

Annual Town Meeting Official Results
Town of Rowe
Commonwealth of Massachusetts



Town Clerk: Kevin Balawick
Acting Moderator: Daniel Pallotta
Constable: Henry Dandeneau
Town Counsel:
Tellers: Margaret Pallotta,

The Annual Town Meeting was held on Monday, May 12th, 2025 at the Rowe Elementary School, 86 Pond Road. The Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk took nominations for a moderator for the Town Meeting in the absence of the elected Town Moderator. Daniel Pallotta was nominated and elected unanimously as Moderator by a show of hands.

Moderator Pallotta lead the meeting in the pledge of allegiance, he then asked for a moment of silence for those Rowe residents who passed away since the last annual town meeting. Moderator Pallotta informed the meeting that voting would be done by voice for the first vote and by show of hands for a second vote. Moderator Pallotta encouraged meeting attendants to address the meeting if they had any questions or concerns.

ARTICLE 1: A motion was made and seconded to act on reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

Article 1 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

School Committee Chair Susan Zavotka addressed the meeting and thanked Principal Bill Knittle for his 14 years of service to the school and to the Town of Rowe. Principal Knittle is retiring at the end of the school year.

ARTICLE 2: A motion was made and seconded to authorize, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 53E½ and the Town of Rowe General Bylaws, the following sums for **REVOLVING FUNDS**, or take any action in relation thereto:

Revolving Fund	Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fees, Charges, or Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Fiscal Years
Emergency Dispensing Site	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Emergency Dispensing Site Operations	Dispensing medicines or medical supplies during an emergency	Limit of \$1,000.00	Fiscal Year 2026
Recycling Program	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Recycling Program	Operation of solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products	Limit of \$5,000.00	Fiscal Year 2026
Vaccine Services	Board of Health	Receipts from Insurance Billing	Vaccine Services	Limit of \$6,000.00	Fiscal Year 2026

School Programs	School Committee	Fees for School Programs	Offset Department Costs of School Programs	Limit of	Fiscal Year
Old Home Day	Old Home Day Committee	Receipts Generated by Old Home Day Activities and Programs	Expenses of Old Home Day	Limit of \$10,000.00	2026
Refuse Garden	Board of Health	Receipts Related to Refuse Garden Operations	Operation of the town Refuse Garden	Limit of \$2,000.00	2026
Planning Board Legal/ Consulting	Planning Board	Receipts Related to Fees for Special Permits and Other Work of the Planning Board	Legal consultation and representation	Limit of \$5,000.00	Fiscal Year 2026 and Subsequent Years
Park Programs	Park Commission	Receipts Related to Park Programs	Operation of programs run by the Pelham Lake Park	Limit of \$50,000.00	Fiscal Year 2026 and Subsequent Years

Recommended by the Board of Selectmen vote 3-0-0

Article 2 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 3: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **AUTHORIZE** the **BOARD OF SELECTMEN** to apply for, accept, and expend federal and state grants as may be available, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 3 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 4: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **AUTHORIZE** the **TREASURER** to enter into compensating balance agreements during the 2026 Fiscal Year, pursuant to G.L. c. 44, § 53F, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 4 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 5: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums and to set the stipends/salary compensation for all elected officials of the town as provided by G.L. c. 41, § 108 as amended, to be made effective from July 1, 2025, or take any action in relation thereto.

Elected Boards & Committees:

Board of Assessors (3)	\$5,354.00
Board of Health (3)	\$4,938.00
Board of Selectmen (3)	\$5,928.00
School Committee (3)	\$4,564.00
Planning Board (5)	\$5,200.00
Subtotal Election Boards & Committees	\$25,984.00

Elected Town Officers

Constable	\$549.00
Moderator	\$439.00
Town Clerk	\$13,835.00
Subtotal Elected Town Officers	\$14,823.00

TOTAL ELECTED OFFICIALS' SALARIES FROM TAXATION**\$40,807.00**

Article 5 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 6: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE FROM CAF2 Grant** the sum of **\$25,000.00** for the purpose of paying down **PRINCIPAL ON THE BROADBAND DEBT** and **APPROPRIATE FOR MLP GRANT** the sum of **\$5,049.00** for the purpose of paying **BROADBAND INTEREST, RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$370,000.00** from the purpose of paying down **PRINCIPAL ON THE TOWN ROAD PAVING LOAN, and RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$50,949.00** for **INTEREST ON INDEBTEDNESS** for the 2026 Fiscal Year, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 6 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 7: A motion was made and seconded to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **THE CONDUCT OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT**, including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, for the 2026 Fiscal Year, or take any action in relation thereto.

