Rowe Finance Committee
August 28, 2017
6:00 P.M.
Rowe Town Hall

Finance Committee:	Chair Wayne Zavotka, Loretta Dionne, Paul McLatchy III, Chuck Sokol
Board of Selectmen:	Chair Jennifer Morse, Dennis May, Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Board of Assessors:	Chair Frederick Williams, Ellen Miller
Other Attendees:	Accountant Tracy Baronas, Treasurer Joanne Semanie
Audience of Citizens:	None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Zavotka at 6:03 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

Purpose/Welcome: Selectman Morse welcomed all, and explained that the purpose of this meeting was for the creation of a financial advisory board representing different committees and departments of the town. Chair Zavotka said that he thought that such a committee would be helpful in creating detailed financial projections for the townspeople, perhaps as a presentation at town meeting. Assessor Williams indicated that for the last few years, the town has routinely hit the levy limit, and we have had to use free cash to balance the budget. As of this point, we are only allowed approximately $90,000 annual increase.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Selectmen will officially appoint a committee, and allow each board/committee involved to select their own representative.

Broadband: It has been discovered that due to the ground conditions, conduit is no longer an option on Davis Mine Road. This will now increase the cost of the project, as poles and wires will need to be looked at. This will likely put it over the $1.3 million projected expense. A new pole survey will also need to be done as the survey done by the state was not adequate.

At a special town meeting, $559,000 was appropriated from various sources towards the town's $860,000 share of the cost. $440,000 will be provided by the state. As of now, the average tax bill is approximately $1,300 a year, while borrowing the amount will increase the tax bill by less than $30 a year.

Those present gave their thoughts about whether the town should borrow the entire amount, borrow a smaller amount, or finance the rest through available reserves. Most members appeared to lean towards borrowing some amount rather than financing solely through reserves, though this view was not shared by all.

Due to the fact that a firm estimate still isn't available, no recommendations were made at this time about how to proceed.

Financial Forecast: The Assessors reported that new growth is being conservatively estimated at $10,000 right now. Last year $162,248 out of free cash and $13,999 out of the Assessor's overlay account were used to balance the budget. Assessor Williams gave a brief history that the town had usually produced a balanced budget, with most of the free cash being deposited into stabilization. This is no longer the case, and has not happened for at least five to ten years. Free cash is now being used to balance the budget, which means that the town is spending more than it is taking in through tax revenues.

FY19 Budget: A group meeting of officials will be held in September to begin the budgeting process. The budget process will move steps to earlier in the year to give more time for review and discussion.

Next Meeting: The Finance Committee will meet on Wednesday, September 20th at 6:30.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Mr. McLatchy to adjourn. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was closed at 7:37 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: 11/1/17

Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Loretta Dionne, Member

Chuck Sokol, Member

Attachments:

- Capital Improvement Plan
- Borrowing Plans
- Residential Borrowing Impact
- Other Funds Report
- Budget Calendar