Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Conference Room at Rindge Town Offices
Date: Wednesday, July 1st, 2026
Time: 6:00 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 6:00 pm, Larry Cleveland opened the meeting to the public with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements: Larry thanked everyone for the 250th Celebration last Friday; the parade was spectacular, and the event went off close to without a hitch. There were a couple of problems with residents approaching the road guards in their vehicles and becoming antagonistic. Tom added that it was due to a misunderstanding and was resolved quickly. Larry stated that was the only complaint he received the entire night; the fireworks were great, and he believes it was the biggest crowd he has seen on the common. Bob thanked the volunteers, the Rindge Chamber of Commerce, and Lynda Hunt for organizing the event and herding everyone.

Bob updated everyone on his progress with addressing complaints and problems with the US Postal Service nationally and the local service that Rindge receives. He spoke with Connor Hale from Jeanne Shaheen's office. Connor put him in touch with the United States Postal Service Northeast Consumer Affairs Director, Joshua Scott. Joshua assured Bob that he would work towards fixing the problem. He asked for updates from the public within the next few weeks on whether the service has improved or worsened. He plans to send out a letter from Town Offices post office box back to the Town Offices.

Payroll: Bob motioned to approve the payroll for 06.25.2026 & 07.02.2026 with correction if needed and justification of one of the payments. Seconded by Larry, it passed 2-0-0.

Accounts Payable: Larry motioned to approve the accounts payable for 06.25.2026 & 07.02.2026. Seconded by Bob, it passed 2-0-0. Tom asked if the Jaffrey-Rindge School District needs the payment this month. Statutorily, they could pay them quarterly. Max responded that he has a meeting with Lisa Wiley, on the School Board, on Monday morning. He will be discussing it with her, or she will direct him to finance personnel. Tom stated that the School District also needs to provide the Town with the revenue stream data this month. Bob stated that the Town could pay the School District quarterly and bank the million dollars so that interest is being earned. Bob questioned the bond payment, and whether it is annual. Craig responded that, if he remembers correctly, yes. Larry asked Max to investigate the $7,000 for the Library.

Minutes: Minutes were tabled until the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING: Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue (RSA 31:95-b III (a)) from the Ward Trust Fund for $35,000 to go towards the restoration of the Rindge Meetinghouse

Larry opened the public hearing at 6:10 pm.

Karla MacLeod, a Trustee of the Ward Trust Fund, stated that every year the Ward Trust gives money for the maintenance of the Rindge Meetinghouse complex, which includes the horse sheds. The Trustees approved $35,000 for the repair of the horse shed roofs. This is the amount accumulated over 2 years.

Larry stated that $15,000 is left to be paid for the project, and the Town of Rindge pays half of that amount. Karla responded that the Trustees meet again at the end of August to the beginning of September, and there may be another $5,000. Bob stated that the church has agreed to pay $7,500. Karla asked for the balance of the Meetinghouse trust fund. Max responded that it will be about $64,000 once the funds are moved.

Bob recognized Gertrude and Ralph Ward, who left the Ward Trust fund. The Meetinghouse Oversight Committee uses the funds judiciously. He thanked the Ward Trust and the Trustees of the Trust Funds. Karla stated that all the outside items on the 2023 assessment will be complete once the horse shed project is done. Bob explained that the NH Moose Plate Grant was not applied for this year because it was for archival purposes only.

Larry closed the public hearing at 6:15 pm

Tom motioned to accept the unanticipated revenue from the Ward Trust Fund for $35,000. Seconded by Bob, it passed 3-0.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business:

Ingalls 1894 Association Request to Accept Funding for an ADA-compliant automatic door opener (RSA 31:19): Both the Ingalls 1894 Association and the Ingalls Memorial Library Trustees approve of the expense. Judy Unger Clark, President of the Ingalls 1894 Association, stated that they raised funds through NH Gives and Giving Tuesday for the Ingalls 1894 Association. They would like to have an ADA-compliant automatic door opener installed for the door at the handicap ramp entering the lower section of the library. They have a quote for $3,229, and the Ingalls 1894 Association will provide the funds for the project. Karla MacLeod, Chair of the Ingalls Memorial Library Trustees, stated that DPW Director Mike Cloutier will oversee the project and provide labor to install the device. Bob asked if the door can be programmed to shut off and on or if it is manual. Judy responded that she does not know the mechanics, but it is modeled after the Jaffrey Public Library's door, and they are working with the same company.

