



Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
Minutes

Tuesday, June 30, 2026 – 6:00 PM
Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

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

TOWN OFFICIALS: Tree Warden Connie Englert, Town Clerk Kevin Balawick, Town Administrator Brooke Shulda

IN-PERSON AUDIENCE: Matt Stine, John Hilier

NATIONAL GRID: Ed Stewart – In person, Robert Ide – Via Zoom, Peter Coleran – Via Zoom

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

Announcement of recording devices: No recording devices.

6:00 PM

National Grid 1019W1 Project

1. Pole Hearing Continued/Determination

- Hazelton Road – 7 Soley Owned Poles
- Hazelton Road – 5 Jointly Owned Poles
- Petrie Road – 1 Jointly Owned Pole
- South Tunnel Road – Jointly Owned Poles

MOTION TO ACCEPT: Chair Semanie moved to accept the pole petitions for the 7 solely owned poles located on Hazelton Rd, the 5 jointly owned poles located on Hazelton Rd, the 1 jointly owned pole located on Petrie Rd, and the installation of 21 jointly owned poles along Tunnel Rd, for National Grid's 1019W1 project as presented. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

At this time, Town Clerk Kevin Balawick, certified, sealed, and recorded the pole petitions.

2. Tree Discussion/Determination following the 6/25/2026 Tree Hearing

Tree Warden Connie Englert provided a "Tree Removal Application Briefing" to the Selectboard. Ms. Englert briefly explained the scope of the proposed tree removal for the 1019W1 project, reviewed the objections received regarding the tree hearing held on 6/30/2026, and went over the lists of notable/exceptional trees and additional requested takings.

Property owner and project abutter, John Hilier, joined the meeting to express his concerns regarding the proposed tree removal list along his property on Tunnel Road, to state that he does not want any work conducted on his property, and to voice his objection to the entirety of the 1019W1 project. Mr. Hilier believes that several trees marked for removal along the side of Tunnel Road by his property are located on his property, not within the Town right-of-way (ROW). Mr. Hilier requested that the Selectboard grant additional time (for the proposed tree removal list along his property on Tunnel Rd) for him to review the survey conducted by a company hired by National Grid.

National Grid's Lead Community Manager, Bob Ide, informed Mr. Hilier that he and other National Grid members involved with the project would be in contact with him regarding his concerns and to touch base to see if he agrees or disagrees with the survey provided.

Resident/property owner and project abutter, Matt Stine, joined the meeting to inform the board that his concerns related to the 1019W1 project were discussed with National Grid and that he is satisfied with the resolution.

Mr. Ide stated that he will provide the board with a timeline for when work on the project will begin.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Semanie moved to approve the tree removal applications submitted by National Grid for the 10191 project, conditional upon the property rights determination along Tunnel Rd being disputed and the applicant making a good-faith effort to save the list of notable trees and to consider the list of additional tree takings provided by the Tree Warden. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

*Please note: John Hilier, Matt Stine, Bob Ide, Peter Coleran, and Ed Stewart departed the meeting at 7:00 PM.

New Business:

1. Annual Wage and Salary Letters –

*MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the FY2027 Wage and Salary compensation letters for salaried employees as written for the following positions: Accountant, Highway Superintendent, Police Chief, Treasurer/Collector, and Town Administrator. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was approved.
(vote: 2-0-0)*

2. Library Director Vacation Time Clarification – Resolved prior to the meeting; no discussion took place.
3. Fire Department Appointment – TABLED

Old Business:

1. Fire Chief Succession Plan: in progress – Joint Select Board meeting with Charlemont scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM.
2. EMS Shared Services: next meeting scheduled for July 15, 2026, at 1:00 PM.
3. Personnel Policy Manual: in progress, no update.
4. Public Shade Tree Policy: in progress, no update.

Ongoing Projects:

Roads/Bridges:

Yankee Road: no update.

Zoar Rd. Bridge over Sam Rice Brook: The Town Administrator explained to the board that she had recently met with Davenport's and that they plan to minimize the bridge's closure as much as possible.

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: update available.

National Grid – 10W19: refer to 6:00 PM appointment(s).

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Review and Sign Warrants - FY26 AP, Payroll, Deduction & NBSU Warrants #26, and AP Warrant #25A.
2. Library Project – Agreement between Diversified and the Town of Rowe

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the agreement between the Town of Rowe and Diversified Construction Services, LLC, on behalf of the Town Library addition/reconstruction project as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Mail:

None.

Minutes:

None.

Future Meetings:

1. Monday, July 6, 2026 – 6:00 PM – Location: Charlemont Town Hall
2. Thursday, July 16, 2026 – 6:00 PM
3. Thursday, July 30, 2026 – 6:00 PM
4. Thursday, August 13, 2026 – 6:00 PM
5. Thursday, August 27, 2026 – 6:00 PM

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

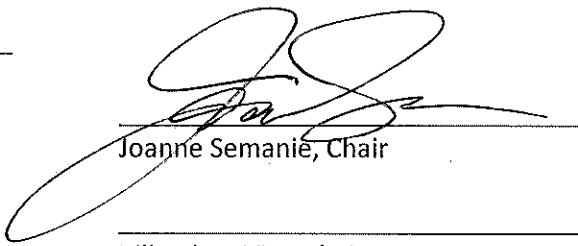
Adjournment: 7:40 PM

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Semanie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,
Brooke E. Shulda, Town Administrator

Approval Date: 7/16/2026

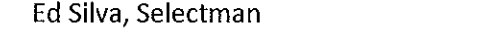
Approved by:



Joanne Semanie, Chair



Bill Baker, Vice-Chair



Ed Silva, Selectman

Documents:

1. Agenda for June 30, 2026
2. Pole Petitions
3. Tunnel Road Survey for National Grid 1019W1 Project
4. Wage and Salary Letters for Salaried Employees
5. Current Personnel Policy
6. Rowe Elementary School Non-Teaching Staff Personnel Policy
7. Library Project – Diversified Agreement