



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: December 11th, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Selectmen: Chairman Karl Pruter, Vicechair Bob Hamilton, and Select Board Member Tom Coneys. Also present were the Finance Director Laurie May, Budget Advisory Committee Members Dan Whitney, Roberta Oeser, Casey Burrage, and Tina Sbrega, and members of the public.

The meeting opened at 6:03 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Karl.

Selectmen's Announcements: Bob announced the school deliberative session will be on Wednesday, February 5th, 2025, and Wreaths Across America will be at the Hillside Cemetery on Goddard Road on Saturday, December 14th at noon.

Consent Agenda: Karl motioned to accept the Minutes from 11.18.2024 and the Special Events Permit for the Live Nativity on Fitzgerald Road on Saturday, December 14th from 5 pm to 7 pm. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. The Payroll & Accounts Payable for 12.12.2024 was tabled.

New Business:

Budget Advisory Committee Recommendations: Roberta Oeser explained the reasoning for the BAC's proposed budget cuts of \$3,000 from Code Enforcement and \$5000 from Assessing Clerk Wages. She then stated they recommend taking funds from mileage and staff development to keep them level funded, \$20,000 from the Executive Secretary's wages, level funding for Police Department Overtime as most of it should be coming from Detail revenue, and \$10,000 out of Police Shift Differential, and reducing the phone expenses at all buildings. Tom stated Mike Cloutier recommended taking out \$7000 from Solid Waste and moving it to the revolving account, \$500 from Signs, and \$10,000 from Materials. Roberta stated that Mike was comfortable with taking more out of the Solid Waste fund because the Transfer Station fees were raised. Bob motioned to raise the transfer station sticker fee from \$30 to \$50, and the Senior sticker to \$25 for the first sticker, and in the first year give a \$10 punch card to customers. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0. The updated prices will be in effect for the stickers next year.

Old Business:

Budget Work Session: There was a discussion of the changes incorporated from the BOS meeting on December 9th and the department head's proposed cuts. There was a discussion about the Executive Secretary position and cutting the budget to part-time. There was also a discussion about the minute-taker position and the Conservation Commission Clerk. Bob went line by line through the budget. The board agreed to keep the voter's guide and town report line the same, staff development remained at \$2000, tax collector's hourly wages kept the increase of \$1,630, the annual support and maintenance agreement for the PD under technology stayed at \$10,515, the computer hardware line was cut by \$1,808, the legal expense was kept at \$25,000, and the Planning Board hourly wages stayed at \$30,014. The board discussed the Police Department Shift Differential line and deferred the decision until they heard from the Chief. The fire department's hourly wages were cut by \$2,750. The board agreed to the cuts that were proposed by Mike Cloutier. The wages and benefits for the Recreation Department were cut by \$13,025 to be funded by the recreation revolving fund. There was a discussion about the telephone lines and switching from copper wire to fiber. The board decided to approach the Department Heads to take out their COLA. The board discussed setting the wage increase.

Laurie stated that after current reductions the gap between the current proposed budget and BAC's recommendation is \$86,577 and the total proposed budget is \$5,711,578. The default was \$5,490,937 and the difference between the proposed and default is \$220,641. Karla MacLeod stated the Library had a proposed cut for salaries with FICA at \$7,196.45 and they can take out \$2,000 from Mike's budget for the pad for the generator. For the police department gasoline line, the board decided to keep it even. The board discussed the ambulance service and the proposed number.

Any Other Official Business:

Intent to Cut – Map 6 Lot 50-9: Karl motioned to accept the intent to cut for Map 6 Lot 50-9. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Informational Items, Communications & Updates:

Bob stated that the meetinghouse oversight committee met on Tuesday, December 10th, and authorized Lori Rautiola to sign a certificate of authority for the L-CHIP grant as all the projects taking place through that grant have been completed. They are eligible to apply again for the L-CHIP grant in 2025 and there are only three projects they are looking to complete which are refinishing the floors and the stage, replacing the roof on the horse shed, and replacing the drapes that are on the stage.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary