

**TOWN OF RIPTON  
SELECTMENS MINUTES**

<b>Date:</b>	<b>Meeting No.</b>	<b>Start:</b>	<b>End:</b>	<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>Next Time</b>
01-24-05	2005-02	7:45	10:50	02-14-05	7:30p.m.
<b>Attendees:</b>	William Ford, and Laureen Cox, Selectmen, and Sally Hoyler, Town Clerk, and Tim Hanson, Assistant Clerk.				
<b>Visitors:</b>	Nancy Breiden				
<b>Minutes:</b>	Minutes for 12-27-04 were signed. Minutes for 01-10-05 were reviewed, to be signed at next meeting.				
<b>Approval Actions:</b>	<p>Voted to include in the 2005 budget the cost of an annual professional audit for the school in the same line as the audit for the Town.</p> <p>Amended and approved the final budget draft for 2005.</p> <p>Amended and approved the warning draft for Town Meeting.</p> <p>Voted to join the Vermont Health Trust, a health insurance program from VLCT.</p> <p>Voted to deny a request to rent the Community House for a mid-February date.</p>				
<b>Orders:</b>	Orders for 01/24/05 were reviewed and signed. Total for Roads: \$3,845.00, and for General Fund: \$9,845.51.				

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
05-02 SchAud	<b>School Audit</b>	01-24-05	01-24-05	Board
	<p>Nancy Breiden proposed an article to be added to the warning for Town Meeting to rescind the previous decision to eliminate the offices of Town Auditor. She stated that the cost of an annual private audit is costly, and the School is looking to trim their budget where possible. She also stated that as a professional audit is required every three years, if Town Auditors conducted the audit the other years, a savings could be made. The Board discussed the difficulty of finding the required three Town Auditors with adequate experience, and also of the importance and consistency of having the professional audit performed every year. The Board recognized the benefit to the Town if the School budget can be reduced, and discussed the possibility that the Town pay for the School audit annually in addition to its own. The Board voted to include the cost of auditing both Town and School in the 2005 budget, which had yet to be approved, instead of creating an article for the warning .</p>			

**Fire Station—Old Business**

<b>Item Number</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Start Date</b>	<b>End Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
04-07-Fire-a	<b>Fire Station</b>	04-12-04	Ongoing	TH & Bd
	<p>The Board discussed the projected budget to complete the Fire Station which spends \$100,000 more than the Town voted to allow the Board to borrow. After a discussion of options, the Board voted to warn the use of the Land Sale Fund (\$64,500) to pay the bulk of the cost, with an additional \$40,000 in borrowing authority. Some of the costs projected may be a little high. For example, there is a \$10,000 to pay to heat the building floor to allow concrete to be poured—this</p>			

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could be eliminated by waiting until spring to do the floor. The Board felt that it was better, however, to warn the full amount, and spend less, than to lower the estimate, and have to come back to the Town for more money.

Mr. Hanson has learned that an extension for the grant is possible—in fact, FEMA recommends asking for an extension to June of 2006. The paperwork for this extension is in the works.

The Board discussed how to pay for the total cost of the project once it is finished, all the bills are in, and all the grants have been received. The plan is to come to the Town at Town meeting 2006 with total costs in hand, and a warned option—probably a bond to be paid down over ten or twenty years, depending on the tax implications.

The Board also will ask the Town for authority to borrow an additional \$25,000.00 to pay for the match for the new tanker fire truck.

### Parking Lot Grant—Old Business

00-18-Park-a	<b>Parking Lot Grant; Route 125 Enhancement Grant</b>	09-11-00	Ongoing	AJ
The invoice has been submitted for reimbursement. (This item will remain within the minutes until payment is received.)				

### Roads—Old Business

04-23 Roads-a	<b>Driveway on Pearl Lee Road</b>	12-13-04	Ongoing	SH
A completed access permit from A. Johnson Co. was received in the Town Clerk's office 1/24/05. The Board did not have time to review the permit at this meeting.				
04-23-Roads-b	<b>Road Repair</b>	12-13-04	Ongoing	RW
There are some deep potholes in need of repair by Baker Bridge and on Pearl Lee Road. Mr. Wimett will take care of this.				
04-23 Roads-c	<b>Road Signs</b>	12-13-04	Ongoing	SH/RW
One of the "School" signs is down on Lincoln Road and needs to be righted. New signs are received and ready for placement.				
04-11-Roads-b	<b>Road Signs</b>	06-14-04	Ongoing	RW
Brush still needs to be cut in front of road signs.				
04-07-Roads-b	<b>Mapping of Road Conditions</b>	04-12-04	Ongoing	TH/RW
Tim Hanson will complete the roadwork mapping by the end of January 2005.				

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05-01-Roads-a	<b>Roadwork Documentation</b>	01-10-05	Ongoing	SH
<p>The Clerk located previous systems for tracking roadwork which have not been kept up, but provide a good basis for designing a new system. This can be worked up as a special project for the Clerk to carry out as part of the coursework required for a 10-month workshop series she is attending this year. The project must be proposed by mid-May and completed by September.</p>				

### Phone Booth—Old Business

04-24-Ph-a	<b>Phone Booth</b>	12-27-04	Ongoing	SH
<p>The telephone was removed (the pedestal remains) by Verizon because they had received a trouble report and were unable to fix the phone. The Clerk will look into whether a replacement can be installed until the decision is made to move the phone, and if not, to have the pedestal removed as soon as possible.</p>				

### Junk Ordinance—Old Business

04-19-Junk-a	<b>Junk Car Ordinance</b>	09-27-04	Ongoing	TH
<p>Tim Hanson will prepare the final draft by a date to be agreed upon with the Clerk.</p>				

04-19-Em-a	<b>Emergency Preparedness</b>	09-27-04	Ongoing	SH
<p>A representative (Mr. Garofano) of the owner of Silver Towers Camp (the Vermont Elks) called the Town office in response to the letter inquiring of an emergency plan. He discussed several precautions in practice at the camp, but said there is no specific emergency plan as such.</p>				

### Zoning Enforcement—Old Business

04-19-Zone-a	<b>Gover Zoning Violation</b>	09-27-04	Ongoing	SH
<p>Ren Barlow of Langrock, Sperry, &amp; Wool reported in a conversation with the Clerk on 1/13/04 that he will try one last time to talk to Ray Gover and if there is still no response, then proceed to file a complaint. The process is: the complaint is filed with the Environmental Court, the Court serves the property owner, and the owner has 20 days to respond. Mr. Barlow suggested that it may therefore be 30 days before our first opportunity to enter into an agreement, or file an action to litigate.</p>				

### Town Report—Old Business

05-01-Tnrep-a	<b>Town Report</b>	01-10-05	Ongoing	SH, Bd
<p>The Town books were audited January 13, 2005 by Angelano and Co. There were no reportable findings.</p> <p>The Board reviewed a second draft of the budget and made final corrections. A draft of the warning for Town Meeting was reviewed and</p>				

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corrections made. (See discussion under Fire Station in these minutes).The Clerk will create a revised draft of the warning and have it available for signing by the Board by the January 30<sup>th</sup> deadline.

Work has begun on Town Report. There are no concerns about meeting the February 18, 2005 mailing deadline.

William Ford

Lauren Cox

Ronald Wimett