

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
03/21/2011

Selectmen present: Cheryl Lewis, Janice Mulherin, Mark Andrew
Administrative Assistant: Anne Dow

The meeting was opened at 7:00 p.m.

MINUTES: The minutes of 03/14/11 were accepted as written.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:05 Phil Bodwell, Assessor from CNP met with the Board at their request to review the process for the revaluation they will be conducting beginning this year and ending with the updated values in 2014. The Selectmen were particularly concerned about the success of conducting interior inspections for all parcels with an emphasis on the lake and river front properties. Although the overall interior rate for the previous revaluation was 55% (CNP stated this was one of the highest rates they had seen in several years), the Board strongly requests that every attempt is made to get into as many of the properties that they can, especially those that were missed last time around. The Board recommended more inspections be done during July and August for the waterfront properties (both lake and river) and using as many Saturdays as possible.

The Board also voiced their concerns about the number of abatements that were granted last year. Mr. Bodwell explained that following a revaluation year, there are typically more abatements than normal. Several of the abatements last year were due to errors that were a result of the conversion from the old assessing system to the updated CAMA system.

Mr. Bodwell said he was mindful of the Board's concerns and will discuss them with the company owners. The Board asked if the contract could include language outlining their requests for inspecting the waterfront properties. He will check into their request and get back to them within the week.

Mr. Bodwell is presently working on the 2010 abatements.

Ratio Study – Mr. Bodwell went over the result of the ratio study with the Board. The median ratio for 2010 is 105.2 and the overall equalization assessment sales ratio is 100%.

Current Use Update – Janice showed the Board what she has been working on with the update showing the different maps used and the ability to check data with those maps.

SELECTMEN

Personnel – A motion was made and seconded and voted 3-0 to enter into non-public session at 7:50 p.m. under RSA 91-A:3 I (c). The Board voted 3-0 to leave non-public session at 8:05 p.m. No decisions were made.

Groton Wind - Agreement for Reimbursement of Municipal Legal and Consulting Expenses – Last week Mark and Janice signed the agreement; Cheryl did not as recommended by the other two on the basis of a possible conflict of interest due to Cheryl's position as an intervener in the Groton Wind proceedings. The document was forwarded to Ed Cherian who questioned why there were only two signatures. He stated that if the third board member was not going to sign, they would need a letter from town counsel stating that the signatures of only 2 of the 3 selectmen still binds the Town to the agreement.

After discussion about the conflict of interest, the Board was in agreement to have Anne contact town counsel for his opinion on this matter.

Northern Pass – Janice reported on the hearing she attended last week in Plymouth on this subject. She said the hearing was well attended and all those that got up and spoke were in opposition to the project. Some of the concerns voiced were pesticides, wildlife habitat, fragmentation, decrease in property values, jobs and the affects it could have on conservation easements. Comments on the project will be accepted by the EIS until April 18, 2011.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – None

ADMINISTRATIVE

Intent to Cut Information – The Board will order a Forestry Book from UNH to have in their library for reference. The information requested with Intent to Cut forms will be discussed further at a later date.

Quality Insulation Work Agreement – during the week the Fire Commissioners needed authorization to go forward with the insulation project at the Depot Street fire station. The Board was in agreement to go forward with the work; the signed agreement was forwarded to Quality Insulation earlier today per their request.

Old Town Hall Door – Kathy Wallace reported that the door is in very poor condition and should be replaced. She offered to find a contractor to take care of it. After some discussion, the Board agreed to include the door replacement with the bid they will be requesting this spring for the work on the steeple of the building.

Warren/Wentworth Ambulance Service – Anne will schedule a meeting with them, the Board and Bill Taffe upon his return. This will be the first quarterly meeting with them since the Town switched over to their service.

Correspondence – Letter from DRA approving CNP's assessing contract; an update and pictures from Tom Wallace on the Library lighting improvements; notice from DES that a SPA permit was accepted for USFS for the new parking lot project on Buffalo Road; Antioch Institute information on Selectmen's Institute.

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SIGNED: Checks; Corrected Northway Signature Card; MS-2; HealthTrust Coverage Rates; Primex Addendum to Multi-Year Discount P & L Agreement; Quality Insulation Work Agreement.

UPCOMING: 3/24 – Current Use Information Meeting/Grafton Cty Ext Service- Town Office @ 6:30
3/28 Selectmen's Meeting
3/29 Planning Board Meeting
4/15 Inventories are Due
Last day to apply for Current Use
Last day to apply for Elderly Exemption
Last day to apply for Veteran's Credit

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant