees/commissions, and whether the town has a bylaw governing participation or limiting the number of non-voting residents allowed to participate on such boards/committees/commissions. The board requested that the Town Administrator consult with the Town Clerk, review the current bylaws, and request information on how other Massachusetts Towns/Cities handle these situations and whether they have bylaws in this regard. They requested that this topic be included on the meeting agendas moving forward under “Old Business” until resolved.

Old Business:

1. Fire Chief Succession Plan: refer to “New Business” #3.
2. Shared EMS Services: The Town Administrator provided the documents that were provided by FRCOG related to the proposed Shared EMS services. She explained that the goal was to start with the most practical short-term solution, which includes 1 ALS ambulance and 1 BLS ambulance: 1 truck on 24/7/365 and BLS truck on 8 hours a day for four of the busiest times of day, working toward the long-term best solution, which would include 3 ALS ambulances with 2 trucks on 24/7/365 with 2 people staffing each truck. The 7 assessments were narrowed down to two; one option included demand (calls for service percent), residents (population percent), and ability to pay (EQV), assessing each participating town's EQV at 33%, which resulted in Rowe's annual participating costs at \$254,053, a higher amount than all the other participating towns. The other option includes demand and residents, bringing the cost significantly down to a much more reasonable amount of \$56,535.
3. Shared Police Services: Chair Semanie briefed on the shared Police Services meeting that was held earlier in the day and explained that Rowe is not in a position to need such shared services at this time.
4. Personnel Policy Manual: in progress, no update. No discussion.
5. Public Shade Tree Policy: in progress, no update. No discussion.

Comments:

Police Chief Chris Hyytinen attended the meeting to address concerns regarding obstructions along the town's right-of-way (ROW) near 61 Zoar Road. He emphasized that the logs placed along the roadside pose safety hazards and should be removed to eliminate the risk near the roadway. The town ROW is not clearly indicated on the town's ROW map. The board requested the Town Administrator to look further into this.

Ongoing Projects:

Roads/Bridges: No discussion was held regarding town roads or bridges.

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

Other Projects:

Oil Tank Removal: The Town Administrator explained that the 10,000-gallon underground oil tank was successfully removed, the new 1,000-gallon oil tank was successfully installed, and that the soil samples were tested and sent to a lab for further testing by the LSP service contractor. Greensite Services will be doing a site visit with the engineer and will be completing their punch list items within the coming weeks. The project is nearing completion.

National Grid – 10W19: no update.

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Review and Sign Warrants - FY26 AP, Payroll, Deduction & NBSU Warrants #1, AP #1A, Payroll #1, and FY26 AP Warrant #26A. Chair Semanie reviewed and signed the warrants.
2. Hazelton Road – Small Bridge Grant Contract

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN CONTRACT: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the Small Bridge Contract in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the replacement of Hazelton Road Culvert between the Town of Rowe and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (roll call vote: Joanne Semanie – yes, Ed Silva – yes, Bill Baker – yes (3-0-0))

3. MassDOT – Police Detail Service Contract Amendment

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN CONTRACT: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the Police Detail Services Contract between the Town of Rowe and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation, as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (roll call vote: Joanne Semanie – yes, Ed Silva – yes, Bill Baker – yes (3-0-0))

Mail:

None.

Minutes:

1. 6/30/2026 Meeting Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN MINUTES: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the meeting minutes for June 30, 2026, as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (roll call vote: Joanne Semanie – yes, Ed Silva – yes, Bill Baker – yes (3-0-0))

Future Meetings:

1. Thursday, July 30, 2026 – 6:00 PM
2. Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 6:00 PM
3. Thursday, August 27, 2026 – 6:00 PM

Unforeseen Business (within the preceding 48 hours): None.

Adjournment: 7:49 PM

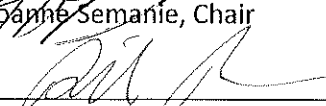
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Semanie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 PM. The motion, seconded by Selectman Silva, was unanimously approved. (roll call vote: Joanne Semanie – yes, Ed Silva – yes, Bill Baker – yes (3-0-0))

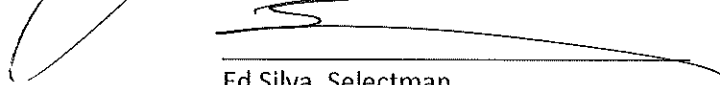
Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke E. Shulda, Town Administrator

Approval Date: 8/13/2026

Approved by:



Joanne Semanfe, Chair

Bill Baker, Vice-Chair

Ed Silva, Selectman

Documents:

1. Agenda for July 16, 2026
2. NBSU Share Service – Intermunicipal Agreement – Town of Clarksburg
3. NBSU Shared Expenses – Draft Intermunicipal Agreement – Town of Rowe
4. Share Fire Chief Services – Draft Intermunicipal Agreement
5. Pole Petition
6. OSRC Appointment Nomination Letter
7. Shared EMS Services Documents
8. Hazelton Road – Small Bridge Contract
9. MassDOT – Police Detail Contract
10. Meeting Minutes – 6/30/2026