



Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Conference Room at Rindge Town Offices

Date: Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

Time: 6:00 pm

MEETING MINUTES

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

At 6:00 pm, the chair opened the meeting to the public with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Selectmen's Announcements: None were recorded on the livestream.

Payroll: Larry motioned to approve the payroll for 05.28.2026 & 06.04.2026. Seconded by Bob, it passed 2-0-0.

Accounts Payable: Bob motioned to approve the accounts payable for 05.28.2026 & 06.04.2026. Seconded by Larry, it passed 2-0-0.

Minutes: The minutes were tabled for the following meeting for the Board's review.

Old Business:

Discussion of Memorial Day and 250th Parade with Chamber of Commerce: President of the Chamber of Commerce, Lynda Hunt, first apologized on behalf of the Chamber for the lack of barricades on Goddard Road and having only one on Todd Hill Road during the Memorial Day Parade. Moving forward, they will have two people at every barricade, including on Goddard Road. Larry stated that no apology was needed; his biggest concern is the safety of the residents and attendees. Lynda explained that during the 250th Parade, there will be two barricades across Goddard Road near Hillside Cemetery with two volunteers from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm or until the Parade ends. There are two people per shift assigned to each road barricade, with backups. After the Parade ends, the barricades near the intersection of Main Street and Lord Brook Road will be moved up Main Street before the Ingalls Memorial Library so the parking lot is open, and the barricades on Goddard Road will be moved to the side of the road. The barricade on Todd Hill Road will be located just at the top of the hill near the back road to the police station.

Larry requested a volunteer meeting before the event starts for all the barricade guards to train them on the use of the radios, communicate that they should not leave their post unattended, and the protocol for handling difficult drivers. Lynda explained that all volunteers need to arrive by 4:30 pm, and that Fire Chief Bob Faas would present the safety aspects before the event starts. Bob asked that the volunteers at the barricade know how to direct drivers around the barricaded area. Lynda answered that they would work on that. She added that the Recreation Director, Dan Bemis, sends letters to the residents in the village area to notify them of the event. Larry requested that they have road-closed-ahead signs at the beginning of each road. They discussed posting the electronic signs at the Transfer Station and the NH Route 119 and US Route 202 Intersection to notify the public a week in advance that the roads will be closed. Lynda explained that there will be a cleanup crew to pick up during the event and ensure that trash barrels are emptied. Set-up for the event is at about 10:30 am and breakdown starts around 10:00 pm. There was a discussion about Parade order, blocking the roads, and the sound system.

New Business:

Request to Purchase New Police Cruiser from Police Department (RSA 35:7): Police Chief Rachel Malynowski and Detective Christopher Martin presented the quote to purchase a new cruiser for the police department. Their 2017 police cruiser has been completely out of service for 5-6 weeks now and has about 107,000 hard miles on it. It would cost more than \$7,000 to get it back on the road. The Police Department has a shortage of active cruisers. With an aging fleet, they will likely need to replace a cruiser next year. That second cruiser is costing the Town almost as much as Unit 2 in repairs. The last time they requested a cruiser was in 2022. There are four cruisers available, but five is a more reasonable and manageable fleet for the department.

For a new cruiser, they received quotes from independent dealerships, but the turnaround would be months and would require three transactions. The Rindge Police Department has an established relationship with McGovern. They procure the vehicle and build the cruiser, all for one price. The quote she received from them in November was close to \$70,000. Their new quote from May 8th was \$64,963.50 with a turnaround time of about 2 weeks because they have a new program to pre-buy and outfit the cruisers. Her request is to move forward with the quote from McGovern to procure the cruiser.

Based on the available police details from May 1st to July 3rd, they estimate that they will have lost \$15,680 in revenue into the detail revolving fund. Currently, they are offered about two to three details a day. Over 50% of those details go to other towns. They have also had to give waivers for certain roads where details are needed, but they are unable to staff them. For the past 5 months, they have only deposited \$10,215 into the revolving fund. In May, they could have added \$8,960 but only added \$2,880 to the fund. In June, they are projected to deposit \$6,400 and had the potential to deposit \$16,000 if Rindge had taken all the offered details.

