

Rindge Budget Advisory Committee
MINUTES
December 4, 2025

PRESENT

Budget Advisory Members: Dan Whitney, Roberta Oeser, Tom Coneys (Ex-officio), Casey Burrage, James Burger, Mark Hower
Also present: Max Vandervliet, Town Administrator

Dan opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

Dan suggested starting where we had left off at the BOS meeting the previous evening. Max discussed whether the Exec Sec position should be made full time and asked what that exactly was in hours. Roberta said that she thought full time was 40 hours, but that health insurance and retirement system had a different concept: 30 hours for one and 32 hours for the other to be covered. She also mentioned that the Town Office used to be open until midday on Friday and it was decided to close to give the employees time to get work done uninterrupted – not to create a 4-day work week. Dan asked if it could be justified as full-time. Max thought yes, except the minutes are way too time consuming and has suggested using an AI program.
(Tom arrived at 6:40 p.m.)

Mark made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Second by Casey. Approved 6-0

Tom distributed budget worksheets with his breakdown on a proposed and default budget. In discussion, Roberta brought up the Pay Plan that had been adopted and whether it should be included in the default as was suggested at the Budget Conference. Tom wasn't aware that one had been adopted but he thought it should not be. Roberta read the NHMA opinion. Dan suggested getting a legal opinion for more guidance.

Roberta said she thinks the PD needs to ask where the other departments are going to make cuts to provide the PD with the \$100k increase requested.

Dan asked about revenues and thoughts on increasing them. Roberta mentioned that when she had told some folks that even though our budget is 5.5 mil, we only ask the taxpayers for 3.5 of that. Dan suggested that this become a better know fact. Max asked if solar farms had been explored on Town land?

The huge increase in Mutual Aid was discussed.

Casey reviewed the CIP recommendations that will be presented to the BOS

.Adjourned at 7:40 pm

/Roberta Oeser