

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
4/19/2010

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

Public: Jim Buttolph, Cheryl Lewis, John Dow, Ken Nelson, Joe Chivell, Jerry Thibodeau, Arthur Morrill

The meeting opened at 7:00pm.

Minutes: Selectman Fucci asked that the following be added to the minutes of 4-12-10 in the "Board Status" paragraph. *Mr. Fucci was pressured to resign so that an appointment could be made.* Discussion followed on how the discussion of April 12th went. Selectman Andrew and Mulherin did not agree that the wording should be changed and would not approve the minutes. Therefore, the minutes of April 12, 2010 were not approved. The draft copy will be retained on file.

Board Status: Bernie Waugh, Town Attorney was in attendance for this portion of the meeting. The board reviewed an e-mail from Attorney Waugh in response to questions asked by the board. Selectman Andrew asked if his commitment to choose a replacement off of the list should be rescinded. Attorney Waugh clarified the question and explained that it did not have to be rescinded. Selectman Fucci explained that the only reason he hoped that there was a list was so that people in town would know that the appointment was not made on a whim and that a number of people were interested. He wanted to ensure that people who were interested in the position were considered. He explained that he has no one specific candidate in mind and he is hoping that a respected person would be appointed, not someone's friend. Selectman Fucci asked why the board has not posted the position. Attorney Waugh explained the procedure to fill a vacancy is up to the majority of the board.

At 7:25 Selectman Mulherin made a motion to enter into Non-Public Session according to RSA 91-A:3 (c) (reputation). Attorney Waugh explained that this was not a proper reason for Non-Public Session but the board could enter Non-Public Session to have a discussion with him, the town attorney. The board voted to enter into Non-Public Session to have a discussion with the Town Attorney, Bernie Waugh. At 7:35 the board voted to leave Non-Public Session. No decisions were made.

Jerry Thibodeau asked Bernie Waugh if there were any other means of filling the selectman vacancy. Attorney Waugh explained that the statute states that if the vacancy occurs after the filing period for town elections, the appointment is made by the Selectmen until the following year when the position is filled by election. There is a statute which only applies in towns where the town meeting has adopted it, and Rumney has not, that would allow a vacancy to be filled by special election, if a sufficient number of voters petition for such a special election.

Cemetery Trustees: Ed Openshaw and Kathy Sobetzer met with the board to discuss future expenditures and projects for the cemeteries. The Trustees were reminded that any expenditure over \$500 needs prior approval by the board.

Groton Wind Farm: Selectman Andrew explained that he recently visited the area of the Lempster Wind Farm. He spoke with people in Goshen and was told that the Town of Goshen received money from the developers and it was put into a Town Beautification Fund. Anne Dow has contacted the towns of Lempster and Goshen to see if the property values have decreased and was told that it is too early to tell. More information is available at the Lempster town web-site:

www.lempsternh.org/BoxoStuff/SECLempFinDec6-28-07.pdf

Anne asked the board how they would like to handle correspondence received regarding the wind farm. The board will view the correspondence weekly and then it will be placed in a binder. A follow-up meeting to the April 22nd meeting will be held on Monday, May 10th at 7:00pm at the Russell School.

Abatements: Phil Bodwell of CNP will be in town on Friday to meet with some property owners regarding their abatement applications. The board reviewed four abatements.

Update: Selectman Andrew updated the board on the recent Ambulance Meeting and a regional dinner meeting hosted by LGC.

Privilege of the Floor: Jim Buttolph asked what the wind farm review process was. The board explained they do not have that information at this time but more information would be available at the meeting on April 22nd. Cheryl Lewis asked about the timeframe for the contract with the town. The board currently has a DRAFT contract to review and there is not specific time frame for signing the contract.

Jerry Thibodeau asked if the town could possibly receive an annual stipend from the company. Mark Andrew explained that the Town of Goshen received a one time payment so that is something for the town to consider. Jerry also reminded the board that they had a right to ask for a safety manual regarding use of the town road and to limit the use of the road.

Arthur Morrill asked what the town's basis was for asking for money from the company. The town would ask for money due to the impact of the wind farm on the town. Mr. Morrill also informed the board he is interested in being considered for a vacant selectman's position.

2010 Ratio: The town received notification from the DRA on the ratio for tax year 2009. The overall equalization sales ratio is 100% and the median ratio is 105.2. Arthur Morrill was present and was asked to explain the process used to figure the ratio.

Intent to Cut/East Rumney Road: The same access that was used last time will be used again so there is no need for a driveway permit.

East Rumney Road Culvert: Bruce Barnard is filing for an extension.

DRA Assessment Review: The board reviewed the Assessment Review done by the DRA. The exemptions and credits are up to date and a Current Use Update will begin next week.

LGC: The Local Government Center will do assessments of all town buildings for insurance purposes on May 3rd.

CNP: The appraisal company will begin the 2010 pick-ups on Thursday.

Scholarship Committee: The committee will meet on May 5th at 7:00pm at the town office.

Longyear Exemption Status: Longyear has proposed a payment in lieu of taxes. The DRA has recommended the town accept the PILT and draw up a written agreement. Anne will discuss this with CNP.

Old Cruiser: Pat Coursey is willing to transport the cruiser to the Connecticut Valley Auction. The cruiser may go for a higher price at this auction than at the State auction. Anne will check with Mr. Coursey about the transportation fee.

Signed: Checks; Intent to Excavate – Latulippe/Morrell; Abatements – Hammar, Pettingill, Cormiea, McNeely; Letters – P. Grass, Boy Scouts

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet C. Sherburne, Secretary