Larry motioned to accept $3,229 from the Ingalls 1894 Association for funding for an ADA-compliant automatic door opener pursuant to RSA 31:19 to be installed at the Ingalls Memorial Library. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Presentation and Request by Donald Wilson regarding Lake Monomonac Watershed Management Plan: Donald Wilson, Monomonac Lake Property Owners Association member, stated they received a grant for a watershed management study last year. The lake is showing signs of stress and is projected to have 18 cyanobacteria blooms per year. The goal is to get the phosphate level down to 10 micrograms/liter. It is currently 12.2 micrograms/liter. He passed out two documents: a build-out analysis and a watershed map. Don stated that DPW Director Mike Cloutier showed the surveyors around to where there were locations of excess phosphate getting into the watershed.

Don handed out a third document, listing points/projects in the watershed management plan; see attachment A. Any points on the plan are eligible for grant money to fix. NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) just published the invitation to apply for implementation grants. These grants provide 60% funding. Whoever is involved covers 40%, but it can be in-kind, including labor, use of machinery, and materials. Volunteer labor is reimbursable at $25 an hour. Don stated he thinks it is a significant discount of the total cost to repair the listed sites. First, he would like to apply for a grant to repair a culvert and gulley located on East Monomonac Road, with the Board's permission. It is listed as a high-impact area and would cost a maximum of $13,000 to repair. Don stated that he needs to go through the list with Mike to determine what to go after. He would like to make improvements to NH Route 119 but needs to approach the state.

There will be a public meeting in September to review the watershed report. 74% of the phosphorus comes from the watershed and 14% from septic systems. The association educates property owners around the lake about ways to reduce phosphate contamination. The Lake Smart Program is a great resource they utilize. Phosphate contamination applies to all waterbodies within the watershed. They are under the same stressors. The precautions people take and the repairs completed will help all the bodies of water within the watershed.

Gully #1-3 that Don is requesting to repair is adjacent to the culvert and closer to the Massachusetts line. The culvert was just rebuilt. According to Don, the gully is significantly washed out and on Mike's list to complete. The specifics of the project for the culvert and gully are listed on pages 7 and 8 in Attachment A. Don stated that the Town would be receiving funds to complete this project, unlike other projects that are on Mike's list. He also expressed that completing the points listed will benefit everyone within the watershed and the Town. The association is willing to volunteer their time to apply for the grants. He asked if they could apply for the grant to work on the culvert and gully on East Monomonac Road. Don also requested a letter of support from the Board of Selectmen. He stated that the Town is also eligible to apply for the grants and the association could do the paperwork for them.

Both Larry and Bob expressed concern with the cost and the time that it would take. Larry commented that what they are asking of the DPW is to dedicate time to care for Lake Monomonac while other projects in the Town are deferred. The taxpayers would also be on the hook for 40% of the cost. He stated that he would like to speak with Mike first. Tom agreed that Mike should come in to talk to all three Board members to go over the list. He commented on the funds the association has raised and how the Board should not stymie them from protecting the valuable natural resource to the Town. Bob responded that they are not stymying them, but they need to be forthright that the Town will not dedicate the resources. Tom stated they should allow them to look for grants, as it may take a couple of years and will not hurt them. He expressed concern that the Rindge bodies of water could become dead lakes and ponds. He recommended addressing it now and giving support. Larry stated that he cannot stop a private citizen from applying for grants. The project is for the benefit of the residents within the watershed and not the entire Town. He understands, but there are other bodies of water in Town that are not in the watershed. It will ultimately raise assessments and taxes on the lake if they make these improvements. The board thanked Don for coming in.

<u>Approval of Abatements (RSA 76:16)</u>: All applications have already been signed and reviewed by the Board.

