Minutes of the Rowe Finance Committee Meeting
May 8, 2017

Present: Ray Wilson, Chair; Loretta Dionne, Wayne Zavotka, and Mitch Soviecke
Selectman Present: Marilyn Wilson, Chair

Called to order: 6:04 p.m.

1) The minutes from the January 25, 2017, February 8, 2017 and March 29, 2017 were reviewed. Ray moved that the minutes from the January 25, 2017 be approved. Wayne seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous. Ray moved that the minutes of the February 8, 2017 meeting be approved. Wayne seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous. Ray moved that the minutes from the March 29, 2017 meeting be approved. Wayne seconded and the vote to approve was unanimous by those present at that meeting. Mitch was absent so he did not vote.
2) Line Item Transfer: To transfer $1,110.00 from: EMS Stipends #01-5-291-110 to EMS Operations #01-5-291-400.

Marilyn Wilson reviewed the FinCom recommendation for employee raises of 2% with stipends remaining level funded. She stated that it was planned to use 25% of the savings proposed in the Group Health/Dental/Life Insurance plans be used to offset the increased employee's benefit costs.

Marilyn reviewed recent findings concerning Mass General Law Chapter 32B Section A. Because further review of this law is required for clarification, she recommended that Articles 21, 22, and 27 be tabled.

Wayne asked if all the Selectmen had voted in favor of reducing the benefits of Town employees from 85/15% to 75/25%. Marilyn answered yes.

Wayne reported that he had contacted the State Ethics Commission who had told him he was not in a "conflict of interest" situation if he spoke on Articles which involved his son-in-law, as he is not considered to be "immediate family".

3) Review Warrant Articles: (please refer to attached warrant for article details)

Article 1: No vote
Article 2: No vote
Article 3: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 4: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 5: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 6: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous
Article 7: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 8: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 9: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 10: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous
Article 11: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous
Article 12: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 13: No vote
Article 14: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous
Article 15: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous

Article 16: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 17: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 18: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous
Article 19: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 20: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous

Article 21: No vote
Article 22: No vote
Article 23: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 24: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous
Article 25: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 26: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous
Article 27: No vote
Article 28: Ray moved to accept/Loretta seconded/vote unanimous
Article 29: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous
Article 30: Ray moved to accept/Wayne seconded/vote unanimous

The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mitchell Soviecke

Annual Town Meeting

of the

Town of Rowe

Massachusetts

for the **Fiscal Year 2018**

MONDAY, MAY 8, 2017 at **7:00 P.M.**

at the

ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

ARTICLE 1: To act on reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

6.36 residential Tax rate
14.05 commercial

ARTICLE 2: To see if the town will authorize the Select Board to choose all necessary officers not elected by ballot for the ensuing year.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE** and **APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the conduct of **General Government,** including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, and compensation for elected and appointed officials for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Administration

General Administration	$ 120,450.00
Municipal Audit	8,000.00
Executive Secretary	45,946.00
Administrative Assistant	6,947.00
Town Hall Custodian Wages	13,262.00
Moderator Stipend	439.00
Select Board Stipends	5,928.00
Legal	6,000.00
Tax Collector Stipend	7,782.00
Tax Collector Operations	7,290.00
Treasurer Stipends and Wages	20,722.00
Town Clerk Stipend	13,232.00
Town Clerk Expenses	5,350.00
Conservation Commission	1,000.00
Council on Aging	3,000.00
Energy Committee	500.00
Veteran's Services	2,700.00
FRCOG Services	24,204.00
Town Accountant	16,047.00
Town Accounting Expenses	2,115.00
Subtotal General Government	$ 310,914.00

Assessor's Office

Assessors' Stipends and Wages	15,354.00
Assessors' Operations	8,200.00
Subtotal Assessors	$ 23,554.00

Planning Board

Planning Board	1,000.00
Planning Board Consulting Expenses	5,000.00
Planning Board Goal Post	12,000.00
Subtotal Planning Board	$ 18,000.00

TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM TAXATION **$ 352,468.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **$4,500.00** for the **Assessors' FY18 Quintennial Revaluation Fund**, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the sum of **$20,000.00** to be used as a **Reserve Fund** pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40, Section 6 for the extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 6: 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 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Highway Department		
DPW Salary and Wages	$ 289,275.00	
DPW Operations	201,609.00	
Winter Roads	68,612.00	
Subtotal Highway Department	$ 559,496.00	
Other Public Works & Facilities		
Street Lighting	$ 4,000.00	
Municipal Light Plant	1,000.00	
Subtotal Other Public Works & Facilities	5,000.00	
Cemetery	$ 15,000.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES FROM TAXATION		**$ 579,496.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to **Appropriate** from available funds the sum of **$143,227.00** for the maintenance, repair, improvement and construction of town highways, or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Safety** for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Police Department		
Police Salaries	$ 51,344.00	
Police Operations	8,850.00	
Subtotal Police Department	$ 60,194.00	
Fire Department		
Fire Department Stipends	$ 32,150.00	
Fire Department General Operations	30,917.00	
Subtotal Fire Department	$63,067.00	
Emergency Management		
Emergency Management Director	$ 3,864.00	
Emergency Management Operations	1,000.00	
Subtotal Emergency Management	$4,864.00	
Emergency Medical Services		
EMS Coordinator Stipend	$ 2,221.00	
EMS Operations	1,500.00	
Subtotal Emergency Medical Service	$ 3721.00	
Animal Control and Inspection		
Animal Control Stipends	$1,657.00	
Regional Dog Kennel	350.00	
Subtotal Animal Control	$ 2,007.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY FROM TAXATION		**$ 133,853.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Health and Sanitation** for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Health Department Stipends and Wages	$ 74,804.00
Board of Health Operations	$ 59,884.00

TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH AND SANITATION FROM TAXATION **$ 134,688.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E1/2, to use a revolving fund with a limit of $1,000.00 for fiscal year 2018 to accept receipts related to the Town's **Emergency Dispensing Site**, for the operation of the Town's Emergency Dispensing Site. in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019, or take any action in relation thereto.

Requested by the Board of Health
Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of $5,000.00** for fiscal year 2018 to accept receipts **related to the Town's recycling program and expenditures** for the operation of the Town's solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services in the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products, to be under the authority of the Board of Health, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019, or take any action in relation thereto.

Requested by the Board of Health
Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Health, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of $6,000.00** for the 2018 fiscal year to accept receipts from the Insurance Billing for the purpose of **providing vaccine services,** in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019, or take any action in relation thereto.

Requested by the Board of Health
Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 13: To see if the town will vote to amend the general by-laws of the Town of Rowe by adding a new section to establish and authorize revolving funds for use by certain town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers under Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 44, § 53E1/2, or take any other action relative thereto.

Majority vote to adopt or amend the general by-laws.

ARTICLE VIII (of the general By-Laws)

DEPARTMENTAL REVOLVING FUNDS

1. Purpose. This by-law establishes and authorizes revolving funds for use by town departments, boards, committees, agencies or officers in connection with the operation of programs or activities that generate fees, charges or other receipts to support all or some of the expenses of those programs or activities. These revolving funds are established under and governed by General Laws Chapter 44 § 53E1/2.

2. Expenditure Limitations. An authorized department or agency head, board, committee or officer may incur liabilities against and spend monies from a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law without appropriation subject to the following limitations:

A. Fringe benefits of full-time employees whose salaries or wages are paid from the fund shall also be paid from the fund (except for those employed as school bus drivers.)
B. No liability shall be incurred in excess of the available balance of the fund.
C. The total amount spent during a fiscal year shall not exceed the amount authorized by this bylaw or by town

meeting on or before July 1 of that fiscal year, or any increased amount of that authorization that is later approved during that fiscal year by the selectboard and finance committee.

3. Interest. Interest earned on monies credited to a revolving fund established by this by-law shall be credited to the general fund.

4. Procedures and reports. Except as provided in General Laws Chapter 44 §53E1/2 and this by-law, the laws, by-laws, rules, regulations, policies or procedures that govern the receipt and custody of town monies and the expenditure and payment of town funds shall apply to the use of a revolving fund established and authorized by this by-law. The town accountant shall include a statement on the collections credited to each fund, the encumbrances and expenditures charged to the fund and the balance available for expenditure in the regular report the town accountant provides the department, board, committee, agency or officer on appropriations made for its use.

5. Authorized Revolving Funds. The Table establishes:

A. Each revolving fund authorized for use by a town department, board, committee, agency or officer.
B. The department or agency head, board, committee or officer authorized to spend from each fund.
C. The fees, charges and other monies charged and received by the department, board, committee, agency or officer in connection with the program or activity for which the fund is established that shall be credited to each fund by the Town Accountant.
D. The expenses of the program or activity for which each fund may be used.
E. Any restrictions or conditions on expenditures from each fund.
F. Any reporting or other requirements that apply to each fund, and
G. The fiscal years each fund shall operate under this by-law.

