



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: December 18th, 2024

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chairman, Karl Pruter, Vice Chair, Bob Hamilton, Select Board Member, Tom Coneys, Town Administrator, Lori Rautiola, Finance Director, Laurie May, Executive Secretary, Victoria Stenersen, and members of the public.

The meeting opened at 6:02 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, he thanked the Recreation Department, Rindge Chamber of Commerce, and the volunteers for the senior dinner, and thanked Larry Cleveland, Jason Polino, Jeff Roy, the volunteers, donors, and Rindge Veterans Association for the Wreaths Across America event that honored deceased veterans. There were 360 Wreaths placed.

Consent Agenda: Bob motioned to accept the Payroll and Accounts Payable for 12.19.2024 and the Minutes from 12.04.2024, 12.09.2024, & 12.11.2024. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Citizens Forum: Karl opened the forum at 6:05 pm and closed it at 6:15 pm.

Larry Cleveland expressed his disgust for the trash (debris from fireworks from the Town Tree Lighting). He stated it was a mess and it was egregious that it was approved. Karl agreed and apologized for not following up on having the contractors clean up the mess left behind. Craig Clark added it is reprehensible that they shot off fireworks near historic buildings despite the potential fire hazard.

Public Hearing – Acceptance of Unanticipated Revenue

Karl opened the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m. The unanticipated revenue is associated with the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program (LCHIP) for the second payment for the 2024 Meetinghouse grant. The Chair closed the hearing to the public at 6:17 pm. Bob motioned to accept the unanticipated revenue pursuant to RSA 31:95-b in the amount of \$21,646.00, associated with (LCHIP) for the purpose of the 2024 Meetinghouse project. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Old Business:

ARPA Updates: Lori stated the remaining balance of ARPA funds is about \$1,900 and \$3,000 was set aside in September for the design of a ventilation system for the Town-adding, the preliminary results for the air quality are showing high levels of radon throughout the building, and recommended the Board accept the proposal from Design Day Mechanical Inc. (DDMi). Karl motioned to accept the quote for the schematic design for a ventilation system through DDM Inc. for up to \$3,000 and the funds to come from ARPA and to authorize Lori Rautiola to sign on behalf of the Board. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 2-1.

Casey Burrage presented-to purchase a few more SCBA masks with the remainder of ARPA funds.-The current cost per mask is \$385. Tom motioned to expend the remaining ARPA money for SCBA masks for the Fire Department. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 2-1.

New Business:

Solid Waste Contract – Monadnock Disposal: Lori stated the increase in the contract is about \$37,000 based on Mike's calculations. Karl stated the rate for the first year is \$135/ton and \$125/haul and comingling and recycling will have the same rate at \$125. In year two, the rates are \$140/ton with the hauling rate at \$125/ton and the comingling will increase to \$130/ton and \$125/haul. Karl motioned to accept the contract with Monadnock Disposal for 2 years as stated in the contract and authorized Mike and Lori to sign. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Acceptance of Donation for PD (\$625): Rachel Malynowski stated the Police Department received two more checks totaling \$625 in memory of Frank Battaglia. The intent is to put these funds toward the 5th MDT. Bob motioned to accept the donation of \$625 for the Police Department per RSA 31:95-b. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Investment Policy Review – RSA 41:9: Karl stated this takes place annually. Lori stated this policy has remained the same since 2012 and the Treasurer is researching changes to be made. Bob motioned to accept the Investment Policy. Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Preliminary Results – Air Quality Test: Karl asked that the results be available to whoever wants to see them.

Transfer Station Fee Schedule: The discussion was tabled.

2025 Warrant Articles & Budget Advisory Committee Recommendations: There was a discussion about the planning secretary position. Tom presented his proposed cuts and the needs that he saw. Karl stated he is concerned that 2.5% of the 5% increase in the budget from 2024 are the two unfilled officer positions and the 53rd week of 2025. He added that he understands that a 7.5% increase is unrealistic and commended the department heads for their agreed-upon cuts. There was a discussion about what was agreed upon in previous meetings, Tom's proposed cuts, and the ambulance service. Bob asked Laurie what a 1% wage adjustment would be. She answered that to reduce the wage adjustment to 2% the difference would be \$18,190. Recreation Director Dan Bemis expressed his concern with the cut in his budget for the program coordinator's wages to come from the Recreation Revolving fund. Police Chief Rachel Malynowski offered to cut \$1,500 from her fuel budget and \$1,500 from her mileage budget.

