Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Conference Room at Rindge Town Offices
Date: Wednesday, September 9th, 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, Police Chief Rachel Malynowski, Building Inspector Roger Seppala, and members of the public: Karla MacLeod, Craig Clark, Roni Hamilton, Pat Martin, Roberta Oeser, Mark Geiger, Deb Qualey, Michelle Cleveland, Robert Terk, Karl Pruter, Hannah Bissex, Joleen Little, and Ken Little.

Call to Order: Larry opened the public session at 6:01 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements:

- The General Election is on November 3rd, 2026, at the Rindge Memorial School Gymnasium. The polls will be open from 7:00 am to 7:00 pm.
- Friday is the 25th anniversary of 9/11. Please remember those who lost their lives that day. Residents may be able to see the memorial spotlights from Mount Washington.
- Larry stated that the Town has not done a great job of saving money in the Capital Reserve Funds. Within the next few years, they will need to purchase some big-ticket items like a fire engine. Currently, a fire engine costs at least $1,000,000. The Town needs to save money for capital improvements regularly. The increasing number of people moving to Rindge and coming through Town daily has significantly increased the expenses to provide services. Furthermore, the Town has been on a default budget for two years.

Selectmen's Appointments:

- Larry moved to appoint Amber Dewey as a member of the Energy Commission. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Approval of Payroll, Accounts Payable, and Minutes:

- Bob moved to approve the payroll for 09.03.2026 & 09.10.2026. Seconded by Larry, it passed 2-0-0.
- Bob moved to approve the accounts payable for 09.03.2026 & 09.10.2026 pending investigation of two bills from 09.10.2026. Seconded by Larry, it passed 2-0-0.
- The minutes were tabled for the following meeting.

Follow-up/Notes: There were two questions on AP from 09.10.2026. Larry asked if money can be used from the revolving fund/account for repairing Fire Department Vehicle R1, costing $1,000. Roberta Oeser, Main Street, responded that the warrant article creating the fund did state it was for repairs, but the percentage must be

relative to how much it is used for details. She added that the Board needs to approve the invoice before it goes to the bookkeeper when the funds come out of a revolving fund. Tom asked for confirmation that it came from the revolving fund. Larry requested to touch base with Chief Faas on whether the two Safeware Inc. charges coded under the revolving account, one for $311 and the second for $5,899, were paid twice and what they were for.

Old Business:

Discussion for renewal of BS&A Financial Software: This is a follow-up from the Board meeting on July 15th. This software needs to be renewed, or else the Town loses access and support. The Tax Collector, Treasurer, Bookkeeper, Town Administrator, and Finance Director all use BS&A. Service is being transitioned to the cloud, and October is the cut-off date to sign off on the transition. There is a 4-month implementation window. The annual cost is $19,262, which is within $1,000 of what the Town has been paying. The total cost for the update, including the annual fee, is $58,820.00. The overall budget has funds for this expense from overages in other departments. They can extend the expense across five different payments; no interest or fee will be charged to do so. Ideally, they want to have the project completed by the beginning of 2027. Max suggested having the TelTech Committee recommend high-cost software and the Capital Improvement Planning Committee conduct the planning in the future. Bob asked if there is any money left in the Technology budget. Max answered that there may be $5,000 due to rolling money over from last year, but he is not certain.

Decisions: Bob motioned to move forward with the renewal of the BS&A Financial Software for a cost of$58,820.00. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0.

New Business:

Pricing for Propane Contract: Max presented three quotes that DPW Director Mike Cloutier received for the cost of propane. Superior Propane quoted $1.58/gallon, Fraticelli Propane quoted $1.99/gallon, and L&G Propane quoted $1.80/gallon. Mike had recommended moving forward with Superior Propane as it is only 8 cents more than last year and is the company the Town currently uses, so they do not have to switch out the tanks. Karla MacLeod, Old New Ipswich Road, expressed concern with Superior Propane's service. Larry requested that Max ask Mike if they had any delivery issues with Superior Propane. They discussed the cost to switch companies and propane tanks.

Decision: Bob motioned to tentatively approve Superior Propane at $1.58 per gallon after Max speaks with Mike on the requested items. Seconded by Larry, it passed 3-0.

Presentation on Fire Code and ROW issues, Chief Faas: This item was tabled.

Approval of Special Events Permit (RSA 286:2): This permit is for the Women's Club Annual Harvest Fair on Saturday, September 26th, 2026, at the Rindge Recreation Center from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Set-up will start at 7:00 am, and clean-up will occur from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm. Anticipated attendance is 250 people with up to 20 vendors. The event does not require any road closures, altered traffic patterns, dedicated security, or town trash removal. The applicant has requested four traffic cones. Chief Rachel Malynowski reviewed the application and signed. Roger Seppala signed on behalf of the fire department.

