



**Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Meeting House  
Wednesday, 2/19/2020  
6:00 PM**

## **MINUTES**

**Present:** Selectmen: Bob Hamilton, Roberta Oeser, Karl Pruter, Executive Secretary Michele Christian, Town Administrator Sara Gravell, Members of the Community  
The meeting was opened at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Selectmen's Announcements** – Town Voting Day is on Tuesday, March 10th from 7 AM to 7 PM at the Rindge Memorial School. Roberta commended the Teltech Committee for their hard work.

### **Citizen's Forum**

Citizen's Forum was moved to the end of the meeting due to the number of persons that wanted to speak.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **1. Approval of:**

- **Minutes 2/5/20**
- **Payroll 2/13/20, 2/20/20**
- **Accounts payable 2/13/20, 2/20/20**

Karl made a motion to approve consent agenda with changes, seconded by Roberta. Approved 3-0-0

#### **2. Old Business**

##### **Dale Farm Road**

Bob stated that this was placed on the agenda regarding renaming one end of Dale Farm Road. Roberta said that this has to come from the Fire Chief and he had given the Board a list of suggested names. Bob said that the court decision had been denied and the Dunbar's could possibly appeal to Superior Court. They have 30 days to file an appeal. Bob said that he would rather wait until the 30 days are up before the road is renamed.

### **3. New Business**

#### **a) Project Shakespeare**

Deborah Thurber was present to ask about using the Meeting House for the upcoming season of Project Shakespeare. She will work with Michele to make sure that there is no conflict on the dates of the program with other groups that also use the Meeting House. There was discussion about the storage of the set which needs to be moved out of the main area of the Meeting House so others don't have to move around it when setting up meetings or functions. Ms. Thurber agreed that she would make sure that the set was out of the way.

Roberta made a motion to allow Project Shakespeare to use the Meeting House as their home base for the next year, seconded by Karl. Approved 3-0-0

### **PUBLIC HEARING Consolidated Public Benefit Findings Hearing**

The Chair opened the Public Hearing at 6:15 pm.

Phil Motta, Chairman of the Teltech Committee gave an overview of the benefits of fiber optic broadband in the town. A video presentation was also shown. Phil went through a series of slides with explanations. Residents asked questions about the cost, upgrades and what kind of service there would be in the event of outages. The timeframe for the installation to be completed is 24 months after approval from the bond bank. Larry Cleveland asked about how many other installations have been done. Phil stated that they have done an installation in Chesterfield and in 20 other states.

The Public Hearing was closed at 6:52. Bob thanked the Teltech Committee for their hard work.

#### **Citizen's Forum**

Al Lefebvre stated that the Mass. Audubon Wildlife Camp is offering camperships through the Conservation Commission to Rindge boys and girls. There is a one week overnight scholarship for ages 7-14 and 3 one week day scholarships for ages 6-11. Anyone wanting to apply should send a letter to the Conservation Commission by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Deb Sawyer stated that she has two concerns. She wanted to know who would be handling the ballots before, during and after the election. Charlie Eicher stated that Kirk Stenersen will be handling the ballots as will people who are counting. Deb also asked what might happen if there was a storm would the election be postponed. He confirmed what Bob said that voting day would only be postponed if the National Weather Service issued a storm warning. Deb then asked if Dave DuVernay was still coming into work at the town office. Bob stated that Dave had retired December 31<sup>st</sup>. Deb asked how an e-mail goes out to certain individuals in the town concerning political signs from Dave DuVernay. Roberta stated that she has been covering his desk for the past 6 weeks and

