

# Town of Rowe



## Annual Town Meeting & Election Voter Information Guide

### Town Meeting:

Saturday, May 15, 2021

10:00 AM

Rowe Elementary School

### Rain Date

Sunday, May 16, 2021

10:00 AM

Rowe Elementary School

### Town Election:

Saturday, May 15, 2021

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Rowe Elementary School

## 2021 Annual Town Meeting: Key Points for Voters Regarding This Year's Meeting

Dear Rowe Voters,

This year, the annual town meeting remains challenging as we continue to address the unique circumstances associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. Therefore, we think it is important to share detailed information with voters about the plans and logistics for the 2021 annual town meeting, which will be held Saturday, May 15th at 10:00am on the athletic field at Rowe Elementary School.

First and foremost, we want you to know that special Covid-19-related public safety measures and precautions continue to be in place. The overarching goal is to do everything possible to conduct the meeting in a way that protects the health and safety of attendees, while at the same time upholding our high town meeting standards of participatory democracy.

The planning and organization for this year's annual meeting is being done in collaboration with the board of selectmen, town clerk, town administrator, the Rowe Board of Health and safety officials, and the Rowe Elementary School.

Below is a summary of the specific steps being taken to help conduct the annual town meeting safely and efficiently.

- **Meeting Venue:** The annual town meeting will again be held outside on the athletic field at Rowe Elementary School. This venue has been chosen because the guidance from public health officials indicates that an outdoor gathering provides the safest venue for conducting a gathering of this type and for guarding against the spread of Covid-19 even as many receive a vaccination.
- **Social Distancing:** Safe social distancing measures will be in place again for voter check-in and in the arrangement and spacing of chairs placed on the athletic field. To ensure that we have adequate seating capacity you may want to bring your own. Rowe Elementary School will have chairs available to be set up for the meeting if you would prefer.
- **Face Coverings:** Attendees will be required to wear a mask or other type of face covering.
- **Meeting Efficiency:** A number of steps will be taken to help facilitate a quick, efficient and orderly meeting.
  - **Consent Agenda Motion:** Fewer articles than usual may be included on the annual town meeting warrant, and a number of routine articles (essentially those that must be voted at each annual town meeting) will be combined into what is known as a consent agenda. This consent agenda motion will enable multiple articles to be voted at once, rather than go through each one separately. As a democratic protection under this process, any voter may make a request to take a consent agenda article out of the consent motion. In that case, the article will be considered and voted separately. Many towns in Massachusetts use a consent agenda process as a tool to enhance the efficiency of annual town meetings.
  - **Time Limits for Speaking:** Under the moderator's powers to regulate the town meeting proceedings, time limits are being put in place for those speaking at our town meeting.
    - Anyone presenting an article will be given **up to four minutes** to introduce the article.
    - Comments from voters will be **limited to two minutes**.
    - No one will be recognized to speak a second time on any one issue until everyone who wants to speak has had an opportunity to do so.
    - Rude or disrespectful speech will not be tolerated.
- **Rain Date:** The decision on whether to postpone the ATM will be made the day of the meeting. If a postponement is needed due to weather, we will post on the Rowe Town website ([rowe-ma.gov](http://rowe-ma.gov)). The rain date for the annual town meeting will be Sunday, May 16<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am on the athletic field at Rowe Elementary School.

As always, your input, feedback and questions regarding the plans for the annual town meeting are welcome. You can contact Bob Clancy via email at [robertjclancy@gmail.com](mailto:robertjclancy@gmail.com) or Paul McLatchy III at [townclerk@rowe-ma.gov](mailto:townclerk@rowe-ma.gov). We recognize that this continues to be a challenging time and understand that people are still being careful and cautious about going out in public. Our hope is that the safety measures and precautions will give voters a comfort level about attending the annual town meeting.

Thank you and stay safe.

Bob Clancy  
Town Moderator

Paul McLatchy III  
Town Clerk

## Annual Town Meeting

### Report of the Finance Committee

#### Introduction

In the past Finance Committees often included a written financial report alongside the proposed budget prior to the Annual Town Meeting. We are pleased to start this again and provide additional information for our voters. We hope that this information is helpful and educational while politically neutral. Whether you are an experienced town meeting attendee or showing up for the first time, we thank you for your participation in our democratic institutions and for your role in shaping town policy.

