



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Conference Room at Rindge Town Offices

Date: Wednesday, June 17th, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

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

At 6:01 pm, Larry Cleveland opened the meeting to the public with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements: Larry announced that the America's 250th Celebration is on Friday, June 26th at 5:00 pm on the Town Common. The Rindge Firefighters' Association is seeking private donations to fund a \$10,000 Forcible Entry Training Door. If interested, please reach out to firefighter Sean McLaughlin at 781-603-8093. See Attachment A for more information. Twenty-one gravestones at the Meetinghouse Cemetery have been repaired, but Eleazor Blake's headstone was not. They hope to have it repaired before the 250th Celebration.

Payroll: Larry motioned to approve the payroll for 06.11.2026 & 06.18.2026. Seconded by Bob, it passed 2-0-0.

Accounts Payable: Bob motioned to approve the accounts payable for 06.11.2026 & 06.18.2026. Seconded by Larry, it passed 2-0-0.

A few of the payments from June 11th had a coding issue, which were corrected with journal entries. The preventative maintenance program accepted by the Board could not be charged to the specific maintenance line because only \$1,500 was budgeted. A decision was made to take funds from the revolving fund to pay the bill. The Fire Department Operating Budget may have line items with enough funds to which the expense could be allocated. Tom questioned whether there was money in the revolving fund. Max stated that there is at least \$14,000 because the revenue from life safety inspections starting January 1st has been deposited into that fund. Tom suggested that the Board be provided with the fund balance that a department head is requesting money from before they see the invoice. Larry asked about adding more funds to the budget if they continue the preventative maintenance program. Max responded that they will add this year's amount paid to next year's proposed budget in the Fire Department maintenance line. For this year, it is up to the Board where they draw the money from. Tom requested the balance of the revolving fund before deciding. Max expressed that he prefers taking it out of the maintenance line, creating a negative balance, so they can see what was spent. At the end of the year, it will be covered by overage elsewhere. Bob agreed with the need for a quarterly financial sheet for those funds.

Minutes: Tom motioned to approve the minutes from 01.14.2026, 01.21.2026, 05.14.2026, 05.20.2026 & 05.26.2026. Seconded by Bob, it passed 3-0.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

Status of Abatements Update: 17 abatements were ready for the board to review and vote on. Larry read a statement about the status of the abatements, see Attachment B.

Approval of Abatements (RSA 76:16): Tom requested that his abatement be voted on separately, as he would like to recuse

himself. Simon Moseley, Pine Eden Road, stated that the abatements are supposed to be reviewed before July 1st. He asked if Avitar and the Board of Selectmen would do so before then. Larry answered that the Board likely will not. Max added that, according to his understanding, July 1st is a soft deadline, and the process will continue after that date. He recommended that he follow up with the BTLA. The assessing clerk will send letters notifying everyone whose abatement has not been reviewed as of July 1st. Roberta Oeser, Main Street, stated that there is no deadline to grant or review abatements. The July 1st date is a courtesy to applicants so they can assume it has been denied and can appeal to the BTLA or Superior Court by September 1st. She recommends waiting until August 1st to file an appeal, as it costs money. Max added that he reached out to Avitar to see if they could complete the recommendations more expeditiously. It had some impact because the recent abatement recommendations that they have received were not just reviewed by Monique, but also by the co-CEO of the firm. Simon asked how many outstanding abatements there were at this point. Larry responded that about 180 abatements are remaining.

Larry motioned to grant the abatements recommended by Avitar for the following properties: Map 17 Lot 36, Map 27 Lot 4, Map 3 Lot 31 Sub Lot 1, Map 9 Lot 7 Sub Lot 3-2, Map 2 Lot 59 Sub Lot T-008, Map 14 Lot 14, Map 37 Lot 7, Map 2 Lot 59 Sub Lot T-062, Map 10 Lot 4 Sub Lot 7A, & Map 26 Lot 4. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Jenn stated that letters will be mailed out for all abatements for which decisions have been made, for proof of notification. Bob asked Jenn to make sure the check box is selected for confirmed or denied when she gets the paperwork back.

Larry motioned to deny the abatement application for Map 8 Lot 24 Sub Lot 1. Seconded by Bob, it passed 2-0. Tom recused himself from the motion as he is the property owner.

Tom motioned to accept Avitar's recommendation to deny the abatements for Map 2 Lot 59 Sub Lot T-024, Map 6 Lot 49-A, Map 17 Lot 15, Map 6 Lot 19 Sub Lot 1, Map 22 Lot 8, & Map 22 Lot 9. Seconded by Bob, it passed 3-0.

Acceptance of Unanticipated Funds (RSA 31:95-b): The Police Department is requesting the board to accept a \$100 donation from Tieger Realty in memory of Bob Knight and a \$300 donation from Mark Wagner in memory of Bob Knight. Larry motioned to accept the unanticipated revenue of two donations in the amounts of \$100 and \$300 for the police department. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Acceptance of Funds from the Historical Society (RSA 31:95-b): There was a brief discussion about whether the Town had received the \$6,300 check from the Historical Society. It was assumed that the check had not arrived yet and was still in the mail. Debbie Qualey, Meadow View Road, asked what the donation is paying for. Larry answered that it is for the repair of 21 gravestones in the Meetinghouse Cemetery. Roberta Oeser, Main Street, asked about the annual check the town used to receive from the perpetual care fund that the Trustees of the Trust Funds issued for the care of the cemeteries. They could use those funds for the repair of the individual headstones, even though they do not belong to the Town and are personal property. Karla MacLeod, Old New Ipswich Road, explained that until 1947, the Town only mowed the plots that had paid for perpetual care. Max updated the Board that the cy pres petition through our attorney to release perpetual care funds is in conjunction with 10 other towns in the state of New Hampshire. Bob asked Max to get a hold of Craig Clark, the Chair of the Trustees of the Trust Funds, to ask if the Trustees issued the check and if they need permission from the Cemetery Trustees.

Tom motioned to accept the unanticipated revenue of a \$6,300 donation from the Historical Society in anticipation of funds arriving. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0.

Update on Staffing and Configuration of Rindge Assessing Clerk: Max explained that the hours for assessing were underbudgeted for a revaluation year and has been discussing how to increase efficiency with the assessing clerk. He spoke with other Town Administrators and Avitar to see what other towns do. Some of the assessing clerk's hours in the office will not be open to the public, so she has a largely uninterrupted time to focus on work to meet deadlines. There has been a constant flow of people disrupting the workflow. The adjusted hours open to the public will be posted on the

website.

Larry recommended implementing an appointment-based system for the Town Administrator and other departments due to interruptions throughout the day from residents walking into the office. Tom stated that Friday is for full-time employees to use to catch up on work because Town Offices are only open four days a week. Max explained that when working with numbers, disruptions could be more impactful, which may be why mistakes have happened before. Tom stated that he does not disagree, and some residents should be filtered through the front window. Max stated that he will do some research and reach out to other Towns to see what they have been doing. Tom explained that Jaffrey works on an appointment basis. Bob asked that the adjusted hours be posted on the website and the door and that the Selectmen be informed of those hours.

Any Other Official Business: There was no other official business to come before the Board.

Citizens' Forum: Larry opened the forum at 6:55 pm and closed the forum at 6:59 pm.

Roberta Oeser, Main Street, announced that the Breakfast at the Fire Station is on Saturday, June 20th, from 9:00 am to 11:00 am. They have a raffle and are requesting funds for the gas detectors. She stated that Avitar guaranteed the Town the data would transfer from Vision to their platform when the Town switched. But there have been a lot of issues with the software conversion. She added that Avitar had stated they will not provide support if the Board does not go with their recommendations. She believes it goes back to last year when they were giving legal advice on some of the abatements and the Town went to an attorney. Some of the abatements this year are based on law, and Avitar cannot represent the Town in Superior Court because they are not attorneys. She believes that making judgment calls on some of them after the Board reviews the application may be a good idea. The BTLA is a couple of years behind, and many people are planning to go to Court.

Informational Items, Communications, and Updates: There were no informational items, communications, or updates from the Board.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

Victoria Stenersen
Executive Secretary