



Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: Wednesday, February 9, 2011

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes (approved 3/30/11)

Call to Order – Meeting called to order by Patricia Lang Barry at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen's Forum – Barry opened up with comments about Saturday's meeting. What was witnessed was an act of irresponsible cowardness. Irresponsible, because a child can get up and cut a budget with out forethought, due diligence or homework. All that took was ego. This was done by an elected official. The cowardness came when the people of this town put their vote in for this individual, that he would uphold the office in which he was elected to. Conveniently two weeks before the deliberative session he quit, which gave him free rain to do what he did on Saturday. She believes that he threw the faith of the town voters in their face. Comments were made that part of what they would do tonight would scramble and find out what we would do without \$300,000 in this town. Personally she is not willing to do that at this time, she is not going to give credibility for credence, or validate in any way that act on Saturday. If the voters should choose to accept that budget on March 8th, then she is willing to sit and have the conversation on March 9th, but not until then. Others can have the conversation and she will not be a part of it. They spent 4 months putting together a well crafted budget to run this town in a sensible and safe way, taking \$300,000 out of the budget, undermines all of that. We heard a couple days ago from a promising business man that if we pass this budget, no enterprise will look at Rindge. It is a detriment to economic development in this town; everyone will run as fast as they can in the opposite direction from this town. It is a huge blow and will be. If any of us thinks that living in this town without a Recreation Department or Library is living in the same town and that it won't affect our quality of life, then I believe that they are sadly mistaken. The citizens of Scotts lane are asking for their road to be accepted. There is no way that without \$300,000 in the budget that she would even consider it. They do pay taxes to this town and they have a right to have their road accepted. If the citizens do the right thing on March 8th, on of the first things she will do at the first Selectmen's meeting will be to accept Scott's Lane. 5 years ago when she ran, she had two promises that she made, get a Senior housing project built and not loose personnel in an already under manned town. 5 years in, she has kept those promises. To her, cutting positions is not an option. That is not how we recover economically, we don't put people out of work and we don't shoot ourselves in the foot. Recovery is going in the opposite direction of that. Tonight she would like to propose to have the two public hearings tonight, there is another important meeting going on at the Jaffrey-Rindge School district and she knows that a number of people are interested in being there as well. Their budget is being discussed. As soon as our public hearings are done, she would like to adjourn the meeting so that people can go there.

Dr. Hill stated that Barry had an excellent comment; unfortunately the meeting on Saturday was hijacked. The man who did it has a vendetta against the town. It has been stated in the paper that he would be this town's worst enemy. Unfortunately he doesn't see it and he doesn't get it. We must keep and support our loyal employees they are the backbone of this town, without them, we are nothing.

Craig Clark stated that he disagrees and agrees at the same time. There are two ways to fix a budget one of them is salaries and one of them is advertising. Clark stated that he put his faith in the Selectmen and

the Town Administrator for the budget. The savings on the budget would be approximately \$110. People feel disempowered at this moment. He will defend the selectmen and try and get the default budget passed.

Barry stated that this man that made the motion on Saturday missed 8 out of 12 meetings, he never met with his departments. The work of the BAC was on the backs of three consistent members. More often than not, they did not have a quorum. That is not what the people of this town voted for them to do.

Ed Lameroux stated to go out there and vote, vote, vote. Get people out there to vote for the default budget.

Keith Griffin stated that he has made a lot of comments on facebook. There are a lot of people that are still upset about the selectmen's table. Then there was a vote about the code enforcement officer, the population said get rid of it and the Selectmen said no. They feel like their trust has been eroded. People don't look at it as we are going to loose our recreation department, they look at it that they are sending a message.

Barry hopes that people will stop and listen between now and March 8th and understand what they will loose.

Kim McCummings stated that in regards to the BAC recommendations, were public hearings held and if not, then how can their recommendations go through a process that is legally mandated. Pini stated that she checked with the municipal association about that specific question. The fact that they did not hold the public hearing does not negate their ability to provide their recommendations on the warrant articles. They also should have posted their meetings and kept minutes. They should have done a lot of things, but they need to answer those questions.

Approval of Minutes – None to approve.

General Business

2011 Budget – The Rindge Recreation Committee brought forward a letter not recommending Article 9 as it was proposed on Saturday at the Deliberative Session. Barry read the letter out loud for the purpose of the citizens present. Sielicki stated that the department heads have gone through their budgets year after year and have been assigned BAC members to meet with them. Some of them don't show up or take the time to meet with the department heads and figure out what their budgets are about. For them to come in and make recommendations on cutting something that they don't even know about is ridiculous. It is a slap in the face to any department head. They wouldn't do that to them in their businesses, it is impossible to run a business that way. Barry stated that the members that did show up regularly for the BAC did work their butt off and Barry was impressed by their commitment and the time put in by them. Brummer stated that there are economic difficulties out there and the Selectmen do understand that. Making indiscriminate cuts on a Town that has changed grown in the past 20 years or so, along Route 202 and we have a well established University in the town as well. We do a pretty good job with less people. We need to get the people out there to vote to establish how we want to look in the future. Pini asked if since the budget has changed if the Selectmen had changed their vote in regard to the budget. Brummer made a motion to not recommend the budget as proposed at Saturday's meeting, 2nd by Barry. All members were in favor.

Pini stated that the voters guide also needs to be accepted by the Board of Selectmen. Barry made a motion to accept the voters guide as written, 2nd by Brummer. Pini stated that some corrections will need to be done since the budget was revised. Barry amended her motion to accept the voters guide with the corrections made, 2nd by Brummer. All members were in favor.

Doug Thorn re: Woodbound Inn Taxes – Thorn stated that they have hit a few challenges with this project. Last year they met with the Town and had their assessment reduced due to certain items not being properly assessed. They are looking to get the credit that was applied to the 2009 and forward assessment, be applied to the 2008 taxes. The Selectmen had a memo from Dave DuVernay, assessing clerk that stated that the Selectmen can abate any taxes for a good cause. You are not supposed to abate beyond the tax year. This was not an official tax abatement, but a correction of an error. Donovan stated that the liens are quite large and that they have done a lot of work over there, so it would be a shame to have that all go to waste. She feels that we should give something towards this, in her personal opinion. Brummer stated that it was a large error that was fixed and they are one of our largest taxpayers in town. Barry stated that they were without their third member. They try to take every situation, and need to make sure that they are not setting a precedent; they want to be fair to everyone. Given the amount of money and the scope that they need to look at she would propose that they wait until their college comes back. In the meantime they need to convey to Carlotta what their plan is.

6:15 Public Hearing CDBG Grant – NH FastRoads - Selectmen Barry made a motion to open the first public hearing for discussion of the CDBG project. Public Hearing opened at 6:40p.m. – Pini stated that we had some members here from FastRoads. Carole Munroe was present to speak on this. FastRoads is part of the Monadnock Economic Development Corporation. FastRoads will increase high speed internet access to NH. It is funded by ARRA federal grant of \$5.5 million and they are raising \$2.1 million. It brings high speed fiber network from Orford to Rindge. This project has three phases, it will have equipment in all 20 towns from Orford to Rindge and will run fiber to the community anchors in the town. Enfield and Rindge are two last mile projects in which they will run fiber to the homes and businesses. There are service providers that are willing to provide service on these wires. They had to pick a census block group. In Rindge we have three block groups, the one that they picked has the 119 and 202 corridor.

Lola Grab was present from Keene Housing Authority. Originally this block grant was written for the City of Keene in 2010, but funds were not available. FastRoads is asking the Town of Rindge as one of end users to support this application at this time, since Keene Housing Authority had already written this application for Keene, they are following through on it. Lola asked that Carlotta present the Housing and Community Development Plan as she was more familiar with the Plan.

Pini stated that the Housing and Community Development Plan had originally been adopted when Rindge had applied for prior CDBG grants, it was originally adopted in March of 2008 and we are asking that it be re-adopted this evening. It is based on the Town's Master Plan. Handouts were available. Brummer made a motion for the Town of Rindge to adopt the updated Housing and Community Development Plan, 2nd by Barry. All members were in favor.

2nd Public Hearing on the Residential Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance (RARA) plan was opened by Barry. Lola stated explained the RARA plan and stated that the FastRoads project does not displace anyone. It was opened for public comment. Handouts were available. Barry made a motion to accept the RARA plan for the Town of Rindge, 2nd by Brummer. All members were in favor.

3rd Public Hearing - to discuss the actual FastRoads grant, which was opened by Barry. Lola Grab, CDBG Grant Administrator explained that Community Development Block Grant funds are available to municipalities for economic development, public facility and housing rehabilitation projects and feasibility studies that primarily benefit low and moderate income persons. Rindge is eligible for up to \$500,000 a year for public facility/housing rehabilitation, up to \$500,000 a year for economic development projects, as well as up to \$500,000 a year in emergency funds. Feasibility Study funds are available for up to \$12,000 per year. All CDBG

projects must have a primary benefit for low and moderate income persons. Housing and Public Facility grants are accepted twice a year, January and July. Economic Development grants are funded until funds are no longer available.

It will be for \$100,000 for outfitting an office and staff for FastRoads. Handouts were available. There will be an open RFP for a grant administrator. Brummer sees this as a great opportunity for the Town of Rindge. Barry asked for any public input. With there being none, the 3rd public hearing was closed.

Barry made a motion that the Town of Rindge allow the Keene Housing Authority to transfer the existing FastRoads application from the City of Keene & submit a new application on behalf of the Town of Rindge. When the application has been completed, Rindge will issue an RFP for grant administrator, 2nd by Brummer. All members were in favor.

The Selectmen authorized Carlotta Pini, Town Administrator to sign the application and documentation for FastRoads.

6:45 Public Hearing on SB2 Warrant Article – Public Hearing opened at 7:05 p.m. Pini stated that since the Selectmen decided to add this article she found the RSA in reference to it in that the Selectmen hold a Public Hearing. Most of the discussion was heard on Saturday, but if citizens would like to speak on this they are welcome to do that. There was some discussion on this and the pros and cons of having a Town Meeting or SB2.

Payroll Manifest – Motion made by Barry to accept the Payroll, 2nd by Brummer. All members were in favor.

Accounts Payable Manifest – Motion made by Barry to accept the Accounts Payable Manifest, 2nd by Brummer. All members were in favor.

Town Administrator's Report Ongoing Business

Informational Items / Communication

Adjournment – With nothing further, the meeting was adjourned.