



**Board of Selectmen Meeting**  
**Meeting House**  
**Wednesday, 1/15/2020**  
**6:00 p.m.**

### **MINUTES - DRAFT**

**Present:** Selectmen: Bob Hamilton, Roberta Oeser, Karl Pruter, Town Administrator Srar Gravell, Finance Director Laurie May, Members of the TelTech Committee: Tim Wissels, Phil Motta, John Bonell and Craig Clark

#### **CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The Chair opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**Selectmen's Announcements** – Bob announced the passing of Tom Coffey, a long time Rindge resident, veteran and early call member of the Fire Department.

**Citizen's Forum** – No comments

**Changes to the Consent Agenda** The minutes of December 18, 2019 were removed

#### **1. Consent Agenda**

#### **2. Approval of:**

- **Payroll 1/16/2020**
- **Accounts payable 1/16/2020**

Karl made a motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. Second by Roberta.  
Approved 3-0.

#### **Old Business:**

The Chair moved **Generator - Increase** to Old Business. The bid for the generator for the Meeting House increased by \$975 due to the need to use a crane to set it behind the

horse shed. The original bid had it placed inside. Bob wanted to make sure we had the funds to cover the increase. The answer was that we do have the funds. Karl motioned to have the Town Administrator sign the new proposal on behalf of the Town. Second by Roberta. Passed 3-0.

Agenda item **Fire Truck Lease** was moved from 'other business' to be discussed after public hearing for the capital lease.

**Warrants:** The Chair announce that two petition warrant articles had been received: one to adopt a noise ordinance and one to initiate a carbon cash back program. Roberta motioned to accept two new petition warrant articles. Second by Karl. Passed 3-0 They will be submitted to the Town Clerk. Karla McLeod wanted to make sure they were delivered to the Supervisors of the Checklist.

Maryanne Harper requested that people speak up during the Public Hearing as she was attempting to live stream the hearing.

### **6:15 PM Public Hearings:**

#### **Bond, Budget and Capital Lease**

The Chair opened the hearing for the bond article. The proposed bond is for \$2,579,125 with Consolidated Communications contributing \$2,458,700 to build a fiber broadband internet network town-wide. Bob introduced the members of the TelTech Committee and Rob Koester from Consolidated Communications. Phil Motta and Tim Wissels gave a slide show presentation with all the pertinent information about the possibility of bringing fiber broadband internet to every address in Rindge and how this was made possible by SB 140 (?) to allow municipalities to partner with providers. The bill allows towns to bond the cost of the infrastructure with the cost to repay the bond being paid for by user fees collected by Consolidated Communications (in this case) and not taxpayers. The benefit to the public is the possibility of increasing the value of property. Rob Koester did a presentation on more of the specifics of the fiber network emphasizing that every address that has copper lines (telephone) would be provided the opportunity to have fiber broadband internet service of up to 1 gigabit. He explained that the bond money would be used to build the network and the town would own that portion at the end of the term of the bond. Consolidated would provide the portion of the network that already has fiber and the connections to each address. The service would be built from the outer limits of the town towards the center. Rob also explained that there would be a service agreement between CCI and the town to operate the network.

Roberta said that depending on how many in town presently did not have service of 10mps, USDA grants are available. Bob said that CCI would provide all town buildings with 1 gigabit service at no charge. The public asked many questions about service to

those on long driveways or private roads, what would happen if CCI went bankrupt or sold. All in attendance appeared to be supportive. Discussion about the necessary 60% affirmative vote and how to get the word out to the voters. Roberta suggested a direct mailing. Roberta mentioned that CCI is now offering streaming TV service like Hulu and intends to sign up for it. Bob said that his internet service is not much better than dial-up and has been for 30 years.

The Chair closed the Public Hearing for the Bond at 7:35 p.m.

Roberta motioned to post the article for the bond to the warrant. Second by Karl. Passed 3-0

The Chair opened the Public Hearing for the Budget at 7:36 p.m.

Bob announced that the proposed budget is \$4,175,000. After very little discussion the Chair closed the hearing at 7:40 p.m.

Karl motioned to post the budget article for \$4,175,000 to the warrant. Second by Roberta. Passed 3-0

The Chair opened the Public Hearing for the proposed Capital Lease for a new Rescue vehicle. The proposed lease/purchase is to buy a new rescue vehicle for \$265,000 with \$15,000 as a trade-in for the old one for a 5 year term with payments of \$55,011.17. In response to a question about any money being in the CRF, Roberta said there was money but it was set aside specifically for the SCBA (breathing apparatus) units.

The Chair closed the hearing at 7:50 p.m.

Karl motioned to post the Capital Lease article to the warrant. Second by Roberta. Passed 3-0

Return to the Agenda

### **Old Business:**

**Pay Plan:** The proposed Pay Plan was discussed with the provisions being read to the public. Ashley Saari of the Leger-Transcript asked for a copy. The pay of public employees is public. Bob mentioned that even if adopted that the next Board or budget constraints could mean that it not be included next year. Roberta said that the Personnel Policy states that there is a pay plan and there has not been one since 2004. Roberta motioned to adopt the Pay Plan as presented. Second by Karl. Passed 3-0.

### **Wellington Road Bridge:**

Bob announced that the NH DOT has reviewed and approved the scope of work supplied by Hoyle, Tanner & Assoc for the engineering of the replacement of the bridge. Karl

motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the agreement for professional services on behalf of the town. Second by Roberta. Passed 3-0.

Motion to adjourn at 8;40;p.m. by Karl, Second by Roberta Passed 3-0

Roberta Oeser