Larry motioned that the following abatement applications be denied: Map 41 Lot 9, Map 10 Lot 21 Sublot 3, Map 40 Lot 20 Sublot 2, Map 11 Lot 4 Sublot 1, Map 19 Lot 34, Map 17 Lot 8, Map 22 Lot 10, Map 14 Lot 43, Map 46 Lot 9, Map 19 Lot 8, Map 40 Lot 20 Sublot 1, Map 15 Lot 35, Map 41 Lot 7, Map 6 Lot 23, Map 37 Lot 3, Map 40 Lot 15, Map 13 Lot 19, Map 10 Lot 47 Sublot 4, Map 7 Lot 55, Map 19 Lot 16 Sublot 2, Map 5 Lot 30, Map 3 Lot 58 Sublot 1, and Map 3 Lot 15 Sublot 8. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Larry motioned that the following abatement applications be granted: Map 7 Lot 19 Sublot 4-2, Map 7 Lot 49 Sublot 3-1, Map 13 Lot 12, and Map 14 Lot 7. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Simon Moseley, Pine Eden Road, asked how many abatement applications are outstanding. Max responded that they received about 40 recommendations at the end of the day yesterday, and less than half of the submitted applications remain. Simon asked how much Avitar is charging for each appeal. He stated that in the contract, in the final report of the revaluation, it states that they charge $165.00 an hour and will likely take 10 to 15 hours per appeal. Max responded that he believes it is all-inclusive, which is why the cost in the fifth year is so exorbitant compared to the other four years. He will look at the contract to confirm. He believes the hourly rate is if the Board goes against their recommendation. Max stated they need to do what is right by the Town and ensure the values are correct. The DRA reviewed the calculations and said that Avitar is the best company they have worked with. Avitar is also the only company that bid. They must move forward with their guidance as they are the experts in assessing. Bob asked Max to look at the contract tomorrow and get Simon an answer by the end of the day.

Any Other Official Business: Tom asked Bob, as the ex officio to the Planning Board, to address a problem with one of the applications on the agenda for next week. He will get the information to Max to send to him. He does not believe a condition for approval is met and does not meet the Town's subdivision regulations.

Bob brought forward a problem that Roberta had presented to him. Roberta Oeser, Main Street, stated that there is a proposed 6-lot subdivision on West Binney Hill Road that is in New Ipswich, but they do not provide anything for that road. The Town of Rindge takes care of the road, including plowing and grading the road. The Town is the first responder for Police and Fire. Residents on the road utilize the Jaffrey-Rindge School District at the expense of Rindge's taxpayers. She requested that the Department Heads agree to oppose the proposed subdivision. She brought up agreements that Rindge has with New Ipswich, but in her opinion, this goes too far. Larry thanked her and stated they would keep an eye on it.

Citizens' Forum: Larry opened the forum at 7:07 pm and closed the forum at 7:17 pm.

Roberta Oeser, Main Street, asked if they review the abatement requests. She knows for one of them there is an appraisal attached and the abatement was denied. The assessment of the property is over $1 million for a home that is a tear-down. She warned them that it is going to be very expensive for the Town because they will be going to Superior Court and not the BTLA. Larry stated that is their right. His viewpoint is that he is not a professional assessor. They hired an assessing firm to do the job. His judgment is to go with Avitar's recommendation, and if the property owner does not like the outcome, they have two avenues to mediate. Roberta recommended that they talk to the property owners. She believes that appraisals will likely stand up in court and possibly the BTLA. Tom stated that his understanding is that Avitar will represent their recommendation if the Board accepts it, which is what they were told. If the Board does not take their recommendation, they will not represent the Town. Max stated that is when the Town pays.

Craig Clark, Fitzgerald Road, wished Bob luck with the Post Office. He has been speaking with the Postmaster almost weekly about misdelivered and delayed mail. He stated that the front garden of the Town Office is a disgrace and should be taken care of. Finally, he recommended that the Board of Selectmen send a letter to the Rindge Chamber thanking them for their hard work towards the 250th event. Larry responded that he is okay with it and wants everyone to be recognized in the letter. He thinks every volunteer did an outstanding job. All board members agreed. Bob added that he recommended a beautification project for the Town Offices to a Boy Scout who is looking for an Eagle Project. The Boy Scout seems to be accepting. Bob told him that he needs to speak with the DPW Director and needs to get permission from the Board as well. The Scout Council needs to approve of the project first.

Judy Unger-Clark, Fitzgerald Road, urged the Board to embrace a Townwide watershed project. From what Don presented, it was not just one lake. All property owners in Rindge are responsible for what goes off their property and where it goes. Secondly, she asked if the Board has signed off on the approval for their barn on their property. The board responded affirmatively.

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

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary