



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
September 29, 2021**

Present: Karl Pruter, Chair, Bob Hamilton (via conference call) and Marybeth Quill, Selectmen, Sara Gravell, Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola, Secretary, Members of the Community.

Selectmen's Announcements: Karl stated the new fire rescue truck was put into commission and the Fire Department will hold an Open House on October 10th from 11-2 to allow the community to see the truck. Lunch will be provided. Bob announced the Wellington Bridge is now open.

Citizen's Forum: Phil Motta stated he would like an update on the employee training regarding email security, adding he brought this to the Boards attention a couple weeks back and has not received any feedback. There was a brief discussion on what the Town currently has in place for email security. Karl agreed a training session would be beneficial to all employees and asked Sara to look into it. Judy Unger-Clark asked what the protocol was for accepting dedicated roads. She questioned whose job it was to inform the applicants that the road they are developing is not automatically accepted by the Town and stated the Planning Board should be having a discussion regarding the classification of the road prior to the subdivision. It was noted the subdivision regulations must be followed whenever a subdivision goes before the Planning Board and that the contractors are usually well aware of the technicalities and classifications of the road. Bob mentioned there are at least four ways to accept a road, layout and acceptance, dedication by town vote, maintenance and by petition warrant article.

6:20 p.m. - Public Hearing- Use of American Rescue Plan Act Funds (ARPA): Karl opened the Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m. Dan Anair proposed the purchase of some body cameras from a company named "Body Worn". He recommended the Body Worn Company because the footage is stored on the cloud and they offer integrations for CAD. The quote he received would be a five year lease. Chief Anair suggested funds be set aside with the Capital Improvements Committee for future costs.

Another item the Chief requested was dual band radios. He explained the Department cannot radio neighboring Massachusetts towns without having a dual band radio. The cost for the new radio was about \$4,830.00. Sergeant Rachel Malynowski explained the need for new lockers adding, when Covid hit there was no room for anything extra, such as PPE. The lockers are over twenty years old, are rusted out and have no secure place for weapons. Having new lockers will allow each officer to have their own locker and be able to secure their weapons, uniforms and

any other belongings. She received a quote for \$12,699 for 9 lockers. Karl mentioned if the room was big enough it would be smart to plan ahead and get 12 lockers. Rachel agreed. The other two items the Department was looking to purchase with the funds would be a deck drawer system for the Truck cruiser which would cost about \$1,349.99 and floor liners for the cruisers costing about \$659.70 to line the front of cruisers. All of these items would qualify under the ARPA requirements.

Library Director, Donna Straitiff requested a generator for the Library and was quoted \$43-45k. This would be considered a covered expense due to the need for residents to access information in case of a power outage. There was a discussion on purchasing air purifiers for the town buildings.

Karl noted the Fire Department did request \$2,800 for new radios. Sara mentioned there are several computers and laptops totaling \$7,100 that would be covered under the grant. A few other minor items requested are: monitors in the Finance Department, a screen in the conference room for zoom meetings, new microphones, and a phone system. Dan Anair added another possible purchase he recommended was an Access Control system and cameras for the town office building. This would be considered a security need and the cost would be covered. He stressed the need for better security at the town office.

Sara noted there are several needs for the Meetinghouse and funds would qualify due to the need to use the building for more space and social distancing. Judy Unger-Clark suggested some funds be used for live streaming town meetings. Karl agreed. He asked Sara to get some more information and quotes for live stream.

The Town has already received the first tranche of ARPA funds totaling \$318,779.97 in ARPA and expects the second grant tranche in the same amount. Bob noted the funds must be spent within the federal acceptance requirements.

Consent Agenda - Approval of:

- Minutes 9/15/2021
- Payroll 9/23/2021, 9/30/2021
- Accounts payable 9/23/2021, 9/30/2021

Bob made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Old Business: The inner office Budget Schedule was reviewed by the Board. Bob made a motion to accept the schedule. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Informational Items, Updates & Communications: Karl noted the TelTech Committee met with Hub 66 company that offers fiber to some residents in Rindge but their area is limited to just a few streets in Rindge. For more information people can contact the company directly.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola

Executive Secretary