#### Finance Committee Changes

Last year there was a change to the role of the Finance Committee in the budgeting process. Previously the Board of Selectmen would set the budget with the Finance Committee having recommending authority, but no ability to make any changes and no ability to bring something to town meeting floor. Last year a change was made in the bylaws that clarifies it is the duty of the Finance Committee to submit a budget to the townspeople. This shifted the Finance Committee from being merely an advisory body to actually having some control over the budget proposals. This has given the Finance Committee a more meaningful role in town governance.

In the past few years, we have been fortunate to have a full complement of members. New people are always encouraged to run. There are three open seats on the ballot, and one incumbent is seeking re-election.

#### Budget Comparison

Due to the revaluation of the hydroelectric properties in town a few years ago, Rowe has been fortunate in that we are not being tightly constrained to the limits of Proposition 2½. However, just because we *can* tax more does not mean that we *should*. We have therefore strived to try and formulate a budget that both continues to provide the services we desire while being fiscally responsible.

Under the Finance Committee's proposed operating budget, the total amount being requested is \$4,161,184. Removing \$24,300 for Monroe's portion of the shared accountant, this reduces the amount raised from taxation to \$4,136,884. This is a \$99,194 increase over last year, or a 2.46% increase. This

does not include things like special projects or payment on debt, which are not recurring expenses.

In a normal year, the "magic number" most people look for is 2.5%. Due to the pandemic having a major impact on how certain departments function, the Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen made sure to examine more than just the last fiscal year when drafting the budget. This was important to help explain any larger discrepancies.

#### Noteworthy Items (i.e. Which lines are more likely to raise questions)

Stipends: This article combines all the elected officials in one section. Stipends for elected officials have not seen any increase in at least two years.

Treasurer: The treasurer position was changed from a part-time position to a full-time position. 20 hours or more is full-time for municipal employees.

Town Accountant: Rowe shares its town accountant with Monroe. The requested amount is for the total cost, which Monroe will reimburse 40%.

Road Surface Reclamation: As this line had been level-funded for a few years, it was agreed to increase to help keep pace with rising costs.

Nurse Wages: As the previous nurse retired, a new nurse has been hired on at a lower wage. This does not represent a reduction in hours.

Rowe School: Cuts made in FY21 were restored, with contractual increases and expenses driving the bulk of the increases.

7-12 Schools: Busing costs have been reduced due to reduction of a vehicle. More students are attending Tech, driving up the tuition.

Park Wages and Operations: As the Grasshopper youth program cannot be held, funds from that line were shifted to the park to hire youth from that program. It is intended to return these funds back to the DPW in FY23.

Pensions and Insurance: These are often uncontrollable costs that fluctuate each year.

#### New Stabilization Funds

The Finance Committee is supporting two new stabilization funds. At this time, no dedicated revenue source is being approved, and every appropriation to/from these accounts require town meeting approval.

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Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) Stabilization Fund: This fund is planned on being used as a “rainy day” fund that will be used to help pay for retirement benefits if the town’s revenues decrease in the future. OPEB liabilities include retiree health, dental, and life insurances, and regional retirement assessments. Even if the town loses its major source of revenue, the town is still required to pay on these liabilities. Right now, we pay on an annual basis as part of the benefits line, but if our tax base decreases we may have to make major cuts elsewhere to continue to pay for it out of the operating budget. There is no intent to utilize this fund unless the town’s revenues shrink drastically or liabilities decrease to a much lower level and there is a surplus.

Highway Stabilization Fund: This fund would be used to help pay for road/bridge maintenance for larger projects. This past year Kings Highway Bridge was replaced for approximately \$600,000. Luckily, the town obtained grants, but there may be times when funding is not available from the state and a project needs to be completed. This fund can be used to help offset some or all those costs. This would not be used to pay for smaller projects like filling in potholes but would be used to help pay for large expenses like paving or road reconstruction that cannot be covered solely by Chapter 90 and/or town appropriations.

**Conclusion**

The Finance Committee and Board of Selectmen worked closely together with departments during a pandemic to try and develop an appropriate budget for town meeting. We want to thank town hall staff and all department heads for their cooperation and support during this endeavor.

We hope that voters will feel encouraged to ask questions during town meeting.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

Wayne Zavotka, Chairman  
 Loretta Dionne, Vice-Chair  
 Paul McLatchy III, Secretary  
 Christopher “Selmi” Hyytinen, Member  
 Laurie Pike, Member

**Rowe Finance Committee**

**Budget Numbers Including Benefit Costs**

For every benefitted position that is created, the town must budget \$21,426 in benefits (health, dental, life). This information is not being provided to discourage hiring or target any one department, but to educate the public and town officials on the additional costs of employees that may be overlooked.

**General Government/Administration**

Operating Budget:	\$419,478
<u>Benefit Costs:</u>	<u>\$46,214</u>
True Costs:	\$465,692

**DPW/Highway**

Operating Budget:	\$584,683
<u>Benefit Costs:</u>	<u>\$52,217</u>
True Costs:	\$636,900

**Police Department**

Operating Budget:	\$67,547
<u>Benefit Costs:</u>	<u>\$0</u>
True Costs:	\$67,547

**Board of Health**

Operating Budget:	\$143,479
<u>Benefit Costs:</u>	<u>\$73</u>
True Costs:	\$143,552

**Parks**

Operating Budget:	\$140,608
- <i>Grasshopper Funds</i>	<i>(\$21,500)</i>
<u>Benefit Costs:</u>	<u>\$19,672</u>
True Costs:	\$138,780

**Library**

Operating Budget:	\$72,125
<u>Benefit Costs:</u>	<u>\$19,672</u>
True Costs:	\$91,797

**Elementary School**

Operating Budget:	\$1,146,527
<u>Benefit Costs:</u>	<u>\$330,574</u>
True Costs:	\$1,477,101

**Retirement**

Operating Budget:	\$0
<u>Benefit Costs:</u>	<u>\$154,812</u>
True Costs:	\$154,812

Annual Town Meeting – FY2022  
Town of Rowe  
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

**Franklin, SS.**

To either constable of the Town of Rowe in the County of Franklin,

**Greeting:**

In the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, you are directed to notify and warn the inhabitants of the Town of Rowe, qualified to vote in the elections and town affairs, to meet at the **ROWE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL** in said **ROWE**, on **SATURDAY**, the **FIFTEENTH** day of **MAY 2021** at **10:00 A.M.** in the morning, with a rain date of **SUNDAY**, the **SIXTEENTH** day of **MAY 2021** at **10:00 A.M.** in the morning, then and there to act on the following articles:

**ARTICLE 1:** To act on reports of the Town Officers and Committees.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the Town will vote to authorize, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44 §53E½ and the Town of Rowe General Bylaws, the following sums for **REVOLVING FUNDS**, or take any action in relation thereto:

Revolving Fund	Entity Authorized to Spend from Fund	Fees, Charges, or Receipts Credited to Fund	Program or Activity Expenses Payable from Fund	Restrictions or Conditions on Expenses Payable from Fund	Fiscal Years
Emergency Dispensing Site	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Emergency Dispensing Site Operations	Dispensing medicines or medical supplies during an emergency	Limit of \$1,000.00	Fiscal Year 2021
Recycling Program	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Recycling Program	Operation of solid waste and recycling programs, membership in and services of the Franklin County Solid Waste Management District, and the purchase of recycled content or environmentally preferable products	Limit of \$5,000.00	Fiscal Year 2021
Vaccine Services	Board of Health	Receipts from Insurance Billing	Vaccine Services	Limit of \$6,000.00	Fiscal Year 2021
School Programs	School Committee	Fees for School Programs	Offset Department Costs of School Programs	Limit of \$10,000.00	Fiscal Year 2021
Old Home Day	Old Home Day Committee	Receipts Generated by Old Home Day Activities and Programs	Expenses of Old Home Day	Limit of \$2,000.00	Fiscal Year 2021
Refuse Garden	Board of Health	Receipts Related to the Refuse Garden Operations	Operation of the town Refuse Garden	Limit of \$5,000.00	Fiscal Year 2021 and Subsequent Years
Planning Board Legal/ Consulting	Planning Board	Receipts Related to Fees for Special Permits and Other Work of the Planning Board	Legal consultation and representation	Limit of \$50,000.00	Fiscal Year 2021 and Subsequent Years
Park Programs	Park Commission	Receipts Related to Park Programs	Operation of programs run by the Pelham Lake Park	Limit of \$2,000.00	Fiscal Year 2021 and Subsequent Years

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to **AUTHORIZE** the **BOARD OF SELECTMEN** to apply for, accept, and expend federal and state grants as may be available, or take any action in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to **AUTHORIZE** the **TREASURER** to enter into compensating balance agreements during the 2022 fiscal year, pursuant to M.G.L. c.44 §53F, or take any action in relation thereto.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums and to set the stipends/salary compensation for all elected officials of the town as provided by M.G.L. c.41 §108, to be made effective from July 1, 2021, as follows or take any action in relation thereto:

**Elected Boards & Committees:**

Board of Assessors (3).....	\$5,354
Board of Health (3).....	\$4,938
Board of Selectmen (3).....	\$5,928
School Committee (3).....	\$4,564

**Elected Town Officers**

Constable .....	\$549
Moderator .....	\$439
Town Clerk .....	\$13,835

**TOTAL ELECTED OFFICIALS SALARIES FROM TAXATION.....\$35,607**

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous (one abstention)  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 6:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$2,150** for **INTEREST ON INDEBTEDNESS** for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 7:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **THE CONDUCT OF GENERAL GOVERNMENT**, including the charges and expenses of the various town offices, for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

**Administration**

General Administration .....	\$135,752
Municipal Audit.....	\$8,000
Executive Secretary .....	\$50,469
Administrative Assistant to the Boards .....	\$43,706
Town Hall Custodian Wages .....	\$19,422
Custodian Expenses .....	\$4,775
Legal .....	\$8,000
Tax Collector Salary .....	\$8,528
Tax Collector Operations.....	\$7,997
Treasurer Salary.....	\$28,397
Treasurer Operations .....	\$10,000
Assistant Town Clerk Stipend .....	\$1,200
Town Clerk Expenses .....	\$2,960
Conservation Commission.....	\$1,180
Council on Aging.....	\$3,800
Goal Post Editor Wages.....	\$6,304
Goal Post Operations .....	\$3,000
Veteran's Services .....	\$4,869

FRCOG Services .....	\$23,044
Town Accountant Salary .....	\$44,373*
<u>Town Accountant Expenses .....</u>	<u>\$3,972</u>
Subtotal Administration .....	\$419,748

**Board of Assessors**

Assessors' Clerk Wages .....	\$12,000
Assessors' Reval/Annual Updates.....	\$22,600
<u>Assessors' Operations .....</u>	<u>\$9,900</u>
Subtotal Board of Assessors.....	\$44,500

**Planning Board**

Planning Board Operations .....	\$2,000
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**TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT FROM TAXATION ..... \$466,248**

**\*Explanation:** 40% of the Town Accountant's salary is paid for by the Town of Monroe through a shared services agreement. However, Rowe must budget the entire amount and then be reimbursed. This "jump" will not increase taxes and is only an accounting mechanism.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous (one abstention)  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 8:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$5,000** to the **PLANNING BOARD LEGAL/CONSULTING REVOLVING FUND** for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 9:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$20,000** to be used as a **RESERVE FUND**, pursuant to M.G.L. c.40, §6 for the extraordinary or unforeseen expenditures for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 10:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for the operation and maintenance of **PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES** for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

**Highway Department**

DPW Salaries and Wages.....	\$296,033*
Roadside Work .....	\$5,000
DPW Operations.....	\$215,038*
<u>Winter Roads.....</u>	<u>\$68,612</u>
Subtotal Highway Department .....	\$584,683

**Other Public Works & Facilities**

Street Lighting.....	\$5,500
Municipal Light Plant Operations .....	\$1,000
Municipal Light Plant Manager Stipend .....	\$6,800
<u>Dam Maintenance/Repair.....</u>	<u>\$1,200</u>
Subtotal Other Public Works & Facilities.....	\$14,500

**Cemetery Commission**

Cemetery Operations .....\$15,000

**TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS & FACILITIES FROM TAXATION.....\$614,183**

**\*Explanation:** \$20,000 was removed from the DPW department as the Grasshopper program has been cancelled in 2021 due to the pandemic. This amount is being requested in the Park’s budget to enable them to hire additional youth workers from the grasshopper program, with the intent that it will be shifted back for FY23. \$1,500 from youth expenses for the grasshopper program will also be shifted to the park, with the intent to return it in FY23.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 11:** To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from **ANY AVAILABLE FUND** the sum of **\$141,851** for the maintenance, repair, improvement, and construction of town highways, or any other purpose allowed under Chapter 90, which amounts shall be reimbursed by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts through funds made available by Chapter 90 or take any action in relation thereto.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 12:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC SAFETY** for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

**Police Department**

Police Salaries.....\$57,347  
Police Operations.....\$10,200  
Subtotal Police Department .....\$67,547

**Fire Department**

Fire Department Stipends & Wages .....\$35,722  
Fire Department Operations .....\$43,392  
Subtotal Fire Department.....\$79,114

**Emergency Management**

Emergency Management Stipends .....\$3,864  
Emergency Management Operations.....\$1,000  
Generator Maintenance.....\$3,500  
Subtotal Emergency Management.....\$8,364

**Animal Control and Inspection**

Animal Control Stipends .....\$1,157  
Animal Inspector Stipend .....\$532  
Regional Dog Kennel .....\$350  
Subtotal Animal Control.....\$2,039

**TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY FROM TAXATION.....\$157,064**

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 13:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC HEALTH** for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

**Public Health**

Health Department Stipends and Wages .....\$77,394  
Board of Health Operations .....\$66,085

**TOTAL PUBLIC HEALTH FROM TAXATION .....\$143,479**

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **PUBLIC SCHOOLS** for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

**Education**

Rowe School PreK-6 Operating Budget.....\$1,146,527  
Rowe School Secondary 7-12.....\$503,453

**TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM TAXATION .....\$1,649,980**

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous (one abstention)  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **ROWE TOWN LIBRARY** for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

**Rowe Town Library**

Library Wages .....\$43,975  
Library Operations .....\$28,150

**TOTAL ROWE TOWN LIBRARY FROM TAXATION.....\$72,125**

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the following sums for **MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF PELHAM LAKE PARK** for the 2022 Fiscal Year or take any action in relation thereto:

**Pelham Lake Park**

Park Wages .....\$117,108\*  
Park Operations .....\$23,500\*

**TOTAL PELHAM LAKE PARK FROM TAXATION .....\$140,608**

**\*Explanation:** The \$20,000/\$1,500 increase in wages/operations is due to the grasshopper program being cancelled, which cannot be safely run due to the Covid-19 Pandemic. These funds have been reappropriated from that program to the Park budget which will allow the Park to hire additional youths from the grasshopper program over the summer. It is planned to return these funds to the DPW's budget in FY2023 and is a one-time increase in wages.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous (two abstentions)  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*



**Explanation:** As Free Cash had not been certified at the October 2020 special town meeting, \$12,500 was appropriated from Stabilization for security equipment at the school and for cemetery legal fees, with the intent to replenish these funds when Free Cash was certified. If Free Cash is not certified by town meeting, this article will be tabled.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to **RAISE AND APPROPRIATE** the sum of **\$100,000** for the purpose of paying down **PRINCIPAL ON THE BROADBAND DEBT** or take any action in relation thereto.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to **APPROPRIATE** from the **CAPITAL STABILIZATION FUND** the following sums for **CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS, REPAIRS, AND PROPERTY** or take any action in relation thereto:

**FIRE**                      Utility Vehicle .....\$300,000

**Note:** Appropriations from a stabilization fund require 2/3 majority vote.

*Proposed and Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous  
Unable to be voted on by Finance Committee due to lack of quorum.*

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to **CREATE AND ESTABLISH** a new **OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS (OPEB) STABILIZATION FUND**, for the purpose of funding retiree benefits, including, but not limited to health insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, and pension assessments, or take any action in relation thereto.

**Note:** Articles creating new stabilization funds require a 2/3 majority vote. This article does not appropriate any money to this fund and only authorizes the creation of said fund.

**Explanation:** It has been recommended that the town begin contributing funds to an OPEB fund that can be used to pay for some or all of future retiree benefits. Even in the event of a massive loss in tax revenue, the town is obligated to pay for current and future retiree benefits. Savings in this stabilization fund would be accumulated over years and would be used in the future to help offset some or all expenses in the event that tax revenues are drastically reduced.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER A SUM OF MONEY** from **FREE CASH** to the **OPEB STABILIZATION FUND** or take any action in relation thereto.

**Note:** This vote is contingent upon the creation of the OPEB Stabilization Fund in Article 23.

**Explanation:** At the time of signing the warrant, free cash had not been certified. A number representing approximately 50% of unallocated free cash will be proposed at town meeting if it has been certified, or the article will be tabled if it hasn't.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to **TRANSFER A SUM OF MONEY** from **FREE CASH** to the **STABILIZATION FUND** or take any action in relation thereto.

**Explanation:** At the time of signing the warrant, free cash had not been certified. A number representing approximately 50% of unallocated free cash will be proposed at town meeting if it has been certified, or the article will be tabled if it hasn't.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to **CREATE AND ESTABLISH** a new **HIGHWAY STABILIZATION FUND**, for the purpose of funding infrastructure repairs and improvements, including, but not limited to: paved roads, dirt roads, bridges, culverts, and drains, or take any action in relation thereto.

**Note:** Articles creating new stabilization funds require a 2/3 majority vote. This article does not appropriate any money to this fund and only authorizes the creation of said fund.

**Explanation:** The cost of road repairs/improvements has risen drastically in the last twenty years- even accounting for inflation, the cost has more than doubled. Chapter 90 funds are no longer sufficient to adequately maintain our infrastructure, and many project costs are too large to be absorbed into a single budget year. This fund would be used to help save and pay for future large-cost improvements like paving, dirt road rebuilding, bridge replacement, etc.

*Recommended by the Finance Committee, Unanimous  
Recommended by the Board of Selectmen, Unanimous*

**ARTICLE 27:** To transact any other business that may lawfully come before the meeting.

And you are directed to serve this warrant by posting up attested copies thereof at the **ROWE TOWN HALL** and **ROWE TRANSFER STATION** in said Town, fourteen days at least before the time of holding said meeting.

Hereof fail not, and make due return of the warrant, with your doings thereon, to the Town Clerk at the time of said meeting as aforesaid.

Given under our hands this Twenty-second day of April in the year **TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-ONE**.

Charles Sokol, Chair  
Joanne Semanie, Vice-Chair  
Edward Silva, Selectman  
**Rowe Board of Selectmen**

A true copy, attest: Henry Dandeneau, Constable

**Franklin, SS.**

Pursuant to the within warrant, I have notified and warned the inhabitants of the Town of Rowe by posting up attested copies of the same at the **ROWE TOWN HALL** and the **ROWE TRANSFER STATION**, fourteen days before the date hereof, as within directed.

Henry Dandeneau, Constable

FY2022 Budget Supplemental

Warrant Line	Detail	FY20 TOTAL	FY21 TOTAL	FY22 Proposed	Change (\$)	Change (%)
<b>STIPENDS</b>						
Board of Assessors	Board of Assessors	\$5,354	\$5,354	\$5,354	\$0	0.00%
Board of Health	Board of Health	\$4,938	\$4,938	\$4,938	\$0	0.00%
Board of Selectmen	Board of Selectmen	\$5,928	\$5,928	\$5,928	\$0	0.00%
School Committee	School Committee	\$4,564	\$4,564	\$4,564	\$0	0.00%
Constable	Constable	\$549	\$549	\$549	\$0	0.00%
Moderator	Moderator	\$439	\$439	\$439	\$0	0.00%
Town Clerk	Town Clerk	\$13,835	\$13,835	\$13,835	\$0	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Stipends</b>	<b>\$35,607</b>	<b>\$35,607</b>	<b>\$35,607</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
Interest on Debt	Interest on Indebtedness (Broadband)	\$12,167	\$7,190	\$2,150	-\$5,040	-70.10%
<b>GENERAL GOVERNMENT</b>						
General Administration	General Administration	\$15,000	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$0	0.00%
	Town Officers Expenses	\$1,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.00%
	IT- Hardware/Software	\$8,000	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$0	0.00%
	IT - Consultant	\$8,000	\$18,792	\$14,172	-\$4,620	-24.58%
	Townwide Notification	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0	0.00%
	Municipal Ops & Maintenance	\$14,000	\$20,052	\$19,000	-\$1,052	-5.25%
	TH Fuel Oil	\$4,500	\$4,300	\$4,000	-\$300	-6.98%
	TH Electricity	\$5,100	\$4,200	\$5,000	\$800	19.05%
	TH Elevator Maintenance	\$3,000	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$0	0.00%
	Bonding & Insurance	\$54,209	\$63,444	\$65,030	\$1,586	2.50%
	Print Town Reports	\$3,000	\$1,000	\$550	-\$450	-45.00%
Municipal Audit	Municipal Audit	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0	0.00%
Executive Secretary	Select Brd. Executive Secretary Wages	\$48,037	\$49,238	\$50,469	\$1,231	2.50%
Admin. Asst. to the Boards	Admin Assistant to the Boards	\$41,600	\$42,640	\$43,706	\$1,066	2.50%
Town Hall Custodian Wages	Muni Ctr Custodian Wages	\$18,485	\$18,948	\$19,422	\$474	2.50%
Custodian Expenses	Custodian Expenses	\$3,775	\$3,775	\$4,775	\$1,000	26.49%
Legal	Legal Expenses	\$6,000	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0	0.00%
Tax Collector Salary	Town Collector Wages	\$8,320	\$8,528	\$8,528	\$0	0.00%
Tax Collector Operations	Town Collection Operations	\$9,186	\$7,997	\$7,997	\$0	0.00%

