



Selectmen's Meeting
Rindge Town Office
Date: Wednesday, July 6, 2011
Time: 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes -- APPROVED

Call to Order -
Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen's Forum -

Clapp request to abate camper registration – The Clapps renewed the registration for one of their campers but later realized that they had registered the wrong one. They've since registered the right camper and they were advised they'd need to come before the Board to get a refund for the mistaken registration. A motion was made to reimburse the Clapps for the incorrect registration and all were in favor of granting their request.

Post Office consolidation – Citizen John Kauer raised the subject of the Post Office consolidation and mentioned the rumor that the Post Office might move out of its location in Rindge if it is considered a substation of Jaffrey. However, Brummer said that the P.O. had renewed its lease for six years. Someday, it may consider relocating to the Rite Aid building in the Market Basket plaza.

Repeater and the police cruiser – Kauer asked how the funds situation impacts the planned acquisition of a second police cruiser. The Board said those plans are moving forward. Getting a repeater may depend on our receiving a grant, and then after the order it will take 4-6 weeks to receive the repeater. Placement is critical and it might be easier to install it in the winter, when there are no leaves out. Kauer asked how the New Hampshire budget is going to impact these two acquisitions. Pini mentioned changes to the New Hampshire Retirement System: the House passed a bill, contested in Court by two groups, and NHRS is no longer paying 25% for Police and Fire. There are some funds for offsetting this impact but they haven't determined how yet. Meanwhile, we have to pay rates based on the worst-case scenario starting July 1st, when the employees' group rates increased from 5% - 7%. The rates for employers, police, and fire increased as well. Pini will detail the numbers at our next meeting. Kauer mentioned that there are many cruisers in other lots right now. Chief Sielicki said most of those are spoken for, but there are two or three that are not yet taken.

Binney Hill Road -- Kauer wanted to know the outcome of the case for Binney Hill Road (a Class 6 road). Pini explained that Class 6 roads are not always gated; traditionally, gates were used for livestock containment and could be opened by travelers. Currently, people have the same right to travel on a Class 6 road as they do on others, but Class 6 roads are not maintained by the Town.

Approval of Minutes

June 22, 2011 – not available

June 29, 2011, June 30, 2011 — Barry had suggested changes. Brummer made a motion to accept the minutes of 6/29 and 6/30, and the motion was seconded by Seppala. All members were in favor.

General Business

Recap of Family Festival –

Annette Williams of the Chamber said it went exceptionally well. The chicken barbeque, ice cream, and sundaes ran out, and we couldn't keep up with the popcorn; the band was wonderful. The fireworks were great, and everything we've heard so far has been very positive. Brummer said that well over 1,000 people attended. Williams added that everyone worked well together and there were no incidents. This event was made possible by the generosity of several donors. Williams will prepare handwritten notes for the Selectmen to sign and Pini will prepare separate thank-you letters from the Town to the fireworks donors.

Williams said the Chamber would like to determine the feasibility of having a Fall Festival around October 9th which would be a Town event. The event would feature an amateur pumpkin contest (which would require notices to be sent out soon advising people to start planting their pumpkin seeds) along with pumpkin cart races and an apple pie contest. The Chamber would work with the Women's Club on this event. Brummer asked to what extent this will involve fundraising from donors—we've had a lot of events, and we would like to minimize asking people for money many times. We didn't ask Hannaford's for donations for the 4th of July and there are some new businesses in town to ask, plus we could ask banks for savings bonds, etc.

Williams said the *Union Leader* contacted her to get on the press release list for the Town. They've heard things are happening in Rindge! Megan Pierce is the new reporter. Williams would get in touch with Maribeth Farmer regarding coverage for the proposed event. Barry suggested getting in touch with Vicki Rank, Jamie Birge's secretary. Barry said last year the Farmer's Market had an annual event they might be willing to coordinate with our Fall event. Barry suggested contacting Craig of the Rec. Dept. and Selicki suggested being aware of the timing of Franklin Pierce events due to the need for concurrent police coverage. Annette suggested "Harvest Thyme" as the event's name. Pini reminded the group of the considerations of holding Town events, including the financial implications of fire and police involvement. Seppala made a motion to accept "Harvest Thyme" as a town-sponsored event, and this was seconded by Brummer. All members were in favor of the motion.

