

Rindge Budget Advisory Committee
MINUTES
November 20, 2025

PRESENT

Budget Advisory Members: Dan Whitney, Roberta Oeser, Tom Coneys (Ex-officio), Tina Sbrega, Casey Burrage, James Burger

Also present: Max Vandervliet, Town Administrator, Larry Cleveland and Karl Pruter

Tina Sbrega opened the meeting at 6:40 p.m..

Casey made a motion to approve the minutes of September 18. Second by James. Approved 5-0. Tom had edits for the October 23 minutes. Tom motioned to approve the minutes of October 23 as edited. Second by Casey. Approved as amended 4-0-1

Review of the department budgets that had been presented:

Tax collector – very tight as presented. Library: discussed the operating. Roberta asked if there was a balance noted for the unrestricted funds.

(Dan arrived at 7:00 pm)

Rec department. Tina asked about the vehicle maintenance line. Roberta mentioned that it includes 3 vehicles and that some is used from the revolving fund. The cost of phone lines came up (again). Max suggested looking into getting cell phone lines. Tina suggested that he look into cell phone lines for all departments to save on the land line costs. Karl said he would suggest the TelTech Committee also look into this option. The increase in the Planning Department is to hire a new part time assistant to learn from Susan.

There was a brief discussion about the default budget and having a separate line item for the generator maintenance. They were all voted for by the Town except the library. Was asked if the library could pay for their maintenance. Roberta said they would just add it to the budget – no savings.

DPW: Staff development was reduced. Tom thinks that the staff need to take courses. Otherwise tight budget. Karl asked why the street lights line was reduced. Tom said they are a fixed cost per fixture.

Solid Waste: Tom thinks the \$3.50 per ton surcharge needs to be added to the budget. Larry mentioned he had heard that MDS had been sold. Need to check on status of contract.

Town Clerk: nothing.

Elections: increase is for pay to supervisors and food for the volunteers as we do not pay them.

Tina mentioned that we really had not found any savings.

Trustees and Patriotic purposes – no comment

Casey likes the format provided by the PD. Max thinks a survey would be a good idea to find out what the Town wants as far as policing. Larry thinks requesting more bonuses just creates 'bonus chasers'. Also questioned the clerk and prosecutor lines. The retention bonuses and the large request for pay increases was discussed.

Adjourned at 8:38 pm
/Roberta Oeser