



Selectmen's Meeting  
Town Office  
Monday, March 11, 2013

Present: Select Chair Jed Brummer, Selectman Samuel Seppala, Selectman Roberta Oeser, Town Administrator Carlotta Pini, Administrative Assistant Linda Stonehill

### **Approved** Minutes

#### CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### Citizen's Forum

This was Chairman Brummer's last Selectmen's meeting, and those present honored Jed for his six years of service to the Town.

#### GENERAL BUSINESS

PRIMEX: Phil St. Cyr spoke on behalf of Primex, the Town's worker's comp and property/liability insurance provider, to give the Town an award. He said that this award, called the Prime Program for Risk Management Excellence, was a culmination of more than a year's hard work by several people including the Town Administrator, Carlotta Pini, who enrolled the Town of Rindge in this program. Ellen Smith and the Joint Loss Management Committee—including Casey Burrage, Jonathan Sawyer, Dave Blake, Bob Cleland, and others—were also instrumental in gaining this award, and very few towns have achieved it.

For the taxpayers, this award has yielded a monetary benefit—a reduction in the cost of coverage. And over the long term, the program will result in fewer and less costly claims, which benefits everyone. Phil said that one in 30 claims are catastrophic (worth over \$25,000) and some claims don't stop. The Joint Loss Management Committee had recommended an exhaust system proposal for the Highway Garage. Selectman Seppala said that safety pays, and Jed praised the group for a job well done.

BOSS Contractors' request for a registration refund: Apparently, one of their vehicles that is no longer in service had been charged for registration and they are asking that the Board refund the \$129.50.

MOTION: Roberta motioned that the \$129.50 for the BOSS Contractors' truck that is not operational be refunded. Sam seconded, and all were in favor.

Meeting House Alcohol policy: Jed: Given that we respect two Selectmen's thoughts regarding alcohol, we have a policy regarding granting permission to have wine in public meetings in the town. Roberta: A caterer's license covers the liability. Discussion ensued about transferring the authorization to allow

alcohol at a function to Frank Morrill, the Chief of Police. Jed to Frank: Do you want the Town Administrator to make that decision instead? Frank: I have no objections, but my primary concern was whether the Town's liability coverage extends to me. I just want to be held harmless from any liability in case something happens. Primex offers single day coverage. I don't know if we have the liquor liability policy Phil's referring to. I think our policy is for renters to provide an insurance certificate. What liability concerns are we up against, and are we protected when we allow alcohol at events? Carlotta: If the Board wants to delegate this authority to the Police Chief, it should be with the proviso that he find out whether we'd be covered. Frank: And we'll have to know the cost of the policy. Jed: Let's take this under consideration; is this a comfortable way of doing this? Roberta: It could be done in conjunction with the Town Administrator.

Carlotta: I would suggest that you delegate the authority to the Chief of Police and take into consideration the insurance implications. Frank: And the agreement to pass along the cost to the renter.

MOTION: Roberta motioned to delegate the Police Chief in conjunction with the Town Administrator to authorize and administer this policy. Jed seconded and Sam opposed.

Meeting House Oversight Committee: Bid for the Meeting House work— David Drasba, Dick Isakson, Bob Cleland. Dick: We started the project over a year ago; there was money in the warrant to upgrade the Meeting House but it was tied up for painting. Considering the whole building, before painting it we should look at the windows. LCHIP awarded Rindge a \$12,000 grant for restoring the windows and, with \$17,000 from the Ward Fund, we put together specifications to do that and are hoping to add storm windows. Depending on the bid, we may do all of it or do a side at a time. What we're looking for this evening is permission to proceed—we would like to go out to bid tomorrow. We'd like to have a site visit on the 21<sup>st</sup> and open the bids on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and we hope the Town will vote tomorrow to add \$25,000 to the Meeting House fund. After the window work is done, we'd like to address the painting which was at one time estimated to cost \$68,000. With the money allocated to this point between the Ward Fund and the LCHIP grant, we'll have to split the remainder between the church and the town. Jed thanked David Drasba for stepping in after the unfortunate death of our architect, Richard Monahan. David Drasba: The estimate that Rick Monahan came up for the window restoration—without the storm windows—was \$29,000. There are storms on the first floor windows that we could reuse. We also could delete the storms on the second floor until funding becomes available. The windows are not all original to the building, but they are old.

MOTION: Sam motioned that we put the project out to bid, Roberta seconded, and all were in favor.

Selection of the revaluation appraisal firm for the Town: Jed: we've had two proposals and are very pleased. Dave DuVernay: In January, I issued an RFP to 13 appraisal firms that were certified by the State. We got bids from four: Vision, KRT, CNHAS, and Todd Heywood. CNHAS gave us a proposal without telling us what the last year would cost so we put them aside. Todd Heywood was higher than Vision or KRT by \$25,000. So Carlotta, Roberta, and I interviewed them and we wrote a second memo to the members of the Committee. I recommended KRT and think both of the other members agreed. The people at KRT are former employees of Vision who left to form their own firm; they appear to be extremely knowledgeable and aggressive. KRT can also remotely fix the software. Their bid is \$103,000 which is far better than the \$182,000 we paid a few years ago. Carlotta: It was more ten years ago because they were starting this project from scratch—they measured every property and had developed all new software, but now it's just an update with going to the property to verify the information. Roberta: KRT will send appraisers who will be more knowledgeable than someone just checking things off. Jed: The homeowner doesn't have to allow them into the home. Carlotta: All of this is subject to us getting the funding (\$39,200) at the Town Meeting tomorrow. Dave: I fired the general assessor who charged us \$4,000-\$5,000 / year for pickups because KRT and Vision said they would include it.

MOTION: Sam motioned to go with KRT, Roberta seconded, and all were in favor.

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Carlotta: Since we last met and you voted to hire Don Jacobs to develop a Performance Management system, he talked to the Dept. Heads last Thursday and was well-received. That process is under way.

Kim McCummings: We're still interviewing for a Planning Director. Carlotta: We're planning to attend the Hunt case trial next Wednesday, the 20<sup>th</sup>. Town-Gown is meeting tomorrow, and we will need a new Selectman member and a citizen member. The Roadway Committee is meeting in two weeks to talk about the Forristall Road project. The Cemetery Trustees are meeting Thursday at 5:00, and people will be voting on Doug Hoyt as the new member. We sent our Hazard Mitigation plan to FEMA. Regarding the Police Department, Dave Blake is back and Dan Anair and his wife had a baby. Erin is halfway through her field training. We have advertised for the sale of the plow truck and cruisers and the deadline is the 18<sup>th</sup>. Transfer station stickers are up for renewal and Kim has volunteered to sell them at certain times. Carlotta thanked Linda for her work on the Town Report.

More lights will be left on at the intersection thanks to intervention by our state representative, Susan Emerson, and Dr. Birge.

We did receive a letter from Cathedral of the Pines responding to our request for payment in lieu of taxes; they explained why that is not something they're able to do at this time.

We also have a resignation from Eric Poor who has been serving on the Rindge Conservation Commission and the North Branch Rivers Local Advisory Committee; he was also a photographer and reporter for the Fire Department. The Selectmen will send him a letter honoring him for his service.

SWRPC is holding a dinner next Tuesday, and Carole Monroe, Director of FastRoads, will be speaking. One ISP, Wi-Valley, has verbally committed to providing service. Jed: It's hard to sell your house if you don't have high-speed internet. Roberta: Fairpoint has expanded exponentially in this town. Dave: RadiusNorth has been down for a week. Carlotta: Fairpoint is offering DSL and it's limited because it's over copper wire and you have to be so far from the terminal, and that might be okay for today, but in the future that might not even meet the federal guidelines for broadband. I would encourage everyone to do a speed test—the internet is evolving. Videos are loading on websites now; what's on websites is beyond your control. Jed: And we're paying for a certain speed of DSL but we're not getting it. Carlotta: There is a bill that would allow municipalities to bond for broadband. The Town of Rindge may never bond for broadband, but as our Telecommunications Committee explores things, I think it's important for that to be in the toolbox in case sometime down the road the Town thinks it's important. Kim: People who use distance education need broadband also. You need a reliable connection if you're taking a test; you can only log in once.

January Revenues/expenses: winter plowing was a much bigger expense this year than last, and a lot of storms happened on weekends which led to overtime.

At 7:30pm, Roberta motioned to leave public session and enter Nonpublic session for Personnel, Sam seconded, and all were in favor. At 8:52pm, the meeting was adjourned.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Linda Stonehill, Administrative Assistant*