



## **Board of Selectmen's Meeting**

**Conference Room at Rindge Town Offices**

**Date: Wednesday, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**Time: 5:00 pm**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

**Present:** Chairman, Bob Hamilton, Vice Chair, Tom Coneys, Selectboard Member, Larry Cleveland, Town Administrator, Max Vandervliet, Executive Secretary, Victoria Stenersen, and members of the public.

The meeting was opened by the chair at 5:00 p.m. Bob motioned to enter non-public sessions per RSA 91-A:3 II (c) reputation, and (b) hiring. Seconded by Larry, the motion passed by a roll call vote: Bob – aye, Tom – aye, Larry – aye (3-0). The meeting returned to the public at 6:05 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Bob.

**Selectmen's Announcements:** Larry thanked the Rindge Veterans Association and other volunteers who came out to the Wreaths Across America Ceremony on Saturday to lay the wreaths and support the cause. Next year, there will be two new people taking over the program, but he will be helping. Bob asked if the flags would be picked up. Craig Clark, Fitzgerald Road, answered that the flags will be picked up at the same time as the Wreaths by the Rindge Veterans Association. Larry stated the scheduled date for clean-up is Saturday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. Monadnock Disposal Service will be taking all the wreaths, and the Rindge Veterans Association will dispose of the flags properly. Bob announced that the Franklin Pierce women's soccer team made it all the way to the national finals championship; they did not win, but he appreciates what they accomplished.

**Payroll:** Bob motioned to approve the payroll for 12.18.2025. Seconded by Larry, the motion passed 2-0-0. Payroll from 12.24.2025 was tabled because there were questions.

**Accounts Payable:** Larry motioned to approve the accounts payable for 12.18.2025 & 12.24.2025. Seconded by Bob, the motion passed 2-0-0.

**Minutes:** Larry motioned to approve the minutes from 11.19.2025. Seconded by Tom, the motion passed 3-0.

**Citizens' Forum:** Bob opened the forum at 6:10 pm by reading the rules of order and closed the forum at 6:17 pm.

Roberta Oeser, Main Street, stated that there was a warrant article in 2025 to take the excess bond proceeds from Consolidated and use it for a ventilation system at Town Offices. If the board is looking to find other sources of money to fund warrant articles, there is about \$70,000 in the fund currently. She asked if the Town has received payment for the window restoration and painting of the Meeting House from the United Congregational Church (UCC). It needs to be received before the end of the year. The money should be transferred from the meetinghouse maintenance fund to the general fund. A bill was sent for about \$18,000, and the Town's portion is about \$39,000. Craig Clark, the moderator of the UCC, responded that the invoice was not complete. Marcy went through the documentation and came up with a lower number than what was invoiced in a spreadsheet. Max stated he spoke with Marcy and directed her to Roberta. Bob requested that Max, Roberta, and Marcy have a meeting to finalize.

Roni Hamilton, East Monomonic Road, thanked all those involved with the Senior Dinner, Dan Bemis, the Recreation Department, Linda Hunt, the Chamber of Commerce, the owner of Hidden Hills, the RAMS, and all the volunteers and servers. It was a wonderful time. Bob agreed and stated they put out 250 meals, and about 75 of them were delivered to

their homes; a portion of those were delivered by Police Chief Rachel Malynowski. He thanked all the volunteers.

Dan Whitney, Butterfield Road, asked if they have a little bit of flexibility with the agenda item on the recommendations from the Budget Advisory Committee because of information that has become apparent to them in the past 24 hours.

#### **Old Business:**

Assessing Firm Contract: Max explained that the bid has been out since November, and only Avitar Associates has bid. He personally reached out to other local companies in NH and MA, but no farther. The current contract ends on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025. For 1 year, the cost is \$31,980, and stays at that rate until the 5<sup>th</sup> year. Bob stated that they need to start collecting funds for the revaluation in the 5<sup>th</sup> year. Max added that he was personally lobbying MRI, and they responded that they cannot take Rindge on at this time. He also spoke with Whitney Consultants, New England Municipal Group, and other firms; none of them were willing to bid. Tom commented that he thinks the status quo is the best course of action at this time. Changing firms may bring complications with the revaluation. Tom motioned to accept the contract from Avitar Assessing for 1 year at \$31,980 to start January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026, through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Seconded by Bob, the motion passed 3-0.

#### **New Business:**

Review and Approval of Negative Tax Bills: Bob stated that they still have a few questions on the 50 or so negative tax bills. They do not have to be done by December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Tax Collector and Assessing Clerk would also prefer to wait, as they do not have the time to get to them before the end of the year. They planned to encumber the total amount from the 2025 funds. Negative tax bills are for property owners who overpaid the Town due to the revaluation, so the bill to the property owner for the second half of the year is negative. The Town then refunds the property owner the negative balance. Roberta stated they do not have to worry about encumbering funds because it comes out of the unassigned revenue balance, not the budget. The board agreed to sign them once they receive confirmation of the number and tabled the agenda item.

Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) Recommendations to the Board: Bob recommended that the chair speak on behalf of the committee. Dan Whitney stated he had requested that Max contact the Town Council with the questions in Attachment A to provide clear answers to their discussion. The committee had felt it was important to do so. He added that moving forward, he will give the Board of Selectmen more advanced notice. He is not a fan of spending money if it is unnecessary, but the committee believed it was needed in this instance. Dan read Attachment A. He stated that the BAC does not have an answer for the Board tonight and would like time to review the changes to the budget that will occur. Dan continued that he appreciates that they are getting closer to a bedrock to build from. Now that they have something more solid, he would like to give the committee time to look it over. He suggested that they reschedule the Budget Advisory Committee meeting on December 18<sup>th</sup>, and he will have an answer to Bob by Friday morning. Bob asked if Mutual Aid would be attending the Board meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Max stated he will check that. Bob added that he would like the Board to meet soon after the BAC gives its recommendation for the final number. There was agreement that the BOS and BAC should meet jointly before the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Tom commented on the current balance of the proposed budget and the ambulance service. Bob thanked Dan and the entire Budget Advisory Committee. Dan sincerely appreciated where they are at on December 17<sup>th</sup>, and thanked Max as he was handed a difficult situation.

Warrant Article Discussion: See Attachment B. Bob stated that they will likely need a warrant article to raise a portion of the funds for the Revaluation in 2030, Capital Improvement Warrant Articles, and others will be added. He added that they will likely address the ambulance service when they receive a figure. The increase that was made last year produced negative results for Rindge, and the Town cannot continue to give more money with no results. They will need to add a warrant article for ambulance services, like the one enacted last year, so that they are properly compensated. Tom responded that they need to expend the funds that the taxpayers appropriated for that purpose. It is cheaper to pay JRMA

about \$300 to \$400 per call than it is to pay Peterborough \$1,000 per call. Bob added that they need to produce the figures, the call breakdown between Jaffrey and Rindge, and the revenue. Tom continued that the agreement the Town has with JRMA has no dollar amount in it. Larry clarified that the \$1000 per call paid towards Peterborough is subtracted from the amount owed to JRMA. Tom stated that out of the \$40,000, \$13,000 will be taken out to pay for Peterborough Ambulance. He expressed that the voters wanted to pay the \$40,000 to JRMA so that they would provide the Town service. Bob suggested that they invite the County to present what they can provide for services to Rindge.

Dan asked about number 2 regarding the Veteran's Tax Credit on Attachment B. Roberta responded that this warrant article is in response to a law change that eliminates the ability to combine the permanent and total disability credit of \$4000 with the regular veteran's credit of \$500. This article was written to give back the \$500 being taken away from the veterans who have been receiving both credits. The total credit received will not be reduced and will remain the same by increasing the amount of the permanent and total disability credit to \$4,500. This does not affect current taxation. Dan asked that the explanation be written in the voter's guide.

Roberta explained that the Zoning Warrant Article, Number 4 in Attachment B, is the only zoning article being added to the warrant and has been approved by the attorney. Larry asked for a quick summary of RSA 79-F on Farm Structures / Land Under Farm Structures. Roberta explained that structures used for agricultural purposes on a farm and the land under these structures get assessed as such, which is cheaper.

**Any Other Official Business:** None

**Informational Items, Communications, & Updates:** None

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Victoria Stenersen*

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Executive Secretary