Decision: Bob moved to approve the special events permit for the Women's Club Annual Harvest Fair. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Motor Vehicle Registration Reimbursement (RSA 261:151): This request for reimbursement was due to an

incorrect selection of a vehicle package.

Decision: Larry moved to reimburse the person listed on the request for $126. Seconded by Tom, it passed 3-0.

Review of Ambulance Services Contracts: Max read a statement prepared by Chief Faas and himself that explained the history and context of the operational and contractual issues the town faced with JRMA, the exploration of several other ambulance services, and the recommendation to select Peterborough based on their service capability, reliability, responsiveness, and cost. They provide the strongest balance of quality service and fiscal responsibility for the community. Max added that having Cheshire County provide services from Rindge would be significantly higher than Peterborough's contract due to the cost to retrofit the Town's fire station. The retrofitting would have included building bunkrooms and bringing them up to current standards.

Larry stated that Jaffrey Rindge Memorial Ambulance (JRMA) has doubled their request from last year, and there have been significant issues, including a contract breach and strife between the personnel of Rindge Fire and JRMA. Peterborough Ambulance quoted $280,217 while JRMA quoted $250,000. Peterborough is very professional and was Chief Faas's first pick, as they work well with them. The ambulance service needs to know immediately so that they can find staff and be prepared to respond by January 1st. The contract with Peterborough is effective January 1st, 2027.

Tom stated that his concern with Peterborough is the significant travel time. He questioned the calculation of the cost in the third year based on the blended formula. Max responded that the Peterborough Town Administrator had told him the cost would be about $374,000 in year 3. Tom wants to review the numbers closely because it costs a lot of money, and he was given the information yesterday. There was a discussion about calculating the cost in year three. Tom explained that he does not disagree that Peterborough provides quality service.

Roberta Oeser, Main Street, strongly recommended a warrant article stating to enter into a contract with the service so the increases go into the default and are automatically covered. Larry agreed because it is a large expense and the voters should be able to decide. Tom added that they will need to put the cost for each year of the contract on the warrant article based on current numbers. Larry agreed. Max spoke to the discount that Peterborough offered. Tom questioned the number of calls and the number of transports. The historical funding of JRMA was discussed.

Larry requested Max contact Chief Fahey or the Peterborough Town Administrator for written documentation that the cost will likely be $374,000 for years three, four, and five. Max responded that he likely can get them to state it is a best-faith estimate because it is based on receivables and projections. Bob reviewed the costs associated with Cheshire County, the difficulties with JRMA, and the necessity of the Board deciding now. Tom wants a contract with fixed amounts for the next 5 years before deciding. Roberta commented that the Town can only spend what is voted on.

Decision: Larry motioned to go with Peterborough Fire and Rescue for the Town's Ambulance Service for the first two years at $280,217 per year, and evaluate during year 2, entering a 5-year contract subject to voter approval in March 2027. Seconded by Bob, it passed 2-0-1. Tom abstained from the vote and requested the contract documents.

Citizens' Forum: Larry opened the forum at 7:02 p.m. and closed the forum at 7:06 p.m.

Roni Hamilton, East Monomonac, stated that since about January or December, the Town has been requesting the charter or bylaws from JRMA. She has asked every month and the answer was always no. Max responded that they may have sent it to Fire Chief Bob Faas recently, but only after the Town's attorney sent a letter to request the documents.

Larry stated that Cheshire County was at $299,000, which is based on the population of the town. The current population is 6,503. The cost per person is $46.00. For Peterborough, the cost per person will be slightly lower. Debbie Qualey, Meadow View Road, asked for confirmation about Cheshire County needing barracks built at the Fire Station. Larry answered affirmatively, as they would not respond from Swanzey due to the distance. Peterborough has responded to calls in Rindge for a long time and will continue to respond from Peterborough.

Ken Little, Jay Drive, asked about the rumor that the Selectboard will not be renewing the Police Chief's contract. Larry responded that it is just a rumor and they have not had contract negotiations yet.

Informational Items, Communications, and Updates:

Bob asked for a Meetinghouse Oversight Committee meeting once the quotes have been received.

At 7:06 pm, Larry moved to go into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) compensation. Seconded by Bob, it passed by a roll call vote: Larry – aye, Bob – aye, Tom – aye. It passed 3-0. There was a break until 7:18 pm.

The public session was reconvened at 8:16 pm.

Tom motioned to seal the minutes from the non-public session until September 23rd, 2026, as it could render a proposed action ineffective. Seconded by Bob, it passed by a roll call vote: Larry – aye, Bob – aye, Tom – aye. It passed 3-0.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary