



## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

**Rindge Town Office**

**Date: March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman, Karl Pruter, Vice Chair, Bob Hamilton, Selectboard Member, Tom Coneys, Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola and members of the public.

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

**Selectmen's Announcements:** Bob announced the P.O.O.R. Meat Raffle will be on Saturday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, at the American Legion in Jaffrey and is co-sponsored by the Rindge Recreation Department. Bob thanked all the election officials and the volunteers for working yesterday and thanked all those who ran in the election. He especially thanked the Town Moderator, Kirk Stenersen, and the Deputy Moderator, Kale Stenersen, for how well they handled the many problems that arose during the election. Karl thanked all the candidates who ran and congratulated those who won in the three contested races, Larry Cleveland for Selectboard, Joe Hannon for Cemetery Trustees, and Matt Olson and Curt Sauvola for Planning Board. Bob thanked Karl for the six years he served as a Selectboard member. Lori also thanked Karl for the service he provided to the Town of Rindge over the last six years, and expressed gratefulness for his time, hard work, and dedication that he gave to the Town, its employees, and the community.

**Consent Agenda:** Karl motioned to accept the Payroll for 03.06.2025 and 03.13.2025. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. Karl motioned to accept the Accounts Payable for 03.06.2025 and 03.13.2025. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 2-0-1. Karl motioned to accept the Meeting Minutes from 02.12.2025 & 02.26.2025. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

**Citizen's Forum:** Karl opened the forum at 6:08 p.m. and closed the forum at 6:13 p.m.

Judy Unger-Clark, Fitzgerald Road, reiterated the praise of Karl and his service over the past six years and passed on Craig Clark's gratitude. She then spoke of her disappointment with the Rindge results for the School District and her appreciation for the Superintendent, School Board, and teachers. Pat Martin, Farrow Road, asked for community support for Sharon Rasku due to the loss of a loved one.

### **Old Business:**

Hazardous Mitigation Plan Finalization: Karl motioned to approve the final version of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Tom asked if the committee had approved the edits made because the shoreline section was altered to a review item instead of an action item. Karl stated the committee would have to reconvene. Tom stated he knows this document is necessary for grants but would like to point out it needs to be an action item. Karl explained the committee's work (see minutes from 01.29.2025). Mike Golibersuch, Thayer Road, emphasized that he and the various leaders of the lake associations in Rindge are anxious to be involved in addressing the water quality problem of the lakes and ponds in Rindge. Karl provided Mike with a copy of the plan. Bob seconded the motion to approve the edits, the motion passed 3-0.

### **Any Other Official Business:**

Jaffrey-Rindge Memorial Ambulance (JRMA) Memorandum of Understanding: The MOU was approved by JRMA's board of directors. The document was unchanged and unedited by the JRMA board of directors. Tom asked to include the dollar amounts in the memorandum before approval. There was a discussion about the payment established in the

memorandum and whether it would be equally distributed or proportional to the services provided to Jaffrey and Rindge. Bob explained that Jaffrey was aware of the memorandum and did not disagree, it is very similar to what Jaffrey had with JRMA before. Tom recommended they wait until Jaffrey has signed their memorandum with JRMA to see what they propose. Karl motioned to accept the memorandum of understanding with the Jaffrey-Rindge Memorial Ambulance. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 2-1.

Peterborough Ambulance Contract: Karl explained that Peterborough is a tertiary service while Fitzwilliam and Winchendon are secondary as Mutual Aid. Peterborough does not provide mutual aid but charges a fee per call. Karl would like this contract established so the rates are set and cannot be raised because it is necessary as a backup. Karl added that the Fire Chief, Rick Donovan, recommends that the Board accept the contract. Karl motioned to accept the contract for backup ambulance service between Peterborough Ambulance and the Town of Rindge. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 2-0-1. This contract expires in 3 months. Karl motioned to authorize Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola, to sign the agreement. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 2-1.

Jim Critser, Main Street asked why the town pays \$1,000 to the Peterborough ambulance service. Karl answered that when the ambulance arrives on a call and the injured party does not take the ambulance, the ambulance service then charges the town to cover the expense. Pat Martin, Farrow Road asked if funding JRMA ambulance service changed from fundraising and donation. Tom answered that the service started with volunteers through the American Legion and the town has budgeted a donation with no agreement between Rindge and JRMA. Jaffrey had a general understanding but did not include details on payment. JRMA's Board of Directors hired a full-time chief this past year to address staffing and to make the service more professional. JRMA Chief Bill Johnson had asked for \$125,000 from each town starting this year and Jaffrey and Rindge agreed to give \$85,000 for three quarters of the year and give the rest of the funds if they meet the staffing obligation. The trust fund for the remaining balance did pass and it is up to the Selectboard to pay JRMA using that fund, but it is specific to ambulance service. Larry Cleveland, South Woodbound Road, asked on average how many times they respond to the town of Rindge. Bob stated that when Bill Johnson presented, he had stated that in the past few years, Rindge ranged from 34 to 36% of the calls while Jaffrey had 64 to 66% of the calls. Lori added we can request JRMA provide the numbers annually to be put in the town report.

Wreaths Across America: Bob asked for the Board's verbal approval to have this event at the Hillside Cemetery for the third year in a row. Bob added that Cemetery Sexton, Mike Cloutier had already given his approval. Tom and Karl both agreed.

CADNET Services Contract: This contract is budgeted for 270 hours for \$25,650. This is the same number of hours and costs as last year. Tom asked what they exactly do. Lori answered that she could provide him with the itemized invoices. Karl motioned to authorize the Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola to sign the renewal contract. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Tom asked Lori to contact Town Hall Streams to change the camera view to see the entire audience so people can see who is speaking from the audience. Bob also asked to have the wires moved to be level and fished behind the wall. Larry Cleveland asked for a view count of the meetings that have been livestreamed. Lori answered that she would look into it.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Victoria Stenersen*

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Executive Secretary