

Town of Rindge
Minutes of Deliberative Session
Saturday, February 1, 2014

First Meeting: Saturday, February 1, 2014

Voters on Checklist: 4,131

Voters Attending Meeting: Approximately 150

Second Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2014

Ballots Cast: 1,504

The meeting was called to order by Town Moderator, David Tower at 9am, he introduced Hanna Ricard of the Venture Crew and Kenny Smith of the Cub Scouts; both led the meeting to the Pledge of Allegiance. David explained the process of the meeting and then introduced non-resident department heads Frank Morrill, Police Chief, Michael Cloutier, Director of Public Works, Craig Fraley, Recreation Director, also Interim Town Administrator, Jane Pitt. David then introduced the Board of Selectmen, Samuel Seppala, Chairman, Roberta Oeser and Daniel Aho. He introduced Town Officials Ellen Smith, Finance Director, Nancy Martin, Town Clerk, Nicole Sesia, Deputy Town Clerk & Executive Secretary, Supervisors of the Checklist Ida Mae Harman, Roberta Letourneau and Karla McLeod, the Budget Advisory Committee Members Tom Coneys, Chairman, Sharon Rasku, Don Cook, Kale Stenersen, Rick Sirvint and Susan Emerson (absent). David explained the process for the meeting. The sound system provided by Rindge Memorial School.

Articles 1 through 12 are Town Officials and Zoning Articles.

Article 13.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Three Million, Seven Hundred and Six Thousand, Five Hundred (\$3, 706,500) Dollars? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Three Million, Seven Hundred and Fifty Two Thousand, Nine Hundred and Ninety One (\$ 3, 752,991) Dollars which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law, or the governing body may hold one special meeting in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: This warrant article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in ANY warrant article.

Sam Seppala presented the article, he stated that it is a responsible budget; he thanked the department heads for the very hard work put into the budget. Tom Coneys said the BOS was actively involved with the process. Ellen gave a presentation of the overall budget, she explained the budget is \$500.00 under last years' budget; when the budget was originally brought to the BOS it was \$3,754,476, the board asked if it would be possible to decrease the number to keep the budget flat and still provide residents the same level and quality of services, the answer was yes. She explained the BOS and BAC worked together with department heads on the budget so there was total transparency. Ellen explained there are some increases beyond our control such as health insurance, NH retirement and mutual aid dispatch. She also explained that the board took the recommendation of the Police Chief not to fill the position left vacant from the loss of Officer Horne; Chief Morrill assured this will not affect your services or your safety. Ellen said the town is facing significant expenditures to get over the "hump" which was created by putting off saving in the past; a result of

weak long term financial planning. She explained the long- term goal is to improve the CIP process and the town is looking into a more comprehensive long- term savings plan.

No changes to article 13.

YES – 1229 NO - 211

Article 14.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventy Four Thousand and Eleven (\$74,011) Dollars for the third of five lease payments on the fire truck lease approved by the voters at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting? This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

Dan Aho presented the article, James Hradecky asked how is this truck helping the Fire Department, Rick explained that they now have improved safety and reliability with the apparatus, which is very important when responding to a call.

Ray Rodriguez asked if it were a lease to own Rick answered it was, Ellen asked what is the life of the truck, Rick stated it is 20 to 25 years.

No changes to article 14.

YES – 1154 NO - 292

Article 15.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand (\$18,000) Dollars to be added to the Wellington Road Bridge Replacement Capital Reserve Account?

Roberta presented the article, with no questions from the floor, no changes to article 15.

YES – 1064 NO - 359

Article 16.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Eight Thousand (\$28,000) Dollars and to discontinue a 480 foot portion of Converseville Road which includes the bridge that spans Millers River? This appropriation will fund construction of a new 80 foot portion of Converseville Road that will provide alternative access to and egress from NH Route 119 and includes road materials and rental equipment, including but not limited, to loam, gravel, bituminous pavement, drainage, barriers and signage in order to construct the new portion of the road and to limit access to the bridge to pedestrian traffic only.

Roberta presented the article; the bridge currently supplies access to one home, Ellen explained a road will be cut for access from the house to Route 119 and there will be additional parking for Converse Meadow. Larry Cleveland asked if plowing would be a problem, Roberta stated there would be a turn-around for the trucks.

No changes to article 16.

YES – 966 NO - 461

Article 17.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred and Sixty One Thousand (\$161,000) Dollars for the purpose of replacing the 18 year-old 1996 Highway Department 6 wheel dump truck and equipping the truck with items such as radio, emergency lights and plow attachments?

Roberta presented the article, Tom Coneys said the BAC did not have a lot of information about the truck, Mike said that with the trade-in \$4,500 would go toward the purchase, stating that the life expectancy for this type of truck is 10 years maximum, this truck is 18 years old. Kale Stenersen asked how many miles of roads are plowed; Mike said there is 64 miles plus building lots plowed with six vehicles.

After more discussion about the truck and how to fund it; there were no changes to article 17.

YES – 659 NO - 772

Article 18.

Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars to be added to the Meetinghouse Maintenance Expendable Trust Fund?

Sam presented the article, stating the painting has been sent out for bid, it will be money well spent. No changes to article 18.

YES – 870 NO - 563

Article 19.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Sixty Four Thousand (\$64,000) Dollars for the purpose of funding a portion of the measuring and listing of property for the 2015 Revaluation and to authorize the withdrawal of Thirty Seven Thousand (\$37,000) Dollars from the Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose with the remaining balance of Twenty Seven Thousand (\$27,000) Dollars to come from taxation? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 VI and will not lapse until the work is completed or by December 31, 2015, whichever is sooner.

Roberta presented the article, no changes to article 19.

YES – 771 NO - 634

Article 20.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars for the purpose of replacing the 13 year old Recreation Department van with a used 15 passenger minibus or similar vehicle and lettering and equipping this vehicle with a radio?

Craig Fraley presented the article, he stated the van is rusted out, last year the frame was replaced; bodywork would need to be done in order to pass inspection. He also mentioned that the 15 passenger vans have been deemed unsafe because of the rollover probability. The van is difficult for senior citizens to get in and out of because there are no steps or handles to hold onto, whereas the minibus has handrails and steps to easily get in and out of the van.

Penny Rodrigues asked if anyone has thought about undercoating the vehicle for salt damage. Mike Cloutier said he is looking into that.

No changes to article 20.

YES – 697 NO - 726

Article 21.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand (\$18,000) Dollars to fund municipal energy projects as approved by the Board of Selectmen?

Pat Martin presented the article; she stated significant savings have been noticed with the energy projects that have been done.

No changes to article 21.

YES – 771 NO - 649

Article 22.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum Five Thousand (\$5,000) Dollars to be spent for body repair, rust removal, painting and re-lettering of Hose Truck # 1 and to authorize the withdrawal of said amount from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund previously established for this purpose

Rob Jackson presented the article; he stated it is a 1986 four-wheel drive truck, approximately \$2,500.00 was spent from the operating budget last year for repairs, it is a limited use truck so by preserving the body of the truck by repairing minor rust and repainting it will extend the life of the truck another 10 years.

No changes to article 22.

YES – 1250 NO - 196

Roberta made a motion to restrict reconsideration with a second, reconsideration passed by voice vote.

Article 23.

Shall the Town vote to add to the purposes of the Police Detail Revolving Fund, which was established by Town Meeting in 2006, the purposes of repair and replacement of police vehicles?

Dan presented the article; he said the selectmen highly recommend voting yes. Jean Carguilo asked how does the money get into the revolving fund, Ellen explained the revolving fund was originally established to pay for wages and benefits associated with police details and for some cruiser maintenance, this article will expand the purpose and the expenditure of the money to include these larger expenditures. The money is generated through police details, such as when you see a PSNH truck and a cruiser, the cruiser and the police officers time will be billed to the vendor and when the money is received from the vendor of that particular detail, it is put into the revolving fund. A portion of the money is paid to the officer and the remaining funds stay in the revolving fund.

No changes to article 23.

YES – 1094 NO - 348

Article 24.

Shall the Town vote to establish a revolving fund, pursuant to RSA 31:95-h, for the purpose of public safety details? All revenues received for fire special details, fire alarm ordinance fees, and judgments of the court for safety response services provided under RSA 153-A:24 will be deposited into the fund and the money in the fund shall be allowed to accumulate from year to year, and shall not be considered

part of the Town's general fund balance. The Town Treasurer shall have custody of all moneys in the fund, and shall pay out the same only upon order of the governing body and no further approval is required by the legislative body to expend. Such funds may be expended only for the purpose for which the fund was created, namely to pay fire personnel wages and benefits associated with details, costs of fire prevention materials and maintenance and replacement of fire equipment, vehicles and apparatus

Roberta presented the article; she explained it is much the same as the Police Detail Account. Nick Carguilo asked why has the money in the Police Detail Account been left to accumulate and not be used for offsetting wages, etc. Ellen explained that the problem in the past is that there had not been a strong financial oversight of the money, stating that is why she is here as (Financial Director) and why the articles are being amended and put on the ballot so it will not happen in the future. After more discussion, there were no changes to article 24.

YES – 936 NO - 485

Article 25.