Treasurer Salary	Treasurers Wages	\$21,240	\$21,240	\$28,397	\$7,157	33.70%
Treasurer Operations	Treasurers Operations	\$10,590	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0	0.00%
Assistant Town Clerk Stipend	Asst. Town Clerk Stipend	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0	0.00%
Town Clerk Expenses	Town Clerk Ops	\$1,500	\$725	\$685	-\$40	-5.52%
	Board of Registrars	\$450	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
	Election/Registration	\$2,725	\$4,650	\$1,225	-\$3,425	-73.66%
	Dues/Education	\$0	\$650	\$650	\$0	0.00%
Conservation Commission	Conservation Commission Operations	\$1,477	\$1,600	\$1,180	-\$420	-26.25%
Council on Aging	Council on Aging	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$3,800	\$0	0.00%
Goal Post Editor Wages	Goal Post Stipend	\$6,000	\$6,150	\$6,304	\$154	2.50%
Goal Post Operations	Goal Post Operations	\$6,000	\$4,500	\$3,000	-\$1,500	-33.33%
Veteran's Services	Veterans' Administrative Operations	\$2,695	\$2,546	\$4,769	\$2,223	87.31%
	Veterans Benefits	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0	0.00%
FRCOG Services	FRCOG Regional Service Assessment	\$15,235	\$15,469	\$14,565	-\$904	-5.84%
	FRCOG Statutory Assessment	\$908	\$547	\$847	\$300	54.84%
	FC Emergency Communications Systems	\$1,390	\$1,491	\$1,491	\$0	0.00%
	FRCOG Cooperative Purchase	\$1,391	\$1,391	\$1,391	\$0	0.00%
	FRCOG Reg. Emerg. Planning Comm.	\$150	\$150	\$150	\$0	0.00%
	FCCIP Building Inspection Program	\$4,500	\$4,600	\$4,600	\$0	0.00%
Town Accountant Salary	Town Accountant	\$18,119	\$29,245	\$44,373	\$15,128	51.73%
Town Accountant Expenses	Accounting Expenses	\$2,075	\$400	\$400	\$0	0.00%
	Software License	\$0	\$3,572	\$3,572	\$0	0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Administration</b>	<b>\$360,557</b>	<b>\$401,340</b>	<b>\$419,748</b>	<b>\$18,408</b>	<b>4.59%</b>
Assessors Clerk Wages	Assessors Clerk Wages	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$0	0.00%
Assessors Reval/Annual Updates	Assessors Reval/Annual Updates	\$0	\$22,600	\$22,600	\$0	0.00%
	Yankee/Balance of Town Reval	\$3,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
	Hydro Facilities	\$14,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
	Utility Trans./Dist./ROW Valuations	\$5,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.00%
Assessors Operations	Assessors Operations	\$9,600	\$9,600	\$9,900	\$300	3.13%
	<b>Subtotal Assessors</b>	<b>\$44,200</b>	<b>\$44,200</b>	<b>\$44,500</b>	<b>\$300</b>	<b>0.68%</b>
Planning Board Operations	Planning Board Operations	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0	0.00%
	<b>TOTAL GEN. GOVERNMENT</b>	<b>\$406,757</b>	<b>\$447,540</b>	<b>\$466,248</b>	<b>\$20,708</b>	<b>4.65%</b>

Planning Board Consulting/Legal	Planning Bd. Consulting and Legal	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0	0.00%
Reserve Fund	Reserve Fund	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$0	0.00%
<b>PUBLIC WORKS &amp; FACILITIES</b>							
DPW Salary and Wages	DPW - Superintendent Salary	\$77,056	\$78,983	\$80,958	\$1,975		2.50%
	DPW - Highway Wages	\$201,856	\$206,902	\$212,075	\$5,173		2.50%
	Summer Employment	\$28,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$3,000	New Spending	
Roadside Work	DPW - Roadside Work	\$0	\$15,000	\$5,000	-\$10,000		-66.67%
DPW Operations	DPW - Operations & Maintenance	\$31,761	\$31,761	\$31,761	\$0		0.00%
	Summer Youth Operations	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0	-\$1,500		-100.00%
	DPW - Heating - Pellet Fuel	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$6,500	\$0		0.00%
	DPW - Electricity	\$230	\$0	\$0	\$0		0.00%
	DPW - Fuel Town Vehicles	\$44,957	\$44,957	\$44,957	\$0		0.00%
	DPW - Road Surface Maintenance	\$83,640	\$83,640	\$90,000	\$6,360		7.60%
	DPW - Annual DPW Projects	\$41,820	\$41,820	\$41,820	\$0		0.00%
Winter Roads	DPW - Snow & Ice (Winter Roads)	\$68,612	\$68,612	\$68,612	\$0		0.00%
	<b>Subtotal DPW</b>	<b>\$585,932</b>	<b>\$579,675</b>	<b>\$584,683</b>	<b>\$5,008</b>		<b>0.86%</b>
Street Lighting	Street Lighting	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$5,500	\$0		0.00%
Municipal Light Plant Operations	Municipal Light Plant Operations	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0		0.00%
MLP Manager Stipend	Municipal Light Plant Manager Stip.	\$6,800	\$6,800	\$6,800	\$0		0.00%
Dam Maintenance/Repair	Dam Maintenance/Repair	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0		0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Other Public Works</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>	<b>\$14,500</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>0.00%</b>
Cemetery	Cemetery Maintenance/Repair	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0		0.00%
	<b>Subtotal Cemetery</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$15,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>		<b>0.00%</b>
	<b>TOTAL PUBLIC WORKS</b>	<b>\$615,432</b>	<b>\$609,175</b>	<b>\$614,183</b>	<b>\$5,008</b>		<b>0.82%</b>







2021 Town of Rowe Annual Election Ballot  
Saturday, May 15, 2021  
1:00 PM - 5:00 PM  
Rowe Elementary School

**Board of Assessors**

3 Years—Vote for One  
-Ellen Miller (Candidate for Re-election)  
*160 Hazelton Road*  
-Write-In

**Board of Health**

3 Years—Vote for One  
-Herbert Butzke (Candidate for Re-election)  
*137 Leshure Road*  
-Write-In

**Board of Selectmen**

3 Years—Vote for One  
-Charles Sokol (Candidate for Re-election)  
*14 Middletown Hill Road*  
-Write-In

**Cemetery Commission**

3 Years—Vote for One  
-Jay Williams (Candidate for Re-election)  
*146 Ford Hill Road*  
-Write-In

**Cemetery Commission**

2 Years—Vote for One (Unexpired Term)  
-Joanne Semanie  
*59 Middletown Hill Road*  
-Write-In

**Finance Committee**

3 Years—Vote for Not More Than Two  
-Christopher Hyytinen (Candidate for Re-election)  
*65 Hazelton Road*  
-Write-In  
-Write-In

**Finance Committee**

2 Years - Vote for One  
-Write-In

**Library Trustee**

3 Years—Vote for One  
-Catherine Snyder (Candidate for Re-election)  
*49 Cross Road*  
-Lauren Werner  
*22 Kings Highway*  
-Write-In

**Park Commission**

3 Years—Vote for One  
-Hannah Poplawski  
*37 Shippee Road*  
-Write-In

**Planning Board**

5 Years—Vote for One  
-Paul McLatchy III  
*17 Newell Cross Road*  
-Write-In

**Planning Board**

3 Years—Vote for One (Unexpired Term)  
-Benjamin Werner  
*22 Kings Highway*  
-Write-In

**Planning Board**

1 Year - Vote for One (Unexpired Term)  
-Charles Sokol  
*14 Middletown Hill Road*  
-Write-In

**School Committee**

3 Years—Vote for One  
-Matt Crowningshield (Candidate for Re-election)  
*16 Newell Cross Road*  
-Write-In

*Note: This is for informational purposes only. A true specimen ballot may be viewed on the town website at :  
[https://rowe-ma.gov/files/Specimen\\_Ballot\\_2021.pdf](https://rowe-ma.gov/files/Specimen_Ballot_2021.pdf)*

**Other Election Information**

Voting by mail has been permitted for this election due to the Coronavirus pandemic, though a polling station will still be open. Polls will be open from 1:00-5:00 on Saturday, May 15th at the Rowe Elementary School. Voters will need to enter and exit through the rear entry. All voters are asked to wear masks for the safety of our poll workers.

Early vote ballots can be obtained from the Town Clerk until 12:00 on Friday, May 14th. All requests must be in writing, no exceptions. Blank forms can be found on the website and on the town hall door.

Results will be posted at the town hall and on the website the night of the election. Any individuals elected (even incumbents) will need to be sworn in by either the town clerk or moderator after the election is over.

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

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