



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: July 30th, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Vice Chair, Tom Coneys, Selectboard Member, Larry Cleveland, Interim Town Administrator, Roberta Oeser, Executive Secretary, Victoria Stenersen, and members of the public.

The meeting was opened by the chair at 5:17 p.m. Bob Hamilton motioned to enter into non-public sessions per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) and (c), seconded by Larry. Passed by a roll call vote, Bob – aye, Tom – aye, Larry – aye.

The meeting returned to the public at 6:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bob. Bob motioned to seal the minutes from the first session for one week because it could render a proposed action ineffective. Seconded by Larry, it passed by a roll call vote of 3-0; Bob – aye, Tom – aye, Larry - aye. Bob motioned to seal the minutes from the second session permanently because it would likely adversely affect the reputation. Seconded by Tom, it passed by a roll call vote of 3-0; Bob – aye, Tom – aye, Larry - aye.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob announced the 100th anniversary day parade of the Fire Department is on Saturday, August 2nd at 4:30 pm, starting at Route 202 Trucking and ending at the center of Town. Larry wished his wife a happy birthday.

Payroll and Minutes: Bob motioned to approve the Payroll for 07.24.2025 & 07.31.2025, and the Minutes from 07.16.2025 & 07.28.2025. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0.

Accounts Payable: Bob motioned to approve the Accounts Payable for 07.24.2025 & 07.31.2025. Seconded by Larry, it passed 2-0-0.

Further Announcements: Pat Martin, Farrar Road, announced that the Le Tour de Common, 5k is on Saturday, August 2nd, with registration starting at 7:30 am and the race starting at 8:30 am at the center of Town. Karla MacLeod, Old New Ipswich Road, announced that the Historical Society is open from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm on Saturday, August 2nd. Michael LiPetri, Highland Drive, announced that the Farmers Market is also on Saturday from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at West Rindge Common.

New Business: Accept Gift from the Jaffrey Meeting House Committee: Bob read the letter from the committee that presented a printed poem about the Jaffrey Meeting House that was read at its 100th anniversary. Bob motioned to accept the gift. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0. Tom motioned to give the poem to the Rindge Historical Society, and first be framed and displayed at Town Offices. Seconded by Bob, it passed 3-0.

Public Hearing: Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue per RSA 31:95-b: Grant Acceptance from the NH Department of Safety in the amount of \$8,500: Bob opened the public hearing at 6:15 p.m. and closed it at 6:17 p.m.

Bob stated this grant has been accepted by the Town before and is for the Police Department to address speeding, DUIs, distracted driving, and mobilizations. Bob motioned to accept the Highway Safety Grant from the NH Department of Safety in the amount of \$8,500 per RSA 31:95-b. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0. The Select Board, in a majority vote, accepted the terms of the Highway Safety Grant as presented in the amount of \$8,500.

Citizen's Forum: Bob opened the forum at 6:18 p.m. by reading the rules of the forum and closed the forum at 6:37 p.m.

Craig Clark, Fitzgerald Road, spoke for the Tel Tech Committee. He stated that Consolidated has been sending residents letters about changing copper lines to fiber. He has been speaking with representatives overseeing the projects, and they are willing to meet on August 13th, 2025, at the Board meeting, to explain to the residents what they are doing. Craig explained they are not taking out the copper lines at this time, and they will make accommodations as needed. Roberta stated that the Town Departments need to figure out how to switch over to fiber because the costs are astronomical. Larry suggested having the department heads from Fire, Public Works, and Police attend when Consolidated makes the presentation.

Ben Asaff, Whitney Lane, asked if the Board had seen the letter that the Interim Town Administrator sent to him about the sign ordinance. Bob stated he had not. Ben provided a copy to the Board. Ben added that the ordinance is specific in how the enforcement is supposed to be carried out, and the letter provides incomplete information. He stated that in his case with the feathered flag, it is a seasonal banner, and they only stay out during business hours. There was a discussion about whether feathered flags fall under the definition of moving signs, which are prohibited by the sign ordinance. There was a question of whether the letter was official enforcement. Bob stated that he is in favor of enforcing the ordinance and removing the feather flags.

Old Business:

Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) Update from Town Council: Roberta stated that she spoke with the attorney about the two cases that have consistently come up. He recommended granting the abatement for Carolyn Spector, Andel Avenue and recommends accepting the \$2,000 for Phil Stenersen's property as it was properly assessed in 2007, and a payment schedule was agreed upon. There was a discussion about the time of assessment for PURDs (planned unit residential development). The attorney confirmed that PURDs need to be assessed when the road starts being built. There are currently two properties where LUCTs need to be issued. There was a discussion about Andel Ave being assessed at a later stage in the process, as it is a PURD. The developer could request abatements for the last four lots. Carolyn requested that she stop receiving tax bills and have the lien removed from her home. Roberta stated that the tax collector will take care of it once she receives the signed abatement.

