

**Town of Rindge  
Minutes of Deliberative Session  
Saturday, February 2, 2013**

**First Meeting: Saturday, February 2, 2013**

**Voters on the Checklist: 4,131**

**Voters Attending Meeting: Approximately 105**

**Second Meeting: Tuesday, March 12, 2013**

**Voters Attending Second Meeting: 966**

The Deliberative Session was called to order by Town Moderator; David M. Tower at 9am, he introduced The Venture Crew Troop 308; Jacob Miller, Mary Kauer, Brandy Pugh, Tyler Peterson and Madeline Viviani. The Venture Crew led the meeting to the Pledge of Allegiance.

David then introduced the Board of Selectmen, Chairman; Jed Brummer, Samuel Seppala (not present) and Roberta Oeser, he also introduced Town Administrator; Carlotta Pini and Administrative Assistant; Linda Stonewell. Department Heads; Rick Donovan; Director of Public Life & Safety; Frank Morrill; Police Chief, Michael Cloutier; Director of Public Works and Craig Fraley; Recreation Director. He introduced Town Officials, Carol Donovan; Tax Collector, Nancy Martin; Town Clerk, Supervisors of the Checklist; Ida Mae Harman, Roberta Letourneau and Karla MacLeod. The Budget Advisory Committee Members were introduced; Chairman Tom Coneys, Daniel Aho, Don Cook, Susan Emerson, Aaron Seppala, Bruce Hall (not present), Rick Sirvint and Kale Stenersen; guest speakers Bob Vachon and Gary Kinyon.

The sound system provided by Rindge Memorial School and refreshments provided by the Venture Crew.

**Town Administrator, Carlotta Pini recognized outgoing Selectmen Jed Brummer for his 6 years of outstanding service to the town; she presented him with the town throw blanket; sold by the Rindge Historical Society and a plaque.**

**Articles 1 through 6 are Town Officers and Zoning Articles.**

**Article 7.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of up to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000) for the purpose of financing the fiscal year conversion, said sum to be raised through the issuance of bonds or notes under and in compliance with the Municipal Finance Act, RSA 33; to authorize the Board of Selectmen to issue, negotiate, sell and deliver said bonds and notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon and the maturity and other terms thereof; and further to raise and appropriate the sum of \$11,500 for the first year's interest payment on the bond; and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to take any other action or to pass any other vote relative thereto? If this article passes, Article 8 will be reduced by the amount of the bond issued up to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000). (Three-fifths vote required)

**Bob Vachon stated that the town is in "good shape", there are more and more towns' operating on a fiscal year budget than in the past.**

**Roberta Oeser stated that the tax impact on a 200K house would be about \$280.00 a year and if you have an escrow that would have to be adjusted.**

**Carlotta stated that we usually run out of funds before the end of the year; she often has to make arrangements with Karen Gray (school district) to negotiate payments to the school district. With the fiscal year, the town would align with the state and school district budgets and we would not have to worry about borrowing or preparing budgets during the holidays or at year-end.**

**Al Lefebvre stated that we really need more time to budget, however; it will benefit the town in the long run.**

**Al made a motion to amend article 7 by inserting the words from a January–December fiscal year to a July–June fiscal year, with a second. A voice vote was taken; the motion to amend passed.**

**Tom Coneys said the BAC was split on the article, he stated if the bond passes, it would ease the burden on the taxpayer however; the tax bill may go up.**

**Ray Hughgill made a motion to move the question; a voice vote was taken the question was moved.**

**The amended article will appear on the ballot.**

**YES – 411 NO - 538**

**Article 8.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling Five Million Four Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Three Hundred Twenty-Nine Dollars (\$5,424,329)? Should this article be defeated, the default budget shall be Five Million Five Hundred Eighty Thousand Four Hundred Fifty-Eight Dollars (\$5,580,458) which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only. Note: This warrant article (operating budget) does not include appropriations in ANY warrant article. If Article 7 passes, this article will be reduced by the amount of the bond issued up to One Million Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$1,500,000).

**Carlotta spoke on article 8.**

**Tom Coneys of the BAC noted that the biggest increase is \$250k in wages and benefits. Tom made a motion to reduce the budget by \$104,329.00 with a second.**

**Carlotta stated that there is a time line for the budget process, the department heads submitted their budgets by October 17, and the BAC did not attend the budget meeting. She stated all of the members of the BAC had approved the budget; stating the committee was trying to pass the changes at the “11<sup>th</sup> hour” with little thought put into it.**

**After more discussion from the floor a secret ballot vote was taken, 39 yes / 66 no, the motion to amend failed.**

**The question was moved, no changes to article 8.**

**YES – 558 NO - 381**

**Article 9.**

Shall the Town vote to rescind Article 19 on the 2012 Town Warrant thereby remaining on a calendar year budget?

**Roberta Oeser said she understands the benefit of an 18-month budget however she feels article 19 on last years' warrant was misleading and the townspeople may not have completely understood what they were voting for.**

**Al Lefebvre asked if the article were rescinded, would there have to be more meetings.**

**Carlotta said it is likely there will be a special town meeting; there would be legal fees as well as advertising cost.**

**Pat Barry said she does not think the townspeople misunderstood what they were voting for and she does not believe the article should even be on the ballot.**

**Roberta made a motion to restrict reconsideration on articles 7 through 9 with a second. The motion to restrict passed by voice vote.**

**No changes to article 9.**

**YES – 530 NO - 394**

**Article 10.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate Seventy-Six Thousand Dollars (\$76,000) for the second of five lease payments on the fire truck lease approved by voters at the 2012 Annual Town Meeting? This lease agreement contains an escape clause.

**Jed presented article 10, there were no comments from the floor.**

**No changes to article 10.**

**YES – 621 NO - 333**

**Article 11.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Forty Thousand Dollars (\$140,000) to purchase replacement Self Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBAs) with Seventy Thousand Dollars (\$70,000) to be withdrawn from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund and the balance to be paid for by grants, if any, and taxation?

**Chief Donovan presented the article, he stated that the SCBAs are needed for any hazardous situation; one pack is needed for every seat in an apparatus. Rick and Deb worked on a grant application in 2012 but no word has come back yet.**

**Dan Aho stated if the grant comes in then the additional funding would not be needed.**

**No changes to article 11.**

**YES – 634 NO - 327**

**Article 12.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Nine Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$39,200) for the purpose of funding a portion of the measuring and listing of property for the 2015 Revaluation? This will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the work is completed or by December 31, 2015, whichever is sooner.

**Jed stated that the revaluation must be done per RSA, no comments from the floor.**

**No changes to article 12.**

**YES – 516 NO – 437**

**Article 13.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) for the purpose of purchasing a vehicle for the Fire Department to replace the command vehicle, said sum to be withdrawn from the Capital Reserve Fund established for this purpose (Fire Department Equipment) and offset by approximately Twelve Thousand Dollars (\$12,000) from trading in the old truck?

**Jed presented the article, no comments from the floor.**

**No changes to article 13.**

**YES – 485 NO - 484**

**Article 14.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Seventeen Thousand Three Hundred Dollars (\$17,300) to improve the energy efficiency of the library, town offices, and police station by modifications detailed in the 2011 Building Energy Audits of Rindge Town Buildings?

**Pat Martin of the Energy Commission spoke on the article; she stated that due to energy improvements there has been a savings of \$11,000 in 2012 compared to 2011.**

**No comments from the floor.**

**No changes to article 14.**

**YES – 641 NO - 337**

**Article 15.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$55,000) for the purpose of purchasing a new truck to replace the 2001 one-ton truck in the Highway/Town Buildings Department, said sum to be offset by approximately \$7,000 from trading in the old truck?

**Jed presented the article, no comments from the floor.**

**No changes to article 15.**

**YES – 538 NO - 406**

**Article 16.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000) to be added to the Meetinghouse Maintenance Expendable Trust FundA?

**Jed presented the article, no comments from the floor.**

**No changes to article 16.**

**YES – 476 NO - 481**

**Article 17.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Fifteen Thousand Dollars (\$15,000) for the purpose of purchasing an exhaust system for the Highway Garage?

