

Town of Rindge  
Minutes of Deliberative Session  
Saturday, February 3, 2018

**First Meeting: Saturday, February 3, 2018**

**Voters on Checklist: 4,398**

**Voters Attending Meeting: Approximately 99**

**Second Meeting: Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

**Ballots Cast: 1,462**

Town Moderator Charlie Eicher called the meeting to order at 9am. Charlie introduced Girl Scout Troop of Rindge; Alexis Kulczyk, Olivia Richard, Caroline Weinhold. He also introduced Brian Kohlmorgan, who led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. Charlie then introduced Town Administrator Joe Byk and Executive Secretary Michele Christian. He introduced the Board of Selectmen; Chair, James Qualey, Robert Hamilton, and Roberta Oeser. Department Heads; Police Chief, Daniel Anair, Director of Public Works, Michael Cloutier and Director of Public and Life Safety, Rick Donovan, Recreation Director, Daniel Bemis. Town Officials; Finance Director, Laurie May, Town Clerk, Nancy Martin, Deputy Town Clerk, Pat Hildreth, Deputy Town Moderator, Craig Clark. He introduced the Budget Advisory Committee Members; Chairman, Tom Coneys, Rick Sirvint, Sharon Rasku, Don Cook, and Kale Stenersen. Supervisors of the Checklist; Ida Mae Harman, Roberta Letourneau and Karla MacLeod were also introduced.

Charlie explained the process of the meeting and asked if anyone had any questions, he then explained article 1 is a non-amendable article for the election of officers and articles 2 and 3 are non-amendable zoning articles therefore he would not be reading them. He asked if there were a motion to move articles 1 through 3 as written, Roberta Oeser made the motion to move the articles with a second, a voice vote was taken the motion to move articles 1 through 3 passed.

**Jim Qualey read article 4 to the public involving the budget.**

**Article 4:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Three Million Nine Hundred Seventy Eight Thousand and Six Hundred and Twenty Four (\$3,978,624) Dollars. Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Three Million Nine Hundred Sixty One Thousand and Six Hundred and Eleven (\$3,961,611) Dollars, which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required

by previous action of the Town of Rindge or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

Jim stated that \$73,000.00 of the budget went to wages, benefits and insurance obligations, with a 24% increase from the year before leaving \$14,000 to \$15,000 for materials etc. He stated this was a very tight budget.

Laurie May, Financial Director of the town went over the financial budget and expenditures for 2017.

Charlie called on Jason Paolino from the CIP committee to explain what the committee does; which is to advise the BOS and BAC on capital expenditures, they advise on how to balance department needs with the affordability of the taxpayer in mind, they focus on ways to minimize taxes. Some of the things they have worked on are: fire engine, replace Wellington Bridge, replace GMC truck, purchase of fire utility vehicle, replace mower, replace CAT loader, purchase emergency generator, establish a library expendable fund, and raising and saving \$125,000 to be added to Highway and Fire reserve fund.

Yes - 961 No - 445

#### Article 5:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into a five (5) year lease agreement to purchase and equip a new Fire Engine to replace Engine 1 for the Fire Department in the amount of Four Hundred and Sixty Seven Thousand and Seven Hundred Twenty Nine (\$467,729) Dollars, to be payable over a term of five years with annual payments in years two through five of approximately Ninety-Nine Thousand (\$99,000) Dollars, and further to raise and appropriate up to the sum of One Hundred Four Thousand and Seventy Nine (\$104,079) Dollars for the first year's payment for that purpose. The lease agreement contains an escape clause.

Selectmen Roberta Oeser read the amendment and then moved to amend Article 5 to lower price to Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$450,000) Dollars including engine detailing and to be offset by trading in Engine 1 with a 5 year lease agreement. She stated there was a better price of equipment and if it passes there would be less interest to pay. The motion was seconded.

Linda Brummer asked how old the engine is how long are do they last? Rick Donovan Director of Public and Life Safety said that Engine 1 is 23 years old and the life expectancy is about 25 years. Tom Coneys commented that the Budget Advisory Committee has no position on the amendment. Kelen Geiger asked how the chief feels about the amendment; Rick replied that it would ease the tax burden, because there has not been enough money saved to purchase a fire truck. Tom Coneys asked if a program truck would not ease the tax burden. Rick replied that it does not meet the safety standards and could possibly be a danger to the safety of our firefighters.

Roberta addressed the needs of the new truck and turned to Rick Donovan to speak. He stated Engine 2 is paid off and the plan is to replace Engine 1. Engine 1 is 23 years old

and has had several maintenance issues involving electrical, body, door issues, pump components, and an alignment issue due to an accident in 1999. He also stated that Engine 1 was bought in 1999 and when purchased it met the NFPA 1901 Safety Standards, but the standards have changed. His main concern of Engine 1 is the hale pump, which is the main component of the truck. The pump has a 20 year life span which almost up.

As it stands now we have a quote that meets our specifications and will duplicate Engine 2 at approximately \$27,000 less than the quote on the original article, if purchased it will meet the ECE29R which is required by NFPA Safety Standards. The truck is constructed for better safety in case of a roll over. Because of some of the maintenance issues with Engine 1 the vendor has agreed to replace anything on Engine 1 until the new truck is delivered, the vender has 395 days to deliver the new truck after the decision to purchase the new truck is approved.

Rick Sirvint stated he is against the proposal, and the method on which a fire truck was found. He stated that the Electric Trust Fund with Citizens Bank will be capping in 2 years and then would be the time to purchase a truck. Deborah Opramolla said that the money spent now rather than waiting 2 years for a safe, functional fire truck is more important to her. Jason Paolino said the CIP had done a lot of consideration on the funds but feels the need of the new truck is important and will investigate the Trust Fund. Roberta Oeser stated that they have looked into using these funds.

Charlie asked if there were any more questions on the motion to amend, there were none. He asked if there was a motion to amend article 5, a motion was made and seconded; Charlie called for a hand count vote and article 5 was amended.

Jed Brummer made a motion to move the question with a second; Charlie took a hand count, the motion to move the question passed. Roberta Oeser made a motion to move to restrict consideration and it was seconded. Motion was carried by a hand count.

Article 5 will be amended and will read as follows:

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Selectmen to enter into up to a five (5) year lease/purchase agreement to purchase and equip a new Fire Engine to replace Engine 1 for the Fire Department in the amount of Four Hundred and Fifty Thousand (\$450,000) Dollars, to include the engine, engine detailing, and lender legal fees, said amount to be offset by trading in Engine 1 for approximately Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars, said lease to be payable over a term of up to five (5) years with annual payments in years two (2) through five (5), if needed, of approximately Ninety -Three Thousand Two Hundred Fifty-Five ) 93,255) Dollars, and further to raise and appropriate up to One Hundred Thousand Seven Hundred and Fifty-Five (\$100,755) Dollars for the first or down payment for purchasing and detailing said engine. The lease agreement contains an escape clause.

The amended article will appear on the ballot.

Yes - 707 No - 700

Article 6:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand (\$18,000) Dollars to be added to the Wellington Road Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Account previously established.

**Bob Hamilton read article 6 and he mentioned that the town would pay 20% of the cost same as last year and there would be no increase in tax payment. No discussion on the article.**

**No change to article 6, the article will appear on the ballot.**

**Yes -1197 No - 217**

**Article 7:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand (\$28,000) Dollars to be added to the Revaluation Capital Reserve Account previously established for the 2020 Revaluation. This will be a non-lapsing appropriation pursuant to RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the work is completed or by December 31, 2020, whichever is sooner.

**Jim Qualey read article 7, and he stated that we have to reevaluate every 5 years.**

**No changes to article 7, the article will appear on the ballot.**

**Yes - 1027 No - 375**

**Article 8:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a Freightliner M2 truck with plow, wing and radio to replace the 2006 GMC 2 ton, 4 wheel dump/plow and wing, and to authorize withdrawal of One Hundred Fifty Thousand (\$150,000) Dollars from the unassigned fund balance for this purpose, said amount to be offset by trading in the old truck for approximately \$6,000.

**Roberta Oeser read article 8, she stated that there would be no tax impact.**

**No changes to article 8, the article will appear on the ballot.**

**Yes - 1136 No - 291**

**Article 9:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty Five Thousand (\$35,000) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a Fire Utility vehicle,  $\frac{3}{4}$  ton crew cab pick-up, to replace the current 2008 Dodge Fire Prevention vehicle, and authorize the withdrawal of Thirty Five Thousand (\$35,000) Dollars from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Account created for that purpose.

**Bob Hamilton read article 9 and stated there would be no tax impact.**

**No changes to article 9, the article will appear on the ballot.**

**Yes - 904 No - 523**

**Article 10:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Three (\$15,723) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a Kubota zero-turn industrial mower to replace the old mower and to authorize withdrawal of Fifteen Thousand Seven Hundred and Twenty Three (\$15,723) Dollars from the unassigned fund balance for this purpose, said amount to be offset by trading in the old mower for approximately \$2,000.

**Jim Qualey read article 10, he said the old mower is worn out and there would be no tax impact.**

**No changes to article 10, the article will appear on the ballot.**

**Yes - 975 No - 450**

**Article 11:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Two Hundred Six Thousand (\$206, 000) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a three and one-half (3 1/2) yard bucket rubber tire Loader with attachments to replace the 1998 Cat Loader, and to authorize withdrawal of One Hundred Sixty Six Thousand (\$166, 000)) Dollars from the unassigned fund balance for this purpose and Forty Thousand (\$40,000) Dollars from the Transfer Station Special Revenue Fund, said amount to be offset by trading in the old loader for approximately \$30,000.

**Roberta Oeser read article 11, she stated there would be no tax impact.**

**No changes to article 11, the article will appear on the ballot.**

**Yes - 1018 No - 400**

**Article 12:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Forty Thousand (\$40,000) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a generator for the Highway Department, said amount to be offset by a FEMA grant or other grants, if awarded. If the grant is not received, the generator will not be purchased.

**Bob Hamilton read article 12, he stated there would be no tax impact and if the grant is not received they will not purchase the generator.**

**No changes to article 12, the article will appear on the ballot.**

**Yes - 1192 No -241**

**Article 13:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars to be added to the Rindge 250 Expendable Trust Fund per RSA 31:19-a for the purpose of honoring the Town's 250th Anniversary, with this amount to come from taxation.

**Roberta Oeser read article 13, she stated the funds would pay for fireworks, the parade, etc. there would be a small tax impact.**

**Rick Sirvint said he supported the celebration, but does not support the town paying for it. He feels the money should come from private donations, Linda Bummer said money is being raised and she also said that we are looking for**

funding from private donations and where is your town pride? Jason Paolino asked how the 1968 celebration was funded? Roberta Oeser replied that the town paid \$10,000 toward the celebration in 1968. Julie Flood Page wanted to know what kind of tax impact would occur. Craig Clark said it would be less than 1%. Mary Ann Harper thanked Roberta for chairing the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee and it was only a small amount and that there were several events to be funded. Roberta Oeser also read the schedule of events that will be happening for the 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

No changes to article 13, the article will appear on the ballot.

Yes -715 No -715

#### **Article 14:**

To see if the Town will vote to establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a to be known as the Ingalls Memorial Library Trust Fund for the purpose of repairing and maintaining the Library and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Thousand Dollars (\$20,000) toward this purpose and name the Selectmen as the agents to expend the fund.

Jim Qualey read article 14, he reminded everyone that this is a town building and we are obligated to maintain it. Karla Macleod, a trustee of the library, also spoke about the library. The building is in the State Registry and we need to maintain it. Mike Cloutier went over some of the issues with the building, such as the cement mortar and later on address the slate roof, those are the biggest concerns.

No changes to article 14, the article will appear on the ballot.

Yes - 989 No - 388

#### **Article 15:**

To see if the Town will vote to establish an expendable trust fund under the provisions of RSA 31:19-a to be known as the Cemetery Trust Fund for the purpose of repairing, maintaining and expanding the Rindge Cemeteries and to raise and appropriate the sum of Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) toward this purpose and name the Selectmen as the agents to expend the fund.

Bob Hamilton read article 15, he said the total cost would be \$60,000. Burt Goodrich said it was important to maintain the cemetery because it is part of the history of the towns' people. The fund would be used for repairing and preserving graves, monuments, stone walls and fences. It would also be used to provide new burial lots. It is consistent with the Rindge Master Plan to preserve historical places. Jim Paolino said he also supported the article.

No changes to article 15, the article will appear on the ballot.

Yes - 1038 No - 333

#### **Article 16:**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fourteen Thousand (\$14,000) Dollars for the purpose of purchasing a 15 passenger mini-bus or similar vehicle with lettering and a radio for the Recreation Department with said funds to come from donations already received.

Article 16 was read by Jim Qualey, he said the balance of funds would come from the Revolving Recreation Fund.

Recreation Director, Daniel Bemis spoke of the need of a van. The Recreation Department currently has a school bus. A van would help in transporting for senior events, it would reduce the number of steps seniors would have to use to board the van and it would be used for smaller groups of youth to be transported to different destinations.

No changes to article 16, the article will appear on the ballot.

Yes - 979 No - 412

Rick Sirvint asked if there was a rule about video- taping people at the meeting without their consent. Charlie stated that it was a public meeting and the RSA gives the right to video.

#### Article 17:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Twenty Five Thousand (\$125,000) Dollars, Twenty Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars to be added to the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund previously established and One Hundred Thousand (\$100,000) Dollars to be added to the Highway Capital Reserve Fund previously established.

Article 17 was read by Roberta Oeser she said this would involve taxation.

Rick Sirvint made the motion to amend the article to reduce the amount to a \$1.00, he said there is one million dollars in the trust and there is no reason for this. Motion was seconded. Charlie asked how he would want the \$1.00 to be spent. Rick amended his motion by designating .50 cents to the Fire Department and .50 cents to the Highway Fund. Jim Qualey seconded the motion. Deb Opramolla said that every year we need to budget for expenses, we cannot make taxes \$0 dollars, we cannot go backwards, and we have to move forward. Craig Clark said we have to set aside money and save for future expenses. Arwen Mellor said this needed to go to the voters. Tom Coneys said the BAC has been trying to get the Budget Committee to save, Jim Qualey said he doesn't feel the need to put money in the Capital Reserve because we are selling several properties and the money can come from that. Roberta Oeser said the sale of the properties would still be a shortfall.

Jed Brummer made the motion to move the question with there was a second. Charlie called for a vote on the amendment. The motion to amend failed.

No changes to article 17, the article will appear on the ballot.

Yes - 606 No - 771

#### Article 18:

To see if the Town will vote to allow the operation of Keno within the Town pursuant to the provisions of NH RSA 284:41 through 51.

Bob Hamilton read article 18.

Craig Clark asked which businesses? Bob answered Hometown Diner, Pizza Haven and Woodbound Inn. Deb Opramolla asked shouldn't it be written by the town? Bob answered the town can give permission but the State has to grant the permits.

No changes to article 18, the article will appear on the ballot.

Yes - 686 No - 698

#### **Article 19:**

To see if the Town will adopt the provisions of RSA 72:28-b, all Veterans' Tax Credit, under which all veterans who are residents of Rindge, who served not less than 90 days on active service in the armed forces of the US, and were honorably discharged, or an officer honorably separated from service, or the spouse or surviving spouse of such resident, provided that Title 10 training for active duty by a member of a national guard or reserve shall be included as service under this paragraph, provided however that the person is not eligible for and is not receiving a credit under RSA 72:28 or RSA 72:35, shall annually receive a \$500.00 veterans tax credit. (Submitted by Petition)

Craig Clark read article 19. Craig Clark said this article would help fill in the gaps for those who have served after war- time; the current article does not cover any wars after Vietnam. Roberta Oeser asked how many veterans in town do not currently qualify? Craig stated he has no idea. The current veterans group has approximately 50 members.

No changes to article 19, the petition article will appear on the ballot.

Yes - 1043 No - 325

#### **Article 20:**

Shall the Town express its support to Governor Sununu for New Hampshire to join Massachusetts and Maine and study the feasibility of developing offshore wind power in the Gulf of Maine? The Town will provide written notice urging Governor Sununu request the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) to form an intergovernmental task force. A bipartisan NH legislative committee studied the potential for offshore wind in 2014 and recommended the establishment of this task force. Floating wind turbines located far offshore in federal waters and barely visible from land, combined with other renewable energy will move NH to 100% renewable energy by 2050. The building offshore wind farms will bring a significant number of jobs and revenue to New Hampshire. (Submitted by Petition)

Pat Martin read article 20 and presented a slide-show.

Rick Sirvint said he had spoken to several engineers and they are against the plan

No changes to article 20, the petition article will appear on the ballot.

Yes -904 No - 472

A motion was made by Roberta Oeser to restrict reconsideration and was seconded. The motion to restrict reconsideration passed by a voice vote.

No changes to article 20, the article will appear on the ballot.



Yes - 904 No - 472

Charlie asked if there was any more business to conduct, Jed Brummer stated that we need to address the appropriate pay plan for the Police Department.

The meeting adjourned at 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia F. Hildreth

Deputy Town Clerk