Administration

General Administration.....	\$168,021.00
Municipal Audit.....	\$20,000.00
Town Administrator Salary	\$72,391.70
Administrative Assistant to the Boards Wages.....	\$39,248.77
Town Hall Custodian Wages	\$17,864.40
Custodian Expenses	\$4,500.00
Facilities Maintenance Manager Wages.....	\$13,565.10
Facilities Maintenance Manager Operations.....	\$15,000.00
Snow Removal Wages.....	\$1,508.74
Legal.....	\$25,000.00
Treasurer/Tax Collector Salary	\$67,721.26
Treasurer/Tax Collector Operations	\$20,250.00
Assistant Town Clerk Stipend.....	\$1,920.00
Board of Registrars/Election Teller Wages.....	\$2,370.00
Town Clerk Operations	\$1,385.00
Conservation Commission	\$1,880.00
Council on Aging	\$9,000.00
Goal Post Editor Wages.....	\$7,223.18
Goal Post Operations	\$2,500.00
Veteran's Services.....	\$5,312.00
FRCOG Services	\$32,777.00
Town Accountant Salary	\$31,146.21
Town Accountant Expenses.....	\$4,420.00
Subtotal Administration.....	\$565,001.99

Board of Assessors

Assessors' Admin Assistant Wages	\$13,930.96
Assessors' Reval	\$3,500.00
Assessors' Legal.....	\$0.00
Assessors' Operations.....	\$38,000.00
Subtotal Board of Assessors	\$55,430.96

Planning Board

Planning Board Operations.....	\$3,300.00
Subtotal Planning Board	\$3,300.00

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM TAXATION**\$623,735.00**

Article 7 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 8: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$30,000.00** to be used as a **RESERVE FUND**, pursuant to G.L. c. 40, §

6, for the extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the 2026 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 8 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 9: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to RAISE AND APPROPRIATE the following sums for the operation and maintenance of PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES for the 2026 Fiscal Year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Highway Department	
DPW Salaries and Wages	\$341,048.62
DPW Operations	\$232,729.00
<u>Winter Roads</u>	<u>\$72,100.00</u>
Subtotal Highway Department	\$645,877.62
Other Public Works & Facilities	
Street Lighting	\$8,000.00
<u>Dam Maintenance/Repair</u>	<u>\$1,200.00</u>
Subtotal Other Public Works & Facilities	\$9,200.00
Cemetery Commission	
Cemetery Operations	\$18,500.00
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES FROM TAXATION	\$673,577.62

Article 9 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 10: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to APPROPRIATE from MLP FUNDS the following sums for MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT STIPENDS for the 2026 Fiscal Year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Municipal Light Plant Stipends	
Municipal Light Plant – Manager Stipend	\$13,000.00
Municipal Light Plant – Deputy Stipend	\$3,000.00
TOTAL MUNICIPAL LIGHT PLANT STIPENDS	\$16,000.00

Article 10 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 11: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to RAISE AND APPROPRIATE the following sums for PUBLIC SAFETY for the 2026 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

Police Department	
Police Salaries	\$80,710.64
Police Officer Training	\$8,000.00
<u>Police Operations</u>	<u>\$13,000.00</u>
Subtotal Police Department	\$101,710.64
Fire Department	
Fire Department Stipends & Wages	\$43,928.17
<u>Fire Department Operations</u>	<u>\$62,725.00</u>
Subtotal Fire Department	\$106,653.17
Emergency Management	
Emergency Management Stipends	\$3,864.00
Emergency Management Operations	\$0.00
<u>Generator Maintenance</u>	<u>\$3,500.00</u>

Subtotal Emergency Management	\$7,364.00
Animal Control and Inspection	
Animal Control Officer Stipends	\$1,449.00
Animal Control Relief Officer Stipend	\$508.00
Animal Control Operations	\$550.00
Animal Inspector Stipend	\$532.00
Regional Dog Kennel	\$385.00
Subtotal Animal Control	\$3,424.00

TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY FROM TAXATION\$219,151.81

Article 11 Passed Unanimously by Voice Vote

ARTICLE 12: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC HEALTH** for the 2026 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

