



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: April 10, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

At 5:02 p.m. Karl motioned to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA: 91-A:3, II (a)-employee and (b)-hiring. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed by a roll call vote. Bob aye, Tom aye, and Karl aye.

Present: Selectmen: Karl Pruter, Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Vice Chair, and Tom Coneys, Select Board Member Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola, and members of the public.

The meeting reconvened at 6:05 pm. Karl led the Pledge of Allegiance. Karl made a motion to seal the minutes for RSA 91A:3II (a) as it may adversely affect the outcome and to not seal the minutes for RSA 91A:3II (b) hiring. Tom seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Selectmen's Announcements:

Karl stated the Board was happy to hire Tessa Yoder who will be the eighth police officer and will start on Sunday.

Bob stated that the Power Committee will meet on Friday, April 12 at 7:00 pm in the BOS Conference Room and the School Deliberative Session will be in early February 2025 and once he receives a firm date he will announce it then.

Consent Agenda & Selectmen Appointments: Karl made a motion to accept the Payroll & Accounts Payable for 4.4.2024 & 4.11.2024 and the Meeting Minutes for 3.27.2024. Bob added the acceptance of Doreen Richards' appointment as a member of the Conservation Commission for a three-year term. Bob seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Citizens Forum: opened at 6:12 and closed at 6:19

Kim McCummings announced the Farmers Market would be opening soon and she requested the use of the West Rindge Common. She added it will be held on Thursdays from 3-6 pm starting May 16th, 2024, until October 10th 2024. Karl made a motion to allow the use of the park for the Farmers Market. Bob seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.

Judy Unger-Clark gave an update regarding last week's discussion of the class VI road, Sherwin Hill Road. She added the two parties spoke and she had thought they had come to an agreement, however, days later she received a phone call from the other party stating that he would be putting up a gate and blocking the road. Her son Asa would need access by the town road to the fields. Judy questioned his ability to block a town road. Police Chief, Rachel Malynowski stated that she would reach out to some people to check the liability of the road being on his land and add a gate to the road before addressing it.

Old Business: Tom stated he wanted to follow up on unregistered vehicles on Dahlia Lane and Sportsman's Drive and also wanted to follow up on Lord Brook Road if Rick had gotten together with the Conservation Commission. Karl asked Lori to follow up with Rick. David Drouin stated that Rick has not scheduled anything with him and as he is out of town next week and would like to meet up with him soon if possible.

New Business:

Hawker Peddlers Permit: Lori stated that Rachel Malynowski had updated the Hawker's Peddler Application. Rachel explained the changes she proposed are for both the application and the ordinance because to change the application the ordinance had to be changed to reflect on the application. The changes clarify the ordinance by defining terms so that they can issue a citation more easily when there is a violation. Changes made to the ordinance were to add the fee is per applicant, clarification for payment is either by check or money order, and changes to the hours of operation for the solicitors to exclude Sundays and Federal Holidays as well as changing the hours to 9 am to dusk (NH-RSA defines dusk as half an hour after sunset). Another additional requirement is to keep a copy of the signed application and the state-issued permit on their person at all times and if they are found not carrying their permit, they are subject to citation. Bob asked whether a public hearing is required to amend the town ordinance so that the public is allowed to weigh in. Lori stated that she would check on the requirement. Karl asked to have a public hearing in two weeks if necessary.

Department Head Liaisons: Karl asked for the board's opinion on assigning liaisons for Department Heads. Tom stated he prefers to just show up and ask questions as needed, as opposed to sit-down sessions but he is not opposed to it. Lori stated that it is another way for department heads to communicate with their liaison to bring back to the Board. Bob mentioned that if this became formal it would demand that the liaison reports to the other two board members. Tom stated that they can come back to it if they want.

Selectmen Goals for 2024: Bob stated that some of the goals he had listed were employee retention, fair wages, cut spending within the town, and monitoring the state's takeover of our local zoning and planning. Tom stated he had nothing specific in mind as he is so new to the Board. Karl stated his main goal is to see a level budget. He added he is concerned with the School Board and their changes to the budget in years past. Bob stated his last goal was to reduce the tax rate, which is not just the town's budget as the town budget is a tiny portion of the tax rate, but the County and School are much larger portions.

Donation from Historical Society: Karl stated the Historical Society has donated a check for the purchase of a TV for the Conference Room in memory of Amy Raymond. Karl made a motion to accept the donation from the Historical Society of up to \$1000 for the TV for the conference room in memory of Amy Raymond. Bob asked if this was a motion to accept money only and not a specific use. Karl agreed that it was to accept money only. Tom seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Intent to Cut – Map 2 Lot 64 Route 202: The Intent to Cut had some taxes owed which were received on Monday, April 1, 2024 so there was a delay in the process as it could be denied for non-payment of taxes. Bob stated that when he drove by the property earlier, he witnessed logs already cut and stacked. David Drouin stated that the logger is still liable if there are any wetlands violations. Karl made a motion to approve the intent to cut for Map 2 Lot 64, Route 202. Bob seconded the motion with the caveat that he would like Rick Donovan to check to see if they had already started the cut. The motion passed 3-0.

BOS Rules of Procedure Review: Karl stated that the document is long and many revisions need to be made so he would like to give the board time to go through them. Bob stated that he would prefer to use the guidelines as they are shorter than the Rules of Procedure and they reiterate a lot of State Statutes which he believes is not necessary. Tom stated that there are some things he would change but he is not opposed to having the Rules of Procedure as you are able to fall back on them with more specific questions while the guidelines are more generic. The Rules of Procedure also streamline the business procedures because they guide the Board and employees and they give accountability. The Rules of Procedure are also more comprehensive as opposed to the "guidelines" which is helpful for him as a new member. Karl stated that it is a good document, and he would like to revisit it with edits from the Board. The discussion

continued touching on the following subjects: edits needed including site walks, quorums, joint board meetings, minute taking, agenda management, department reports, financial reports, recusing on decisions and discussions that personally affect a board member, regulation on board member's discussing business, appointing members to committees and boards, and posting contact information for committees and boards in the Town Offices. Bob mentioned the Board did not appoint an Alternate Ex-Officio to the Planning Board. Bob motioned to appoint Karl Pruter as alternate ex-officio to the Planning Board to fill in when Tom Coneys is not present as Ex-officio. Tom seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

Withdrawal of Funds from Fire Department Capital Reserve: Karl stated for clarification purposes, the FD Warrant Article was passed by the Voters, and it also named the Selectmen as agents to expend. Adding he would like to further clarify that the previous Board passed the SCBA through ARPA funds, they did not take into account the \$40k earmarked for the SCBAs. Karl made a motion to withdraw \$40,000 from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund to offset the cost of the SCBAs. Bob seconded the motion. Tom stated it is for Fire Department Equipment, and questioned the Board's ability to do this without it being on the warrant article specifically for SCBAs. Bob stated that he would like to research and find the past warrant article to ensure the funds are earmarked for the SCBAs. Karl withdrew his motion. The discussion was tabled, and research will be sought.

Special Events Permits: 5K Run for Shin Splints for Bryce, and Franklin Pierce University Commencement Ceremony. Bob made a motion to accept the special events permits. Tom seconded the motion and the motion passed 3-0.

There were no updates. The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary