



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: October 23rd, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Selectmen: Chairman Karl Pruter, Vicechair Bob Hamilton, and Tom Coneys. Also present was Town Administrator Lori Rautiola, and members of the public.

Karl opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and motioned to enter a non-public session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 II (a) &(b). Bob seconded the motion, and it passed by a roll call vote, Karl, aye, Bob, aye, Tom, aye.

The public meeting was reconvened at 5:45 and a short recess was held. At 6:00 pm the meeting continued with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Karl.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob announced the school deliberative session will be on February 5th, 2025, and the P.O.O.R. Meat Raffle will be on November 2nd at the Jaffrey American Legion. Karl announced Trunk or Treat is this Friday at 6:30 pm and wished Ron Osimo a quick recovery after his recent injury. Tom announced he was happy to be present on time after his seven-week class.

Consent Agenda: Karl motioned to accept the Payroll & Accounts Payable for 10.17.2024 & 10.24.2024 and the minutes from 9.25.2024 & 10.09.2024. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Citizens Forum: Karl opened the forum at 6:03 pm and closed the forum at 6:20 pm.

Pat Martin asked for an update on the Fire Department's 100th anniversary and community involvement. She announced there is a Button-Up Workshop hosted by NH Saves on November 7th at 7 pm at the Rindge Recreation Center and there is a Community Conversations Event at Franklin Pierce University in Spagnuolo Hall on Monday, October 28th at 5:30 pm. Karl answered that the Fire Fighters Association is fundraising for the 1936 M2 Fire Truck, there are plans for a Fireman's Ball in February, and there are no plans for the 100th anniversary in August. They are looking for assistance and to contact Taylor Seppala, Joe Bevilacqua, or himself if they want to volunteer. Karla MacLeod announced that the Rindge Historical Society is planning to have an exhibit on the Fire Department at the museum or in the library next year. Roberta Oeser requested they open the meetings with an announcement about the meeting being recorded and requested the board have a warrant article to readopt the solar exemption per RSA 72:62. There was a brief discussion on solar exemptions and Lori will check with Avitar.

Old Business:

ARPA Updates: There is about \$83,800 remaining for funds.

Website Options: Lori presented the options for website platforms. The current platform, Civic Plus, has an unknown cost increase and multiple functionality problems. Lori estimated the cost would be about \$3,100 next year but has not been given a definitive answer from Civic Plus and the functionality of the website has gone downhill. She researched two other options, Revise and TownCloud and both appeared to be well recommended by other towns. She explained the difference in the town and the different payment options for both. Revise seems to have been in business a lot longer than TownCloud. Lori will send a list of links to other towns who host with Revise and TownCloud.

Town Office Server & Computer Needs: Lori explained she and Karl had been working with Gregg on replacing the town's three servers. Cadnet recommended starting to replace the server at the Town Office for \$7,330. The warranties for the other two servers would come out of the regular budget. The plan is to purchase three computers and one laptop from the budget this year and is requesting approval for the server and two computers through ARPA funds totaling \$10,508. The board asked to check if the servers were solid-state equipment and to confirm with Rick Donovan that the server, computers, and website are covered through ARPA.

Video/Live Streaming Proposals: Two options were presented: Town Hall Streams for either a one-year or two-year contract or to purchase the equipment and have staff manage the live streaming. No other options were found for live streaming services that would install the equipment, store the videos, and manage the service. Bob explained he is against live streaming through the town due to the liability the town will incur. Roberta commented they should contact the town's legal counsel about filming. Tom replied that he believed the town's attorney already stated it is allowed to record and is a courtesy to the public to notify them the meeting is being live-streamed. Tom added the Tel-Tech Committee has recommended it and Rick Donovan has also confirmed it would fall under ARPA funds. Tom motioned to use ARPA funds to enter a contract with Town Hall Streams for two years at \$7,200. Karl seconded the motion, and the motion passed 2-1.

New Business:

Roadway Committee Update: Crosswalks & Speed Reduction on Thomas Road: Hannah Bissex, Thomas Road, expressed her concerns regarding speed and the need for speed reduction and crosswalks on Thomas Road. Craig Clark, a Roadway Committee Member, recommended having a public hearing on speeding in town. There was a discussion on the Police Department's speed signs that need a software upgrade. Karl motioned to accept the recommendations of the Roadway Committee to reduce the speed limit from 35 mph to 25 mph from Perkins and Thomas and Thomas and Robbins and allow for two crosswalks to be painted at the barn and Hannah Bissex's house. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. The Board briefly discussed reducing the speed on all of Thomas Road, the solution's effectiveness, and budgeting.

Old Business:

ARPA Funds (continued):

Air Quality Assessment – Town Office Quotes: The decision was tabled until Lori received an updated quote.

FD Tanker Quotes: Casey Burrage presented the two quotes for repairing the tanker. He recommended Specialty Vehicles repair the emergency lighting and replace the pump for \$32,134. The board discussed the condition of the tanker and preventing future issues. Tom motioned to go forward with Specialty Vehicles to replace the pump and lighting package rebuild for a maximum of \$33,000 through ARPA. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

New Business:

2025 Winter Sand Bid: Karl motioned to accept the sand bid from C&C Trucking for \$19 per cubic yard. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

2025 Electricity Rates: Bob Hayden from Standard Power quoted about \$0.09 per kilowatt hour, including hydroelectric, for a one-year contract. Cheshire Community Power's current rate is about \$0.086 per kilowatt hour but changes every six months. There was a discussion about the cost-effectiveness of each and the length of the contract with Standard Power. Bob motioned to switch to the Community Power Coalition of NH Cheshire County. The motion did not receive a second. Tom motioned to move forward with Standard Power pending an official document to be approved with the final rate for the next 12 months. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

2025 Health Insurance Flexible Spending Amount & Stipend: Laurie May, Finance Director, explained the Town has not increased the Flexible Spending Amount for health insurance in many years. There was a brief discussion on the Federal

limit, and it was decided to allow \$3,000. Tom motioned to adjust the Health Insurance Flexible Spending Amount to \$3,000 for 2025. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. Lori proposed changing the health insurance stipend to \$3,000 for a single-person household, \$6,000 for a two-person household, and \$9,000 for three-person or more households. The Board discussed the incentive for this and the cost savings for the town. No motion was made. Bob mentioned bringing this proposal to the Budget Advisory Committee.

Intent to Cut – Map 17 Lot 8: Karl motioned to approve the intent to cut for Map 17 Lot 8 pending the Conservation Commission's approval. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Any Other Official Business:

Casey Burrage requested permission from the Board to dispose of the four-wheeler and trailer from the Police Department as there is no practical need for it. Tom motioned to have a post made on Facebook and the website for sealed bids for the four-wheeler and trailer. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Lori presented three quotes for the Town Report and Voter's Guide and requested to go with R.C. Brayshaw for \$4,583 for the Town Reports and \$1,895 for the Voter's Guides. She also suggested reducing the quantity to 500 reports from 800 and removing the property assessment pages (67 pages) because the Town Report and the property cards can be accessed online and would save the town about \$1,700. The Board decided to keep the Town Report as is. Karl motioned to approve the quotes from R.C. Brayshaw and Company for the Town Report at \$4,583 and Voter's Guide at \$1,895. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. They requested a cost comparison of the voter's guide to be in black and white versus color.

Informational Items Communications & Updates:

Meetinghouse Oversight Committee Update: Bob updated the board on the progress of the Meetinghouse project. The committee received a bid of \$7,300 for the repointing and \$2,900 for the repair of the ramp. The repointing is covered by the L-Chip Grant, but the ramp repair is not. The Committee is asking for permission to take \$2,900 out of the reserve fund for the meetinghouse to pay for the repair of the ramp. Bob motioned to expend \$2,900 to repair the handicap ramp from the money taken. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Capital Improvement Update: Tom stated the Committee will meet again in November. The Committee is considering the need for about \$500,000 in capital savings for 2025. There was a discussion on the requested funds and the projected total.

Karl announced the Recreation Department is offering basketball on Saturday mornings at the Rindge Memorial School for elementary students, and there are some new members of the Recreation Committee, and they are resolving the issues with Tetrault Park.

Tom requested monthly reports from the three major department heads during the first meeting of each month. He also announced that he could become snow-pro certified by NH DES, which would be beneficial for cost savings in salt reduction of roads and preservation of water quality of Rindge's water bodies.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary