

Town of Rowe Park Commission
Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2021
6:30 PM
Rowe Town Hall

In Person Attendance: Laurie Pike (Park Commissioner), Hannah Poplawski (Park Commissioner), and Sean Loomis (Park Manager).
Remote Attendance: Chris "Selmi" Hyytinen.

Audience of Citizens: None

Meeting called to order at 6:48 PM

Budget for Fiscal '23

The focus of this meeting was to begin drafting a fiscal '23 budget for wages and operations. It was decided to go through the current budget fiscal'22 line by line to discuss whether changes needed to be made for the next fiscal year and discuss what those changes might be. The following highlights discussions that took place about the various budget line items. The December 6 meeting will continue these discussions to finalize a fiscal '23 budget to send to the Finance Committee.

Wages

1. A new Wage and Salary Schedule was proposed and presented by the BOS recently. It was recommended but not required that the Park Commission use this schedule to determine wages for employees. It was decided after looking at the new Salary Schedule that more research would be helpful to determine how it compares to current wages for long-time employees and the COLA raise they had been receiving each year. There is also the question to resolve of whether it would apply to the Summer Youth Employment Program.
2. It was noted that the minimum wage will increase in 2022 by another \$.75 to \$14.25 an hour. A discussion ensued about wages for Summer Youth Employees. It was noted that the age range for summer employees begins at 14 years of age and up. The difficulty in determining a wage for part-time summer employees lies in the fact that we may not know who will be returning employees until after the budget has been approved at the annual town meeting. It was agreed that we would like to be able to offer returning employees an increased wage over the previous year to reflect their years of experience. A standardized wage schedule for Summer Youth Employment Programs between the town departments would be helpful but may not need to start at minimum wage for the youngest members. There was some discussion about how many weeks to offer the summer recreation program. It was decided to stay with a four week program Monday through Thursday for four hours a day. In addition, it was

determined that Recreation 2nd Assistants positions would be reduced from 4 to 3 employees.

Operations and Maintenance

1. The Operations and Maintenance budget will be discussed in more detail at the December meeting but discussions included a possible reduction in the number of days for the Adventure Program from 5 days to 2 days. Swimming lessons have not taken place the last two years due to Covid restrictions but will be offered this summer. Research will need to be done to determine a current cost for the lessons. In the past there was no charge for participants from Rowe for swimming lessons but a fee was charged for school -of -choice participants. It was noted that the park would like to offer a community program at least once a season in the next fiscal year.
2. There may be some increases in the price of materials for the next fiscal year for example lumber, cord of wood, landscape material, etc. With the new kiosks going up this spring there may be some cost for signage to display information on them.
3. It was noted that the park second-hand truck is getting old and may be in need of more costly repairs in the future.

Budget discussions will continue at the December 6, 2021 meeting at 6:30 PM on Zoom.

Meeting Adjourned 8:55 PM

Respectfully submitted by,
Laurie Pike
Rowe Park Commission