Public Health	
Health Department Stipends and Wages	\$95,244.08
Board of Health Operations	\$77,684.00

TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH FROM TAXATION\$172,928.53

Article 12 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 13: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** for the 2026 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

Education	
Rowe School PreK-6 Operating Budget	\$1,239,583.61
Rowe School Secondary 7-12	\$574,685.31

TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM TAXATION\$1,814,268.92

Article 13 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 14: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **ROWE TOWN LIBRARY** for the 2026 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

Rowe Town Library	
Library Wages	\$52,565.15
Library Operations	\$28,244.00

TOTAL ROWE TOWN LIBRARY FROM TAXATION\$80,809.15

Article 14 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 15: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF PELHAM LAKE PARK** for the 2026 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

Pelham Lake Park	
Park Wages	\$134,091.62
Park Operations	\$22,760.00

TOTAL PELHAM LAKE PARK FROM TAXATION\$156,851.62

Article 15 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **CULTURE AND RECREATION** for the 2026 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

Culture and Recreation	
Beautification	\$1,500.00
TOTAL CULTURE AND RECREATION FROM TAXATION	\$1,500.00

Article 16 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 17: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PENSIONS AND INSURANCE** for the 2026 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

Pensions and Insurance	
Franklin County Retirement Assessment	\$231,217.00
Unemployment Insurance	\$20,000.00
Group Health/Dental/Life Insurance	\$800,000.00
Medicare Tax – Town Share	\$32,000.00
TOTAL PENSIONS AND INSURANCE FROM TAXATION	\$1,083,217.00

Article 17 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 18: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$257,062.87** for the repair, improvement, and construction of town highways, or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90 of the General Laws, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90 of the General Laws, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 18 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 19: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** the sum of **\$40,000.00** from the monies appropriated at the May 09, 2022, Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article #22, **ROAD PAVING LOAN BOND FUNDS** for the purpose of **TRANSFER STATION PAVING**.

Article 19 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 20: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **CAPITAL STABILIZATION** the sum of **\$300,000.00** for the purpose of the removal of the underground oil tank and installation of a new above-ground oil tank located at the **Rowe Elementary School**.

Article 20 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 21: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **CAPITAL STABILIZATION** the sum of **\$175,000.00** for the purpose of Design Services for the Library ADA Upgrades.

Sarah Stine and the Architect Dave Rothstein explained the Library ADA upgrades and the meaning of “Design Services.”

Article 21 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 22: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **\$40,000.00**, and **TRANSFER** from **ASSESSORS OVERLAY SURPLUS** the sum of **\$110,000.00** to purchase a new Truck, Plow, and Sander for the Highway Department.

Article 22 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 23: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the following sums for **SPECIAL PROJECTS** or take any action in relation thereto:

FIRE DEPT	Air Conditioning	\$20,000.00
GEN ADMIN	Record Management Services	\$16,000.00
SCHOOL	Interior Improvements.....	\$30,000.00
SCHOOL	Accounting Module.....	\$24,000.00
TOWN HALL	Lighting Upgrade.....	\$15,000.00
TOTAL SPECIAL PROJECTS FROM FREE CASH		\$105,000.00

Article 23 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 24: A motion was made and seconded to amend Article 24 by replacing “and to raise and appropriate, transfer from available funds, and/or borrow,” with “to transfer from available funds at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen” .

The amendment to Article 24 passed Unanimously by Voice

A motion was then made and seconded to amend the article by inserting after the word “amended” the phrase “and to allow all forms of legal recreation.”

Discussion followed regarding whether all legal forms of recreation included motorized recreation vehicles and if allowing for those the town would lose access to the grants that the town is hoping to receive to purchase the land.

A vote was taken by hand vote, and the moderator declared that the ayes won. The vote was then questioned by seven voters who stood to question the vote. Two tellers were selected. The vote was done again.

The motion to amend Article to include the language ”and to allow all forms of legal recreation” failed with 49 votes cast by show of hands, 23 ayes and 26 nays.

A vote on the article as amended followed.

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to acquire, by purchase, gift, and/or eminent domain, on such terms and conditions as the Board of Selectmen deems in the best interests of the Town, all or portions of the parcels of land located at Tunnel Road, being Map 407, Lot 4 and Map 407, Lot 24 containing 179 acres, more or less, and being the premises described in a deed recorded with the Franklin County Registry of Deeds in Book 8413, Page 1, for conservation and passive recreation purposes under the provisions of G.L. c. 40, §8C, as the same may be amended, to be managed and controlled by the Conservation Commission, said property to be subject to Article 97 of the Articles of Amendment of the Constitution of the Commonwealth; to transfer from available funds at the discretion of the Board of Selectmen, a sum of money [or \$305,000] for the purpose of said acquisition and costs incidental and related thereto; to authorize the Board of Selectmen, the Conservation Commission and/or their designees to apply for, accept and expend any funds that may be provided by the Commonwealth or other public or private sources to defray all or a portion of said costs of acquisition, including, but not limited to, grants and/or reimbursement from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts under G.L. c.132A, §11 (the so-called LAND Grants) and/or any other federal, state or other grants or reimbursement programs in any way connected with the scope of this acquisition, and to enter into all

agreements and execute on behalf of the Town any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate said acquisition; and further, to authorize the Board of Selectmen to execute any and all documents or instruments to carry out the intent of this article, or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 24 Passed as amended with a hand vote of 39 ayes to 10 nays

ARTICLE 25: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **ACCEPT** General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Veteran’s Exemption Clause 22I, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, and Clause 22E by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue, to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for the fiscal year beginning on July 01, 2025.

Article 25 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 26: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **ACCEPT** General Laws Chapter 29, Section 5, Veteran’s Exemption Clause 22J, which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, and Clause 22E by 100% of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J, to be effective for applicable exemption granted for the fiscal year beginning on July 01, 2025.

Article 26 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 27: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **REVISE** the Table of Use in Section 2(B) within the Zoning Bylaws with additions shown in bold and deletions shown in strikethrough as follows.

TABLE OF USE SECTION 2(B)

B. Table of Use Regulations

		Zones	
I. Residential Uses		R-A	I
a.	Detached, Single Family <u>Principal</u> Dwelling	Yes	Yes
b.	<u>Single, Accessory Dwelling Unit</u> Two-Family or Semi-Detached Dwelling	<u>Yes</u>	<u>Yes</u>
c.	<u>Multiple, Accessory Dwelling Units</u> Multi-Family	<u>No</u>	<u>No</u>
d.	<u>Two-Family or Semi-Detached Dwelling</u> ³	SP	SP
e.	<u>Multi-Family or Multiple Dwellings</u>	No	No
f.	Trailer Park or Mobile Home Park	No	No
II. Municipal Uses		Yes	Yes
III. Religious Uses		Yes	Yes
IV. Educational Uses		Yes	Yes
V. Recreational Uses			
a.	Non-Profit	Yes	Yes
b.	Profit	SP	SP
VI. Agricultural Uses			
a.	Farm Uses	Yes	Yes
b.	Display & Sale at Roadside Stand of Natural Products, the Major Portion of which are raised on Farms of the Town of Rowe	Yes	Yes
c.	Greenhouses and Nurseries	SP	SP
VII. Commercial Uses			

a.	Professional Office conducted by Resident of Premises in Room or Rooms of Dwelling or Accessory Building with no more than two (2) employees	Yes	Yes
b.	A Customary "Home Occupation" conducted by a Resident of Premises in Room or Rooms of Dwelling or Accessory Building with no more than two (2) employees	Yes	Yes
c.	Scientific Research or Development as described in Chapter 40A, Section 9	SP	SP
d.	Restaurants, Inns, Hotels, <u>Short Term Rentals</u> ⁴ , Motels or Tourist home	SP	SP
e.	Print Shop	SP	SP
f.	Retail Stores	SP	SP
g.	General Contractors	SP	SP
VIII. Industrial Uses			
a.	Sawmills	SP	SP
b.	Public Utilities		
	(i) Generating Plants except for Solar Electric Generating Installations	No	SP
	(ii) Accessory Buildings, Structures & Uses	SP	Yes
	(iii) Transmission Lines, Substations and Switchyards	SP	Yes
	(iv) Solar Electric Generating Installations ^{1,2} (See Section 23)	SP	SP

¹ – Solar Electric Generating Installations of 10kW or less which are an accessory use to a residential or non-residential use are allowed "by right" (Yes).

² – Solar Electric Generating Installations greater than 10 kW up to 250 kW occupying no more than one acre that meet the requirements of Section 23 and are located in the Solar Overlay District are allowed by-right (Yes) but are subject to Site Plan Review.