Her second request is to purchase the cruiser this year from the bottom-line budget due to the hiring deficit and the excess funds, and use the detail revolving fund next year. Rachel explained that if the Police Department can fill position seven to go into the academy this year, hire position eight around September 1st, purchase the cruiser out of the budget, and expend all the money from the operating budget, they will still have \$68,000 to return to the Town as unspent funds. She would like to continue building the detail revolving fund and utilize it next year to replace Unit 3. They also hope to have enough in the detail revolving fund in 2028 to replace Unit 4. It's a 3-year plan to expend money, with no additional taxpayer impact. The balance of the revolving fund is a little over the current price of the cruiser.

Bob proposed using the revolving funds now and encumbering the remaining balance of the police budget at the end of the year to go towards a second replacement cruiser. Rachel responded that she is okay with it. Max agreed with Bob's idea because there has been overspending in a couple of areas of the overall budget and a few expenses he knows are coming up that were likely not sufficiently budgeted for. Larry agreed that it makes sense with the default budget. Tom also agreed with Bob's suggestion and recommended getting a contract for the cruiser next year. He added that next year they may need to use the detail revolving funds to cover a portion of the cost, as they do not know if enough will remain in the overall budget to encumber. Rachel stated that she can get a bill/contract in November with a delivery date in 2027 so they can encumber funds at the end of 2026 for the cost.

There was a discussion of the design and build and what will be switched over from the old cruiser. Larry stated that he has a problem with expending \$65,000 in taxpayer money without the taxpayer's approval for the second cruiser in 2027. They did not vote for that expenditure in March. Rachel responded that she is not trying to expend every dollar that they have but just expend money on what the Police Department needs. Tom added that he thinks Rachel is being prudent, anticipating the dire need for a second replacement cruiser in 6 to 9 months, as it is failing. He thinks they need to be looking forward. There was discussion about projected Police details through the end of the year.

Tom motioned to authorize the purchase of the Police Cruiser for \$64,963.50 from the Police Detail Revolving Fund and allow Chris Martin to pursue a contract/quote for a second cruiser for 2027. Bob seconded the motion, and it passed 2-1.

Presentation by Friends of Rindge regarding Capital Project (RSA 31:95-b): Richard Synnott, Forristall Road, presented. He has been working with Recreation Director Dan Bemis and the Chair of the Conservation Commission, David Drouin. The Friends of Rindge Initiative was established to find money to reinvest in the Town's parks and playscapes and conserve the Town's land.

The first project he is presenting is the installation of swings and finishing the features of the playscape at Tetrault Park. Finishing the features of the playscape will cost about \$50,000, and the cost of the swing set is \$12,000. For the swings, it would have a handicap swing, a few toddler basket swings, and some regular swings. They also want to add a small slide for the toddlers and a few other features. They do not want to raise the funds and apply for grants without the board's support. In terms of the maintenance expense of the new features, they would set aside a fund to cover those costs.

The second project is the restoration and repair of the tennis court surface and fencing. They want to keep one tennis court and create four pickleball courts in the space. The voters have approved \$25,000 a year to be deposited into the Recreation Facilities CRF for the past 4 years. The intention of those funds is to be used for the tennis courts as described in the voters' guides. Right now, they have pledges of \$55,000 to go towards the tennis courts. They should have the money to finish the courts by next summer. They have contacted four of the largest tennis court builders in New England. It would cost over \$300,000 to replace the fencing, add 12 to 14 inches of gravel for a base, grade the area, and resurface the courts. They subcontracted out a large portion of the project to local builders and contractors, and the cost is closer to \$210,000. With the \$55,000 pledged and the \$100,000 in the CRF from the Town, they need to raise about \$55,000. The USDA has a matching grant of \$20,000, which they can apply for.