Bob motioned to allow the abatement for Carolyn Spector, Andel Avenue, Map 3 Lot 72-16. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0. Bob motioned to allow the abatement for Map 2 Lot 41-2 on Rand Road. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0. Bob motioned to adjust the abatement to \$12,000 plus interest for Phil Stenersen, Map 11 Lot 36-1-11. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0. Larry motioned to deny the abatement request for Map 6 Lot 5-E. Seconded by Bob, it passed 3-0.

Zoning Enforcement Issues Update: Roberta stated that Heritage Christian School will not receive an Occupancy Permit until the modular classroom is removed, as it is not on the site plan. They plan to dismantle it before the school year starts. She added that several short-term rental letters were mailed. They discussed the coffee shop and the regulations. They are unsure of the business's status with the state. Bob mentioned shoreline and wetlands issues. They continue to operate while they have a variance application filed with the Zoning Board of Adjustment. There was a discussion about issuing a cease and desist; the Board agreed to hold off until the Zoning Board decides to accept or deny the variance.

Response to Inquiry Regarding Complaints Against a Selectman: Roberta stated that it was recommended that an independent investigation be conducted, with a possible referral to the Attorney General's office. She recommended scheduling a work session to go through the complaints and decide what to do. Tom stated that he put in an RSA 91-A request for all communications with the lawyer and anything she received, and Roberta had responded that it was confidential. He was handed the complaints tonight. Roberta stated that with the RSA 91-A request, there are 5 days to acknowledge the request and indicate when it will be available. Roberta stated that she took that time to ask the attorney what her response should be, and he responded that the information is confidential. Bob recommended scheduling the

work session at the next scheduled meeting.

New Business:

Intent to Cut Permit for Map 1 Lot 6, Robbins Road: Bob motioned to approve the Intent to Cut Permit for Map 1 Lot 6 on Robbins Road. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0.

Fuel Purchase Recommendation: The prices for oil for the 2025/2026 season were, Peterson Oil at \$2.70 per gallon, Allen & Matthewson at \$2.99 per gallon, Fraticelli Oil at \$2.69 per gallon, and Reds Oil at \$2.68 per gallon. The prices for propane for the 2025/2026 season were Dileo Propane at \$2.25 per gallon, Fraticelli Propane at \$2.04 per gallon, L&G Propane at \$1.89 per gallon, and Superior Propane at \$1.50 per gallon. Tom motioned to accept Mike Cloutier's recommendation to purchase oil for the 2025/2026 season from Reds Oil at \$2.68 per gallon and purchase propane for the 2025/2026 season from Superior Propane at \$1.50 per gallon. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0.

Chief Malynowski's Presentation for an Officer Retention Plan: See Attachment A for the presentation documents. Police Chief Rachel Malynowski presented three requests to the board: a retention incentive program, approval to place a hiring advertisement now, and consideration of her budget proposal this season. These requests were made due to the recent resignations of two officers, the potential resignations of two more officers, and the budget defaulting at the Town Meeting this year. She stated that this proposal is based on the absolute necessity to maintain the bare minimum requirements the police department needs to have in place to function and serve the community at an average capacity.

For the retention incentive program, she is asking for \$5,000 checks for each of the eight remaining officers, including the records manager and herself, on September 1st, 2025. Each officer signs a contract to stay with the Rindge Police Department for 1 year from the date of signing. If the contract is broken, the officer will have to pay the full amount back to the Town of Rindge, before taxes. The funding would come from the unspent wages and benefits for this budget year, and it would not go towards retirement or benefits. This program would help Rachel to plan for the coming year, as it indicates who will leave within the year. She also requested placing a hiring advertisement now to minimize the gap and projected overtime expenditure to cover shifts. In the budget for 2026, Rachel proposed to increase salaries across the board by \$7,097, which would cost \$71,000 in the 2026 budget. This salary increase is based on the average starting salary for police officers in towns with similar populations and within the same geographical area. She also proposed a retention bonus in 2026, which would bring the total increase in the wages and benefits line to \$120,972.

Tom motioned to allow Rachel to spend \$40,000 of her budget towards a retention incentive for her full-time employees on the week of September 1st, 2025. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0. Larry motioned to allow Rachel to advertise for one officer with a starting date of no earlier than November 1st, 2025. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Informational Items, Communications, & Updates:

Bob announced there was a Meetinghouse Oversight Committee meeting earlier this week, and there is a need for additional funding for the project, but he will give further details at the next meeting. Roberta informed the board that with the health reimbursement account, the amount available has been about \$6,000. Historically, they have not spent it all. So far this year, we have spent \$11,000 because there are more health insurance claims. She stated that she believes she has found the funding.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

Victoria Stenersen
Executive Secretary