³ – A Semi-Detached Dwelling with a Gross Floor Area allowed by Section 6 is considered an Accessory Dwelling Unit

⁴ – As Defined by MGL 64G Section 1 and in use for a period of not more than 31 consecutive calendar days by the occupant.

Article 27 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 28: A motion was made and seconded to amend Section 6, A, a, to include at the end the phrase "and section 8".

The amendment to Article 28 Passed Unanimously by Voice

A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **AMEND** section 6 within the Town Zoning Bylaws.

Section 6: Dwelling Units:

No more than one (1) Principal Dwelling unit shall be constructed on any dwelling lot and no existing structure shall be converted for use as a Principal Dwelling unit unless located on a dwelling lot as defined in Section 7 of this Article. Except as provided under Section 2(B) I (b) of this Article, no more than one (1) dwelling unit shall be constructed on any dwelling lot and no existing structure shall be converted for use as a dwelling unit unless a dwelling lot is created in accordance with Section 7 of this Article. A dwelling unit shall be defined as a single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons.

Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) defined by state regulations (760 CMR 71.02) and allowed as-of-right under Section 2(B)I shall be subject to the following provisions set forth to ensure the safety and well-being of residents, preserve the character of the town, and align with goals set forth in the Open Space and Recreation Plan.

A. Siting Requirements

- a. Dimensional setbacks for an ADU are to be consistent with setback requirements of Section 5 and Section 8.

- b. ADU setbacks from waste disposal systems and private wells shall conform with Board of Health regulations.
- c. ADUs shall be subject to Site Plan Review outlined in Section 22. Any elected or appointed committee may be asked to provide input as part of the review process.

B. Structure Requirements

- a. ADU Gross Floor Area may exceed 50% of the Principal Dwelling Gross Floor Area upon approval of a special permit by the Planning Board, however, under no circumstances will the Gross Floor Area of an ADU exceed 900sf.

C. Uses

- a. Short Term Rental use of ADU(s) is prohibited
- b. ADU(s) shall not be allowed on lots with a condemned Principal Dwelling(s) unless construction of the ADU is in conjunction with an active construction permit for the Principal Dwelling.
- c. Pre-existing, non-conforming structures used for an ADU are subject to requirements of Section 17.

Article 28 as amended Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 29: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to **ADD** additional uses to be subject to provisions of section 22(B) within the Town Zoning Bylaws.

(2) Uses Requiring a Special Permit

(3) Accessory Dwelling Unit(s)

Article 29 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 30: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to petition the General Court for special legislation to create the Charlemont-Rowe Fire District as follows; provided however, that the General Court may make clerical or editorial changes of form only to the bill, unless the Board of Selectmen approves amendments to the bill before enactment by the General Court which are within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to approve such amendments, or take any other action in relation thereto.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Sect. 1. The inhabitants of the towns of Charlemont and Rowe in the county of Franklin, residents within the boundaries of said towns and qualified to vote in town affairs in their respective towns, may establish a fire department for said territory or district, the officers of which shall have charge of, and be responsible for, all the engines, apparatus and buildings for the extinguishment of fires within said district, in the same manner as the fire departments and the employees or volunteers of said departments are responsible.

Section 2. The first meeting of said district after the effective date of this act shall be called by a joint notice from the select boards of Charlemont and Rowe, stating the date, time and place for said district meeting. At the first meeting, the voters of said district shall elect by ballot a moderator, assessors, treasurer, collector, and a fire chief. At said meeting, the voters shall further elect by ballot a prudential committee to consist of three persons hold office, one until the expiration of three years, one until the expiration of two years and one until the expiration of one year from the next succeeding annual meeting, to constitute a board of water commissioners, and at each annual meeting thereafter one such commissioner shall be elected by ballot for the term of three years. All the authority granted to said district by this act and not otherwise specifically provided for shall be vested in said prudential committee, who shall be subject however to such instructions, rules and regulations as said district may impose by its

vote. A majority of said commissioners shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Any vacancy occurring in said board from any cause may be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by said district at any legal meeting called for the purpose. Officers of the district shall be sworn into office by the moderator or a justice of the peace.