- Warrant Article – Operating Budget. The board postponed this article for later in the meeting.
- Warrant Article – Expenditure of Unused Bond Proceeds was edited to remove the phrase “the design and.” Karl motioned to approve the revised article, Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 2-0-1, Bob abstained
- Warrant Article – Ambulance Service. Bob asked that the language be investigated to make sure the town has the funds for Ambulance Services in addition to the default. The Board postponed the article and referred to Town Counsel.
- Warrant Article – Solid Waste Contract. The same concern was brought up regarding this warrant article. The board postponed the article for further clarification from Town Counsel.
- Warrant Article – Establish Ambulance Service Expendable Trust Fund (ETF). Karl motioned to pass this article and Bob seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.
- Warrant Article – Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (CRF). Karl motioned to pass this article, Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 2-1.
- Warrant Article – Revaluation CRF. Karl motioned to pass this article, Bob seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.
- Warrant Article – Highway Department CRF. Lori stated she would check to make sure the Selectmen were agents to expend. Karl motioned to pass this article, Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 2-1.
- Warrant Article – Building Maintenance CRF. Karl motioned to pass this article, Tom seconded the motion and it passed 2-1.
- Warrant Article – Police Equipment CRF. Karl motioned to pass this article, Tom seconded the motion and it passed 2-0-1, Bob abstained.
- Warrant Article – Ingalls Memorial Library ETF. Karl motioned to pass this article, Tom seconded the motion and

it passed 3-0.

- Warrant Article – Recreation Facilities CRF. Bob motioned to amend the article to \$25,000, Karl seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.
- Warrant Article – Meeting House Maintenance ETF. Karl motioned to pass this article, Tom seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.
- Warrant Article – Acceptance of Amalia Way. Kale Stenersen, Chair of HOA, explained that Amalia Way should be accepted as a town road because they met the Roadway Committee's request to survey and evaluate the road and they recommend that the Select Board accept the road. \$27,000 a year is going towards the town from the subdivision's property taxes and the HOA is currently only paying \$2,000 a year to maintain the road during the winter months so \$20,000 a year might be left. He believes it is the town's responsibility to do so as it was built to the town's specifications, and the road is almost entirely built except for one lot. He requested the Board unanimously vote for this to be on the warrant and not as a petition article. Karl motioned to pass this article, Tom seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.
- Warrant Article – Tenth Police Officer. The amount was amended to \$93,591 for 40 weeks in 2025. Tom motioned to pass this article, Karl seconded the motion and it passed 2-1.
- Warrant Article – Camping Ordinance. Karl motioned to pass this article, Tom seconded the motion and it passed 3-0.
- Warrant Article – Readoption of Solar Exemption. There was a discussion about the necessity of this article. Karl requested they receive clarity before removing or passing the article.

Bob motioned for the following articles to be placed on the 2025 Town Warrant: Expenditure of Unused Bond Proceeds, Establish Ambulance Service ETF, Fire Department CRF, Revaluation CRF, Highway Department CRF, Building Maintenance CRF, Police Equipment CRF, Ingalls Memorial Library ETF, Recreation Facilities CRF, Meeting House ETF, Acceptance of Amalia Way, Tenth Police Officer, and the Camping Ordinance. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

A short recess was taken at 8:58 pm.

The meeting reconvened at 9:02 p.m. Karl proposed purchasing 4 computers this fiscal year at about \$6,500 to remove from the 2025 budget and then add it back into the Planning Secretary's wages. No decision was made. The Board continued the discussion on Warrant Articles. They agreed to remove the Solar Exemption warrant article. Karl returned to his proposal and amended it to shift \$2,000 to Code Enforcement wages and \$4,000 to the Planning Secretary's wages. The board agreed to a 2% wage adjustment taking \$18,190 from the budget and they agreed to take \$3,000 from the Police Department's mileage and fuel lines. This brought the proposed budget for 2025 to \$5,625,088.12. Bob motioned to have a budget of \$5,625,278. Karl seconded the motion, it passed 3-0.

Any Other Official Business:

Christmas Eve and New Years Eve: Bob motioned to close the Transfer Station and Town Office at 1:00 pm on Christmas Eve and New Years Eve. Karl seconded the motion, and it passed 3-0.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary