



Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes November 29, 2023

Marybeth opened the meeting at 5 p.m. and made a motion to enter into nonpublic session. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 2-0. (Bob Hamilton absent)

Present: Marybeth Quill, Chair, Karl Pruter, Selectmen, Lori Rautiola, Town Administrator, Laurie May, Finance Director.

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m. Marybeth led the Pledge of Allegiance. Marybeth made a motion to seal the first session of the nonpublic meeting for two weeks and the second session for one month as it may effect the outcome. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 2-0. Marybeth announced Bob may join the meeting via telephone.

Selectmen's Announcements: Marybeth mentioned the mobile Education Trailer for Wreaths Across America will be coming to the VFW on December 1st 12-4. Craig Clark also mentioned the Wreaths Across America will be coming through Rindge and stopping at the Hillside Cemetery on Goddard Road. He encouraged all to attend. Judy Unger-Clark also mentioned there will be a Live Nativity scene on December 16 from 5-7 p.m. at the Meetinghouse Horse Sheds.

Consent Agenda: Marybeth noted Bob had issues with the Nov 1 and 8th meeting minutes- tabled. Karl noted the minutes for Nov 15 appeared fine, Marybeth agreed. Karl made a motion to approve the Nov 15 minutes and the payroll and accounts payable for 11.23 & 11.3.2023, Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 2-0.

Citizen's Forum: Deb Qualey noted the Rindge Women's Club has begun Operation Santa, trees with tags are located at TD Bank and other surrounding businesses in town. Roberta noted the POOR Meat Raffle will be Saturday Dec. 2nd and she also noted there are issues with the Zoning Ordinances and would like to request the Board hold a special Town meeting in September on the day of the State Primary to address the issues. Craig Clark questioned if a permit was needed for the Wreaths Across America ceremony. Chief Donovan mentioned it would need a traffic detail at minimum and possible a permit.

Old Business:

ARPA Update: Chief Rick Donovan stated Brian and Cory from Fire Tech and Scott Safety were present to address any questions related to the SCBAs. Rick stated that the parts for the SCBAs will be obsolete in five years. A discussion was held regarding the longevity of the SCBAs. Bob Hamilton called and joined the meeting by telephone. Rick continued if new units are purchased this year they will have a fifteen-year warranty. Chief Donovan recommended to purchase all twenty five of the 4500 models. Brian from Fire Tech gave a brief overview of the products and warranty and specific DOT and NFPA requirements. Tom Coneys stated the current units are not out of service and felt the Board was trying to use the ARPA money as soon as possible, adding the Town has many other needs that could be addressed using the ARPA funds. Rick noted the units will increase in price by about 3% each year.



Karl noted he was hoping to receive grant funding for the SCBAs. Tina Sbrega questioned if the Town had not received the ARPA funds, how else would it be funded and also asked if any other solutions were available to municipalities. Brian from Scott Safety noted there are grants available and when using refurbished models they sometimes may not be compliant and not equipped properly. Rick noted the grants are there to assist the Department not supplement it, adding the Town should have started saving fifteen years ago (adding to capital reserve) for this purpose but due to the lack of capital savings this is the situation the Town is in.

New Business:

Capital Improvement Committee (CIP) Recommendations: Tom Coneys presented the CIP recommendations. He pointed out the lack of savings within the Capital Reserve accounts. The Fire Department has the highest amount of 97,000. The Committee concluded the Town should be putting substantial amounts aside for capital savings. The Committee voted to fund the following Capital Reserve Funds (CRF) as follows: 100,000 in Highway CRF, 100,000 to Fire Department minus the 55,000 for the lease payment on the truck leaving 45,000 to go into CRF. One hundred thousand (100,000) into the Town Building CRF due to the number of issues with the current state of the town buildings. Fifty Thousand (50,000) into the Police Department CRF and 25,000 into the Recreation CRF for a total of 375,000 to be placed on the warrant-this amount includes the lease payment for the Fire Truck.

Karl, Ex Officio CIP, stated the Committee had discussed the reason the Town ended up leasing was due to not having funding in our reserve accounts. Roberta Oeser, CIP member stated she was strongly in favor of the recommendations and stressed the importance saving money in capital funds. Roberta also stated in the past the “savings” were based on a percentage of the budget. For example, years ago when the budget was 3 million, the CIP recommended a percentage of the budget go towards capital reserve funds, which back then was 300k, today the town is at a 5 million dollar budget. Tom Coneys stated the town needs to be supporting the recommendations by the Committee and saving for future needs of the town. No other comments were made by Board members.

Recreation Dept. Energy RFP: Lori stated last March the voters approved a warrant article to allow the recommendations from the installation of energy saving measures in the Rindge Rec Building in the amount of \$10,000. The two requests for proposals came back over the voted amount. The Energy Committee contacted Eversource to see if funding was available for energy efficiencies and was told they could do a 50% match. Lori noted the Town would need to encumber the 10k. Karl made a motion to encumber the funds for the TyCasBra Energy LLC proposal for \$10,000 with the remaining balance to be paid by Eversource. Marybeth seconded the motion and Bob Hamilton abstained. The motion carried 2-0-

Informational Items, Communications and Updates: Special Events permits for three FPU Pizza and Politics and the Recreation Department’s Tree lighting were reviewed. Karl made a motion to approve the special events permits as discussed. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. Lori gave an update from the Town & Gown Meeting. She noted they are looking to have some “No Parking” signs along Lake Drive, the day of giving exceeded their goals of over 13K and there is a survey on the FPU website regarding the search for the next president. The next meeting will be Jan 16th at 2 p.m. at the Town Office.



Bob gave an update on the Community Power Committee. He reported they had their first meeting and afterwards discovered that all Rindge residents can opt-in to the Cheshire County Community Power at any time. Bob added he and Marybeth agreed to choose an opt-in option and residents have this option already through Cheshire County Community Power.

Respectfully submitted,
Lori Rautiola