she sent the e-mail after the Board agreed that she should. Deb asked why it would go out from his e-mail when it was written by someone else. Bob stated that there was a meeting yesterday morning and when the question was asked he believed that the Town Clerk was going to be sending out the notice. Roberta said that is not what she said. Bob said that there was another person that was at the meeting who confirmed this. Karl said that it was supposed to be the Town Clerk that was sending the notice. Roberta disagrees because she was the one who said it. Bob said that he doesn't have a problem about e-mails going out to notify residents about the RSA's. He said that one of the RSA's listed on the e-mail was wrong. Bob wrote to Dave DuVernay and got a response from Dave that the RSA was wrong and Dave gave him the correct RSA. Roberta said that Dave's computer was the only one that she had access to at the Town Office. Bob said that she could have at least signed her name at the bottom so people would know it was coming from her. Roberta has been covering Dave's e-mail and she has forwarded his emails to different departments. She also stated that Nancy was going to hand out the information when people submitted their paperwork to run for office, but Pat didn't know anything about it. Kelen Geiger wanted to know what was sent out. Bob explained that it was RSA's specific to election signs. Larry Cleveland asked why Roberta did not use her own e-mail address to send out the notices. Roberta said she ~~didn't~~ wasn't going to use her personal e-mail to send out something that was coming from the Board. Larry also asked if any member of the Board had made phone calls to any residents to see if there was specific permission given to any individual about putting a sign on their property. Roberta said that she called one person because they had given permission to one of the candidates and then the other candidate's sign showed up. Larry asked why she would take it upon herself to question a resident about the sign. Roberta said because she was asked to make the call by Lauralei Knight. Lauralei said that she thought she was the only one with permission to put the sign there. Larry said that it should be between Lauralei and the owner of the property that it really doesn't have anything to do with Roberta. Roberta said that she could and she supports Lauralei. Larry said now we are into the second election in many years and you are going to meddle in it. Larry said there were rules in the 2018 election that were broken by Roberta and he asked her why she didn't learn her lesson. Roni Hamilton stated that she hopes by tomorrow morning that Dave DuVernay's e-mail address is disabled and gone. Roni wanted to know if the e-mail went out to all the candidates. Roberta said that she sent it to all of them and one bounced back. Bob stated that the people have already addressed this with the attorney general's office. Bud Fitch said that the e-mail should have been taken down on January 2<sup>nd</sup>. Roberta said that she didn't know that his name was on the e-mail address. Al Lefebvre said that this goes through town procedure. Employees who leave the town should have their e-mail address disabled the day that they leave. Deb Sawyer said that in light of all this that has happened the e-mail should have been signed and this should not be dropped. Jim Qualey said that the e-mail had no name attached to it and everyone knew that Dave had retired and that if it was signed then this would not have been an issue. Brenda Lashua said that she wanted to know what happened and she also sent an e-mail to Dave asking him why she got an e-mail from him if he had retired. Brenda said that if people work in the town office then they know that Roberta is using Dave's computer but she doesn't work there. Brenda said that it should have been signed especially when you are using someone else's e-mail you need to take responsibility. Brenda also stated that she

has permission from every property owner where she put a sign and she said she knows who Roberta called because they told me when she asked for permission. Rick Griffiths asked if Roberta had access to all the computers in the town hall. Roberta said no just the code enforcement computer. Roberta said that she only used the computer since Dave has left. Jim Qualey said he never used a computer in Rindge and they don't have official e-mail address because the town deemed them too expensive. Holly Koski said that the RSA's should be put on the website. She also said that there were people on the ballot that were not given to the Chamber of Commerce.

Kelen Geiger asked if signs that are held outside of the election should be signed. Bob said they should be.

#### **4. Information Items/Communications/Updates**

Town Administrator stated that the heat pumps will be installed in March or early April. The Meeting House generator will be installed in May due to road closures and the other generators will be installed as soon as possible.

Roberta stated that KRT would like to meet with the Board regarding delay in the change over. Roberta also stated that a neighbor to 44 Twin Coves has sent a letter and is concerned about the burn that will be taking place there. Rick is going to take care of contacting the neighbor. There was more discussion about the removal of asbestos and coordinating with Mike Cloutier to get a dumpster for the ash.

Roberta is going to contact NHMA and see if another grant writing seminar is going to be held next year.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Karl. Approved 3-0-0

Adjournment 7:50 PM

Respectfully Submitted,  
Michele Christian, Executive Secretary