Rowe Finance Committee
April 18, 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 Chuck Sokol
Executive Secretary:	Janice Boudreau
Audience of Citizens*:	Ken Fensky, School Committee Chair Susie Zavotka

**When in joint session with the Board of Selectmen*

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chair Zavotka at 6:30 P.M., a quorum of the committee present.

Insurance Committee: The Board of Selectmen will be appointing a special committee to research and review the insurance and benefits of the town's employees. They have requested the Finance Committee recommend someone to be appointed. It was mentioned that Mr. McLatchy may not be a suitable member, as his sister has already agreed to be on the committee. He was more than willing to not be appointed, as he is looking to avoid even the appearance of a conflict of interest. Selectman Sokol sent Chair Zavotka an email and suggested that perhaps he not be appointed either, as his son-in-law works for the park. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Mr. McLatchy to recommend Ms. Dionne be appointed to the committee. Mr. McLatchy supported Ms. Dionne's appointment, but wanted to make sure she would be open to all options. Ms. Dionne said she would go into this without any agenda. The vote was 2-0-1 in favor, with Ms. Dionne abstaining.

Free Cash: Selectman Morse asked the Finance Committee in an email to come to the Board of Selectmen with a recommendation for the unused free cash from this year's budget. Approximately $135,000-$140,000 will be left over after special projects and balancing the budget. Chair Zavotka suggested leaving it where it is, and let it roll over into next year's budget. It would be untouchable from approximately July to October, but would then be included in next year's free cash. Ms. Dionne said this was not a bad idea. Mr. McLatchy said he would rather the money go into stabilization, so that the town can start rebuilding its savings, which have been reduced by almost $700,000 in the last ten years. He also felt that it could "artificially inflate" next year's free cash and give an incorrect financial picture. No decision was made, as the committee felt it would be better to talk to the Selectmen first.

Joint Meeting: The committee moved to the next room to join the Board of Selectmen at 6:58.

School Agreements: School Committee Chair Susie Zavotka informed the two boards that both the Rowe and Mohawk School Committees have voted to approve the new tuition agreement pending approval from all nine towns to change the regional agreement. Chair Zavotka made a motion to have the Finance Committee support the two documents produced by the School Committee and have them sent out with the town meeting warrant. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dionne, and the vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

County Road Parcels: There are four adjoining plots for sale on County Road for $45,000. They are buildable lots, but the town does not plow this section of the road during the winter and remains closed. If the lots were sold and a home built, the town would have to begin plowing. Highway Superintendent Lance Larned estimated it could cost around $500,000 to make the road wide enough to plow during the winter. Chair Morse suggested

that the town consider purchasing the plots, as it would be far cheaper in the long run. As there were too many other factors in what it would mean to purchase the land, it was agreed that more research would be needed.

Warrant/Split: The two boards briefly reviewed the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant. It was requested by Mr. McLatchy that the Finance Committee meet separately when making its recommendations on the warrant, to ensure independent recommendations. It was agreed, and the committee moved to the next room at 7:32.

Article Recommendations: The following recommendations were made by the Finance Committee on each article. Some articles needed to be updated to reflect the agreed-upon numbers.

Article 4: General Government. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article with updated numbers. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 3: Changing the Tax Collector to an Appointed Position. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 5: Assessor's Quintennial Revaluation. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 6: Reserve Fund. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 7: Public Works. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article with updated numbers. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 8: Chapter 90. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 9: Public Safety. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article with updated numbers. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 10: Health and Sanitation. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 11: Revolving Board of Health, Dispensing Site. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 12: Revolving Board of Health, Recycling. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 13: Revolving Board of Health, Vaccines. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 14: School. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 2-0-1 in favor, with Mr. McLatchy abstaining as he has siblings who work for the school.

Article 15: Revolving School. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 2-0-1 in favor, with Mr. McLatchy abstaining as he has siblings who work for the school.

Article 16: Library. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 17: Park. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor. Chair Zavotka noted that in-laws are not considered a relative covered by the conflict of interest laws.

Article 18: Culture and Recreation. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 19: Old Home Day Event. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded to split Article 19 into two separate votes, one allocating $2,000 to the revolving fund, while leaving $5,000 for the fireworks as a line item. Mr. McLatchy made the argument that the timing of Old Home Day made it difficult to plan finances, as the new fiscal year falls right before Old Home Day. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the new article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 20: Old Home Day Fireworks. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 21: Revolving Old Home Day. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 22: Pensions and Insurance. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 2-0-1 in favor, with Mr. McLatchy abstaining as he has siblings who work for the school and receive benefits.

Article 23: Free Cash to Reduce Levy. The Finance Committee agreed to make a recommendation for town meeting, as the final number was in flux.

Article 24: Assessors Overlay to Reduce Levy. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 25: Free Cash for Website. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 2-1-0 in favor, with Mr. McLatchy dissenting.

Article 26: GASB 34 Capital Assets. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 27: GASB 45 OPEB. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 28: Assessors Revalutation. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 29: Assessors Valuation. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 30: Capital Projects. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 31: Park Vehicle. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 32: Regional Agreement Change. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 33: Stabilization. It was unknown how much money would be left over in free cash, so it was agreed not to vote on this until meeting again with the Selectmen.

Article 34: Authorize the Selectmen and Assessors to enter into contracts. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 35: Allow the Selectmen to apply for grants. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 36: Did not involve finances, so not voted on.

Article 37: Finance Committee Bylaw Change. A motion was made by Chair Zavotka and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend the article. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor.

Article 38: Did not involve finances, so not voted on.

Joint Meeting: The Finance Committee joined the Board of Selectmen at 8:16.

Recommendations: The two boards went through the warrant again, updating errors and reviewing recommendations. On Article 33 (stabilization), Chair Morse informed the Finance Committee that unspent free cash can't be rolled over- it must be appropriated somewhere. A motion was then made by Mr. McLatchy and seconded by Ms. Dionne to recommend appropriating all unspent free cash to stabilization. The vote was 3-0-0 in favor. The Selectboard voted unanimously to recommend all articles.

Next Meeting: The Finance Committee will meet April 25th at 3:30 before the all board meetings.

Adjourn: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting, which carried unanimously. The meeting was closed at 8:58.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Approved on: 4/25/18

Wayne A Zavotka

Wayne Zavotka, Chairman

Paul McLatchy III, Secretary

Loretta Dionne

Loretta Dionne, Member