



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 18, 2023**

**Present:** Bob Hamilton, Chairman, Marybeth Quill, Vice Chair, Karl Pruter, Selectman, Lori Rautiola, Town Administrator, Laurie May, Finance Director, members of the public

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at the Town Office on January 18, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

**Selectmen's Announcements:** Bob announced the POOR Meat Raffle will be Feb.4 at 1:30 p.m. at the VFW and is being co-sponsored by the Conservation Commission. The Rindge Chamber of Commerce annual Gala was scheduled for Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup> at Hidden Hills.

**Consent Agenda:** Marybeth made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda without the January 11, 2023 minutes. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

**Old Business:**

2023 Warrant Articles: A revised draft of the 2023 warrant articles was distributed. Bob explained the process and order of the articles on the warrant. The Board went through each article as follows: Article #1 – open seats for candidacy. Articles #2, #3, and #4 are Planning/Zoning articles. There was a brief discussion on Article #5 (Operating Budget). Karl mentioned the default number appeared low, however, he understands the legality of what can be included in a default budget and agreed with the numbers. Bob also noted he had a hard time excepting the default figure, but the Board must follow the laws pertaining to default budgets. Bob made a motion to accept Warrant Article #5 as written. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Bob read Article #6 (Fire/Rescue Truck lease payment). Bob made a motion to accept the article as written. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. Bob read Article #7 (Rec. Department capital reserve request in the amount of \$25,000). He added the funds would be utilized to pay for the repaving of the tennis courts. Article #8 (Assessing Revaluation) was discussed. Bob made a motion to accept the article as written. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. Article #9 (Library Capital Reserve Account) was discussed. Bob noted the funds would be utilized for the purchase of a new furnace for the library.

Bob read the two warrant articles for the readoption of the Optional and All-Veterans' tax credit. He explained the readoption was mandated by the State. The readoption of Articles 10 and 11 if passed would allow for the expansion of the criteria needed to qualify for the All Veteran's Tax Credit of \$500 to add and include those service members who have served not less than 90 days

on active service in the armed forces of the United States and continue to serve and have not yet been honorably discharged from the armed services. The readoption of the All Veteran's Tax Credit, if approved would continue to offer a \$500 tax credit to all honorably discharged Veterans that qualify under the current requirements of (RSA 72:28-b) but as of April 1, 2023, it would expand the eligibility requirements to now include those individuals that have not yet been discharged from active service. (Majority vote required). Bob made a motion to accept Articles #10 and #11 as approved by the DRA/legal. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Article #12 (Cemetery proceeds). Bob explained the funds from the perpetual care are currently going into an account where the money cannot be touched. If approved this would allow the Selectmen to expend and use the funds for future maintenance costs for the care of the Town cemeteries. Article #13 (Rec energy efficiency). Bob noted this article would save the town money within a couple of years by improving the energy at the Rec Center. Bob made a motion to accept the article as written. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Article #14 (Wellington Bridge) was to dissolve the Wellington Bridge Trust Fund. Bob made a motion to accept the article as written. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. Article #15 (Bridge Maintenance Capital Reserve account) was discussed. This article would be established for the purpose of all town bridge maintenance. A check from the state in the amount of 107,000 would be deposited into the account. This amount of taxation is to be raised for this article. Bob made a motion to accept Article #15 as written. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

ARPA: Bob noted previously the Board had discussed removing the \$25,000 from the warrant to rebuild the Pump Truck for the Fire Department, and using ARPA money to pay for it. No vote was taken as the Board would like to confirm with Chief Donovan the available ARPA funds. Carpet Quotes for the Town Office, Rec Center, Library, and Police Department were discussed as well as the Town Clerk/Tax Collector renovations, however, these items were tabled due to the Board seeking a solid balance of ARPA funds that have not been spent. Laurie May will create a spreadsheet to show what has been bought and a balance to date.

### **New Business:**

Front Cover Town Report: Bob showed two pictures for the 2022 Annual Town Report. He asked for a hand count from the Board and the public in the room. It was determined that the Emerson Pond photo would be used in the annual report. Bob thanked George Carmichael for his beautiful pictures and for sharing them with the Town.

**Informational Items/Communications & Updates**: Karl gave a brief update on the school budget being proposed, adding their default budget was showing an increase of about 1.8 million. Karl also noted there are two vacant seats on the School Board and encouraged people to get involved. Bob gave an update on the Town & Gown Committee meeting.

Bob stated he would like to make a request to the TelTech Committee for recommendations to the Board on bids for a new phone system.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola  
Town Administrator