



Selectmen's Meeting
Town Office
Tuesday, May 8, 2012
6:00 P.M.

Present: Jed Brummer, Chair; Roberta Oeser; Sam Seppala, Carlotta Pini

APPROVED Minutes

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CITIZEN'S FORUM

Tom Coffey: Could the Rindge Veterans Association borrow the Town's blinking sign to advertise a car wash to raise money to send a child to college? Carlotta: I did speak with a representative from the RVA, Robert Knight, about this. Tom: But he couldn't get the sign—why not? Carlotta: We asked the Planning Board to take up the issue and their memo recommended it only be used for certain public safety functions, town events, and emergencies. So, that's the policy we've been operating under. Because it was purchased with taxpayers' money it can only be used for certain purposes for the good of the whole town. If we let one group use it, then others will want to and that will blur the line of its permitted use. Tom: I'm talking about raising money to send a kid to college, and the sign's sitting up there saying there are no burning permits today? Roberta: It's being used according to the sign ordinance. Tom: It's a pretty stupid ordinance. Roberta: But if you allow other uses for it, then every business should be able to have those kinds of signs. You've got to separate the purpose you want it for from the ordinance dictating how it's used. To advertise the car wash you could maybe try another type of sign—like painting some plywood. Jed: There are at least 30 nonprofit organizations in this town that support scholarships, and if we allow one to use it then we'd need to allow the other 29 to use it, too. The sign is for town business only – otherwise, it would be blinking all the time and would violate the ordinance. Carlotta: The sign was purchased by the Emergency Management Director for emergencies. Jed: It's used to benefit the citizens of Rindge. Audience member: Wouldn't a scholarship benefit the citizens of Rindge? Jed: Just the person the scholarship is awarded to, and meanwhile it would violate our sign ordinance prohibiting blinking signs. Audience: It's to benefit one citizen in Rindge. Roberta: That's the problem—one citizen. Town property cannot be used to benefit a private citizen. Carlotta: It's case law; Temple was told to stop plowing residents' driveways because you can't use town money to benefit individuals – it has to be used for the common good. Charlie: I have an elderly mother who can't shovel and I'd like the town vehicle to plow it for her, but the idea is that municipal property needs to be used for municipal purposes as opposed to charitable purposes.

Carlotta: We could help publicize the RVA car wash by putting it on the Community Calendar and the Town Facebook page. There are ways we can assist organizations without utilizing Town property. Tom: Well, can we use the sign or not? Jed: No. Tom: So I'll remember that. And why are there new paint stripes in the Town parking lot but no new stripes on Main Street? Carlotta: Maybe that's something we'll have to take up in the budget discussions for next year. Tom: It's ridiculous how fast the cars go on Main Street, and you can't see the stripes. Jed: That's a good point, and we'll look at what we can do about striping more roads.

Donna McElroy: I'd like to ask about the search committee for the new Police Chief. I don't know why we're doing the search six months from now. I understand that Sgt. Frank Morrill is Acting Chief and he's not getting an adjustment. Jed: Frank will receive a 5% adjustment effective June 2nd when he becomes Acting Chief. It takes about four months to go through the process of hiring a Chief. We thought it would be nice to have citizen input and University input on the committee so there's feedback from various groups on selecting the new Police Chief. Donna: Isn't it more effective to have someone already in the Dept. be Chief? Jed: It will be a benefit to that

candidate, absolutely. Donna: I don't understand why a search? Jed: We're doing the best we can, via a process, to vet the candidates.

Audience member: Usually people love a Chief but it seems that time after time we lose them. We've already met with Frank and don't want another change. Donna: So the Board doesn't have an opinion on whether Sgt. Morrill should stay as Chief or not? Jed: Not at this time but we're open to input on what would be best for the Town of Rindge. Audience member: How do people go about getting on the committee? Jed: Express your interest to our Town Administrator, Carlotta. Carlotta: Before we proceed, everyone should know that the Board hasn't decided to form a search committee yet. Roberta: But it would not be out of line to say that Chief Sielicki highly recommended Frank and he recommended that Frank be Acting Chief. He does have the experience. Sam: And he will be a prime candidate. Audience: So it will be a trial period for six months? Sam: Yes.

Tom: Which engine will go to Franklin Pierce University (FPU)? Jed: Engine 1 will go to FPU and then they'll have an adequate piece of equipment over there. Tom: What percentage of structures containing elderly are on this side of FPU versus those containing teenage students that can move around? David Lister: Rindge is an east-west town but the average response time should improve by not centralizing our equipment and it saves us space to house that engine elsewhere. And maybe it wouldn't be a bad idea to have some of our police force there, too. Jed: It's been discussed – they already have a dispatch office there, and we might try to find a way to combine different Jaffrey/Rindge municipal services as we do with the school system... and people would need to support it before the savings become evident. But it will be difficult for small towns to support the infrastructure without combining resources and I think we can do it. Although we're in the same school district as Jaffrey, our legislative district is changing so that Rindge will be grouped with Fitzwilliam, not Jaffrey. Jaffrey will be grouped with Harrisville, Roxbury, and Dublin (the towns have to be in the same county). There will be one representative for every 3,291 people, and if you combine Rindge and Fitzwilliam, there will be extra population so there will be a floater rep. Things will change. We'll still have 400 legislators in this state, the third largest in the country.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Planning Board Secretary Position:

Kirk Stenersen distributed a memo re: the Planning Department's \$65,900 budget for severance, the new planning director's salary, and the salary for a future part-time secretary. The new planning director's salary is \$49,000, and the Planning Board thinks \$15/hour is conservative for the new planning secretary who may start on June 1st. This year, the total Planning Department salaries will come to around \$61,725. Looking ahead, they'll be \$65,500 and Planning has budgeted \$65,900. For the part-time secretary we're advertising a maximum of 25 hours. The understanding is that the new hire will assume the ZBA clerk responsibilities that the Board had experimentally rolled into the duties of last year's incoming assistant to the Selectmen and Town Administrator who also supports the Welfare Director and Public Works Director. Going forward, work for the ZBA will be compensated separately with part of the money coming out of the Zoning Board's budget. We're looking to post for this position as soon as we can; it's much needed but first we wanted some input from the new planning director. Jed: Matt presented his case, and I think that having this person also serve the ZBA will work out well given the Zoning Board's tie-in with Planning. Kirk: The ZBA portion is strictly secretarial; the new person can't give advice on behalf of the Zoning Board. It's a fine line to walk. Roberta: Not all applications to the ZBA are for zoning; some are matters for Dave DuVernay. Jed: Matt has had training in Planning and he will be actively out on the road meeting with people quite a bit. Carlotta: He's already been going out in the community on Friday afternoons to meet with business owners and see what their needs are, so we've been very impressed. Sam: It sounds as though it will stay within the budget. Jed: I approve, and thank you for coming in and telling us.

Treasurer re: People's Bank Services:

Helene Rogers, our Treasurer, is here tonight

MOTION: Roberta motioned to approve the Accounts Payable manifest, Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

MOTION: Roberta motioned to approve the Payroll manifest, Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

MOTION: Roberta motioned to approve the minutes of the April 18, 2012 meeting, Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

Helene is looking for approval to switch the Town's credit card company. Our current company originally allowed just seven days to pay invoices and then we asked them for 14 days but they switched it back to seven; it was an impossible situation. And recently the Fire Chief's card got hacked and showed charges from Mexico. So, we would like to work with a local bank. Both Citizens Bank (in Keene) and Peoples' Bank in Jaffrey will give us 25 days to pay, and Peoples' is close and convenient. All departments will have a \$2,000 credit line for a cumulative total of \$20,000. So I would like to close the accounts with the other credit card.

MOTION: Roberta motioned to change the Town's credit card account issuer to People's United Bank, Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

Consider Acceptance of Monadnock View Road as a Town Road:

Carlotta: The Board won't be taking action tonight to accept Monadnock View as a Town Road, but this discussion is the first step in the process. The Town's Roadway Committee has been working with Bob VanDyke the last couple of years to get Monadnock View Road (a short road to a cul-de-sac with a few homes) up to standards. Some people on the road had concerns about how it was constructed. And a few folks remember how, when Jane Pitt jumped up and down on that road, water leaked out of the top of it. So Bob came up with a solution about installing drainage, and we wanted to wait a season to see if it worked. Jed: Did they properly test the soil beneath the road--is the soil adequate? Carlotta: We authorized Bob to put on the top coat of pavement. We agreed that Bob would call Mike Cloutier when he planned to do that, but he forgot to call Mike until the work was nearly done so Mike didn't get to observe it, but Bob had documentation from the paving company that it was done properly, and now I think everyone agrees that the road has been built to the Planning Board's approval.

The Town has already accepted Meadowview and Taggart Circle which is off of this loop. So, the hope is that the Selectmen will accept Monadnock View Road as a Town road. Now the Selectmen need to determine whether there's "occasion" to have a public hearing to accept this road. That would involve creating a Road Advisory Committee to render an opinion on whether the road should be accepted. Then we would schedule a public hearing, advertise, provide notices to folks on the road, and make sure that Bob VanDyke can attend. It was voted in a Town Meeting that the Selectmen can authorize acceptance of the road per RSA 674:40-A considering that the Planning Board has approved it. Jed: Was that authorization granted prior to 2004? It probably was. During the default budget years, we weren't inclined to accept new roads unless a warrant article passed because adding roads increases cost, so I think we should have public input on that. But in this case, we had prior approval from the Town to accept it. Yet it would seem appropriate to have a public hearing and see what people want to say. Roberta: Probably when people spend hundreds of thousands to build a road, check the zoning, and appear before the Planning Board there's some expectation that the Town will maintain those roads. Growth is inevitable and there's no break in taxes for having a privately maintained road. Jed: The developer can charge the residents on the road for maintaining it. Roberta and Jed: We should have a public hearing because accepting this road will impact everyone's taxes.

Charlie Eicher: The opposition to road acceptance is a budgetary matter for the current year only. Future budgets can include the roads in the highway budget and people can decide to fund them or not. If the road meets specifications and was built in the last 10 years it should need to be maintained. Yet, there are still plowing costs: \$1,100 per mile. Monadnock View Road is 1/3 mile long so it would cost about \$400/year to plow it. So you might ask for \$400 – that's the only cost to the Town. Roberta: But eventually the road will need to be maintained. It might help if developers were informed that they'd have to fund one repaving of their road so that the money's there when it needs to be repaved the first time, after which the Town would take the hit. Kirk: But that would increase the costs for people to come here. Carlotta: I think if Mike Cloutier got a piece of the impact fees collected he might feel a little better about accepting more roads, but he doesn't receive any. Sam: If the roads are built to Town specs with drainage, they should last 30 years. Carlotta: The Board should vote on whether there is occasion for a public hearing and, if so, the Board should appoint an advisory Road Committee. Charlie Eicher of the Roadway Committee is here tonight and Phil Stenersen is also on the Roadway Committee.

MOTION: Roberta motioned that, considering our zoning ordinance and the input of developer Bob VanDyke, there is occasion to hold a public hearing to determine whether to accept Monadnock View Road as a Town road. Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

MOTION: Roberta motioned to create a Road Advisory Committee as specified by the zoning laws and appointed Charlie Eicher and Phil Stenersen as the qualified citizens. Sam seconded and all were in favor.

The Planning Board will meet the first week in June and will appoint two members to this Road Advisory Committee. The whole process will take a couple of months.

Police Dept. Laptops to Jaffrey in Exchange for Ammunition:

Detective Dan Anair – We got the Car 45 packet including laptops several years ago. Those laptops were replaced a year and a half ago with new laptops because they didn't work very well – batteries gone bad, etc. We've just been holding onto them because, at one point, Mike and Rick each wanted one but they eventually got their own. Then the Jaffrey Police Department approached us about a deal for those laptops. We reached out to Tom Strickland of Sequoya for a valuation of them. He laughed and said \$50 apiece for them was a stretch. Jaffrey said they'd trade us a case of their extra ammunition (1,000 rounds) for the five old laptops worth \$50 apiece since they have the same laptops and can use them for parts. But we need approval from the Board to trade Town property. Carlotta: Our policy (that we're in the process of reviewing) says we need to know whether any other dept. has a use for the item in question. And then we're supposed to sell it by an advertised bid or a public auction; yet in this case there's a concern that these laptops are not worth much, plus there may be confidential information on them (Dan agreed that there is). Dan: We got far better laptops with the grant and, whereas Jaffrey has a use for these, we don't. Confidentiality would be a concern if the laptops were going to a public auction, but they're going to another police dept. Charlie: So you'll wipe them clean before giving them to Jaffrey? Dan: We don't own the Car 54 project so they would have access to that, but none of our records would still be on them.

MOTION: Sam motioned that we trade the five laptops to Jaffrey for the case of ammunition, Roberta seconded, and all were in favor.

Special Olympics and the Torch Run:

Sgt. Frank Morrill: This year, we'll run a 13-mile trek from JP Stephens in Rindge to Conval HS in Peterborough. We typically come before the Board for permission to do an annual Road Toll at the intersection of 119 and 202 the day before the run. And we'll need permission to have the blue lights/cruisers there with one off-duty and one on-duty member. This would take place from 4:00-7:00pm. Everyone at the intersection would wear reflective vests, stand on the island, and shake the cans for a great cause that supports kids. This year we're anticipating the biggest run ever – the Conant track team, local running club, and Craig Fraley will all be involved. Usually we've had 12-15 people and if we end up with 30+ this year I'll be very happy.

MOTION: Jed motioned to approve the annual Road Toll for the Special Olympics on May 30th and the annual Torch Run on May 31st at 7:00am. Roberta seconded and all were in favor.

Open House for Chief Sielicki on Thursday, May 31st:

We'll host the open house for five hours and everyone in the community is invited. The Police Association is donating \$300 towards cold cuts and snacks. And we'll take a collection to get a gift for the Chief and his wife.

Atlas Fireworks: Application to Sell Fireworks:

Carlotta: The permit for Atlas Fireworks to sell fireworks is something we've always done this way. But this year it came to light – when Casey came in and handed the inspection report to Linda, Steve called and said, "Where is my permit?" So I pulled the statute on the issuance of these permits that says there's an application that Steve is supposed to submit to the Town and the Town needs to determine the fees, so we need to develop a policy on this. We should look at what the other towns are charging. We're supposed to get approval of the Police and Fire Chiefs and we've never done this. Sergeant Frank Morrill: Our involvement is to ensure that the applicant is not a convicted felon. Carlotta: I suggest for expediency that we go ahead and issue the permit but we should develop a policy going forward.

MOTION: “Roberta motioned to approve the sale of Fireworks by Atlas Fireworks pending receipt of the required documentation, Sam seconded, and all were in favor.”

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT

Ongoing Business:

Thursday is the ZBA hearing here on the Hunt/Sunridge case at 7:00pm.

The Meeting House Oversight Committee had a nice meeting next door with an architect from Peterborough who is updating the master plan for the Meeting House and developing specs for the painting project.

The Telecomm Committee has received a formal request from Argent’s attorney to consider a franchise agreement that our attorney is reviewing.

The Safety Committee meets Monday; they’ve hosted one all-employee meeting to review the draft Safety Manual and we’re planning a second one. The idea is to get everyone’s input before the Manual comes before the Board for approval and adoption. Jed: Every employee has to attend.

The Conservation Commission participated in a cleanup effort that recovered 40 tires from roadsides and brought them to the transfer station to be properly disposed of.

The Cemetery Trustees applied for a \$10,000 grant to repair stones at the Cemetery next door. The Memorial Day planning is well under way for Monday, the 28th. Pat Martin has a copy of our special events policy and is working with the Chiefs and Road Agent on that.

There will be a meeting regarding the health insurance next Tuesday at 2:00 and you’re welcome to join me in learning about the Interlocal Trust that took over Harvard Pilgrim. Ted Covert will be here and Tom Coneys said he would try to make it. We might have a recommendation for the next meeting but I’m not certain. Meanwhile, I’m gathering information from Jaffrey and Peterborough to see how we compare.

And I’m getting oil prices, too, because if we can get in with any of them and get a lower price, we should do that, and Mike Cloutier is on board with it. We’re pretty much on track with expenditures – we’re at 33% which is appropriate for this time of the year. There are a couple of areas to keep an eye on, but overall things are looking good. As far as our revenues we’re in good shape. Our real estate taxes are a little less but a lot is the timing, when the bills go out. We’re trying to pull together an analysis. Motor vehicle revenues (our largest non-tax revenues) are at 32%.

Schedule Retreat:

Finally, I wanted to talk to the Board about scheduling a board retreat so we can talk about some goals this year and think about the big picture. It needs to be a time when people are fresh, perhaps offsite in a different environment where we can talk freely. It would be advertised and open to the public, so having it in an accessible place is important. Pick a date and we should go for it.

Roberta: Did an ad go out asking for volunteers and members for the committees? If not, the Recreation Committee would like to be added to it; they want regular members. The Agriculture Committee wants members, too. Linda will add the start of the Farmer’s Market to the Town website’s Community Calendar.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS / COMMUNICATION

Notice re: Jaffrey Cell Tower Proposal:

Since it will have a regional impact, they’ve notified everyone within 20 miles, including the Town of Rindge.

Letter from JRMA re: Communication:

The Jaffrey-Rindge Memorial Ambulance organization sent the Town a letter stating that they're seeking to establish better communication with the Selectmen in Jaffrey and Rindge via periodic attendance at the Selectmen's Meetings. Jed: I approve. Carlotta: I spoke with Fire Chief Rick Donovan on this and think the ambulance service needs to communicate more with Rick. My understanding is that the EMS function falls under our Fire Chief and the J/R Memorial Ambulance is a contractor for the Town of Rindge for transport. I believe that Rick wants to be more involved with the ambulance but feels bypassed. Jed: Maybe we can suggest to them that the first two meetings they attend we'd like our Chief to be there, and from that point they can transition to meeting directly with Rick. Carlotta: We should research the statutes governing this area to improve communications, and we have issues with varying expectations that we need to resolve. Our relationship with the ambulance service has evolved over the years.

Memo from Sergeant Morrill re: Christian Outreach:

Frank provided the memo as an update for the Board so everyone knows where we are on this issue and we're making progress. Jed: This indicates we're on a good road to success; the Church has given the Police permission to run them out. Sam: So you've got a presence down there, and that's good. Frank said that, as a result, the Police are seeing juvenile retaliation behavior like smashed mailboxes, etc. Detective Dan Anair: There's a certain crowd who are members of the church and are there for a legitimate reason, and then there are other kids who are just hanging out and are unfortunately causing the problems. Carlotta: And Mike Cloutier mentioned that he lost several signs. Jed: Thank you for coordinating efforts to make something good happen for the residents.

Dan: NESPIN (New England State Police Information Network) Membership is \$50/year, and we can get loaner cameras from them. If Mike's willing to replace a few signs within days, and if I can get the cameras tomorrow, we'll put the cameras and signs out at the same time and maybe catch a few vandals. We have access to this high-tech equipment free with our NESPIN membership.

MOTION: Roberta motioned to go into nonpublic for personnel, Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION PER RSA 91-A:3 II (B)

NON-PUBLIC SESSION PER RSA 91-A:3 II, (E)

The meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Stonehill