Police detail ordinance –

Chief Sielicki and Administrator Pini agreed that the Board should have concrete numbers on the police details undertaken each year. Changes to the retirement system impacted some figures. Pini suggested we continue this discussion in two weeks after more data becomes available.

Accept Martin donation \$409.00 Rindge Carbon Challenge –

Brummer made a motion to accept \$409.00 in out-of-pocket expenses incurred by Pat Martin for the Rindge Carbon Challenge as a donation to the Town. Pat Martin has driven our Town's energy initiatives and paid for these expenses out-of-pocket so the Town could try to win the Carbon Challenge. She's not asking for a reimbursement but wants to itemize it on her taxes as a charitable donation. Seppala seconded the motion. All members were in favor.

Schedule meeting with Planning Board re: REDI –

Pini said the Selectmen and Planning Board agreed to meet to determine how to move forward with the Rindge Economic Development Initiative (REDI). The Selectmen's next meeting is July 20th which is the night after the Planning Board's next regularly scheduled meeting. Pini and Brummer suggested inviting the Planning Board to one of the August Selectmen's meetings. Barry suggested inviting those who have contributed thus far to this initiative to remain involved.

John Ratigan is a candidate for the Town's legal counsel. He said that he has 25 years' experience and his firm of 16 attorneys have represented most municipalities, including Peterborough (15 years) and Hinsdale (3-4 years), and many developers, and have clients in many counties. Some partners do telecommunications work for towns/cities in NH and another handles employment/personnel/labor

law issues. The Ratigans live in Hampton Falls; Ratigan's wife is chair of school board and he is on the conservation commission. Ratigan is the former chair of the government/municipal section of the Bar and he litigates in all Courts. He has worked with town budgets, etc. and has represented towns in bankruptcies and tax collection matters. Also, he said he has worked with Plymouth and understands the municipal impact of educational institutions. He does not believe that we would have any issue that he's not seen in his work with other communities, and he said his is one of three firms that handle the lion's share of NH municipalities. Hinsdale and Peterborough are on retainer which allows for budget predictability (and night calls). They may open an office in Peterborough. Seppala asked for a ballpark retainer figure; Ratigan suggested seeing what we've spent in the past few years on the legal budget. Brummer asked whether Ratigan had experience in recommending appraisers and assessors. Ratigan says he has a stable of specialty assessors: Steve Traub, Skip Sancini (utility assessment in state). Pini says we've never had legal counsel on retainer. Ratigan said he could present a cost comparison of hourly vs. retainer rates. Land use appeals would fall within the retainer, but Bankruptcy Court appearances would not. He also would include a certain number of code enforcements, but he would get awarded a cut of the attorneys' fees. He has a template for services and will send the Selectmen his proposed rates.

Conservation Fund – There was discussion as to how the accounting was done on the funds due to the Conservation Commission. The money has accrued interest in the General Fund to the benefit of the Town instead of the Conservation Commission. This interest has amounted to a total of \$5,000 over a period of six years.

Fire Alarm at Fire Station – The fire alarm, which warns the Town of tornadoes, etc., was removed from the building. It would be a big project to put it back in place. The alarm covers a limited geographic area and we don't have alarms in other parts of the Town. Magnets with the Franklin Pierce radio station call letters on it are being sent to every home; residents should tune to that radio station in emergencies.

Payroll Manifest – Motion made by Brummer and seconded by Seppala. All members were in favor.

Accounts Payable Manifest - Motion made by Seppala to pay the Manifest, including what is owed to the Conservation Commission. Seconded by Brummer. All members were in favor.

Town Administrator's Report

Ongoing Business

New Hampshire retirement update

Informational Items / Communication

DES decision regarding Hubbard Pond Ridge Dam – Pini told Kauer that the plan would prevent vehicles from going over that dam and causing the problems we've seen.

Brummer made a motion to go into a non-public session for Reputation, and the motion was seconded by Seppala. All members were in favor.

Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II.(c) for Reputation

Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II.(d) for Real Estate

Adjournment

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Stonehill, Administrative Assistant