



**Selectmen's Meeting
Rindge Town Office
Wednesday, October 12, 2011**

Minutes -- APPROVED

Present: Jed Brummer, Chair; Patricia Lang Barry; Samuel Seppala; Carlotta Lilback Pini

5:00 P.M. Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3 II.(a) with Personnel Committee

6:00 P.M. Call to Order / Pledge of Allegiance

**I. Citizen's Forum
1. Follow-up**

John Kauer asked whether the Explorer's Post could be used for details, and Police Chief Mike Sielicki said it could not.

Then John asked why Mt. Wachusett Community College has an annual safety report available with all incidents online but Franklin Pierce University does not, so Chief Sielicki said he would check into that. The Chief said that FPU met Tuesday with the new Securitas people, and they'll have a reporting system that makes incidents easier to track.

John Kauer then asked how much Rindge residents will save since the three new stores came to town this year. Town Administrator Carlotta Pini said she could find out what the town has assessed the stores thus far, but, as of April 1, neither Dollar Tree nor Auto Zone were completed, so they won't receive a full bill until next year. Chief Sielicki said the impact fees were around \$15,000. The tax formula is expenditures less revenues divided by assessed value, so a lot of assessed value is required to reduce the tax rate. Selectman Pat Barry said that people unfortunately will lose from the school formula what's gained by increased assessments.

John Kauer then asked about the wastewater treatment abatement. Carlotta said that Franklin Pierce University's wastewater treatment is still exempt from taxation. There have been bills to change that but she said she would need to check into the status of those bills. The loophole regarding residential property was closed, and only one person applied before the deadline.

John Kauer then suggested making next year's budget this year's actuals. Pat Barry replied that, although sometimes there's very little change, the coming year's projects and costs often cannot be the same as the past year's, and that it's important to go through a budget discussion to evaluate the Town's evolving needs.

Kork Little said that the most recent P.O.O.R. raffle netted \$1,200.

Chief Sielicki said that Joseph Finder, a retired detective and author of *Buried Secrets*, will be signing books here on Nov. 1st.

Kim McCummings said that the Farmer's Market had a really good season with lots of food and crafts vendors--with some vendors agreeing that this is the best market around--and the group is considering hosting a winter market.

Kork Little said the first Rindge pumpkin weigh-off in 10 years went well, and Bruce White's 527lb-pumpkin won the day. Peter LeTourneau's was 540lbs but was disqualified due to a hole. There were 25 vendors and eight non-profits—a good turnout. Traffic patterns may change next time: the Chief will discuss traffic flow at a future meeting.

Kim McCummings wanted to correct the perception stemming from an article in the *Monadnock Ledger-Transcript* that indicated the Selectmen made a decision not to fill the Planning Director position. Pat Barry agreed that this wasn't true and said that what was mentioned was there was a decision to combine the two positions for the rest of this year until the Planning Board stated how it wanted to proceed. Jed Brummer said that a meeting should be held between the Selectmen and the Planning Board to go over things.

II. Approval of Minutes

September 28, 2011: Pat Barry motioned to accept the minutes after filling in the last names of two speakers during Citizens Forum; Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

III. General Business

1. Department Head Updates

a. Police Chief re: Repeater, Cruiser, Asset Forfeiture Funds

Chief Mike Sielicki said we haven't purchased a repeater yet—it will be on a warrant article. He and Fire Chief Rick Donovan made it clear to US Cellular that Emergency Services should be able to replace Emergency Services equipment at no charge, but now US Cellular wants thousands of dollars for mapping and engineering fees, plus \$300 per month and insurance policies for automobile liability. Carlotta questioned why Verizon wasn't on the tower yet since they were co-applicants with US Cellular. People in town are upset that Verizon is not on the VanDyke pole yet and, when asked, Verizon told Acting Planning Director Robyn Payson that they may be up next year if it's in their budget. Meanwhile, US Cellular never responded when questioned and it seems we may have been misled. Carlotta asked about the application US Cellular had submitted before the Planning Board, and if Verizon isn't on that cell tower, could that application be revoked? Also, Chief Sielicki and Robyn Payson talked with WalMart and Tractor Supply to see if they would consider accommodating the Town's repeater (the repeater will need a generator on site if the power goes down).

Meanwhile, a new cruiser has been purchased for \$21,061 installed with new equipment bringing the total to \$24,000+. Last year, the Police Department stopped a vehicle going to Franklin Pierce University carrying a pound of marijuana; when the vehicle was sold, the Police received a check for \$7,136.36 but had to pay \$3,700+ to store the car, so netted about half that amount.

2. Holiday Hours for Transfer Station

Public Works Director Mike Cloutier recommended that the transfer station be closed Saturdays, Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, and that Ed use his vacation time for those Saturdays (the Mondays following Christmas and New Year's are Town holidays). Pat Barry recommended that Ed open the transfer station earlier both Tuesdays, at 8am instead of 10am, for the convenience of residents. Kim McCummings asked why Ed should have to take vacation time preceding Christmas and New Year's when those Mondays are Town holidays but Ed can't use them since the station is normally closed Mondays. She also questioned the benefit of opening the transfer station opening two hours earlier, considering that more wages would be paid for doing so and all residents may not become aware of the earlier hours. No decisions were made.

3. Payroll manifest : Pat motioned, Jed seconded, and all were in favor.

4. Accounts Payable manifest : Sam motioned to accept, Pat seconded, and all were in favor.

IV. Town Administrator's Report

1. Ongoing business

- The response to our letter to Argent was not adequate, and Argent has engaged an attorney.
- Electrical work was done at the fire station, and now the outside stairs to the second floor will be addressed. We're waiting to hear from the GRA regarding the USPAP manual.
- The Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Committee will meet on Friday and will get together with the Department Heads to discuss the CIP requests.
- The Cemetery Trustees are meeting tomorrow at 5pm.
- All the Police Department's stored things, including tubs of archived evidence, are out of the Parsonage and now downstairs in the Town Office. Unfortunately, they are permeated with a strong musty/urine odor that suffused the adjoining Building/Code Enforcement office so we're working on that issue.
- The Town now has the Highway truck chassis and we hope it will be ready before the snow flies.
- The Library is hosting Business After Hours for the Rindge Chamber of Commerce next week.
- Pat Barry suggested estimating the time employees spend managing the Town's Facebook page.

V. Informational Items / Communication

1. September Expenditure & Revenue Reports

We're at 75% of budget which is where we want to be at the end of September. The meals and rooms tax won't be received until December. The tax rate probably will be set within the next few weeks. Our revenues are doing well: motor vehicle revenues are at 78%, which is stronger than last year, and next year we'll be taking boat registrations. Revenue reports are generated monthly, and Kim would like one for the Budget Advisory Committee meeting on Monday, the 17th.

VI. Adjournment

Jed Brummer motioned to adjourn the meeting at 6:53pm, Pat Barry seconded, and all were in favor.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Stonehill, Administrative Assistant.