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand (\$25,000) Dollars to be added to the Library's Facilities Capital Reserve Fund?

Flo Marsh presented the article; she stated the account was left open with about \$100.00, the library wants to start saving for the final phase of the project, through donations and request they have \$250,000. +/- dedicated for the project.

No changes to article 25.

YES – 691 NO - 735

Al Lefebvre made a motion to restrict reconsideration with a second, reconsideration passed by voice vote.

Article 26.

To see if the voters will approve the following: No town official, elected or appointed, shall have the authority to apply for any federal grant, unless approved at the annual town election in March. (By Petition.)

Petitioner Phyllis McKoon presented the article; Phyllis made a motion to amend the article with a second to state:

“No town official, elected or appointed, shall have the authority to apply for any federal grant that may result in a zoning change; unless approved at the annual town election in March.”

A voice vote was taken; the amended article will appear on the ballot.

YES – 728 NO - 646

Article 27.

Shall the Town of Rindge vote to require approval of the legislative body in order to apply for and accept all grant associated with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. (By Petition.)

Petitioner Larry Cleveland presented the article; Al Lefebvre made a motion to amend the article with a second to state: “Shall the Town of Rindge vote to require approval of the governing body in order to apply for and accept all grants associated with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and to hold public hearing outlining the pros and cons of the grant as well as the views of town council of those pros and cons and to hold a public meeting prior to accepting the grant.”

A motion was made to move the question with a second.

A standing vote was taken to amend the article, the motion to amend failed - 39 Yes - 43 No

The moderator went back to the original article; Larry Cleveland made a motion to amend the article with a second to state: “Shall the Town of Rindge vote to require approval of the legislative body in order to accept all grants associated with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development.”

A voice vote was taken; the amended article will appear on the ballot.

YES – 817 NO - 620

Article 28.

Shall the Town of Rindge vote to terminate and cease all memberships, affiliations and dealings with the Southwest Regional Planning Commission, and, in addition, to prohibit the Town from requesting or accepting paid or unpaid advice from the Southwest Regional Planning Commission, or any organization with which the Southwest Regional Planning Commission is affiliate with. (By Petition.)

Petitioner Larry Cleveland presented the article, he made a motion to amend the article with a second to state: “Shall the Town of Rindge vote to terminate and cease all memberships, affiliations and dealings with the Southwest Regional Planning Commission, and, in addition, to prohibit the Town from requesting or accepting paid or unpaid advice from the Southwest Regional Planning Commission, or any other regional planning commission, or any project or initiative sponsored by any regional planning commission.”

A standing vote was taken to amend, the amendment passed 35 Yes – 21 No.

The amended article will appear on the ballot.

YES – 828 NO - 613

Article 29.

Shall the Town of Rindge vote to request that the Planning Board delete and remove the entire contents of the “Plan NH” Charrette from the Rindge Master Plan. (By Petition.)

David Tower presented the article, no changes were made to article 29.

YES – 1086 NO - 321

Article 30.

Are you in favor of Amending the Town of Rindge Wetlands Conservation District Ordinance Section 5.F to read as follows: “No underground or above ground storage of Hazardous Materials shall take place in or within 125 feet of the Ordinary High Water Mark of Surface Waters or within 125 feet of Vegetated Wetlands.” (By Petition.)

David Tower presented the article; no changes were made to article 30.

YES – 799 NO - 620

Article 31.

Are you in favor of Amending the Town of Rindge Conservation District Ordinance Section 5.D to read as follows: “No net increase in peak flow of storm water runoff into Surface Waters or Vegetated Wetlands as a result of any development shall be allowed. Calculations to be based on a 25 year storm event.” (By Petition.)

David Tower presented the article; no changes were made to article 31.

YES – 960 NO - 447

Article 32.

To see if the Town will urge: That the New Hampshire State Legislature join nearly 500 municipalities and 16 other states, including all other New England states, in calling upon Congress to move forward a constitutional amendment that guarantees the right of our elected representatives and of the American people to safeguard fair elections through authority to regulate political spending, and clarifies that constitutional rights were established for people, not corporations.

That the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation support such a constitutional amendment.

That the New Hampshire State Legislature support such an amendment once it is approved by Congress and sent to the State for ratification.

That the record of the vote approving this article shall be transmitted by written notice to New Hampshire’s Congressional Delegation, and to New Hampshire’s state legislators, and to the President of the United States informing them of the instructions from their constituents by the selectmen within 30 days of the vote. (By Petition.)

Petitioner Pat Martin presented the article. No changes to article 32.

YES – 1001 NO – 403

David Tower adjourned the meeting at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy A. S. Martin
Rindge Town Clerk