



BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
May 24, 2023

Present: Marybeth Quill, Chairman, Karl Pruter, Vice Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Selectman, Lori Rautiola, Town Administrator, Betsy Lambert, Executive Secretary. Members of the public.

The meeting was called to order at the Town Office May 24th, 2023 at 5:00 p.m.

Marybeth made a motion to enter into nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A: 3 II (a)

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob mentioned that the Town-wide yard sale is taking place on June 3rd, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. It will be sponsored by the Advent Lutheran Church on Rt. 202 in Rindge. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bob mentioned the Memorial Day Parade will take place on Monday, May 29th, 2023. The parade starts at 12:30 p.m. at RMS, will then proceed to Payson Hill Rd and Hillside Cemetery stopping on the way at all the Memorials. Rindge Rec. Dept. will be serving lunch starting at 11:45 a.m. at the Town common.

Deb Qualey mentioned there should be a correction made to the Memorial Day Parade brochure stating that the Fisk family would be putting in all the flowers and plants this year that is not the case Bob and Roni Hamilton will be doing that.

Citizen's Forum: Kelen Geiger stated she has submitted a right-to-know request to the Town Administrator for documents pertaining to the "committee" meeting on the land use position. Kelen stated the Planning Director, Kirk Stenersen sent the Board members an email on May 3rd stating the Board of Selectmen was looking for feedback on the Land Use position and if anyone was interested they should reach out to Lori as she was spearheading the "sub-committee", as Kelen called it. She noted she was unable to attend the BOS meeting on May 10th and did not know about the "sub-committee" meeting on May 11th for the land use position, she added the meeting was not posted properly in two public places. She requested the Board contact Town Council regarding the matter. She reiterated she had no knowledge of the group meeting even though she had an interest in attending.

Judy Unger-Clark mentioned in 2 weeks they will be wrapping up NH Gives and the Ingalls 1894 Association. She added she would like to thank everyone who participated. Kim McCummings mentioned the Farmers Market is now taking place on Thursdays from 3 p.m. – 6 p.m. and they

are taking applications. Karla Mcleod mentioned Open Mic will be on Saturday, May 27th, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Consent Agenda: Marybeth made a motion to accept the minutes of the 4.12.23, 4.26.23 & 5.10.23 meeting minutes as edited. Bob seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. Marybeth made a motion to accept Accounts payable & payroll for 5.18.23 & 5.25.23. Bob seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Appointments: Marybeth made a motion to appoint Shana Eichner as Town Clerk. Bob seconded the motion it passed 3-0. Marybeth also made a motion to appoint Jo Charest as Deputy Town Clerk/ Deputy Tax Collector pending her background check, Bob seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Marybeth made a motion to accept the Ingalls Memorial Library Board of Trustees Alternate's, Taylor Radcliffe, Richard Isakson, and Patricia Paige. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Old Business:

ARPA: Funds for Internal Pump Inspection for fire truck Rick were discussed. Rick recommended Perkins out of Merrimack as they will do the inspection on site. Karl made a motion to allow Rick to move forward with the Perkins quote in the amount \$20,200.53 for the purpose of the fire truck pump inspection Marybeth seconded the motion it passed 3-0.

Karl also made a motion to approve the purchase of 3 in-vehicle routers for the Fire Department at \$975.00 each. Marybeth seconded the motion it passed 3-0.

The decision for the new heating system at the Fire Dept. was also discussed. Rick stated he wished the Board to make a recommendation on this project. He explained each of the quotes and boilers. Keating and Aho Heating submitted quotes on the heating system. Keating's cost for the system was quoted at \$18,472. Karl made a motion to accept the Keating proposal for the new heating system. Marybeth seconded the motion it passed 3-0.

SCBA Replacement - Rick mentioned for informational purposes only about the new packs with NRPA requirements for next year. He can no longer file for the grant this year because it is already timed out. The new packs run around \$170,000 of which \$40,000 is already set aside with ARPA funds for 2024.

Bob asked Rick if the quote would be honored at a later date since the purchase will not occur until either the grant is awarded or denied, or if/when we decide to use ARPA monies for it. Marybeth wanted to ensure that enough time was available to utilize ARPA funds if the PA grant was not awarded. The warrant article was taken off the warrant with the intention of using the ARPA funds to purchase the SCBA replacement. Rick and Lori will look into when ARPA monies are required to be spent.

New Business: Bob made a motion to approve the camper permits for Carol Donovan and Linda Tower and have Marybeth sign off on behalf of the Board with the understanding if there are any complaints the Board may revoke the privilege at any time. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Funding Opportunity from U.S. Dept. of Energy: Pat Martin was present and explained the Town may have an opportunity to work with the Town of Jaffrey in applying for a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. She stated all that was needed at this time was consent from the Board of Selectmen stating they would partner with the Town of Jaffrey to further look into putting a solar array on the 100-acre parcel off Route 202 owned by the SAU #47 (school property). Pat continued stating she was just notified of the opportunity and understands the short notice; however, there is no obligation at this point in time as it is just a consent letter due by June 5th stating they will partner with Jaffrey. If the Board allows Pat to move forward the application approval would not be needed until sometime in August. Pat added this was not a HUD grant but an energy efficiency community block grant which the Town has completed in the past. Marybeth stated she was uncomfortable rushing into something like this. Bob stated the school district owns the land and it should be the school's responsibility to apply for the grant. Karl stated the application was not due until August.

Richard Mellor explained there was no cost to the Town and that this type of solar project could take care of the entire school district's electricity bill, which cost the taxpayers a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year and it was likely a big enough solar array that it could cover the costs of both towns municipal buildings as well and possibly have extra for community power. There was a discussion on whether or not third parties could tap into the benefits. Ashley Saari, resident and Ledger-Transcript Reporter mentioned she attended a meeting in Jaffrey and it was said that (as far as the Town of Jaffrey's solar array- not school funded) would cover Jaffrey residents first and if leftover power was available it would then be offered to surrounding neighbors. Karl stated the Town has a fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers and more that 60% of the tax dollars go to the schools, so if the Town can help the school save money in electricity we are then helping all of the taxpayers save money in taxes. He continued stating the Board would be shutting out any possibility for the taxpayers of Rindge by not allowing Pat to move forward with consent and again at no risk to the Town. Karl added by the Board turning their back on these offers from our Energy Committee to apply for grants to try to bring benefits to the taxpayers is in a sense wasteful.

Pat urged the Board to consider and simply consent to partner with Jaffrey in the process of applying for the grant as a partnership was the first requirement of the grant; adding, there is no risk at this time and it would save the taxpayers money in the long run. She noted the interconnect fees are expensive and the grant may cover that cost.

Bob stated he has a hard time applying for a grant and if approved, giving the money to the school system as he does not like the way they are spending taxpayer money currently. Craig Clark noted this is "our tax money, and could come back to help us" if approved. Roni noted the

school is putting out proposals for a new trade building and the Town should let the school move forward with applying for grants. Richard encouraged the Board to support the consent to move forward and apply as it would save taxpayer money upfront. Bob noted he was not in support of teaming up with Jaffrey and there has been no communication between towns on this. Pat responded stating both Towns just found out yesterday about it and Jaffrey was waiting to see how this meeting went. Marybeth stated she was not ok with it.

Social Service Agencies: Marybeth proposed that the agencies the Town of Rindge supports should come directly to the Board for approval and budgeted accordingly from there. This would be more transparent so that tax payers can see where their money is being spent. In the past the Town has appointed the Welfare Director to determine where the money is allocated. Marybeth questioned how many Rindge residents are receiving the benefits and what types of benefits are they receiving. The Board discussed changing the process on how the social agencies are approved.

Informational Items/Communications & Updates: Marybeth announced DPW Director Mike Cloutier made a recommendation for the 2023 Paving Bid which was P.J. Keating. Karl made a motion to accept P.J. Keating for the 2023 Paving Bid. Marybeth seconded the motion it passed 3-0.

Any Other official Business to come before the Board:

Transfer Station Punch Tickets: Marybeth mentioned allowing Rindge residents to be able to purchase punch cards without having to purchase a Transfer Sticker to allow Rindge residents to be able to properly dispose of larger items. They would have to show proof of residency to get a punch cards. The Board would like DPW Director Mike Cloutier's insight before a decision is made. Lori will check with Mike.

Karl stated Deputy Fire Chief Dave Pugh has resigned.

The meeting Adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Lambert