



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: December 4th, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman Karl Pruter, Vicechair Bob Hamilton, Select Board Member Tom Coney, Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola, and members of the public.

The meeting opened at 6:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Karl.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob announced the school deliberative session will be on Wednesday, February 5th, 2025, the P.O.O.R. Meat Raffle will be on December 7th at 1:30 pm at the Jaffrey American Legion, Wreaths Across America will be at the Hillside Cemetery on Goddard Road on December 14th at noon, the Rindge Tree Lighting Ceremony will be on Friday, December 6th at 7:00 pm, Breakfast with Santa will be on Saturday, December 7th at 8:00 am at the Recreation Center, and the Senior Holiday Dinner will be on Thursday, December 12th at 5:00 pm at Hidden Hills. Tom announced there was a presentation that day about salt reduction and winter maintenance operations by a DOT employee to further educate our DPW.

Consent Agenda: Tom requested to remove "the board decided" from the 3rd page of the minutes on 11.20.2024 from the Legal budget discussion. Bob stated that \$1.2 million went to the school system this month and almost \$3 million to the county this month. Karl added this is about 80% of the town's budget. Bob motioned to accept the Payroll & Accounts Payable for 11.28.2024 & 12.05.2024 and the Minutes from 11.06.2024, 11.13.2024, and 11.20.2024. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Citizens Forum: Karl opened the forum at 6:06 pm and closed the forum at 6:08 pm.

Karla MacLeod, Old New Ipswich Road announced the Historical Society will have their annual meeting on Saturday, December 7th at 10:30 am and the program is Finding William Lewis with lunch following. Craig Clark, Fitzgerald Road announced that the Rindge Veterans Association will be supporting the Meat Raffle on December 7th and Wreaths Across America on December 14th, and the Live Nativity will be at the Rindge Meeting House on December 14th starting at 5:00 pm. Bob added it was appropriate that on December 7th the RVA is hosting the Meat Raffle as it is Pearl Harbor Day.

New Business:

Donation of \$150 for the Rindge Police Department: Police Chief Rachel Malynowski stated this donation is in Frank Battaglia's honor and she is requesting this be accepted to be expended for the fifth installation of the MDT. Karl motioned to accept the donation for Rindge's Police Department totaling \$150 under RSA 31:95-b. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Solar Energy System Exemption: Bob advised the other select board members and Lori to look at RSAs 72:61 and 72:62 to see if they want to adopt or readopt these laws as some of the solar energy systems will not be compliant. Lori stated she would review this with our assessor to see if this needs to be put on the warrant. Karl requested this be put on the next meeting agenda.

Public Hearing: For unanticipated revenue of \$79,632 associated with the bequest to Ingalls Memorial Library from the estate of Don Burness. Library Director Donna Straitiff explained this money would go towards the purchase of a generator for the library. Karl opened the hearing to the public at 6:15 p.m. Craig asked the type of fuel it took and the number of

kilowatts. Karl answered it takes diesel and 80 standby kilowatts. Roberta Oeser, Main Street highly recommended the Board accept it. Karl closed the public hearing at 6:17 p.m. Bob motioned to accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$79,632 pursuant to RSA 31:95-b on behalf of the library. The donation was from the estate of Don Burness. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. Karl motioned to allow Lori Rautiola to sign off on the purchase of the generator. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Old Business:

ARPA Updates:

Server for Town Office: Karl stated that Tom recommended they get a RAID 10 which is a solid-state chip. This would be an additional \$1,400 to the original quote, an upgrade from the RAID 5 for better security, and utilize the rest of the ARPA funds. Karl motioned to amend the quote for the solid-state servers approved on December 4th to add the \$1,400 for the RAID 10 to total \$17,573 from the ARPA funds. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Ambulance Contract Update: Bob updated the Board about the recent meeting with Jaffrey Rindge Memorial Ambulance (JRMA). Rindge receives 35% of the service while Jaffrey receives 65%, each town currently pays 50%. The request for 2025 is \$125,000 per town, this year's contribution was \$46,500. Any money not spent by JRMA would return to the ambulance fund and not the taxpayers. Rindge Fire Chief Rick Donovan's opinion was that \$85,000 would be a sufficient contribution for Rindge and the ambulance service. Tom suggested the town meet directly with the Chief of JRMA to propose the amount. No decision was made.

