Rowe Finance Committee
December 13, 2017
6:30 P.M.
Rowe Town Hall

Finance Committee: Chair Wayne Zavotka, Loretta Dionne, Paul McLatchy III
Audience of Citizens: None

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Zavotka at 6:36 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

Agenda: The agenda was reviewed and budget work was added.

Minutes: A motion was made by Ms. Dionne and seconded by Chair Zavotka to approve the minutes of November 29th as submitted. The vote was unanimous in favor.

Correspondence: The following items were addressed:

Sharon Hudson Letter: The response to Sharon Hudson's letter was reviewed and signed by all three members. Mr. McLatchy will mail it out tomorrow.

Letter from Betty Lenth: Chair Zavotka read out a letter from Betty Lenth to Sharon Hudson that was copied to the Finance Committee. She spoke in favor of the park and its staff.

Open Letter from Jodi Brown: Chair Zavotka read out an open letter from Jodi Brown, where she advocated for the park services.

Finance Committee Handbook: A letter was received from the Massachusetts Association of Finance Committees, informing the committee that the 2017 edition of the Finance Committee Handbook was available for download. The link is http://goo.gl/ZGVe5Y

Budget Calendar: So far the committee has not received budgets from the police, fire, general government departments, nor from the conservation commission or the planning board. It was agreed to set a deadline of December 31st. For the FY18 budget, a $3,679,804 operating budget was approved. An additional $196,812 was raised for the capital stabilization fund. This year the town has certified free cash at $200,256.

New Member: Jenna Crowningshield is interested, but she is concerned about her involvement as her father is an employee of the town and she would have to abstain on matters related to him. All members were still in favor of asking her to serve.

Goals: The committee spoke about goals for the coming budget season. Mr. McLatchy suggested that the committee look into lumping fixed costs together on the warrant, and to help departments affected by uncontrollable increases in their budgets. Chair Zavotka would like to see more information on the budget presented to voters prior to the annual town meeting.

Temporary Chair: During Chair Zavotka's coming absence, Mr. McLatchy will take on the role of acting chair and will be responsible for running meetings and having the agendas posted.

Next Meeting: The Finance Committee may meet after Christmas, but no date was selected.

Adjourn: A motion was made by Ms. Dionne and seconded by Chair Zavotka to adjourn. The vote was unanimous in favor, and the meeting was closed at 7:54 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: 12/28/17

Wayne A Zavotka
Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Loretta Dionne
Loretta Dionne, Member

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. December 13th - Letter to Sharon Hudson
3. November 16th - Letter from Betty Lenth to Sharon Hudson
4. November 10th – Open Letter from Jodi Brown

Rowe Finance Committee
Agenda for Wednesday, December 13, 2017
6:30 pm
Rowe Town Hall

1. Call to Order
2. Additions/Corrections to Agenda
3. Secretary's Minutes
4. Review of Budget submissions
5. Estimating Cherry Sheet
6. Discussion and/or action regarding additional finance committee member
7. Committee Goal Discussion
8. Audience of Citizens
9. Call for Adjournment

*The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which **may** be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed **may** in fact be discussed, and other items not listed **may** also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.*

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Rowe, MA 01367

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TOWN OF ROWE,
MASSACHUSETTS

Finance Committee

Wayne Zavotka, Chair
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary
Loretta Dionne, Member

Sharon Hudson
15 Newell Cross Road
Rowe, MA 01367

December 13, 2017

Dear Mrs. Hudson,

We are writing to you to acknowledge that we have received your letter regarding town finances, and will take it under consideration.

Sincerely,

The Rowe Finance Committee

Wayne Zavotka

Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Loretta Dionne

Loretta Dionne, Member

Mrs. Sharon Hudson
Space Coast RV Resort
820 Barnes Blvd.
Rockledge, FL 32955

Nov. 16, 2017

Dear Sharon,

When I heard about your comments at the annual meeting last spring suggesting closing the park during the winter months - I was disappointed and saddened. Then your letter that followed before you left for Florida made me decide to write to you.

The park is so important to the town and its inhabitants - young and old. Sean has done a wonderful job of maintaining all 16 acres most of the time by himself. He has been expanding trails, and developing programs for the summer. To suggest closing it is not only mean-spirited but it will never recover from the neglect. Part time help is hard to get, they are much less experienced and certainly would not have the interest in a project as a full time employee would have. We are so fortunate to have Sean, he is a dedicated hard-working individual and his work with the youth has been outstanding.

The Park Commission is made up of three very capable individuals and they are doing a great job. I think it should be left with them to handle any issues that come up.

Before I get off the subject of the park, Sean's lawn care business which was run by Alex and Jameson Rice, was sold in the fall of 2016. It was Sean's equipment, but Alex and Jameson did the mowing, trimming etc.

As to the subject of the Rowe School, it is a school to be proud of with dedicated teachers and staff in the new building. We all should be thankful we have such a great three member School Committee.

We should take pride in building a strong community - a community that supports its citizens and its employees and appreciates them.

You and Gary take care, Sharon. We hope you enjoy your winter in Florida.

Sincerely,

Betty Lenth

Betty Lenth

Cc: Board of Selectmen
Finance Committee
Park Commission

Nov 10, 2017
27 Newell Crossrd.
Rowe, Ma. 01367

To say I write this in distress is an understatement!!

It has come to my attention that there are those who would consider cutting back the Park Rangers hours. OMG!!

I feel strongly that this would be a grave injustice, especially to the future generations that might dwell in Rowe.

I came to Rowe in 1959, and literally fell in love with its verdant hills and sparkling rills and lakes.

I write as one who has worked with Ranger Loomis on many Old Home Day committees.

Sean is a DOER, not a STEWER, a trait I personally deeply admire.

He willingly transported large apparatuses (bouncy castle, etc.) here to Rowe to add to our festivities.

He also committed to the "Haunting" at the tool factory; so well attended

and enjoyed even by an "elder berry" such as I.

He's enthusiastic, energetic, and our gem of a park has never shone so brightly.

My five children worked summers while young, but the greatest tribute to Mr. Loomis still comes from my twenty-one year old grand-daughter, Rachel Marie Richardson.

She always speaks of Sean as the hardest working person she's ever known. She would return from the park, weary but happy and proud after a day's labor.

I thank Sean Loomis for forging strong work ethics in our youth, and as a model to look up to!

Also I firmly believe the park trails should be available all years!

Out-door activities are more essential than ever in this digital age. Here's to COUNTRY MICE !! (like me)

Humbly and sincerely

Joann (Jodi) Brown tax payer