



TOWN OF RINDGE

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To: The Citizens of Rindge

From: The Board of Selectmen, Burt Goodrich, Patricia Lang Barry, Jed Brummer

On February 5th a motion was made at Deliberative Session to reduce the operating budget from \$3,597,203 to \$3,300,000.

The amended budget of \$3,300,000 will now appear on the ballot as article 9. A “yes” vote will approve the amended budget. A “no” vote will mean that the default budget of \$3,564,730 will go into effect. **The Board of Selectmen does not recommend the amended budget of \$3,300,000.**

Suggested cuts would have the following impact:

1. The Townspeople built a new Recreation Department building in 2007. Our current Recreation Director, Craig Fraley, was hired in February of 2010. The Recreation Committee cautioned that these cuts would jeopardize the future of *all* programs, including youth sports, the After School Program, the Summer Camp Program, the Tree Lighting, the Halloween program, and the Senior Holiday Dinner. Loss of the only full time employee would cripple the Department.
2. The Planning Department began the Rindge Economic Development Initiative, as part of the Master Plan and as a continuation of the Rindge 2020. Community outreach sessions were held; surveys were mailed, and the results have been reviewed. One goal is to increase the commercial tax base in Town by 10%. Expanding our tax base will reduce taxes, create jobs and improve the quality of life. They are working with developers to bring high quality businesses to Rindge. The loss of personnel would end the effort.
3. The Code Enforcement Officer is an agent of the Selectmen, and is charged with enforcement of the town ordinances and regulations. Eliminating the position would decrease our ability to successfully pursue these violations.
4. Attorney Martha Jacques, prosecutes all criminal cases, at an annual cost of \$53,000. She attends all trials at the Keene and Jaffrey District Courts, and license suspension hearings in Concord. She handles all motions, depositions, and filings. These cuts would take an officer off patrol, resulting in overtime and resulting in fewer convictions.
5. Dental insurance has been available to the Town’s 28 full time employees for over a decade. The Town pays 82% of the premium. Employees have not received a raise since January of 2008. We have lost several seasoned employees due to not being competitive.
6. Our Highway Department is responsible for maintaining 64 miles of road. There are five full time people on staff. In the winter, one of the Transfer Station employees and the Maintenance Technician help with plowing. Elimination of one employee will re-distribute the plow routes, resulting in additional overtime.
7. Rindge has had a full time Town Administrator and an Administrative Assistant for over a decade. The Town Administrator manages the daily affairs of the Town and carries out the Selectmen’s policy decisions. She supervises the Department Heads and administrative staff. The Administrative Assistant fields all inquiries, by phone, email, and in person and is responsible for elections, timber harvests, burials, etc. Town business would be severely crippled by the loss of these positions.

In conclusion, it is the opinion of the Board of Selectmen that the proposed cuts are not in the best interest of the Town. They are short-sighted and irresponsible. We urge the voters of Rindge to **go to the polls on March 8 and vote NO on article 9.**