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**	**Other Require-ments/ Reports**	**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 2019 and Subsequent Years
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 2019 and Subsequent Years
Vaccine Services	Board of Health	Receipts from Insurance Billing	Vaccine Services	Limit of $6,000.00		Fiscal Year 2019 and Subsequent Years
School Programs	School Committee	Fees for School Programs	Offset Department Costs of School Programs	Limit of $10,000.00		Fiscal Year 2019 and Subsequent Years
Old Home Day	Old Home Day Committee	Receipts Generated by Old Home Day Activities and Programs	Expenses of Old Home Day	Limit of $5,000.00		Fiscal Year 2019 and Subsequent Years

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will to vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Public Schools** for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

School Committee Stipend	$ 4,564.00	
Rowe School Budget		
Rowe School K-6 Operating Budget	$ 1,170,482.00	
Rowe School Secondary 7-12	$ 485,884.00	
TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM TAXATION		**$ 1,656,366.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the School Committee, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of $10,000.00** for the 2018 fiscal year to accept fees for **School Programs** for the purpose of offsetting department costs, in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019, or take any action in relation thereto.

Requested by the Rowe School Committee
Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **Rowe Town Library** for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Library Salaries and Wages	$ 39,055.00	
Library Operations	$ 29,535.00	
TOTAL ROWE TOWN LIBRARY FROM TAXATION		**$ 68,590.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the **management and operation of Pelham Lake Park** for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Park Wages	$ 89,839.00	
Operation and Maintenance	$ 19,830.00	
TOTAL PARK FROM TAXATION		**$ 109,669.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums fiscal year 2018 for **Culture and Recreation** items, or take any action in relation thereto:

Gracy House Operations	$ 2,000.00	
Gracy House Materials	$ 500.00	
Beautification Committee	$ 00.00	
TOTAL GRACY HOUSE and BEAUTIFICATION FROM TAXATION		**$ 2,500.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums fiscal year 2018 for **Old Home Day,** or take any action in relation thereto:

Old Home Day	$ 2,000.00	
Old Home Day Fireworks	$ 5,000.00	
TOTAL OLD HOME DAY FROM TAXATION		**$ 7,000.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the **Old Home Day Committee**, pursuant to MGL Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to use a **revolving fund with a limit of $5,000.00** for the 2018 fiscal year to accept departmental receipts generated by Old Home Day activities and programs for the purpose of **defraying expenses of Old Home Day,** in which any remaining funds may be rolled over into a similar revolving fund for fiscal year 2019, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE and APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **Pensions and Insurance** for the 2018 fiscal year, or take any action in relation thereto:

Franklin County Retirement Assessment	$ 132,439.00	
Unemployment Insurance	1,000.00	
Group Health/Dental/Life Insurance	478,616.00	
FICA/Medicare Tax – Town Share	55,000.00	
TOTAL PENSION & INSURANCE FROM TAXATION		**$ 667,055.00**

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **$98,432.00** to be used to reduce the FY2018 Tax Rate, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **Assessors Overlay Surplus Account** the sum of **$13,997.00** reduce the FY2018 Tax Rate, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **$15,000.00** to be used to repair/replace the damaged windows at the Rowe Town Library , or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **$5,100.00** to be used to replace Park Headquarters siding, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **$1,500.00** to be used to repair ramp for Compactor at the Transfer Station, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **FREE CASH** the sum of **$247,180.00** to the Stabilization Fund, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from **PARK PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION ACCOUNT** the sum of **$5,000.00** to be used for a new account, the Park Vehicle Repair Fund, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 29: 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 for the purposes of bridge repair and construction, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 30: 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 for the purposes constructing high speed internet, or take any action in relation thereto.

Recommended by Board of Selectmen

ARTICLE 31: : To see if the Town will vote to accept the addition of the Town of Rowe as a 7-12 member of the District effective July 1, 2018 by making the following amendments to the Mohawk Trail Regional Agreement, or take any action related thereto.

