



Selectmen's Meeting

Rindge Town Office

Date: Wednesday, July 28, 2010

Time: 6:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes (approved 09/22/10)

Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Goodrich.

Pledge of Allegiance

Citizen's Forum – Pat Barry stated that she had been made aware that someone had an issue with registering their car. They mailed everything in and for some reason the mail did not get back to this individuals home in Rindge. Initially they were told that they needed to re-register and that they would have to pay again. Barry talked to Nancy this morning and she said that if they applied for a new set of decals and registration that she could re-issue the registration and that would be \$8, \$6 of which is the towns portion. Barry is asking the Board to waive the \$6 on the part of the town since it was our fault that they did not get the mail. They would just have to pay the \$2 and come back in to get their registration. Barry made a motion to waived the \$6 fee to the town, leaving just \$2 state fee for a duplicate registration, 2nd by Brummer. Kauer asked if the registration was actually placed in the mail. Barry stated yes. Kauer said that we were waiving fees because of the US postal service. Barry stated that the Post Office was contacted and they have looked high and low and they can not find it. Halloran stated that he doesn't understand why they have to pay the \$2. Brummer stated that he also talked to Nancy today. She had registered a vehicle and in a couple hours that person's vehicle caught fire. He agrees that we can refund the town portion, but because she put the stickers on her license plate, she has to petition the state to get their money back. All members were in favor. Barry asked if Pini could check on the mail situation and if there is some way that we can tighten up our mail situation.

Dick Call stated that the RVA has a float that they use in the parade. They wanted to know if they could store it in the horse sheds with a tarp over it to store it? Goodrich stated that they would ask the director of highway and Pini would check with our insurance company and other issues and they can get back to him on that request. Brummer asked if it was year round storage. Call believed it was just for Fall and Winter.

Approval of Minutes – None to approve.

General Business

Amanda Gaspard re: Public Health Network – Pini stated that Amanda has been working with our Emergency Operations Planning Committee and she contacted Pini to see if she could come in and make a brief presentation to the board about the Public Health Network. Amanda stated that since 9/11 that the state realized that we needed to have more of a robust public health system in place to deal with different types of events, ie bio-terrorism, different types of attacks, etc. They started with the all health hazard regions. There are 15 regions in the state covering all of the towns. They hold meetings every other month and anyone is welcome to come. They are tasked with maintaining the public health emergency response plan. They are working on their points of dispensing plans, PODS. These are pre-identified sites that can be used in case of an anthrax attack or some other major event or disaster where they would have to administer

medicine or profolax 100% of the population. In the Monadnock region we have 14 primary and secondary sites. Rindge is one of those sites for the populations of Jaffrey and Rindge, they would go to the Rindge Memorial School to receive medications. The state is trying to improve their plans. She also talked about Acute care facilities, which they have one in Keene and one in Peterborough. Pini stated that our Emergency Operations committee has been working very closely with Franklin Pierce lately in developing our communications ESF and Franklin Pierce has offered us to use their radio station to emergency broadcasting. We are in the process of gathering information on the signal strength and where folks can tune into their station which is 105.3. It operates 24/7. They are going to be recording some emergency broadcast messages that the radio station can play if we need them to. Mr. Coffey asked if there was a plan in place if there was a problem at Vermont Yankee and how would the Town of Rindge be notified. Amanda stated that they have an extensive plan but she doesn't know the exact plan since it is mostly on the other side of the state. They do have a phone tree that people can get phone messages, but she thinks that it might only be for the towns within the 10 mile radius of the plant.

Abatement Applications – DuVernay came forward with the letter that he sent to Erica Connor about her abatement application. When she had sent in her application, she included an appraisal from a mortgage company. They are known to be somewhat lenient in their appraisals. She has come back with a different approach. She brought in photographs from her house. The only place you can see the mountain is standing at her mailbox or in the street. She does not feel that she has a view of mount Monadnock that would warrant that she pay the LC5 tax on her property. Goodrich asked if her request to the board was to change the LC5 on her assessment. DuVernay stated that he does agree that the only place to see it is from the end of her driveway. He recommends that the board remove the LC5. If it wasn't for the other neighbors not getting the LC5, then they would not be fighting it. Brummer made a motion to drop the LC5 tax on this property, 2nd by Barry. All members were in favor.

DuVernay stated that David VanBlarcom was present. David stated that he was not here for that purpose and that he would not be moving forward on that issue.

Monika Woodworth - DuVernay stated that would be all as Monika was not present. Pini stated that she did get a call from her and she was going to wait. DuVernay wrote a memo on Monika's case.

Continued Public Hearing re: Scotts Ln. – Goodrich stated that at their last meeting that they did open a Public Hearing on a request for the town to accept Scotts Ln. There was lots of information provided at that meeting and there was some outstanding information that needed to be gathered and they did not have a recommendation from the Road acceptance committee at that time. Pini stated that Charlie Eicher was here on behalf of the Road acceptance committee. Eicher stated per the ordinance the road advisory committee as formed; they met on July 27th and deliberated extensively. They voted 6 to 1 not to accept Scotts Ln. This is primarily to do with the cost to the town of the maintenance of the road and the detention basins. Goodrich asked for any comment from the public. Hakala stated that he was summoned by the town to accomplish certain things so that the town would accept the road. He spent nearly \$50,000 to met the request of the town, which he would not have had to do if the town was not going to accept the road. He stated that the people that live on this road pay the same taxes and get no town services for their taxes. He feels that the town should reduce their taxes so that they can pay someone to maintain their road. When they started the road, they were always building it to town specs and had engineers out there to inspect the road. Now for the town not to accept it, he thinks it is criminal and he will take the town to court. Goodrich stated that it is his understanding that when a permit is granted to put into a subdivision the plan is approved by the Planning Board. There are certain requirements to putting the road in at the town standards. Then it is up to the Roadway acceptance committee to accept the road. Hakala asked if it was the intention of the town to make people go through all the hoops to make their road to town specs and then not accept it.

Pini stated that from the beginning they made it very clear that the requirement to bring the road up to town specifications was completely independent of the board's decision to accept it as a town road or not. He was granted that permit to subdivide that property on the condition that the road is built that way. The acceptance of the road is completely different and he knew that and it was in the minutes. Barry stated that we currently have 72 miles of road that we can not maintain adequately. We are on the third year of a default budget, the taxpayers have for three years in a row have rejected the town budget and these are difficult economic times. The committee thought in part that it was fiscally irresponsible to take on a mile and a half of road, when it can't even maintain what we currently have. There may be a time in the future where we can take on that road. Amy Reisert questioned whether or not the town could request that the school bus drive down the road to pick up the kids. Barry stated that she had spoken to Vivian at the school district, who then spoke with community transportation. They did take a look at that road and there were some requirements and they are looking at all the roads in the towns of Jaffrey and Rindge. It sounded like the residents of the road could be asked to be put on the school board agenda and request that the school bus go down that road. Reisert asked what happens if Hakala stops maintaining that road and that no one on the road can come to terms as to the maintenance of the road. There is nothing in their deeds in reference to this. Pini stated that they are aware that there is no association for this particular subdivision. The town could help in the formation of an association for the road. There is also an option that we can pursue in declaring it an emergency lane so that we can get police and fire out if we need to. Brummer stated that we would like to be able to accept it, but financially it is just not possible right now. There were many comments from the citizens on the road. Barry stated that there are two acceptance phases. One is through the Planning Board and the acceptance of the Subdivision, the second is through the Selectmen. She stated that if the homeowners on the road were told by the developer that the road would be accepted, that it was not the developer's place to tell them that. Barry stated that she understands where they are all coming from in the safety for children and elderly, but the roads need to be built to town specifications regardless. Now our decision is dependent on the budget because we are working with a 2007 budget. The town is not at a premium for town maintained roads. The committee felt that if they accepted this road that we would further spread the dollars that are already spread. Barry stated that this doesn't mean that it would never be a town road, just at this point we can't see our way clear to take more on. Hakala wanted to know why the board would ask him to go and get a warranty deed instead of a quitclaim deed and meet all of the recommendations that the town required from the legal aspect for the town to say no. Pini stated that Mr. Hakala had his attorney draft the deed and he signed it and sent it to the Town before we even held the hearing. Pini said at the last meeting that if the board were to accept the road, that that deed would not be acceptable and that the town's attorney and his attorney would have to work it out. She stated that she is not in a position to say how the town is going to vote on the acceptance of the road. The public hearing was the process by which that decision would be made. Pini wanted to clarify one thing that the citizens on the road were lead to believe that this would be accepted as a town road and that was an assumption made by the developer. Other developers did not make that assumption, other developers came to this board and asked, if I build it, will you take it over as a town maintained road. This board told Andre Aho that if he built over off of Old Military Road that they would take them over, they told Scott Hakala that if he built Michael's Drive and brought Atlantic Dr. up, then they would accept those roads. Mr. Hakala or his predecessor did not come to the board and ask that question. Hakala stated that he did not know that he didn't and he bought it without that knowledge. Andy was not well and he just took it off of his hands. Goodrich added that there is always another avenue, which is to place it on the Town Warrant as a separate article. You can petition to place it on the Town Warrant. It requires a certain number of signatures to be placed on the warrant. Goodrich stated that his personal bias was that he wished that we could accept every road that was brought up to town standards. Along with that, he hoped that the town would accept the budget that the board brings forward in order to be able to provide for this town. Programs in this town are wasting away. They are wasting away slowly so you don't really notice. Last year only one capital improvements warrant article passed. There were two others on there that should have passed,

one being a new plow truck. We have a really old truck that has been breaking down, that we need to keep repairing in order to maintain our roads. It would have been much wiser of us to go out and buy that truck and have it in service to do all of the roads, plus some new ones. He is hoping in the future that the town will vote the budgets that we bring forward and the capital improvement projects, fire trucks, police cruisers and highway equipment. When we get back on an even keel with our budget, he would like to see this road come back to the board. A citizen asked about the two criteria and if the first one was met. Pini stated that it is a two step process, there is dedication and acceptance. This road was dedicated by the Planning Board when they approved the plat, but the question of acceptance is what is before the board this evening. I would recommend that the board take a vote to make a final decision. Goodrich stated that we have a petition before the board to accept Scotts Ln and was looking for a motion on the petition. Barry made a motion with the citizens on the street knowing that they have two options, to bring the acceptance by petition for the Town Warrant or that the town would help them in establishing an association to maintain the road and whatever the vote is this evening, does not negate their ability to come at a further date before the board and ask for acceptance. Barry made a motion that the town does not accept Scotts Ln. at this time because of budgetary issues, 2nd by Brummer. All members were in favor.

PD Fence & camera update – Chief Sielicki came forward. There was discussion earlier on about video cameras and he had received quotes. They had anticipated having more money in their drug forfeiture fund than what was in there, so they had to go back and revised what they could use for the system. HEW communications out of Keene came in with a quote for \$9300, \$7323 would come out of the drug forfeiture account and the Rindge Police Association would donate \$2000 towards the purchasing of the camera recording system. Goodrich asked what this system would be capable of. Sielicki stated that this system would record inside and outside the PD, total surveillance system. It also allows them to video tape their suspects inside the PD. They tried to get Highway Safety funds to replace their old system, but they would not give them the funds. Brummer made a motion that they accept the funds from the Police Association for the purchase of the video cameras and recording and to spend \$7323 from the Drug Forfeiture account, 2nd by Barry. Sielicki stated that this would deplete the fund. Call asked if this was just for the video or for the fence as well. Sielicki stated that this is just for the video and not the fence. DuVernay asked about how the outside camera is protected. Sielicki stated that it is covered from vandalism and winter. Part of the savings is for storage, which they have worked out something with Sequoya that they will store the recordings. All members were in favor.

Fencing: Sielicki stated that he does not like having to put up a fence in our community. We are not the only PD that has a fence around their cruisers. Peterborough and Swanzey have it and Jaffrey puts their cruisers in their carport. Our cruisers are left outside as well as the POV's and they have become targets over the last couple of years. There have been razor blades in tires and one of the officers seatbelts were cut out. Those are costly items. They do have some names, but nothing firm yet. We can put the cameras up but it is not going to prevent them from getting to the cars. Last month they spent over \$400 on tires. They had three companies come and look at the material that we currently have and to give us a bid on what it will cost to put up a new fence. They received two bids, one bid was \$6850 and the other bid was \$10,800. So the low bid is the one that they would like to go with. The fence would come off of the building towards the grass and then go back towards the kennel and the woods. It is 6'high with 3 strands of wire. Pini would like to see if the Selectmen think that this fence is necessary and if this proposal is appropriate. There were many comments from the audience.

Chamber Raffle – Shiela Jalutkewicz was present and talked about membership dues and their annual dinner. They are trying to come up with an activity that is town friendly that everyone would look forward to every year. They would like to run a raffle for some of their expenses, they help with the Senior dinner, donated towards the fireworks, run the candidates night and help with the Rindge Connection. This will be run in the month of November; the tickets will be \$5

for 26 drawings. They will draw every day in November. They would like to sell 500 tickets. They will post it on their web every day by the calendar number. Goodrich feels that the Rindge Connection is the single most effective way to get the news out. Brummer made a motion to approve the raffle request, 2nd by Barry. All members were in favor.

Accept Women’s Club Donation of \$500 for Camp Scholarship – Pini stated that Craig Fraley had solicited donations for the Summer Camp program and the Woman’s Club Donated \$500. Barry made a motion to accept the \$500, 2nd by Brummer. All members were in favor.

Inventory of Annett by the Conservation Commission – Goodrich stated that last November that the State came into this board and asked permission to erect some gates for emergency conditions. Pini stated that Mike Cloutier had asked if Bill Guinn would be available for tonight’s meeting, but he was not. He did write a letter that was in the packet for the Selectmen. Pini read part of the memo for the audience and the Selectmen. He would like to have the town either discontinue the road, or make it a class A trail and revert the property back to the state. This would allow the gates to be closed indefinitely and protect the dams and forest from further abuse. This would require a town meeting vote. They also have some additional work that they want to do to stabilize the dam in the fall. Call stated that this should be a public access for everyone in the State of NH or anyone that comes to visit. There is only one boat access down there. Call would like to see that road fixed up so that 4-wheel drive vehicles can go down there. Goodrich stated that they had asked Jane Pitt to look into fixing up Class 6 roads. Sielicki stated that they checked with the town attorney and the answer was no, do not fix any Class 6 roads. By RSA, we are not to do any maintenance on Class 6 roads. Goodrich asked if the state could go in there and fix up the road. Pini stated they can, but only with the boards approval. Richard Mellor talked about the Ecological inventory that the Conservation Commission did on Annett State Park. They have hired Jeff Littleton to see exactly what is there for habitat. He will look at it over 5 seasons. They have done a preliminary report on the birds. Pini stated that in regards to the timber harvest, they have asked for comments or questions. It sounds like the board is ok with the plan, which means that the issue with the work that they plan to do to the road still needs to be addressed and she would recommend that they bring it to the roadway committee. They are still trying to develop a policy on class VI roads and they can bring that back to the board along with their policy at a future meeting.

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

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

Town Administrator’s Report
Ongoing Business

Informational Items / Communication

Adjournment – Meeting was adjourned.