

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
02/27/12

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

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

MINUTES – The minutes of 2/13/2012 were accepted as written.

APPOINTMENTS

7:10 (Before any discussion began, Selectperson Cheryl Lewis recused herself and sat in the audience).
Representatives from Groton Wind included Bill Byrnes, Doren Emmett, Project Manager Roger Petit and Noah Coleman, representative for the construction company along with Road Agent Frank Simpson met with the Board to discuss the use of the road during “mud season”. The road was posted with the usual 10-ton limit on February 17th. The Board’s position was that the road ban applied to Groton Wind along with the loggers and contractors. Groton Wind took did not agree with the Board’s position and took the position that the “Agreement” between the Town and Groton Wind allowed for the use of road even during “mud season”. There is a \$200,000 letter of credit on file and the Agreement states that any damage to the road by Groton Wind will be repaired by them. After discussions with the respective attorneys during the previous 10 days, it was agreed that Groton Wind is exempt from the road ban as the Agreement and the \$200,000 Letter of Credit covers any damage that may be done during “mud season”.

Because the town’s highway crew does not have the time to be monitoring the road on a daily basis, the Board asked that Groton Wind begin maintaining the road and monitoring it daily to make sure it is safe and passable for all vehicles at all times. Mr. Coleman said his company would be maintaining the road. The Town will continue to plow and sand the road.

Carl Spring asked what type of fill would be used. They will be using 1 ½ “stone and 1 ½ “crushed gravel. Mr. Spring also asked about the liability to the town if an outside contractor is maintaining the town road. Groton Wind has provided the town with a certificate of insurance which would cover such an incident. Mr. Spring also asked about a bond. Mr. Andrew stated that there is Letter of Credit on file in the amount of \$200,000. Mr. Spring also asked how many hours Frank and the crew have put in vs. what Groton Wind has contributed in stone, etc. Frank stated that they were “even”. Mr. Coleman stated that he will make sure the town is supplied with gravel.

Several other Groton Hollow residents asked questions. There were a few questions regarding the cutting of brush along the road. Mr. Andrew said that a lot of the cutting had been done by New Hampshire Electric Coop; Frank said the town highway crew would also be doing some cutting in the near future.

Regarding communication for all parties, Groton Hollow Road residents should call the town office; Anne will contact Kelly Revell, Construction Site Manager. Frank will contact Bill Byrnes with any concerns.

Frank asked the Board if the road ban signs could be pulled on Groton Hollow Road. The Board agreed that road bans should remain in place and do apply to other contractors and loggers.

Carl Spring asked about muddy waters that occurred in Clark Brook on February 16th. Anne said she had not received any calls about this. Mr. Emmett stated that the project is monitored by DES environmental engineers.

The discussion ended at 7:30. Ms. Lewis rejoined the Board.

Millard Thomson provided the Board with some articles regarding wind power.

Carl Spring remained and asked the Board about the Road Committee’s status and role with this as well as with the budget process. Mr. Spring said the Road Committee would like to have input in these areas. Current committee members are Carl Spring, Frosty Sobetzer and Joe Shilansky.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - None

8:15 Conference Call with Margaret Dillon – Energy Audit. The Board discussed the findings in her report with Ms. Dillon and agreed they would be making some improvements during this year. The Board is considering installing programmable thermostats this year, updating the T12 light bulbs in the meeting room with T8's, which would eliminate some of the fixtures, install a second light switch in the meeting room and changing some of the duct work from flexible to rigid. There were several dates that were incorrect in the report and the Board brought those to her attention. She will forward the amended report to the Board within the week. The Board plans to amend the General Government Buildings' budget by increasing it \$1,500 to make these changes.

SELECTMEN'S ISSUES

Town Counsel/Tom Mullen – Attorney Waugh contacted the board asking if he had authorization to speak with Mr. Mullen regarding the petitioned warrant article on Transmission Lines. Mr. Mullen contacted Attorney Waugh's office and asked to speak with him on this matter. The Board has asked and received Attorney Waugh's input on this article. They are not authorizing any discussion between Mr. Mullen and Attorney Waugh. If Mr. Mullen wants to speak with the attorney on this subject, he will be responsible for payment for same.

Town Meeting Warrant Articles – selectmen assigned articles.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Wentworth Response – The Board received a response from the Wentworth selectmen stating that Rumney Fire and EMS need not respond to calls as first responders to the South Wentworth area. They appreciated the service Rumney provided to their town for many years. Anne will notify Brian Clark and Jeff Ames, as well as our Fire and EMS departments, so they can notify Lakes Region Mutual Aid of the change. Rumney will continue to respond to mutual aid as needed.

Abatements – A total of 18 abatements for the 2011 year have been filed. Phil Bodwell will begin working on them this week.

Library/LCHIP – Tom Wallace provided the Board with a copy of the Library RFQ requesting qualified architects to conduct a feasibility study to investigate the alternatives to making the existing library (100+ years old) handicapped accessible. He has asked that a selectmen sit in on the selection process as Tom will disqualify himself because of his profession.

SIGNED: Checks; Timber Tax Warrant; Intent to Cut – G. Sanborn; Police Speed Grant.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant