

Town of Rowe - Special Town Meeting
Saturday, October 24, 2020
12:00 PM, Rowe Fire Station Parking Lot - 4 Sibley Road

Presidential Election Voter Information

Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

ARTICLE 1: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **MUNICIPAL STABILIZATION FUND** the sum of \$130,000.00 for the **FORD HILL CULVERT PROJECT**, or take any action in relation thereto.

Explanation: The town has received a \$500,000 grant to replace the culvert on Ford Hill Road. Estimates for engineering and construction range from \$500,000 to \$630,000. It is unlikely the entire \$130,000 will be needed, but the town cannot proceed until full funding is in place. Any unspent funds will be returned to stabilization upon project completion.

NOTE: 2/3 Vote is required to appropriate from a stabilization fund.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen
Recommended by the Finance Committee (3-0-0)

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND** the sum of \$29,500.00 to replace the **SCHOOL TRACTOR**, or take any action in relation thereto.

Explanation: The school's tractor needs extensive repairs totaling almost \$7,500. It is not ideal for the hilly terrain of the school, which has already resulted in an accident. This new tractor is better equipped for the school grounds and will allow for snow removal during winter months. As of now snow cannot be cleared until either the existing tractor is repaired, or a new tractor is purchased. This equipment can also be used at the Park.

NOTE: 2/3 Vote is required to appropriate from a stabilization fund.

Requested by the School Committee
Recommended by the Finance Committee (3-0-0)

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **MUNICIPAL STABILIZATION FUND** the sum of \$9,000.00 to install **SECURITY AND MONITORING EQUIPMENT** at the Rowe Elementary School, or take any action in relation thereto.

Explanation: The school needs additional cameras within the building as there currently are none. This project will also include sensors and alarms for the refrigerator/freezer so that if they should fail during a period of time when the school is not open (i.e. the weekend, a vacation, etc.), someone will be notified to avoid the loss of potentially thousands of dollars in perishable food.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this project was delayed during budget season. It was initially slated to be spent from Free Cash, but as it has not been certified for FY21, it will need to come from other funds. It is the intent of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to replenish these funds from Free Cash when it is certified.

NOTE: 2/3 Vote is required to appropriate from a stabilization fund.

Requested by the School Committee
Recommended by the Finance Committee (3-0-0)

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **MUNICIPAL STABILIZATION FUND** the sum of \$3,500.00 to pay for **CEMETERY LAND LEGAL FEES**, or take any action in relation thereto.

Explanation: The town appropriated funds to purchase land to expand the North Cemetery. However, there are additional costs involved to ensure the land is cleared for purchase.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this project was delayed during budget season. It was initially slated to be spent from Free Cash, but as it has not been certified for FY21, it will need to come from other funds. It is the intent of the Board of Selectmen and Finance Committee to replenish these funds from Free Cash when it is certified.

NOTE: 2/3 Vote is required to appropriate from a stabilization fund.

Requested by the Board of Selectmen
Recommended by the Finance Committee (3-0-0)

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND** the sum of \$26,000.00 to replace the **PARK STRUCTURE AND SAND**, or take any action in relation thereto.

Explanation: The wooden park structure is over twenty years old and needs replacing. This will also require additional sand to level the structure area.

NOTE: 2/3 Vote is required to appropriate from a stabilization fund.

Requested by the Park Commission
Finance Committee Unable to Make Recommendation Due to Lack of Quorum

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND** the sum of \$15,000.00 to purchase, install, and/or program **EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT**, or take any action in relation thereto.

Explanation: The county will be transitioning to a new radio system operated by the state as the existing network is failing and cannot be repaired. New radios will be needed to operate on this system. These funds help to augment grant moneys from the state to purchase better radios and necessary accessories.

NOTE: 2/3 Vote is required to appropriate from a stabilization fund.

Requested by the Fire Chief
Recommended by the Finance Committee (3-0-0)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER** from the **TOWN NURSE WAGES** line the sum of \$3,750.00 to the **BOARD OF HEALTH OPERATIONS** line, or take any action in relation thereto.

Explanation: The Board of Health needed to have the compactor ramp paved before fall. While there were excess funds in the Nurse's wages line due to a lack of a nurse, the Board was unable to expend these funds directly and therefore spent out of their operations. This transfer replenishes those funds.

Requested by the Board of Health
Recommended by the Finance Committee (3-0-0)

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to **ACCEPT** the provisions of **CHAPTER 54, SECTION 16A OF THE MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL LAWS:**

In any city or town which accepts this section, if the warden, clerk or inspector, or the deputy of any such officer, if any, is not present at the opening of the polls, the city or town clerk may appoint a person to fill such vacancy who shall be an enrolled voter of the same political party as the absent officer, if any competent person enrolled in such party is present and willing to serve.

or take any action in relation thereto.

Explanation: Acceptance of this general law allows for the Town Clerk to make appointments on election day if there are any last-minute vacancies in staffing. Otherwise the Board of Selectmen is still the appointing authority for all election workers/officers.

Requested by the Town Clerk

ARTICLE 9: To transact any other business of a lawful and pertinent nature that may come before the meeting.

ROWE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Charles Sokol, Chair

Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair

Edward Silva, Selectman

VOTER REGISTRATION FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Wednesday, October 14th

2:00-4:00 PM & 7:00-8:00 PM

Rowe Town Hall (321 Zoar Road)

2020 Presidential Election Information

Tuesday, November 3, 2020 - 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM

Rowe Elementary School - 86 Pond Road

In-Person Early Voting:

October 17/18: 6:00-8:00 PM

October 19/20/22/23: 8:00AM-12:00PM & 12:30PM-4:30PM

October 24: 2:00-4:00 PM & 7:00-8:00 PM

October 25: 6:00PM-8:00PM

October 26/27/29/30: 8:00AM-12:00PM & 12:30PM-4:30PM

Voter Registration and Last Day to Register to Vote: October 24, 2:00-4:00 PM & 7:00-8:00 PM

All early voting and voter registration to be held at Rowe Town Hall (321 Zoar Road).

Mail-in ballots can be requested from the town clerk via mail up to Wednesday, October 28th but must be in writing- applications available online. Completed ballots can be left in the outside drop box at town hall or mailed. Once received they are logged into the state voting system and then kept in locked, fireproof storage until election day. You can track your ballot status by going to:

<https://www.sec.state.ma.us/wheredoivotema/track/trackmyballot.aspx>

Election day voting takes place at the school. Voters will enter through the rear entrance next to the basketball court and will not be permitted to enter any room other than the gymnasium. Please wear a mask for the safety of our poll workers, other voters, and students.

Town of Rowe
P.O. Box 462
Rowe, MA 01367

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