Rowe Finance Committee
February 21, 2018
6:30 P.M.
Rowe Town Hall

Finance Committee:	Chair Wayne Zavotka, Loretta Dionne, Paul McLatchy III
Board of Selectmen:	Chair Jennifer Morse, Selectman Dennis May, Selectman Chuck Sokol, Executive Secretary Janice Boudreau
Other Attendees:	School Committee Chair Susie Zavotka
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.

Tuition Agreement: School Committee Chair Susie Zavotka attended the meeting to discuss matters relating to the Mohawk Tuition Agreement. There have been problems interpreting the agreement over the last few years. The two school committees have agreed on a new agreement and are recommended a warrant article to change how the tuition is calculated. It currently is spelled out in the regional agreement, which must be voted on unanimously by all towns to change. The new regional agreement would point to a separate tuition arrangement between the two committees that could be changed solely by votes of the two groups.

In the new agreement, special needs costs will be shared by all towns, regardless of whether it's for Rowe or not. This means that Rowe will pay more if no special needs are required by its students, but will save money if students are sent that have special needs.

The new agreement still calls for a per-pupil cost, but that cost is now based on a five-year average rather than year-to-year.

The Board of Selectmen approved adding the article to the warrant.

A motion was made by Chair Zavotka to support the article and the tuition agreement with the caveat of clarifying that "revenues" means "transportation revenues" when calculating costs. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dionne. The vote was 2-0-1, with Mr. McLatchy abstaining as he is not yet sure about the agreement.

Budget: The current budget is over by about $155,000, assuming that no special projects are rejected or paid for out of other funds.

On the road scan project, more details are needed from Lance about whether he will be able to provide an adequate plan for a highway funding project. Mr. McLatchy asked if he could list the projects expected for the next thirty years.

Chair Zavotka noted that he would like to make it a priority of making the numbers clearer and better for voters before town meeting. There was brief discussion about possibly holding an informational session on the budget before town meeting.

Move: The Finance Committee moved to the next room to continue working on the budget on their own.

Budget, Continued: Numbers are not consistent across the board for the worksheet. Funds listed on reports are different than what's on the spreadsheet. Mr. McLatchy has volunteered to compare the numbers for FY17 and FY18.

Chair Zavotka will speak with Janice Boudreau about the costs of providing health insurance for retirees. There were concerns by the members that costs for retirees could wind up driving costs up for current employees by way of the town changing the percent it pays.

A number of items were reviewed and considered for changes, and a list of questions was created.

Move: The members joined the Board of Selectmen again to compare changes that were proposed.

Budget, Continued: The following items were agreed to by both boards, with the comparison to last year's budget in parentheses:

- Reduce Town Officer Expenses from $2,000 to $1,000 (level fund)
- Reduce Planning Board Counsel Expenses from $5,125 to $5,000 (level fund)
- Reduce Planning Board Goal Post Expenses from $12,300 to $12,000 (level fund)
- Reduce Council on Aging from $4,600 to $3,800 ($800 increase)
- Reduce the Nurse's Salary Line from $50,422 to $46,543 ($913 increase, or 2.0%)
- Change the Beautification Committee line item to Beautification and fund at $500 ($500 increase)
- Reduce Conservation Commission Budget from $2,257 to $1,750 ($750 increase)
- **Total Savings: $6,111**

Next Meeting: The committee did not set a formal meeting, but felt it would be in the next two weeks.

Adjourn: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, which carried unanimously. The meeting was closed at 9:50.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: 4/4/2018

Wayne Zavotka
Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Loretta Dionne
Loretta Dionne, Member