



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: March 26th, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Vice Chair, Tom Coneys, Selectboard Member, Larry Cleveland, Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola, Finance Director, Laurie May, and members of the public.

The meeting opened at 5:30 p.m. Bob motioned to enter a non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Tom seconded the motion, which passed by a roll call vote, Bob, aye, Tom, aye, Larry, aye.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:11 p.m., with Bob leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob motioned to seal the non-public minutes as they could adversely affect the outcome. Tom seconded the motion, it passed 3-0.

Selectmen's Appointments:

Selectboard Chair and Vice-Chair Appointments: Tom motioned to appoint Bob Hamilton as Chair of the Board. Larry seconded the motion, it passed 3-0. Bob motioned to appoint Tom Coneys as Vice-Chair. Larry seconded the motion, it passed 3-0.

Conservation Commission Appointments: Bob motioned to appoint Richard Synott and Deni Dickler as full members and Doreen Richards as alternate members of the Conservation Commission for 3 years. Tom seconded the motion, it passed 3-0.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob welcomed Larry Cleveland as the newly elected Selectman and thanked Karl again for serving on the Selectboard for the past six years. He announced that the P.O.O.R. Meat Raffle will hold their last raffle of the season on Saturday, April 5th, 2025, at 1:30 pm at the Jaffrey American Legion and is co-sponsored by the Rindge Recreation Department.

Payroll: Larry motioned to accept the Payroll for 03.20.2025 and 03.27.2025. Bob seconded the motion, it passed 3-0.

Accounts Payable: Bob motioned to accept the Accounts Payable for 03.20.2025 and 03.27.2025. Larry seconded the motion, it passed 2-0-1.

Minutes: Bob motioned to accept the minutes from 03.12.2025. Tom seconded the motion, it passed 3-0.

Citizen's Forum: Bob opened the forum at 6:17 p.m. by reading the rules of the forum and closed the forum at 6:47 p.m. Roberta Oeser, of Main Street, asked about the tax abatement for her property. Bob stated that he would have Lori get in touch with Monique regarding this.

Candy Phillips, representing the Rindge Women's Club, stated the club would like to donate a fence for the Hillside Cemetery on Goddard Road to the Town of Rindge. It would be a commercial-grade anodized aluminum fence quoted at \$5,656.94. The Cemetery Trustees will meet tomorrow to decide, but the company will raise the prices by 8% next week. She would like an indication of the Board's support so she can give the company a deposit on Friday if the Cemetery Trustees approve the donation on Thursday. Bob motioned per RSA 31:95b to accept a donation of \$5,656.94 from the Rindge Women's Club for the fence at the cemetery pending the approval of the cemetery trustees. Tom seconded the motion. Larry asked about the granite posts. Candy answered that there are two granite posts at the cemetery, and they ordered brackets so the fence will attach to the posts. Larry also asked if there is a 50-year warranty on the anodized

finish. Candy answered that she will call the company and ask. The motion passed 3-0.

Rick Munroe, Route 119, brought forward his concerns with the controlled burn the fire department had scheduled for Saturday, March 29th as he is an abutter to the property. There was a brief discussion about the town's liability and approving a controlled burn. Fire Chief Rick Donovan assured the board that the process for approval was followed and that they would mitigate the risks as much as possible. He added that if the board stopped the burn, he would not reschedule. Larry motioned to not have this controlled burn take place. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

New Business:

Intent to Cut – Map 6 Lots 51, 50-7, & 50-10: David Drouin said the Conservation Commission had looked at the intent, there are no wetlands issues, and the logger will access the property via an abutting property. Bob motioned to approve the Intent to Cut for Map 6 Lots 51, 50-7, and 50-10. Larry seconded the motion, it passed 3-0.

Franchise Agreement – Charter Communications: The Town's franchise agreement was up for renewal. Bob stated he received an email from Phil Motta, Tel Tech Committee Chair, which advised the board to have the attorney review the agreement before signing, as they are not contract lawyers. The agreement is required by the state to operate within a New Hampshire town. There was a brief discussion about the franchise fee and minimizing it as much as possible. Craig Clark, TelTech member, has two recommendations. One is to adjust to 20 houses per mile, and the second is accountability for the 1% charged. Bob stated he would like to have a 5-year agreement instead of a 10-year agreement. This item was tabled, pending answers.

Approval/Signing of Camping Ordinance & Application for Camping on Town-owned properties: Larry asked to review a copy of the camping ordinance. Bob motioned to approve the Camping Ordinance that was passed by the voters on March 11th, 2025. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 2-0-1.

Special Meeting Discussion for a Revised Operating Budget: Bob did not recommend holding a special town meeting as it would be a lot of work, cost more money, and voters could potentially cut the budget further than the default. Tom agreed, and there was no further discussion.

Addition to Employee Handbook: There was a brief discussion on adding language to the Employee Handbook pertaining to RSA 659:44a and the draft Lori submitted to the Board. Bob and Larry disagreed with the suggested language and recommended deleting the draft and adding verbiage straight from the Election Manual (referenced page 283). Lori stated that Section 104 of the handbook already states that all town employees are to observe the spirit and letter of all applicable laws and regulations. Bob stated that most employees do not know all the applicable RSAs. By referencing RSA 659:44-a in the handbook, they are made aware of it. He added that if a public employee does not stop electioneering, they could be fined or charged with a misdemeanor. Lori will make the requested changes.

Budget Work Session:

It was noted that the department heads have gone over their default figures with the finance director and have provided those edits to the Board. There was a lengthy discussion on the default budget and where the needs should be appropriated within the individual line items. Tom motioned to move forward with the default budget as written and approved at the voting on March 11th. Larry seconded the motion. After further discussion, Tom withdrew his motion. Bob motioned to use the March 25th, 2025, proposed default budget with a \$12,000 edit that Laurie May will come up with in the suggested column to total the exact default number. Larry seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Any Other Official Business:

Request for Refund: Bob stated that there was a request for a refund of \$231.89 for a vehicle registration. The vehicle was sold 2 years ago, but the company accidentally re-registered the vehicle. The town could only reimburse \$171 if they send back the registration, stickers, and the plates and provide proof that the vehicle has been sold. Bob motioned to deny the request for a refund for the vehicle registration. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Informational Items, Communications, & Updates: Bob gave an update on this month's Town and Gown Meeting. Final planning is underway for the commencement ceremony on May 10th, 2025, and Senior Sendoff events are being planned with the Police and Fire Departments' collaboration. There have been issues with marijuana paraphernalia at the University, which Police Chief Rachel Malynowski has been working on.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary