



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 21, 2022**

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

Bob opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. at the Meetinghouse. Bob made a motion to enter into non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II(a) and (b). Karl seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance. Bob stated the Public Hearing must be noticed in the newspaper. Lori noted the amount was under \$10,000 therefore it did not need to be noticed. Bob stated he would move this to the end of the meeting to accommodate the appointments for the swearing-in of officers since it was not a public hearing.

**Appointments:** Swearing-in of Police Officers- Chief Malynowski welcomed the families and friends of the newly appointed officers, Steven Ingman and Jacob Stone. Town Clerk, Lauralei Knight swore in Steven Ingman and Jacob Stone as the newest patrol officers of the Rindge Police Department.

Bob made a motion to seal the sessions of the non-public meeting pursuant to RSA: 91- A:3 II (a) as it could adversely affect the outcome. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

**Selectmen's Announcements:** Bob thanked the Highway Department, Fire and Police for all their hard work during the snow storm.

**Citizen's Forum:** Earl Goddard, longtime resident and caretaker for the clock at the Meetinghouse was present. He announced he will soon retire from his duties of maintaining the clock and wanted to make the Board aware of his decision so they could plan for future maintenance. Bob thanked Mr. Goddard and his family for their duties and care for the clock for so many years. Bob noted the building was currently being reviewed for an LCHIP grant and they should have the report soon.

**Consent Agenda:** Approval of Payroll & Accounts payable 12/15/22, 12/22/22. Karl made a motion to accept the Consent Agenda as written. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

**New Business:**

Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Recommendations: Phil Motta stated the BAC would like to see a plan in place to assist the staff in preparing the budget every year. Phil stated the Committee has no cuts to recommend to the Board. There was a discussion on the fuel cost and the amount appeared to be a low number. Dan Whitney added it appears the budget as a whole is short by a couple hundred thousand dollars and by shortchanging a budget to get a number below a certain threshold is bad business. Marybeth agreed. Dan was concerned with cutting the budget short and doing so year after year. Tom Coneys agreed stating the Town Office is dysfunctional and lacks resources in every department and the budget should not be cut. Karl noted during the BAC meeting it was mentioned that nothing should be cut but certain items should be added, including the ClerkWorks software.

There was a discussion on the Land Use Coordinator position. Phil noted he has done some research on combining the role of code enforcement with land use duties. Phil mentioned the amount Lori has budgeted for this role is about \$20,000 above the national average of about \$71,000. He understands and agrees with the idea of combining some roles within the town office to fulfill all the duties, however, there may be a conflict when you have an employee proposing regulations and have the same employee enforcing them. Phil noted many towns are combining code enforcement with planning and zoning roles and it seems to be more efficient. Dan Whitney asked who would be supervising. It was noted the position would be under the Town Administrator.

Tom Coneys stated there is a need for the position without a doubt, but it appears that there may be too many positions bottled into one role. He noted the Town of Jaffrey has a full-time code enforcement officer alone. It was also noted that Jaffrey had a full-time building inspector and a full-time Planning/Zoning Director at a wage of \$84,000. Dan Whitney stated it was time to start looking forward and planning ahead. Bob thanked the BAC for their hard work and input in the budget process.

There was a brief discussion on moving the paving and the welfare social services from the town budget and placing them on the ballot as a warrant article. Dan Whitney stated he did not like the idea. Tom Coneys agreed, adding if the paving came out of the budget that would be less money to move around within the budget.

Bob stated the Transfer Station is requesting to close early on 12.24.22 and 12.31.22 (Christmas and New Years Eve). Karl made a motion to allow the Transfer Station to close early on the dates noted above. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

### **Old Business:**

ARPA: Four laptops and four desktops were presented to be purchased using ARPA Funds. There was a brief discussion on the amount needed for laptops. The Board agreed three laptops would be sufficient. Karl made a motion to purchase the 3 laptops and 4 desktops to be bought with ARPA funds, Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Security System Quote: Discussion was tabled.

Covid Premium Pay: Rick explained the premium pay and how ARPA funds can be used to pay employees (as a bonus) who worked for the municipality during the pandemic. Bob stated he would look at the minutes from previous meetings to determine the amounts that would be paid to employees if they are still working for the Town.

Highway Truck Purchase: Maintenance technician truck purchase was discussed. ARPA funds can be used for this purchase as it is considered an emergency management vehicle. There was a brief discussion on this. The discussion was tabled.

Bob mentioned for Laurie May to have a spreadsheet made up for the Deliberative Session that shows what the town has bought using ARPA funds versus funds available.

Unanticipated Revenue Volunteer Fire Assistance Grant: Chief Donovan explained the grant as a 50/50 grant match from the Division of Forests and Lands. The total cost of the project was \$4,771.32 making the Town's portion \$2,385.66. Rick stated the funds are already in the budget. Karl made a motion to accept the unanticipated revenue in the amount of \$2,385.66. Marybeth seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

**Informational Items/Communications/Updates:** Karl announced Consolidated is now providing Fidium internet services. There was a brief discussion. Phil Motta mentioned he would gather some information and have the Town put it on the website.

**Any other official business to come before the Board:**

The Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola  
Town Administrator