

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
12/19/2011

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

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

APPOINTMENTS

7:05 Linda Whitcomb, Tax Collector met with the Board and asked that the taxes be abated on a travel trailer that was removed from the NEF several years ago (K. Burleigh). There is no property to deed as the trailer is gone; the owner has not responded to two years of requests for payment from the tax collector. The Board agreed to abate the taxes.

Linda reported as of today, the first 2011 bill is 93% collected and the second bill is at 88%.

Linda presented her proposed 2012 budget with no changes.

7:30 Warren Wentworth Ambulance Service – Brian Clark from Warren and Bill Taffe and Anthony Reed were present to recap the first year of service with Warren-Wentworth. All parties agreed that it was a smooth transition and there were no major problems. Any issues that came up during the year were dealt with. The call volume was close to their estimate. There is no increase in the contract amount for 2012; it remained at \$25,000.

The matter of Rumney's EMS responding to calls in Wentworth was discussed. This is a practice that started many years ago before the town had contracts drawn up for services to neighboring towns. This practice has never been changed or updated with the town of Wentworth so presently there is no contract with them outlining an arrangement between the towns for compensation for the services Rumney EMS provides. The town has contracts in place with Groton and Ellsworth for EMS services as well as a separate one for fire coverage by our fire department. Warren-Wentworth responds to these same Wentworth calls through Lakes Region Mutual Aid. Brian Clark explained that it is not necessary for Rumney to respond unless they get called out by Mutual Aid.

A letter was sent to the Wentworth Selectmen asking them to contact the office to set up a meeting to discuss this issue; to date, they have not responded. However, they did pass the letter on to their Fire Chief, Jeff Ames. Mr. Ames contacted our office and offered to meet with our selectmen, but they would like to discuss the issue with the Wentworth Selectmen first to see what their position is regarding this. The two Boards need to decide if this practice will continue; if it does, there needs to be some type of contract drawn between the two towns outlining the services provided, the cost for these services and a schedule of when payments will be due. The Board will send a second letter to the Wentworth Board requesting a meeting.

8:00 Bill Taffe discussed a request by the Greater Plymouth Public Health Region. They are looking for one of the participating towns to agree to take ownership of one of their Regional Response Trailers (RRT). Bill would like Rumney to help out by being that town; the trailer would be stored in Lincoln. Any costs to insure or register the trailer would be reimbursed by the GPPHR. The Board questioned why Lincoln wouldn't be the "owner". Bill explained that they are new in the organization and did not feel comfortable

taking "ownership" at this time. The Board agreed to have Bill go forward with the necessary paperwork to ha

8:20 Frank Simpson, Road Agent, met with the Board to go over the proposed Highway budget.

1. FEMA reimbursement is expected to be near \$60,000; the Board agreed to earmark some of these funds for the Highway department. Anne will check with DRA on the correct process for doing so.
2. 2012 is the year designated in the capital improvement plan to replace the backhoe. Frank had a quote on two models from Caterpillar; the Board requested that he get some quotes from several other businesses also. This will be a separate warrant article.

SELECTMEN'S ISSUES

Merged Lots – As of January 1, 2012 any property owner whose property was involuntarily merged by the town through a revaluation or other process can apply to the town to have the property separated. The Board reviewed a draft application for the process. Property owners who wish to have their lots restored to their original status will have to apply to the Selectmen for restoration. Anne will have the Planning Board review the application before the Board adopts it.

Update Liability Coverage – Bill Taffe, Health Officer, recommended to the Board last month that they u liability changes which protect municipal employees. The effected chapters are RSA 31:104-1; 31:105-1 and 31:106-1. These changes included health and welfare officers (welfare officers added in 2009; health officers in 2010) Note: As of today, Louise Hannan's position as the State's Health Officer Liaison to the towns, has been eliminated. She has been a very valuable resource to the health officers across the state. Going forward the town health officers will be acting on their own without this important support from the State. Unless officially adopted by the Board, these positions will not be covered. The Board voted 3-0 to include the health and welfare officers in the liability coverage.

Fire Department/Code Enforcement – This was the first year fees collected by the Fire Department for house inspections (new furnaces, gas heaters, etc.) have been turned in to the town for deposit into the general fund. In previous years, the Fire Chief was paid a flat fee of \$1,000 for code enforcement; any fees collected were kept by the fire chief and/or department. When the change in procedure was made earlier this year, it was not clear if the Fire Chief would be reimbursed for any collected fees over and above the Code Enforcement amount budgeted of \$1,500 (to be split between Chief Ward and Commissioner Coursey). As recommended by counsel, a warrant article will be drawn up for the 2012 town meeting asking the townspeople which method they prefer.

Holiday Schedule for Selectmen's Meetings – The Board will meet December 29 to encumber any necessary 2011 funds. They will meet on January 2nd to review the budget and invite the Advisory Board to attend the January 9th meeting to go over the budget with them.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – None

ADMINISTRATIVE

NHEC Appeal – The quotes received for the fees from DTC and George Sansoucy are in excess of \$30,000 over the next two years.

NHEC Request – The NHEC asked if the Town plans to move forward with installing power to the utility pole located at the skate park at the Quincy Ball Field at this time or do they wish to have the pole removed. Because there isn't an active Recreation Committee or any activity at the skate park that would warrant the light, the Board agreed to have the pole removed. Anne will notify the Coop of the Board's decision.

Transfer Station Attendant – Emelio Medaglia has been hired to fill the transfer station attendant's position.

Signed: Checks; Transfer for Police Revolving Fund; Intent to Cut – A. Morrill

Upcoming: 12/26 Office Closed; no meeting
12/29 Selectmen's meeting – brief
01/02 Office Closed; Selectmen's Meeting at 7:00
01/09 Selectmen's Meeting with Advisory Board

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant