



**BOARD OF SELECTMEN/BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE
JOINT SESSION
MEETING MINUTES
November 15, 2023**

Present: Marybeth Quill, Chairman, Karl Pruter, Vice Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Selectman, Lori Rautiola, Town Administrator, Betsy Lambert, Executive Secretary, Member of the Budget Advisory Committee, Members of the Public.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob stated that the P.O.O.R. meat raffle would be held on December 7, 2023 at 1:30 p.m. at the Jaffrey VFW. Bob stated that 63% of the taxes go to the School District.

Citizens Forum: Roberta Oeser asked if the Town had a contract with KRT for a Partial Revaluation in 2022 for the tax year. Karl stated he believes it was a "List of Measure" that was pushed out due to KRT playing catch up from Covid. Roberta stated that state Statue says "You shall reappraise all Real Estate on the every fifth year". RSA 75-8: A. Additionally, RSA 75-8, "shall adjust assessment to reflect changes and correct any errors in existing appraisals or if there is changes materials, physical change, change in ownership, zoning changes, changes to exemptions, credits etc. you cannot spot a reassess" and that is what happened in December of 2022. Several property changes in the hundreds of thousand dollars with no change to property. Karl asked if there was any way to get reappraisal without any additional fees. Lori noted she looked at a few properties within the database and ran an audit to see what changes were made and who made the changes. KRT is supposed to make a note on the cards when they visited the property and noticed they had not made a note but certain adjustments were made to the sketch on a few properties she looked at. Lori has reached out to everyone at KRT and they are all working on this matter and hopes to have it resolved as soon as possible. It was also noted as of December 31, 2023 the contract with KRT will end. Lori has sent out RFPs the town will be taking on a new Assessing firm. Lori also mentioned she encouraged residents to apply for an abatement if they feel they are being assessed inappropriately. Tom Coneys mentioned the Primary Election was taking place on January 23, 2024. Ron Osimo mentioned the Crime Watch Committee met and they have decided to withdraw the camera donation and they were looking for other avenues instead. He also mentioned just a few nights ago, there where 2 Cameras stolen from a resident near the Common. Dan Whitney asked if the spot check that come back could be shared at a meeting so everyone else has an idea of where it stands.

Consent Agenda: Marybeth made a motion to approve the 11.16.2023 Payroll & Accounts Payable, Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0. The 11.01.2023 & 11.8.2023 meeting minutes where tabled until next meeting.

Old Business: ARPA Update: SCBA Update - There was a discussion on SCBAs (self-contained breathing apparatus). The packs are what take the most abuse. Chief Donovan recommended replacing 12 to 13 of the packs (half) and the next half in five years. The reason being there is a lot of money being spent to try and fix the packs rather than replace. It will cost roughly \$85,000.00 to replace the other half of the packs in 5 years. It will give a more accurate replacement schedule. Rick also suggested using 5 to 6 of the older packs for training purposes only. Dan Whitney suggested replacing all of the 25 packs. Marybeth liked the idea of replacing them all now. Rick mentioned they are going to meet with 3 different vendors over the next week to discuss their replacement of the packs 2 of them are Scotch Reps and the other is MSA Rep. There are only two companies in New England that sell the Scotch packs, IPS is one and the other is Fire Tech. Rick will have more information on what the pricing after meeting with Fire Tech. He also mentioned the Brush Truck is in need of replacing which is another big ticket item to talk about. The brush truck has only had patch job and still needs to be replaced. Bob made a motion to appoint the seven people to the Rindge Community Power Committee: Bob Hamilton, James Burger, Tina Sbrega, Daniel Bissex, Phil Motta, Jim Qualey, Dwight Schenk. Marybeth seconded the motion it passed 3-0.

New Business: Joint Session/Budget Advisory Committee

- **Welfare** – the budget was flat and no changes requested.
- **Town Office/Assessing/Technology** – 5351 – Audit Expense – increase from \$19,500.00 to \$20,00.00 2.5-3% yearly. 5710 – Staff Development - increase from \$1,000.00 to \$2,000.00 to budget for a finance conference for the Finance Director. 5840- Lease Purchase Payments - Increase from \$1,547.00 to \$2,200.00 due to extra color copies.
- **Assessing:** 5110 – increase in the contract line due KRT not renewing their contract and being over budget this year.
- **Technology** – 5382 – Website Maintenance Upgrade – increase from \$2,188.00 TO - \$2,415.00 for software updates. 5655 – Computer Software – increase from \$8,300.00 to \$16,500.00 due to purchasing 7 new computers. 5656 – Computer Hardware - increase from \$5000 to \$11,850. Karl mentioned we cut out 5,000 many years ago and Covid assisted with the purchase of five computers last year. This increase bring the Town back up to where they were a few years back.
- **Fire Department-** 5117- Wages –Call Members – increase from \$65,000 to \$140,924 a 7.5% due to losing several employees to the County for more wages. 5348- Medical Evaluations/Vaccinations/Drug Testing: increase of \$500.00 due to having on site physicals instead of going to occupational. 5471 – Telephone- increase from \$ 1160.00 to \$2400. 5560 – Dues & Subscriptions – decrease from \$1960.00 to \$1600.00. 5590- Contracted Services- decreased from \$8250.00 to \$7500.00. 5622- Small Tools- decreased from \$10,500.00 to \$8500.00 due to a grant match. 5635 – Gasoline & 5636 – Diesel – Both have decreased by \$500.00.
- **Emergency Management** - Rick proposed using GO Gov/ Rindge Alerts which is an app for your phone. The cost is \$4260.00 a year. Rick would like to take \$3,500.00 out of the equipment budget and increase by \$800.00 to be able to do this. No upfront cost, no equipment fees, unlimited users, unlimited data storage, it is a branded app for Apple and Android phones. Free updates, unlimited software support. It can be used for all Rindge residents to subscribe to alerts and special events going on in town.

- **Ambulance/Mutual Aid – 4251 – Ambulance -** increase from \$43,000 to \$46,500. 4220- Mutual Aid & Dispatch- increase from \$71,831.00 to \$72,911.00 a 2.5% increase.
- **Health Officer/Code Enforcement – 5761 – Mileage Code Enforcement** – remove the code enforcement mileage line.

Informational Items/Communications & Updates: Elections budget was questioned. Lori and Karla noted it was increased due to four elections and numbers confirmed with the Town Clerk. (\$14,180.00 bottom line caused from an increase to the printing line of \$5,000.00, increased postage to \$1,000.00, Misc. \$5,000.00. Equals to about \$3,500.00 per election. Dan Whitney asked about the purchasing of the new voting machines and if the budget included the new machines. The machines are not included in this budget. Bob suggested the machines be put on a warrant article. Bob made a motion to close the Transfer Station the Friday after Thanksgiving, but it will be open Saturday. Marybeth seconded the motion it passed 3-0.

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Betsy Lambert
Executive Secretary