



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
October 11, 2023**

Present: Marybeth Quill, Chair, Karl Pruter, Vice Chair, Bob Hamilton, Selectman, Lori Rautiola, Town Administrator, members of the public.

The meeting began at 6:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements: Karl announced the Rec Department's Trunk or Treat Event will be held at the Rec Center on Friday, October 27 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. Bob announced the Fire Fighter's breakfast will be on October 14th from 7-11 a.m. The next POOR Meat Raffle will be on Saturday, November 4, and is co-sponsored by the Rindge Crime Watch.

Consent Agenda: 9.27.23 Minutes and Payroll & Accounts Payable for 10.05.23 & 10.12.23: Bob made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Citizen's Forum: Sharon Rasku asked if a date was set for the Primary Election. Karla noted it had not been. Sharon mentioned the Rindge Crime Watch is looking into finding cameras that are NDAA compliant. Tom Coneys noted he requested information from the Department Heads on ideas for Capital Improvements. The next CIP meeting will be held on October 17, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Old Business:

ARPA: Bob mentioned the Meetinghouse septic should be a priority. DPW Director, Mike Cloutier stated he was in the progress of getting a proposal for the septic design.

New Business:

Transfer Station/Recycling Truck Update: DPW Director Mike Cloutier gave a brief update to the Board: Mike was unsuccessful in finding a used truck within the price range. The current truck is in better shape than most of the trucks he looked at. A quote was received from Burton Frame and Trailer in Mass. If fixed the truck should last approximately 5 years. Mike offered his recommendation to move forward and fix the truck as stated in the proposal for \$52,160. Karl made a motion to allow Mike to move forward with the proposal to repair the frame of the truck from the Transfer Station Revolving Account. Bob seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. There was a discussion on increasing the cost of Transfer Station stickers. Mike suggested raising the price a bit to assist with the revenue account as this is where the Town draws money from to fix and maintain the Department, adding the cost of everything is rising in all areas. There is roughly \$86,000 in the revolving account. Karl asked Lori to research what other towns are charging for fees.

Special Events Permits: RMS Harvest Parade & Rec. Department Trunk or Treat Events: Bob made a motion to approve the special events permits. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Town-wide Survey: Bob stated FPU is willing to help in conducting a survey on the town's services. He asked the public to consider ideas for the survey. He would like to survey the residents on the services at the town office and land use departments. Bob mentioned the cost and negotiations still need to be worked out. Judy Unger Clark asked if there was a framework to be used as a model and if any mailings would be sent or if it was all digital. Most likely it would be sent through mail and over the Internet. Tina Sbrega questioned if the results would be used to update the Master Plan. She noted it had not been updated since 2014. Lori asked what the goal of the survey would be. Bob mentioned surveying the residents to find out if they are happy with the services provided by the Town.

2023-2024 Budget Schedule and expenditures: Bob noted the numbers are very close to overspending the bottom line, about 2% underspent. He recommended the Department heads tighten up the spending. Marybeth agreed.

Informational Items/Communications & Updates: Karl noted the wage scale is complete and needs to be discussed. The Board will try to meet the following week. Lori stated RC Brayshaw has submitted quotes for the annual report and voters' guide. She asked if the Board would like two more quotes or if they would allow her to move forward with the quote from RC Brayshaw. Bob made a motion to allow Lori to move forward and sign the proposal for the 2024 annual report and voters' guide. Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. Lori also updated the Board on the health insurance rates. The final overall renewal for Health Insurance through NHIT is 6.25%, Health Trust: Dental 4.7% increase, short-term Disability is decreasing to .33, Life insurance decrease by 2%, and Long-term life decrease to 13%.

Any Other Official Business before the Board: Bob mentioned the Town and Gown Committee met a few weeks ago. FPU President Kim Mooney is retiring in June. Bob also stated the School Board held a meeting in Rindge to accept the funds in the amount of \$250,000+/-, and many voted against in hopes of it being returned to the taxpayers. The warrant article passed so the funds will not be returned to the taxpayers.

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Rautiola
Town Administrator