



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: July 2nd, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Vice Chair, Tom Coneys, Interim Town Administrator, Roberta Oeser, Executive Secretary, Victoria Stenersen, and members of the public. Per RSA 91-A:2 III, Selectboard Member, Larry Cleveland, attended remotely via phone call on speakerphone as he was in Lancaster, NH, three hours away from the meeting location and could not attend in person. All votes were roll-call votes; those in attendance in person could reasonably hear Larry, and Larry could hear the Board members and members of the public when they spoke. Larry stated that there was no one else in attendance with him.

The meeting was opened by the chair at 6:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob announced that last week's Independence Day Family Fun Festival was a huge success. He thanked Linda Hunt and the Rindge Chamber of Commerce, Dan Bemis and the Rindge Recreation Department, the Rindge Women's Club, the Rindge Fire, Police, and Highway Departments, the Rindge Firefighters' Association, Atlas Pyrotechnics, the people who provided live music, and all the volunteers. He also thanked Larry Cleveland for providing the wet and cold entertainment in the dunk tank.

Payroll: Tom motioned to approve the Payroll for 06.26.2025 & 07.03.2025. Seconded by Larry, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0.

Accounts Payable: Bob motioned to approve the Accounts Payable for 06.26.2025 & 07.03.2025. Seconded by Larry, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom- no vote. Vote 2-0-0.

Minutes: Larry motioned to accept the minutes from 06.18.2025. Seconded by Bob, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0.

Citizen's Forum: Bob opened the forum at 6:11 p.m. by reading the rules of the forum and closed the forum at 6:21 p.m. Craig Clark, Fitzgerald Road, thanked the Town of Jaffrey for donating the water for the dunk tank at the Family Fun Festival.

Michael LiPetri, Highland Drive, thanked everyone for their support of the Farmer's Market this year. They have grown to over a dozen vendors, and live music is scheduled starting on July 19th. He requested to increase the hours until 2:00 pm on Saturdays, as many vendors have requested this. He also asked if they could donate picnic tables to the field with umbrellas. Bob stated that accepting the tables as a gift will need to go through RSA 31:95e and would like to first check with DPW Director, Mike Cloutier. He added that he would also like to get approval for the extended hours from Mike, the Fire Chief, Rick Donovan, and the Police Chief, Rachel Malinowski. He asked Roberta to get in touch with the three department heads on this.

Judy Unger-Clark, Fitzgerald Road, stated that at the last Selectboard meeting, under other business, a personal attack occurred by a Selectboard Member towards another board member. She requested that guidelines be created for the board regarding personal attacks and requested that this Board member apologize. She asked for effective conflict resolution so the Board can function efficiently as a team. She read the process and principles of conflict resolution and

explained clear communication. She expressed concern for the high staff turnover and dysfunction in the Town. She urged them to seek professional guidance to correct longstanding conflicts amongst all ranks in the Town's government.

Pat Martin, Farrar Road, stated that she has been chased out into the parking lot multiple times by a person who does not agree with her stated opinions during meetings. She requested civility, courtesy, and respect both inside and outside the public meetings.

Old Business:

Fire Chief Job Description: Bob briefly summarized decisions made in previous meetings on this topic. Roberta stated there was one conflict between the list added under duties in paragraph two and the current job description with the essential functions, which she had indicated to the Board in the last copy she sent them. Bob motioned to accept the clean, typed copy that the Selectboard members will sign once they receive it. Seconded by Tom, passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0. Bob stated that once this is complete, they will form the hiring committee. Tom added that Dale Smith would like to be a part of the committee as he is a professional firefighter who lives in Town but has not spoken to him. Bob added that he would be a great applicant for the job and asked if he would be interested in the position.

Fred Dodge, South Woodbound Road, asked the chair if the Fire Chief's job description would include the Building Inspector duties, and who is currently filling in. Bob answered no, it is not included, and the current Fire Chief is filling in for those duties at this time. Fred asked about the Code Enforcement Officer. Bob answered that we do not have a Code Enforcement Officer but a Zoning Enforcement Officer. Tom added that it was discussed to separate the Building Department from the Fire Department from a cost standpoint and bundle code and zoning so that it is centralized, but it has not been finalized.

Transfer Station Revolving Account: Bob stated that the maintenance of the Transfer Station building is not included in the language of Warrant Article 16 establishing the Revolving Fund, which passed in 2019. In the article, it states, "to establish a revolving fund pursuant to RSA 31:95h, for the purpose of maintenance and replacement of equipment and the general operating expenses of the Transfer Station." Tom stated that the funds need to come from somewhere, and we should be able to use the account for the replacement of the roof. Bob stated that where the funds come from can be discussed at a later time.

Approve Spectrum/Charter Contract Changes: Bob stated that the Board has seen what the Town Council has brought back and the changes that Spectrum/Charter made. The change that Spectrum/Charter made was in the signature page to change the signatory from Spectrum/Charter. Bob motioned to accept the Franchise Agreement with Spectrum/Charter with the provided changes. Seconded by Tom, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0. Bob motioned to allow himself to sign the contract on behalf of the Board. Seconded by Tom, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0.

Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) continued discussion: Bob stated that at the last meeting, he asked to speak with the Town's Assessor, Monique, but she is not scheduled to be in the office in July, and the Assessing Clerk, Jenn Helsel, is out of the office until July 14th. Roberta stated that Steve Buckley's response only highlighted and quoted what was stated in the law. Bob stated he would like to speak with the assessing clerk, as he is not a professional assessor or lawyer. Tom agreed with him. There was a brief discussion about timelines for filing and when the Board needs to make a decision (see RSA 79-A:10). Carolyn Specter, Andel Ave, stated that the Board has until the end of August to respond to her abatement. On September 1st, 2025, she will appeal to the Superior Court if they deny her abatement or if there is no response.

Kirk Stenersen, Amalia Way, spoke on behalf of Phillip Stenersen on the history of the lot and subdivision for which Phil had requested an appeal. The decision made by the Selectboard at the time was based on case law. Whether the Selectmen today need to uphold the decision is irrelevant because of case law. He stated that if they read the letter from the assessor at the time to the board of selectmen to assess the lots at \$2,000 each, he referenced case law and laid out

all the calculations. Carolyn asked the board to read her brief that she submitted, which also explained the case law within it for her property.

LCHIP Grant for Meeting House: Roberta stated that she is waiting for confirmation on the LCHIP grant. The numbers are not what they had originally been because the work came in overestimated. There was a discrepancy, so the Town is now receiving \$68,000 from the LCHIP Grant. Bob asked Roberta to put the figures together and to have a Meetinghouse Oversight Committee meeting to review the numbers.

New Business:

Transfer Station Roofing Bid Award: Bob announced that Shingle Pro bid \$44,000, Pento and Sons Roofing LLC bid \$21,670, JB Roofing bid \$49,898, Weather Guard bid \$32,800, and Roth Stoddard bid \$64,870. Mike recommended that the Board accept Pento and Sons Roofing LLC's bid. Tom asked about the specifications, which were promptly clarified. Bob motioned to accept the bid from Pento and Sons Roofing LLC in the amount of \$21,670 for the Transfer Station Roof Replacement per Mike's recommendation. Seconded by Larry, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0.

Raffle Permit to Benefit the Rindge Veterans Association (RVA): Heather Pederson submitted the permit on behalf of the Rindge Veterans Association for a raffle to raise funds for the organization at Cathedral of the Pines during their meeting. The tickets are \$25 each for adults, and the prize is a Henry 30.30 lever-action rifle. Bob motioned to approve the Raffle Permit Application. Seconded by Tom, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0. Bob motioned to sign the permit on behalf of the board. Seconded by Tom, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0.

Abatement Recommendations for Map 6 Lot 49A-4-3 & Map 3 Lot 38-2: Bob motioned to approve the abatement for Map 6 Lot 49A-4-3. Seconded by Tom, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0. Bob stated that this abatement was granted last year, but the data was not input into our system after it was approved, so the changes were not reflected this year and need to be abated again.

Tom motioned to grant the abatement to bring the value to \$1,000,298 for Map 3 Lot 38-2 per the recommendation of the assessing firm. Seconded by Bob, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote 3-0. Roberta stated that this abatement is for the mistake on the assessment card, which reduced the value due to an area of the home that is not complete, but this does not include his abatement application to reduce the overall valuation of his home.

Short Term Rentals – Notice and Compliance Time: Roberta stated that the planning board had their first application for a Short-Term Rental. The board agreed to send a letter when short-term rentals that are not in compliance are brought to their attention. The letter will inform the property owners of the new ordinance and request that an application be submitted to the planning board for review. The Board also agreed to post a notice by next week in multiple locations publicly, including the Town Office, Library, Post Office, newspaper, website, and Facebook.

Craig Clark, Fitzgerald Road, asked if short-term rentals are subject to meals and rooms tax and if they need to come before the town. Bob responded yes to both questions and added that the properties need to be inspected annually as rental properties. There was a brief discussion about Air B&B being made aware of Rindge's ordinance.

Special Events Permit for Fire Department 100th Anniversary: Bob motioned to approve the special events permit for the Fire Department's 100th Anniversary Parade and Event. Seconded by Tom, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote: 3-0. The celebration will be on Saturday, August 2nd, starting at 5:00 pm on the Town Common with fireworks and touch a truck. There will be a parade starting at Route 202 Trucking and ending at the Town Common, where the celebration will take place.

Zoning Enforcement Issues: Roberta stated that the state came in and shut the coffee shop down on Grassy Pond, and the owners spoke with the Planning Director, Al Bump, about submitting a variance. For the Old New Ipswich Rd clear-cutting

complaint, the owners will get in touch with the Conservation Commission to see what they need to do. The previous owner had dropped the trees, and the new owners went in to clear them out. And there have been calls about rats coming down Lake Contoocook due to the construction near the center of Jaffrey that disturbed a large rat's nest.

Bill of Sale for the Fire Department ATV and Trailer: The ATV costs more in maintenance and repair than it is worth. Bob motioned to approve the sale of the Fire Department's Bombardier ATV and trailer for \$828, as is, and on an as seen basis. Seconded by Larry, it passed by a roll-call vote, Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote: 3-0. Bob motioned to have himself sign the bill of sale on behalf of the board. Seconded by Larry, it passed by a roll-call vote: Bob-aye, Larry-aye, Tom-aye. Vote: 3-0.

Any Other Official Business:

Tom stated that there are no rules of order or civility documents that support personal attacks and asked that they stop. He asked the other Board members to speak with him when they have personal issues with him. Tom added that as the chairman, Bob should have stopped the personal attack.

Informational Items, Communications, & Updates:

Bob stated that there was no Town & Gown meeting in the month of June. At last night's Planning Board meeting, all the applications that had a public hearing were approved.

Fred Dodge, South Woodbound Road and Conservation Commission member, stated that there have been many illegal cuttings over the years and requested stronger enforcement and accountability. Roberta stated she made a recommendation to Al Lefebvre that whenever there is a waterfront property transferred the Assessing Clerk would send a letter to the new owners informing them of the State's and Town's interest in protecting the waterfront.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary