



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: September 25th, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Selectmen: Karl Pruter, Chairman, and Bob Hamilton, Vice Chair, Town Administrator Lori Rautiola, and members of the public. Select board member Tom Coneys arrived at 6:25 pm.

The public meeting opened at 5:30 pm. Karl motioned to enter a non-public session according to RSA 91-A:3 II(a) & (b). Bob seconded the motion, and it passed by a roll call vote, Karl, aye, Bob, aye.

The public meeting reconvened at 6:10 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Karl. Bob motioned to seal the minutes from the second non-public session until November 1, 2024. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed by a roll call vote, Karl, aye, Bob, aye.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob announced the school deliberative session will be in early February 2025, the Harvest Festival is September 21 from 9 am to 2 pm at the Recreation Center, and the P.O.O.R. Meat Raffle will start October 5th at the Jaffrey American Legion.

Consent Agenda: Bob motioned to accept the Payroll & Accounts Payable for 09.19.2024 & 9.26.2024 and the Meeting Minutes from 09.11.2024. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 2-0.

Selectmen's Appointments: Bob motioned to appoint James Burger to the Town & Gown Committee and Jane Fedorowicz to the Capital Improvement Plan Committee. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 2-0.

Citizens Forum: Karl opened the citizen's forum at 6:15 pm with the rules of the forum and closed the forum at 6:35 pm.

Ron Osimo, Thomas Road announced that Rindge Crime Watch is starting on November 2nd. Debbie Qualey announced the Women's Club is the co-sponsor of the Meat Raffle on October 5th. William McQuade spoke to the board about a matter he was experiencing with his neighbor over the use of his well. Ken Caisse, Zoning Officer, explained he has been mediating between the two parties to try to resolve this problem, but it is a civil matter. The Board suggested Mr. McQuade seek legal advice and agreed with Ken that this was a civil matter.

Craig Clark announced the Rindge Veteran's Association (RVA) had no new veterans attend the last meeting except for Mr. McQuade. He also announced the TelTech Committee has recommended the town look into video recording/streaming public meetings. Craig added the Purple Heart town signs have arrived and he has spoken to Michael Cloutier and the state regarding installation. The signs cost \$75 each and Bob Knight purchased two for the town and Craig will buy the other two.

Kelen Geiger announced that the meeting was being live-streamed and cautioned those present that what was being said in conversation before and after the meeting was being live-streamed. She requested that the statement on the page be changed to say that selectman Tom Coneys is producing the live stream for transparency. She asked the board if they should speak on the agenda items during the citizen's forum or if they would be allowed to speak throughout the meeting. Karl answered that they would take questions throughout all the new business items and not allow comments during the Security Update – Quote.

Larry Cleveland asked if the rules read at the beginning of the forum apply to the selectmen and Karl responded they did. Larry requested he read the Civility Rules again as the entire board was now present. Karl re-read the rules.

New Business:

Zoning Compliance Update - Goddard Road: Ken Caisse invited the Conservation Commission and Jamie Vandyke to the meeting to resolve the issue. Jamie and David Drouin, Conservation Commission Chair each gave an overview. In short, the problem was that Dave Duvernay approved the original shoreline cut without ConCom's permission. The restoration plan from 2021 complied with the state but did not comply with the town's wetland ordinance regarding native species. The Conservation Commission has not received any updates and requested the most current plan to review and advise the Selectboard. The Select Board agreed that Mr. VanDyke should meet with the Conservation Commission and Zoning Officer to resolve the issue. Mr. VanDyke, David Drouin, and Ken Caisse agreed to set up a meeting.

Old Business:

ARPA Updates: Karl stated they have a remaining balance of \$83,853.16 for ARPA funds.

Canopy for Fire Department: Rick presented multiple quotes for a canopy for the Fire Department, explained each one, and provided a recommendation. There was a brief discussion on the different weights of canopy fabric. Karl motioned to accept the 30' x 60' 17 oz fabric for \$6,999.99 with an additional \$1000 for the footings to expend out of ARPA. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

FD Tanker: Rick explained the tanker has a pinhole in the casing, it is showing signs of failure, and this pump was discontinued. There was a discussion on refurbishing the pump or purchasing a new one. The costs will be similar, but some parts of the old pump may be obsolete or unavailable. Rick presented a quote for \$21,300 for a new pump. Rick questioned if the Board wanted a third quote. After a brief discussion, the board decided to waive the third quote and obtain a second opinion from Specialty Vehicles.

Security Update: Karl stated the quote from Monadnock Security is for \$4,428 to upgrade the security system with a lower monthly fee than ADT Security. Karl motioned to accept the quote from Monadnock Security Systems. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 2-0-1. Bob abstained from the motion due to a lack of a third quote.

Proposals for Ventilation System for Town Office: Karl stated there is a proposal from DDMI Design Day for \$3,000 for an HVAC System Plan and there is no third quote. Bob clarified that the lower quote of \$3,000 is for phase one and he believes they can go as high as ten phases. He requested a professional engineer to test the air quality in the building. Tom asked how much they would like to appropriate out of the ARPA monies. Bob asked if it had been approved by Laurie May and Rick. Rick responded that the system and design would be covered under ARPA for clean air purposes. The board agreed to hire an engineer to test the air quality.

New Business:

Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Recommendations & Updates: Bob reported the BAC requested the budget handouts all use the same formatting and would like the entire budget up-front to include the 3% COLA and merit increases. Tom stated the Capital Improvement Program Committee will meet on Thursday at 12:30 pm and Al Bump, the CIP chair requested the department heads bring their capital improvement project projections for the next 6 years. He continued that he could see them coming in at a flat budget based on the previous year's numbers. Karl added because revenues are up the tax rate potentially could decrease or remain the same. There was a discussion about coding expenses and the overall budget by the end of the year. Lori stated she and the Finance Director will meet with the department heads to make decisions and communicate changes.

Meetinghouse/Church Agreement: There was a brief discussion of the charter between the Town and the church. The

board decided to invoice the church for their portion of the cost of the recent LCHIP project. The board agreed they support the church and understand the hardship if they could not afford to pay but it should be invoiced because of the charter. There was a discussion with public input on the Ralph-Ward Trust Fund and the use of the fund's profits towards Meetinghouse project costs or through "church donations".

Health Trust Retiring Bill Approval: Karl explained the change to the medical retiree plan is to allow Health Trust to bill the retirees directly instead of having the town collect the premium from the retirees and send it to Health Trust. Karl motioned to allow Lori to sign the document for Health Trust. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Any Other Official Business:

Budget Schedule Discussion: There was a discussion of the budget schedule for the budget season and the process of bringing forward each budget.

Informational Items, Communications, & Updates:

Camping Ordinance Update: Karl explained there have been no amendments to the proposed ordinance. Lori stated the ordinance will need to go on the warrant to go before the voters.

School Board Meeting: Karl provided an update on the Career Technical Education addition for the Conant Middle High School. There was a discussion of costs and the rationality of the project.

At 8:42 pm Bob motioned to continue into a non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) hiring. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed by roll call vote: Karl, aye, Tom, aye, Bob, aye.

At 9:10 pm the public meeting reconvened. Bob motioned to seal the minutes of the non-public session until November 1, 2024. Karl seconded the motion and it passed by a roll call vote, Karl, aye, Bob, aye, Tom aye.

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

Victoria Stenersen
Executive Secretary