Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Conference Room at Rindge Town Offices
Date: Wednesday, April 8th, 2026
Time: 5:45 pm

MEETING MINUTES

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

At 5:50 pm, Larry motioned to enter into a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91:A-3, II (a) personnel and compensation. Seconded by Bob, the motion passed by a roll call vote: Larry – aye, Bob – aye, Tom – aye. The vote was 3-0.

The public session was reconvened at 6:03 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Larry. Bob announced that the non-public session minutes were not sealed.

Selectmen's Announcements: Tom announced that due to the ongoing lack of desire by members of the Board to truly solve a fiscally driven problem of retention, recruitment, and hiring within the Police Department, effective Sunday, the Rindge Police Department will operate on an on-call basis for the foreseeable future. The Town may be without police coverage when a call for service is received. Larry stated that he has been working on the Rand Cemetery Project. There were two stones they wanted repairs for in the Meetinghouse Cemetery, and they found about 20 stones that need repairs. They received a great quote from Gravestone Services of New England and are working to fund it. For the Rand Property, they cleared all the wood from the wife's stone, and the Colonel's is intact. They will try to remove both of those stones with professional assistance on April 24th. They are going to cut the brush lower to the ground and bring in fill to reset the stones. Dennis Jewell Masonry offered to donate his time and services to rebuild, repoint, power wash, and cap the wall. They hope to have it done for the 250th anniversary.

Payroll: Larry motioned to approve the payroll for 04.02.2026 & 04.09.2026. Seconded by Bob, it passed 2-0-0.

Accounts Payable: Bob motioned to approve the accounts payable for 04.02.2026 & 04.09.2026. Seconded by Larry, it passed 2-0-0.

Minutes: There were no minutes to approve.

Citizens' Forum: Larry opened the forum at 6:11 pm and closed the forum at 6:11 pm.

There was no one for the Citizens' Forum. Larry announced that at the following meeting there will be updated rules of order for the Selectboard meetings and Citizens' Forum. See Attachment A for the full announcement with the rules. He added that Citizens' Forum will be after all agenda items. Tom requested that the rules be voted upon. He thinks that the purpose of the forum is to allow citizens to speak on any topic. It is not beneficial to restrict them to only speak on agenda items. He does agree with many of the points made, including the point regarding criticism. Larry explained that the goal is to quell the bickering and negativity that has increased and continued. It is not a policy change but a rules change, so he is not sure it needs a vote. Bob requested to readdress this in June to see how it goes. Larry agreed.

Old Business:

Municipal Bonding Issue – Progress Update: Max thanked Craig Clark for raising the issue; it is something that the Town needs to comply with. Those that need to be bonded are: the Trustees of the Trust Funds, the Library Trustees, the Town Clerk, the Tax Collector, and the Treasurer. According to Primex, it will not cost the Town anything as it is encompassed in the Town's policy. Bob clarified that this is not a bond the Town is taking out but to bond the employees and elected officials for any monetary loss.

250th Celebration Update: Victoria stated that the last meeting of the 250th Celebration Committee was on April 2nd, 2026, and the next meeting is on Thursday, April 16th, 2026. The parade and the family fun day are on the same day, Friday, June 26th. The event starts at 5:00 pm, and the parade starts at 6:00 pm. See attachment B for the Summary of the April 2nd 250th Celebration Committee meeting; it contains all updates given.

Victoria requested approval from the Selectmen to close the Transfer Station early. The board agreed to close the transfer station at 3:00 pm and add a message to the electronic sign a week in advance. Victoria then requested approval to have the bell at the meetinghouse rung 250 times before the start of the parade. The committee will find someone to do so if they receive approval. Larry stated that he has no problem with it. Tom suggested having it as a fundraiser.

David Drouin, Conservation Commission Chair, requested that the Liberty Elm be dedicated during the event. Victoria agreed to bring it up at the next committee meeting. Larry stated that the parade needs a grand marshal and a parade marshal. He also asked about the condition of the gazebo and requested that they confirm it is structurally sound. Victoria responded that she reached out to Mike earlier that afternoon and will update them when she gets an answer. David asked who holds the Boston Post Cane in Town. Bob responded that no one does right now. David suggested that whoever holds it could be the Parade Marshal.

Bob requested to have Antique cars at the Parade. Victoria responded that she will also bring that forward to the committee. Karla MacLeod, Old New Ipswich Road, asked about the status of the Old M2. Fire Chief Bob Faas answered that the vehicle was taken off the Town's insurance and it cannot go back on. Insuring it is a logistical nightmare, and the cost to repair the vehicle is high. It is at the Historical Society, but he is not sure how long it can stay there. He needs time to research and plan what to do moving forward. Roberta Oeser, Main Street, stated that the Town does not own it, so it should not be on Town insurance. She suggested getting temporary liability insurance while it is on the road. Chief Faas requested that she email him the information.

New Business:

Conservation Commission: Reappointments and Term Expiration Review (RSA 36-A:3): See Attachment C. David Drouin, Conservation Commission Chair, stated that every year they get a request for the Conservation Commission members' names and their term expiration dates for the annual report. They want to re-establish the staggered pattern of appointing members.