**Jed presented the article, he stated there is a need for a safe working environment, the diesel fuel may be cancer causing.**

**Mike Cloutier said the Safety Committee recommended the system, he got three quotes for the system, and the best quote came from Melanson Company at \$12k.**

**Joe Hill asked why did the BAC vote against the article, Rick Sirvint said they looked into it and the neighboring towns did not have it.**

**Chris Hill stated that life safety should be most important, so lets' set an example.**

**No changes to article 17.**

**YES – 369 NO - 584**

**Article 18.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000) for the purpose of purchasing a machine to distribute punch cards at the Transfer Station

**Carlotta said it would be more convenient for the residents if they were able to purchase the punch cards at the transfer station instead of having to get to the town office during open hours.**

**Kirk asked what the revenue was from the punch cards; Carlotta said approximately \$12k +/-.**

**No changes to article 18.**

**YES – 173 NO - 789**

**Article 19.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Eighteen Thousand Dollars (\$18,000) to be added to the Wellington Road bridge replacement capital reserve fund?

**No comments from the floor, no changes to article 19.**

**YES – 641 NO - 348**

**Article 20.**

Shall the Town vote to create an Expendable Trust Fund for the maintenance and repairs of the interior and exterior, including grounds, the replacement and/or purchase of fixtures, equipment, appliances and furnishings of the Recreation Building at Wellington Park appointing the Selectmen as Agents to expend money from this Fund upon joint recommendation of the Recreation Committee, Recreation Director and the Director of Public Works and further to raise and appropriate the sum of Thirty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$35,000) to be added to the fund, to come from the unassigned fund balance resulting from excess donations from the Recreation donation account previously established for the purpose of constructing the Recreation Building at Wellington Park?

**Roberta presented the article, stating there is no tax impact to residents.**

**No changes to article 20.**

**YES – 593 NO - 375**

**Article 21.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) to be added to the Library Facilities Capital Reserve Fund?

**Jim Qualey presented article 21, he stated more space is needed for patron use; stating use has increased by 95% since 2001, there is a need for more space for the collection of CDs, DVDs, books, etc., extra space is also needed to support library programs and community needs. The total would be \$600k for completion of the project by 2017.**

**No changes to article 21.**

**YES – 262 NO - 656**

**Article 22.**

Shall the Town vote to raise and appropriate the sum of Twenty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars (\$23,800) for the purpose of purchasing three new video cameras for the police cruisers?

**Chief Morrill stated the current cameras are 7 years old; cameras are helpful in resolving disputes, stating the cost of civil rights allegations are considerable therefore having the camera can help resolve issues for both parties.**

**Joe Hill asked why the BAC voted not to support this article.**

**Rick Sirvint said they were told the police department has the option to dismantle the camera.**

**Chief Morrill said by policy, the camera is always on when the lights are on.**

**Chris Hill made a motion to restrict reconsideration, with a second, the motion to restrict passed.**

**No changes to article 22.**

**YES – 230 NO - 693**

**Article 23.**

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept in trust gifts, legacies, and devises made to them under RSA 31:19 indefinitely, or until rescinded?

**No comments from the floor, no changes to article 23.**

**YES – 586 NO - 330**

**Article 24.**

Shall the Town vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept in trust the moneys previously held by the Rindge Woman's Club, totaling approximately One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000) for the purpose of providing scholarships as directed in the Anderson bequest?

**Sharon Rasku asked if the funds would go directly to the trustees, Carlotta said yes they would.**

**No changes to article 24.**

**YES – 765 NO - 167**

**Article 25.**

Shall the Town vote to name the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend money from the Special Revenue Fund for the Transfer Station established last year?

**No comments from the floor, no changes to article 25.**

**YES – 549 NO - 379**

**Al Lefebvre made a motion to restrict reconsideration with a second, the motion to restrict passed.**

**The meeting adjourned at 12:45pm.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Nancy A. S. Martin  
Rindge Town Clerk**