Larry asked if they are working on grants for both projects. Richard responded they had one grant out for the playscape, but they did not want to move forward without the Board's support. Larry stated that for the tennis courts, there is buy-in from the Town and the voters. But for Tetrault Park, the Town voted to buy the land for the Conservation Commission but never voted for the upkeep of any of the structures or features added. He stated that if they are going to place more features on Tetrault Park, he would like something in writing from the organization to maintain it in perpetuity. Richard responded that he is not at the point where he can commit to that as he does not know what it entails. For anything new installed, like the swing set, maintenance is minimal. For the rest of the park, they have been working with the recreation committee on the landscaping, including weeding, weed whacking, and mowing. They have a bid to replace the woodchips for \$3,200, which must be done every few years. Before they put the new chips down, they are getting a bid to remove the invasive Japanese knotweed. Richard added that they could help with those recurring costs, and the Recreation Committee has been great at getting volunteers to clean it up. Larry asked how they are paying for the woodchips. Dan responded that it would come from the Recreation Revolving Fund. So far, they have only expended from that fund, which does not come from taxation.

Bob expressed concern with the play structure being wood and the maintenance. Richard responded that the type of wood used is very dense and lasts forever. There is a chance of checking and splintering in the first year, but the contract includes the company coming out after the first season to take care of any problems. After that, there is rarely ever a problem. Tom stated that he supports it and thinks they should move forward with getting grants and making Rindge a better place to live.

Approval of Annual Camper Permit Application (RSA 674:16): The camper permit application is from Karen and Joseph Landry on Fourth Street at Tax Map 15 Lot 20 for July and August of 2026. The camper has self-contained wastewater storage to be emptied at the approved disposal facility, and trash will be removed from the property on departure. If there are any complaints, the camper permit can be revoked by the Board.

Tom motioned to approve the camper permit application for Karen and Joseph Landry. Seconded by Bob, it passed 3-0.

Any Other Official Business: Larry requested that Max be authorized to represent the Town at the mediation. Max

explained that it is scheduled for later in July. When it gets closer, if they need to have a more substantive discussion to prepare him, they can do so at the Board meeting before. Larry motioned to send Max to mediation in July. Seconded by Bob, it passed 3-0.

Citizens' Forum: Larry opened the forum at 7:16 pm and closed the forum at 7:24 pm.

Robert Terk, South Woodbound Road, expressed frustration with the lack of response from the Rindge Memorial School (RMS) Principal after the Ingalls Memorial Library Children's Librarian Joseph Pisco attempted to contact her multiple times requesting a letter of approval for a grant application. The grant he was seeking was offered by the Children's Literacy Foundation, which guaranteed the sum of \$2,000 to the Ingalls Children's Room and \$500 to the RMS Library. The time for the grant expired, and it was forfeited. He requested an explanation. Tom recommended that Robert make the same presentation to the School Board because that is who the principal reports to. Bob added that he heard the principal was leaving RMS and she may have already left; he is not confident of that fact. Bob and Larry agreed with Tom's recommendation.

Judy Unger-Clark, Fitzgerald Road, stated that their annual summertime fundraiser, NH Gives for the Ingalls 1894 Association, starts next Tuesday and is open for 24 hours online. On the NH Gives website, they can search Ingalls 1894 and donate online on their page or mail donations. The building was dedicated on June 13th, 1895. It is a celebration of the birthday of the library and a time to give gifts in support. There is an article in the Chamber Newsletter which goes into more depth on the Library's history. The association will be adding an ADA-compliant automatic door opener to the door at the end of the ramp.

Pat Martin, Farrar Road, expressed appreciation for the extraordinary work that Lynda Hunt and Pat Paige have been doing to put together Memorial Day and the 250th Celebration. She hopes that the Board gives them the recognition they deserve.

Informational Items, Communications, and Updates:

Bob requested that Max schedule a Meetinghouse Oversight Committee Meeting and to reach out to Jack Cantin. The check came in from the Ward Trust Fund for the project. Tom announced that the 250th Celebration and Family Funday is on Friday, June 26th.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Stenersen

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Executive Secretary