Bob motioned to appoint to the Conservation Commission regular members Del Friedman and Richard Synott through March 2029; to appoint regular members David Drouin, Fred Rogers, and Rob Rubendall through March 2027; to appoint alternate members Al Lefebvre and Fred Dodge through March 2029; and to appoint alternate member Phil Simione through March 2027. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0.

Withdrawal of Funds from Fire Department CRF to Purchase a New Brush Truck (RSA 35:15): See Attachment D. Fire Chief Bob Faas requested to expend $264,861 from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund for the purchase of the Brush Truck. He would like to purchase the truck from Bull Dog Fire Apparatus out of Massachusetts. Bull Dog gave one of the best prices, and they are located close by, as opposed to sending the vehicle to Florida or Utah for any repairs. He had five total quotes. They discussed whether there was enough in the fund for the purchase and the 2025 withdrawal of funds for the SCBA purchase.

The vehicle is not a dual-wheel. He wants the vehicle to be able to tow boats and the ice rescue sled. The proposed vehicle has a front nozzle for when there is only one firefighter who can respond due to light or minimum staffing. Chief Bob would prefer the brush truck be taken out on calls versus the fire engine if only one person is in the vehicle. He would like the vehicle to be multi-functional.

In the previous brush truck, the floor pan was patched and not replaced, and the cab mounts are starting to rust out. Since becoming chief, he has implemented rinsing off the vehicles' undercarriages after every call during the winter to help prevent corrosion. His goal is to have a plan to build out the lifespan of the equipment and resources they have with regular maintenance.

Larry stated that he understands that the current brush truck is 26 years old and falling apart. Rick Donovan had told the board the cost would be around $140,000 to $160,000, so the proposed cost came as a shock. He would have liked to receive the proposal earlier so he could ask Chief Faas questions. He asked if there are other options on the table. Chief Faas responded that he is learning this process and will get them the information earlier in the future. Since there is not enough money in the Capital Reserve Fund to cover the cost, he is willing to look at other options and move forward. Max added that when he looked at the numbers with Chief Faas, they showed almost $300,000. Larry responded that even if they had the money, he does not think they would purchase the truck for that amount because it seems very high. He added the caveat that Rick may have been off on the numbers, but he does not know.

Tom stated that he agrees with Larry that they should have good equipment, but the price is very staggering. He added that he thinks the Firehouse has other issues, such as a vehicle they have trouble storing and equipment left outside. He suggested looking into a cheaper option, like a surplus truck, and transferring the equipment they have now onto the new cab and chassis to get a reliable vehicle. He stated that they need to have the funds for when they buy a fire engine in ten years, especially if they continue to go into default and the Town cannot afford to add $300,000 a year to the account to fund a new engine at a million dollars. He asked Chief Faas what their oldest vehicle is. Chief Faas answered that the hose reel truck is the oldest.

Chief Faas announced that the President of the University decided that Franklin Pierce will no longer house the fire truck on campus. Bob asked if Bull Dog is one of the big three fire apparatus companies. Chief Faas answered no, and they are way more competitive than the big three. The Chief stated he will do some more research and get back to them. He updated the Board that Rick Donovan texted him and the SCBA's came out of the ARPA funds. Max stated that he will investigate it.

<u>Notice of Intent to Cut – Map 11 Lot 33 (RSA 79:10)</u>: David Drouin, Conservation Commission, explained that for this property's intent to cut, they did not complete the project last year. It is a preventative cut. Bob motioned to approve the intent to cut for Map 11 Lot 33, at Annett State Park. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

<u>Special Events Permit Application (RSA 41:11)</u>: The application is for the Rindge Farmer's Market at the West Rindge Common on Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, starting May 9th and ending at the beginning of October. Larry stated that his biggest concern was the parking. The event organizer, Michael LiPetri, stated that they will place no parking signs and close the closest entrance to US Route 202 with cones. Parking occurs along the side of the road. Roni Hamilton, East Monomonac Road, asked what happened to the fence off the West Rindge Common. Larry responded that it was due to a car accident. Bob motioned to approve the Special Events Permit for the Farmer's Market. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0.

<u>Approval of Abatements (RSA 76:16)</u>: Max announced that they do not have the abatement recommendations yet. He followed up with Monique on March 31st. In her email, she responded that they would arrive in batches. For instance, Monadnock Co-Op is complete and waiting for final review. She cannot control the number of abatements per group and suggested discussing it with Max. Max stated that he has a meeting tomorrow with Monique and the Assessing Clerk,

Jennifer Helsel, at 10:00 am. He will see if he can get a definitive answer about when they will be coming in. Larry requested an update on the abatements at least once a week because July 1st will come quickly. This item was tabled.

Any Other Official Business: There was none.

Informational Items, Communications, and Updates: Bob announced that the Meetinghouse Oversight Committee met on Tuesday. They want to get the Horse shed roofs replaced this year because they are leaking badly. The shingles must be replaced with cedar shingles and done with historical accuracy. The bid they have is for $55,320. They anticipate receiving $20,000 from the Moose Plates Grant and $30,000 from the Ward Trust Fund.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary