

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
2/8/2010

Selectmen Present: Mark Andrew, Janice Mulherin
Administrative Assistant: Anne Dow
Secretary: Janet Sherburne

The meeting was opened at 6:30 pm at the Russell Elementary School.

Minutes: The minutes of 2-1-2010 were approved.

Warrant & Budget Review: The board reviewed the warrant and budget and the town attorney's opinion on warrant articles before the budget hearing began at 7:00pm.

Public Budget Hearing: At 7:00pm a public hearing was held on the proposed 2010 budget and warrant. Approximately 35 people attended. A PowerPoint presentation was presented during the hearing. Articles 2 and 3 of the warrant were submitted by petition regarding the establishment of a police commission. Discussion followed. John Bagley, Advisory Committee Member, explained that the articles were submitted following the Advisory Committee's involvement with the Selectmen during the recent budget process. He stated that some of their questions were not answered by the Selectmen, specifically dealing with the police department. Mr. Bagley further explained that the committee feels the selectmen are not doing a good job of managing the police department and could use some assistance. He stated that other departments have commissions or committees to help them.

Questions raised and discussed included; the cost of a police commission, the role of police commissioners, how many active police commissions are there in the State of NH. There are a small number of municipalities in NH that have a police commission and most are much larger towns and cities. Selectman Andrew referred to RSA 105-C, the RSA's dealing with Police Commissions. He stated that the Board of Selectmen is capable of managing the Police Department.

Kevin Maes explained that this issue has been raised in the past and it was discouraged. He does not feel this is good for the town and he is speaking as a taxpayer not a police officer.

Jerry Thibodeau, Advisory Committee Member, stated that they felt the Selectmen were overwhelmed with the workload of overseeing all of the town departments and thought the police commission would alleviate some of the work. Selectman Andrew stated that the board does not feel overwhelmed or burdened.

Selectman Andrew then explained that the police commissioners would either be elected or appointed by the Governor. If elected, they would be elected at the town election in March 2011. If appointed by the Governor, they would be appointed some time this year. The article concerning the police commission will be on the ballot on March 9th and will not be discussed or voted on at town meeting on March 11th.

Kathy Wallace stated that she feels the board of selectmen may have a better understanding of the management of the police department since they manage all town departments.

Other items discussed: Street Lights; Landfill Monitoring; Library Fund; Police Cruiser/ Radar Trailer.

Jim Buttolph, Moderator, explained that he will publish meeting rules to have available at town meeting. He also explained that all requests for a secret ballot should be presented just before the article is voted on. He also asked for clarification of the Advisory Committees handout listing their budget recommendations. Mark Andrew read the recommendations they submitted to the board on January 18, 2010 which were more detailed than the handout that was provided this evening.

The Public Hearing concluded at 9:10pm.

ADMINISTRATIVE:

Hunter Permit: Anne and Frank met with Bruce Barnard and the permit is ready to be sent in.

Supplement Warrant: The board reviewed and signed a supplement tax warrant. The warrant reflects a change in taxes to be collected.

Hazard Mitigation Meeting: A meeting was held on February 5, 2010. The next meeting will be held when Bill Taffe returns.

Bookkeeping: The board reviewed general journal entries made during 2009.

Correspondence:

The board received official notification from the Highway Safety Agency that the grant for Speed Enforcement submitted has been approved.

The board received a letter from DES notifying the town that NH Cooperative will be cutting and trimming in the Town of Rumney.

The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Signed: Checks; Timber Tax Warrant; Property Tax Supplement Warrant; Cartographic 2010 Maintenance Contract for tax maps; MS-6; 2010 Warrant

The meeting was adjourned at

Respectfully submitted,

Janet C. Sherburne, Secretary