Sect. 3. Said district shall raise by taxation annually a sum sufficient to pay the current annual expenses of operating the firefighting operations, equipment, buildings and personnel of the district, as well as the interest accruing on any bonds, notes or certificates of debt issued by said district, together with such payments on the principal as may be required under the provisions of this act. The assessors chosen as aforesaid shall assess and apportion all and singular such sums of money voted to be raised by said district for the maintenance of said fire department, and in making such assessments shall observe and conform to the requirements of law obligatory upon assessors of towns; and they shall have all the power authority conferred upon town assessors. The list of taxes made by the assessors as aforesaid shall be committed to the collector of said district, for collecting the same; and the said collector shall observe all the rules and regulations, and have all the authority conferred by law upon collectors of taxes for towns, and said collector shall pay over all moneys so collected to the treasurer, who shall hold the same subject to the order of the prudential committee. The district shall have the same legal authority for collection of taxes as that held by municipalities, including but not limited to takings pursuant to chapter 60 of the General Laws or other statutory provision.

Sect. 4. For the purpose of paying the necessary expenses and liabilities incurred under this act, the district may, in addition to any other authority to borrow under the General Laws, borrow from time to time such sums as may be necessary, and may issue bonds or notes therefor. Each authorized issue shall constitute a separate loan, and such loans shall be payable in not more than 30 years from their dates. Indebtedness incurred under this act shall be subject to the provisions of chapter forty-four of the Massachusetts General Laws pertaining to such districts.

Sect. 5. The district may, by a vote of qualified voter residents of the district at any duly called district meeting, vote to increase the service area of the district into specific areas of any abutting town. Such areas shall be delineated by a sufficient metes and bounds or other description to establish the boundary of the district. Inhabitants of any such new areas of the district, registered to vote in their town of residence, shall be subject to all benefits and responsibilities of this act, including but not limited to liabilities for district taxation and indebtedness as set forth in this act.

Sect. 6. All the provisions of this act and all the provisions of any and every act passed subsequent to the said general act, and relating to the same subject, not inconsistent with the foregoing provisions, shall be binding upon the inhabitants of said district; and the chief engineer and the assistant engineers shall possess the same power and authority as are therein delegated, and they, together with all of the other members of said fire department, shall be entitled to the same privileges and immunities.

Sect. 7. The district shall be subject to all General Laws applicable to districts, unless said statutes are inconsistent with the provisions of this act.

Sect. 8. The inhabitants of said district, so long as they shall maintain a sufficient fire department therein for the reasonable protection of the inhabitants and property within said limits from fire, shall be exempt from taxation in the respective towns to which they belong, for the maintenance and support of other fire departments in said towns.

Sect. 9. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Article 30 Passed by Voice

ARTICLE 31: A motion was made and second to table Article 31.

Article 31 was tabled by unanimous vote by Voice

ARTICLE 32: A motion was made and seconded to see if the Town will vote to adopt and enact the amendments to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) Charter, said amendment(s) having been proposed by a two-thirds majority of the weighted vote of the full membership of the FRCOG Council and a majority vote of the FRCOG Executive Committee, with said amendment(s) taking full effect immediately upon adoption by two-thirds of the member towns unless a later effective date is otherwise specified; or take any action in relation thereto.

Article 32 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town would vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** or **TRANSFER FROM AVAILABLE FUNDS** a sum of **MONEY** to the **OPEB STABILIZATION FUND**; or take action in relation thereto.

Article 33 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to amend the Town of Rowe General By-Laws by adopting the following new by-law or take action in relation thereto:

ADDRESS ASSIGNMENT

1. Pursuant to G.L. c. 40, § 21(10), the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Rowe shall promulgate regulations establishing addressing standards and governing the numbering of properties. All properties, buildings and structures are required to have a valid address.
2. The regulations promulgated by the Board of Selectmen shall designate a Town official(s) as the sole authority to assign and modify addresses for all taxable and non-taxable properties.
3. The Town of Rowe will maintain an up-to-date Master Address Table using the addresses assigned by the Board of Selectmen's designated Town official(s) and parcel identification numbers for all taxable and non-taxable properties. No one may publicly use or list an address for a property, building, or structure located within the Town of Rowe, for any purpose, unless that address is included in the Master Address Table.

Article 34 Passed Unanimously by Voice

ARTICLE 35: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the payment of a 2023 Fiscal Year Workman's Compensation invoice from **FREE CASH** in the amount of **\$255.11** or take action in relation thereto.

Article 35 Passed Unanimously by Voice

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the annual town meeting.

The Motion Passed Unanimously by Voice

Respectfully Submitted:

Kevin Balawick

Rowe Town Clerk

June 17, 2025

A true copy, Attest:

Kevin Balawick