



BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
March 17, 2021

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Karl Pruter called the meeting to order via Zoom in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04 on March 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. Roll call vote: Karl Pruter, Bob Hamilton and Marybeth Quill, Selectmen  
Also present: Sara Gravell, Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola, Secretary and Members of the Community

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Selectmen's Announcements:** Karl welcomed Marybeth Quill to the Board. He stated on behalf of the Board, he would like to thank Roberta Oeser for her nine years of service on the Board of Selectmen and many years on the Budget Advisory Committee and many dedicated hours of service to the Town of Rindge. Karl noted Leslie Frank has accepted the job as Finance Director and the position is pending a background check. Bob stated the Wellington Road Bridge project is moving forward and is scheduled between May 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> and could be shut down at any point between those dates. The Easter Egg Hunt will be March 27, 2021. Residents will be able to meet/greet and have pictures taken with the Easter Bunny at 9:30 a.m. and the Egg Hunt will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. at the Rec Center. Bob welcomed all town employees with children/grandchildren.

**Consent Agenda** - Approval of:

- 3/3/2021 Minutes, 3/4/2021 nonpublic minutes, 3/8/2021 nonpublic minutes  
Karl made a motion to accept the minutes. Bob seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 2-0-1. Karl, aye, Bob, aye, Marybeth, abstained.
- 3/11/2021 Payroll & Accounts payable – Karl made a motion to approve the payroll for 3/11/2021. Bob seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 2-0-1. Bob, aye, Karl, aye, Marybeth, abstained.
- Payroll & Accounts payable 3/18/2021 – Karl made a motion to approve the payroll and accounts payable for 3/18/2021. Bob seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0. Karl, aye, Bob, aye, Marybeth, aye.

**Citizens Forum:** Deb Douglas questioned the reason for not starting meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance and asked if there was a way to include it with Zoom meetings. Bob asked all in attendance to unmute themselves and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Holly Koski congratulated all the residents on their town election victories. She also questioned if there was money in the budget for dirt roads because the dirt roads are very muddy. Bob stated Mike Cloutier is doing the best he can with the dirt roads; however, it is mud season and the dirt roads get muddy every year at this time. Bob thanked the residents for participating in the meeting.

**Old Business:**

IT: Sara stated the contract is set for the new IT provider, adding, it is her recommendation to move forward and sign the contract with Cadnet Services. Karl agreed with Sara. Marybeth noted she liked the idea of the one year contract. She questioned how the data was stored currently and if there would be an added charge for the migration of services. Sara stated the data is stored via cloud based and will remain the same with no migration cost. Bob asked Dan Anair if he agreed with the contract and requirements. Dan mentioned to change the wording in #15 (CJIS Compliant) from 30 days to 7 days. Bob made a motion for Sara to sign the contract with Cadnet as amended with up to 135 hours. Karl seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0. Karl, aye, Bob, aye, Marybeth, aye.

Jeff Dickler questioned the integrity of the data. Karl noted it would fall under #14 and it is covered within the contract. Karl read to article, adding Cadnet is committed to cloud recovery. Sara noted Cadnet will be taking over what is current. Phil questioned how many hours the transition is estimated to take and the cost involved. Sara responded the extra time to transition is included in the 150 hours.

Town Vehicle Service Proposal: Karl noted DTS, a local Rindge service garage, has presented the town with a service proposal that offers all town owned vehicles to be serviced/repaired at a 50 % discounted rate. Marybeth stated she appreciated DTS reaching out; however, the Department heads seem happy with their current services and did not see a need force a change, adding she supported their decision. Marybeth did not like the idea of having an exclusive contract. Karl agreed. Bob appreciated Tyler from DTS coming forward with the proposal but did not see a need to mandate it. He added the Department heads should make their own decisions, adding the Fire and Rec. Departments are currently using DTS.

Tyler stated he wanted to make it known that his services would be half off or more and it was their way of giving back to the Town. Tyler noted in the past the Town was exclusive with these services and was unclear as to why it changed, adding, it seemed a little odd that the town did not want to save money. Bob thanked Tyler for all he has done already for the Town.

Boston Post Cane: Karl noted the presentation of the Boston Post Cane will be Wednesday, March 24<sup>th</sup> at Payson Village senior housing. The Selectmen will present the cane to Bernice Martin.

BS&A Software Package: Sara stated she would like to wait until the next meeting to make sure the quote received in September was still current.

Assessing: Karl noted a new job description will be posted for the Assessing Clerk. Sara noted she will re-post the updated job description. Marybeth noted she spoke with a town employee who was willing to fill in the gaps during the transitional time of hiring a clerk. She questioned the Town not having a Board

of Assessors. Bob noted it is problem to get volunteers to step up into those positions and it would be a very demanding volunteer position. Marybeth will speak with Sara regarding filling the position.

#### **New Business:**

Budget Recommendations: Karl noted the Board needs to reconcile the budget since the voters did not pass the budget and the Town is now operating on a default budget. Sara noted the biggest concern is the pay plan that was approved and the need to honor that. Karl noted the pay plan is a contractual item and should be included in the budget, adding if it was not included in the default it should be taken out of unanticipated revenue because we have to meet our obligations to the employees. Marybeth questioned if the pay plan was a contractual item. She also noted there were several line items that were of less value in the budget that did not pass. She questioned if the Town could utilize those funds and add them into our default budget. Karl stated yes that is possible, explaining he believes there is enough unanticipated revenue to cover the \$72,000 which is the amount needed.

Bob stated there is a possibility the Board could request a special meeting under RSA: 40:13, X in order to discuss and amend the budget. This would require a second meeting to vote as well; however, this can be expensive and needs to be held within a certain amount of time. Bob mentioned the Town does not have a contractual obligation to employees as far as the pay plan, but the Board does have the authority to move money around within the budget, cutting from other lines items and even the authority to cut services to the Town, such as police and fire services. Marybeth stated it was not worth the time and money to hold a special meeting. Karl agreed, however, the Town needs to find a way to honor the pay plan. Bob stated the Board will need to sit down and discuss where the cuts will be made as soon as possible.

Committee Assignments: Bob will be assigned to the Meeting House Oversight Committee, Town Gown and the Planning Board. Karl will be assigned to the Capital Improvement Plan Committee, Budget Advisory Committee and Marybeth will have the Teltech Committee and the Recreation. Karl will attend the TelTech Committee meetings but Marybeth will assume the role of Ex Officio.

Board Reorganization: Bob nominated Karl Pruter as Chairman. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0. Karl nominated Bob Hamilton as Vice Chairman. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0. Bob made a motion to appoint Marybeth Quill as Alternate to the Planning Board as Ex-officio. Karl seconded the motion and it passed by roll call vote 3-0.

Warrant Article 20: Sara noted the letter is ready to be sent out to the NH representatives informing them of the article. Sara will send it out. Karl mentioned the Board is seeking volunteers for the new committee that was established by the voters to research property exemption income and asset amounts.

#### **Informational Items/Communications & Updates:**

Sara noted the town buildings will have fiber installed soon and Consolidated Communications (CCI) has been working with different Department heads and the Town Office should have fiber on March 23, 2021. Sara noted there will be a construction meeting for the Wellington Bridge soon. Karl noted the Meeting House now has fiber, adding he was hopeful to transition back to in person meetings with a hybrid option so people can still participate via Zoom. Marybeth and Bob both agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola  
Executive Secretary