Budget Work Session: Bob asked what the Selectman will consider as a COLA figure, if the step raises will be diminished, and if the department heads are included. Karl answered that the COLA is the same for all employees as it is for the cost of living. Tina Sbrega, Budget Advisory Committee member, recommended they don't call it COLA so if you are not getting a step increase you are receiving a 2% raise. Lori added that the department head's contract states they shall be eligible as all other employees. There was further discussion of how to cut the budget and the school budget increases.

MOU – Jaffrey Rindge Cooperative School District, SAU 47: Karl stated the MOU has not changed since the last meeting as the Rec Director answered the six fobs provided will work for 2025. The MOU includes the use of the School District buildings for elections and Recreation Programs. Lori stated she emailed Reuben Duncan the town's suggested edits. The discussion was tabled.

Camping Ordinance: Karl stated his understanding is that as an SB2 town, the board is more limited. So this ordinance needs to be brought before the voters. Bob stated that under RSA 31:39 the Selectboard can pass bylaws or ordinances related to the town's properties including buildings, conservation, cemeteries, and playgrounds. Bob stated he is fine with whatever the board decides but they do have the right to pass this. Karl stated they would make it a warrant article.

New Business:

CIP Recommendations: Craig Clark, a CIP committee member, stated they are proposing \$145,000 for the Fire Department Reserve account, which is currently \$110,000, \$50,000 for the Police Department Equipment Reserve which is currently \$10,000, \$150,000 for the Highway Capital Reserve account which is currently \$110,000, \$50,000 for the Recreation Facility Reserve account which is currently \$55,000, \$20,000 for the Library Expendable Trust Fund which is currently \$85,000, \$100,000 for a New Facilities Construction Trust Fund which is currently \$0, \$25,000 in the Meetinghouse Maintenance Fund which is currently \$35,000, \$25,000 in the Revaluation account which is currently \$110,000. The total appropriations for the 2025 Town Warrant is \$565,000 or about 10% of the total budget. The request for the Fire Department is to replace the brush truck. There was a discussion about the town building's capital reserve maintenance fund established in 2020. Lori stated she would speak with the DRA about using the maintenance fund for new construction and if the fund is legally established. Bob requested to see the permanent record from the DRA for 2024 for the Town of Rindge. Tom added this would be about \$0.76 per \$1,000. Lori added for the maintenance

fund it was Article 8 of the 2020 Town Warrant under RSA 35:1.

Intent to Cut – Map 6 Lot 50-9: This intent was tabled.

Intent to Cut – Map 6 Lot 73-10: Karl motioned to approve the intent to cut for Map 6 Lot 73-10. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Any Other Official Business:

Bob stated that the Budget Advisory Committee is recommending the dump sticker prices be raised for 2025 to \$50 and \$25 for senior citizens. For the first year, a \$10 punch card will be given for free with the purchase of a dump sticker. The dump stickers will be added to the next meeting's agenda.

Informational Items, Communications & Updates:

Rachel requested that the board permit the Police Department to accept cash as payment and establish a petty cash fund. Bob motioned to allow the Police Department to accept cash as payment. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Rachel requested the board grant her permission to propose a warrant article requesting a 10th officer position be filled. The warrant article would fund the position and be effective after the town vote. The position would likely be filled quickly with a certified police officer. She does not have the number determined. Tom states it would be about \$85,000 for the 9 months. No decision was made.

Tom commented on the billed call numbers for the Fire Department and automatic fire alarms for Franklin Pierce University. The policy for this is not the same as the agreement that Rindge has with Franklin Pierce University. Karl asked Casey Burrage to find the memorandum of agreement with Franklin Pierce University.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary