



# Franklin Regional Council of Governments

*Regional Preparedness Program*

July 16, 2018

Sean Cronin  
Senior Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Local Services  
MA Dept. of Revenue  
PO Box 9569  
Boston, MA 02114-9569

Dear Deputy Commissioner Cronin:

The Town of Rowe identified regionalization of Public Safety services as a Community Compact project. Early in 2017, the FRCOG reached out to Rowe selectmen and the town administrator to get a sense of what services they wanted to share and with which towns. We also inquired how far they might consider regionalizing, ranging from sharing procurement, equipment, and training to creating brand new regional public safety districts spanning multiple towns.

Though Rowe wanted to discuss sharing fire services, conversations between the COG and Rowe's neighbors made it evident that others preferred to discuss sharing police services.

In spring of 2017, selectmen and police representatives from Rowe, Heath, Charlemont and Hawley gathered at a meeting hosted by the COG to start a conversation about sharing police services. Given the disparate needs and town budgets of Charlemont and Heath versus Rowe and Hawley, it quickly became apparent that the time was not ripe for Rowe and Hawley to continue the process.

Charlemont and Heath Selectboards are now reviewing a memorandum of agreement to share police services and will act as a pilot program. Once the service has proven successful, Hawley and Rowe will have an opportunity to reconsider joining the newly formed service.

Given the timing and that Rowe's primary interest was pursuing regionalization of fire services and not police services, we consider this Community Compact complete although, unfortunately, unsuccessful. In the future, we will try to re-engage communities about shared fire service and hope that the shared police pilot will prove successful and will interest Rowe. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Tracy Rogers".

Tracy Rogers  
Regional Preparedness Program Manager