(note: the amendments below are to be effective July 1, 2018):

Strike the following language in the Preamble:
The agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and as supplemented by Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, among the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, and Shelburne, hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns, is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth.
and replace said language with the following:
The Agreement entered into pursuant to Chapter 71 of the General Laws, as amended, and as supplemented by Chapter 371 of the Acts of 1993, among the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, Hawley, Heath, Plainfield, Shelburne, and Rowe (hereinafter sometimes referred to as member towns, is hereby further amended in its entirety to read as hereinafter set forth.

Strike the following language in Section I(A):
The powers and duties of the regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee, hereafter sometimes referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall consist of sixteen (16) elected members, two (2) from each town. A member appointed by the Rowe School Committee would serve as a non-voting member of the Committee as described in Section IX (G) of this Agreement. Members shall serve until their respective successor members are elected and qualified.
and replace said language with the following:
The powers and duties of the regional school district shall be vested in and exercised by a regional district school committee, hereafter sometimes referred to as the Committee. The Committee shall consist of eighteen (18) elected members, two (2) from each town. Members shall serve until their respective successor members are elected and qualified.

Strike the following language in Section I(B):
At the annual town elections in 1994, in addition to any term of office of an elected member whose

term is expired, the following shall also be elected: the Town of Hawley shall elect one member for a three-year term, and one member for two-year term; the Town of Heath shall elect one member for a three-year term and one member for a one-year term; the Town of Plainfield shall elect one member for a two-year term and one member for a one-year term.
2004 Election Year – Terms of all currently elected committee members with the exception of Heath, Hawley and Plainfield, will expire as of the annual town elections in 2004. At the 2004 annual town elections two school committee members will be elected from the Towns of Ashfield, Buckland, Charlemont, Colrain, and Shelburne. The school committee member who receives the largest number of votes from his/her town will serve a term of three years. The school committee member who receives the second largest number of votes will serve a term of two years.
Thereafter, in every year in which the term of office of an elected member expires, each member town involved shall, at its annual town election, select one member to serve on the Committee for a term of three years.
and replace said language with the following:
In every year in which the term of office of an elected member expires, each member town involved shall, at its annual town election, select one member to serve on the Committee for a term of three years.
At the 2017 annual town elections in the Town of Rowe, two school committee members will be elected. The school committee member who receives the largest number of votes will serve a term of three years, and the school committee member who receives the second largest number of votes will serve a term of two years. Upon the expiration of the initial term of office, each member shall serve on the Committee for a term of three years as stated above.
Each elected member commencing with the organization of the Committee following the 2004 town elections, shall have a weighted vote to be determined by the member town's population as it relates to the total population of all member towns divided by the number of representatives to the Committee from said member town. Each weighted vote shall be determined to the nearest one-tenth and be adjusted every ten (10) years using the population figures as reported in the most recent federal decennial census.

Strike the following language in Section I(F):
The District shall have one Committee composed of representatives from each member town as set forth above. Members of the Committee from the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont will not vote on any matters that the Committee determines to concern the operation of grades kindergarten through six, exclusively.
and replace said language with the following:
The District shall have one Committee composed of representatives from each member town as set forth above. Members of the Committee from the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe will not vote on any matters that the Committee determines to concern the operation of grades kindergarten through six, exclusively.

Students
26
19
2030 7
2036 0
if no students
Tuition bill: 0
Assessment varies depending on # of students

Strike the following language in Section I(G):

The initial weighted votes of the Committee members established in 1994 from each member town are as follows:

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted Vote of each Member
Ashfield	3	5.6%
Buckland	3	6.3%
Charlemont	3	4.1%
Colrain	3	5.7%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.8%
Shelburne	3	6.5%

The weighted votes of the Committee have been adjusted using the population figures as reported in the most recent federal decennial census and are as follows:

Member Towns	**Number of Members**	**Weighted vote of each Member**
Ashfield	3	5.7%
Buckland	3	6.3%
Charlemont	3	4.3%
Colrain	3	5.7%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.5%
Shelburne	3	6.3%

The above weighted votes of the Committee members shall remain in effect until the new school committee of sixteen (16) members is reconstituted after the 2004 town election for school committee members consistent with Section I, Paragraphs A and B of the District Agreement. After the reconstitution of the committee in 2004 the weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows:

Member Towns	**Number of Members**	**Weighted vote of each Member**
Ashfield	2	8.5%
Buckland	2	9.5%
Charlemont	2	6.5%
Colrain	2	8.5%
Hawley	2	1.5%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	2.5%
Shelburne	2	9.5%

and replace said language with the following:

The weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows:

Member Towns	**Number of Members**	**Weighted vote of each Member**
Ashfield	2	8.5%
Buckland	2	9.4%
Charlemont	2	6.2%
Colrain	2	8.2%
Hawley	2	1.7%
Heath	2	3.5%
Plainfield	2	3.2%
Shelburne	2	9.3%

The above weighted votes of the Committee members shall remain in effect until the new school committee of eighteen (18) members is reconstituted after the Town of Rowe becomes a 7-12 member of the District. After the reconstitution of the Committee, the weighted votes of the Committee members from each town shall be as follows until the next federal decennial census as provided above.

Member Towns	Number of Members	Weighted vote of each Member
Ashfield	2	8.2%
Buckland	2	9.0%
Charlemont	2	6.0%
Colrain	2	7.9%
Hawley	2	1.6%
Heath	2	3.3%
Plainfield	2	3.1%
Rowe	2	1.9%
Shelburne	2	9.0%

Strike the following language in Section III(A):
Residents of the member towns and all residents of the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.
and replace said language with the following:
Residents of the member towns will be eligible to attend school at the Mohawk Trail Regional High School, located on Route 112 in Buckland, Massachusetts.

Strike the following language in Section III(F):
The Committee shall accept for enrollment in the District High School, pupils from the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as are set forth in Section IX of this Agreement. The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns other than the member towns and the Town of Rowe on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.
and replace said language with the following:
The Committee may accept for enrollment in the regional district schools pupils from towns on a tuition basis and upon such terms as it may determine. In either case, income received by the District from tuition pupils shall be deducted from the total operating costs in the next annual budget to be prepared after the receipt thereof, prior to apportionment under Section IV of this Agreement to the member towns.

Strike the following language in Section IV(H):

Third: The Committee shall apportion costs of grades seven through twelve, inclusive, to the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont in direct proportion to each town's five-year average share of student enrollment in grades seven through twelve, inclusive.

Fourth: The total budget, less the shares allocated to the Towns of Hawley and Charlemont, shall be apportioned among the district's six remaining member towns on the basis of each member town's five-year average student enrollment share. For purposes of this calculation, average enrollment share, for each of the K-12 Member Towns shall be based on its five year average proportionate share of total student enrollment in the district schools.

and replace said language with the following:

Third: The Committee shall apportion costs of grades seven through twelve, inclusive, to the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe in direct proportion to each town's five-year average share of student enrollment in grades seven through twelve, inclusive.

Fourth: The total budget, less the shares allocated to the Towns of Hawley, Charlemont, and Rowe shall be apportioned among the district's six remaining member towns on the basis of each member town's five-year average student enrollment share. For purposes of this calculation, average enrollment share, for each of the K-12 Member Towns shall be based on its five year average proportionate share of total student enrollment in the district schools (note: pre-K enrollment will be included in the calculation beginning in FY18 and will include the data from October 1, 2015 and October 1, 2016).

Strike the following language in Section VI(C):
For purposes of voting on the annual budget by the member towns, the approval of the District's annual budget by the town meetings of each K-12 Member Town shall constitute two "units" towards approval or disapproval of the annual district budget, while Hawley and Charlemont shall have one "unit" each, with a total of ten units needed to approve the annual budget.

and replace said language with the following:
(D) Vote on the Annual Budget

For purposes of voting on the annual budget by the member towns, the approval of the District's annual budget by the town meetings of each K-12 Member Town shall constitute two "units" towards approval or disapproval of the annual district budget, while 7-12 member towns shall have one "unit" each, with a total of ten units needed to approve the annual budget.

Strike the entirety of Section IX as follows, and renumber the remaining Sections:

SECTION IX
EDUCATION OF PUPILS FROM THE TOWN OF ROWE

(A) Special Education Pupils from the Town of Rowe
The Committee shall provide for the education of all pupils from the Town of Rowe in grades seven through twelve who are entitled to attend the District High School irrespective of the specific and particular educational needs of any pupil from said Town of Rowe, and irrespective of whether such education for any pupil from said Town of Rowe is provided at the District High School or at any other school as may be approved by said Committee.

(B) Transportation of Pupils from the Town of Rowe
The Committee shall provide for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from said District High School to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School. The Committee shall provide for the transportation of pupils from the Town of Rowe who are entitled to attend the District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee to the extent that such transportation is provided for pupils from member towns who are entitled to attend said District High School, to and from any other school as may be approved by said Committee.
The Town of Rowe shall bear the cost of transportation for elementary pupils attending the Rowe elementary school.

(C) Tuition Basis for Pupils Grades 7-12 from the Town of Rowe
The cost of tuition to the District High School for each pupil in grades seven through twelve who attends the District High School or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, and who resides in the Town of Rowe shall be paid by said Town of Rowe to the District during the fiscal year when each such pupil is actually in attendance. The basis of the cost of tuition to the District High School or any other school as may be approved by said Committee for each fiscal year shall be established as follows: The total Maintenance and Operating Budget for said District High School as defined in Subsection VI(D) of this Agreement, for that fiscal year, reduced by the anticipated amounts of receipts from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year, and further reduced by the anticipated amounts of surplus revenue from the District treasury to be used by the Committee to defray such budgeted maintenance and operating charges for that fiscal year, and further reduced by the amounts received from towns paying tuition to the district, consistent with the terms of Subsection III(F) of this Agreement; the balance (viz. the net operating and maintenance budget for said fiscal year) to be divided by the total enrollment of pupils in the District High School from member towns as of October 1 of the previous fiscal year and the resulting balance further divided by one and one-tenth (1.1); the final balance to equal the cost of tuition for one pupil for one complete school year.

(D) Reduction of the Cost of Tuition for Pupils Resident in the Town of Rowe
In the event the Committee reduces the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to the member towns for any fiscal year, by reduction of the Operating and Maintenance Budget for said fiscal year or by the application of additional amounts of revenue, irrespective of the source thereof, to reduce the net operating and maintenance costs assessed to said member towns for that fiscal year, the cost of tuition to the Town of Rowe for the education of its pupils during said fiscal year shall be likewise reduced in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX(D).

(E) Schedule of Payment of Tuition Costs by the Town of Rowe
The Town of Rowe shall pay for the tuition of its pupils to the District High School, or any other school as may be approved by the Committee, such amounts as are in accordance with the provisions of Subsection IX (D), and shall make such payments twice each fiscal year at the following time: 1) not later than January 31 of each fiscal year; 2) not later than June 30 of each fiscal year.

(F) Payment of Capital Costs by the Town of Rowe
The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to pay a portion of capital costs as defined in Subsection IV (B) for capital projects at District High School. The Committee shall negotiate the rate of a voluntary contribution with the Rowe School Committee at the time of each capital project.

(G) Representation on the Committee
The School Committee of the Town of Rowe may appoint one of its members to represent the Town of Rowe at meetings of the Committee. The Committee shall allow such representative all powers of discussion, debate and deliberation including, but not limited to, participation in such meetings of the Committee while in executive session, but such representative shall not have the power to vote on any matter which comes before the Committee.

(H) Administrative Support Services for Rowe Pupils Grade K-6
The Town of Rowe shall have the opportunity to utilize the services of the Superintendent of Schools and central administration, and Director of Pupil Services who also directs special education, for administration of the Rowe Elementary School and bear the costs thereof.

(I) Distribution of Assets in the Event of Dissolution of the District
In the event of the dissolution of the District, its assets shall be distributed to the member towns and the Town of Rowe on the basis of each town's respective aggregate payment of capital cost to the District.

Add the following to Section XIV as a new subsection (C):
(C) Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education
Any amendment to the Agreement must be approved by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Add the following to Section XV:

Pursuant to 603 CMR 41.03(2), all approvals, including but not limited to approval by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, must be in place prior to December 31 for the agreement to be effective on the following July 1.

Add the following to the last paragraph of Section XVI(A):

Pursuant to 603 CMR 41.03(2), all approvals, including but not limited to approval by the Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, must be in place prior to December 31 for the agreement to be effective on the following July 1.

Article 31 - Recommended by Rowe School Committee

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to acknowledge the following; "Be it known, that the Town of Rowe is a compassionate community whose residents respect the rights, dignity, and integrity of its citizens and visitors. As a welcoming community, we celebrate diversity, honor privacy and safety and affirm and promote equality for all. And furthermore, to instruct the Town Clerk to send a copy of this Declaration to our senators and Representatives in Congress and in the Massachusetts Legislature; the Governor of the Commonwealth; and to be posted at Town buildings and on the Town website."

Presented by Citizen Petition

ARTICLE 33: To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.
SELECTMEN OF ROWE:

Marilyn Wilson, Chair
Walter J. Quist, Vice-Chair
Dennis May Selectman