

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
03/26/12

Selectmen: Mark Andrew, Cheryl Lewis, Ed Haskell
Administrative Assistant: Anne Dow

The meeting was opened at 6:55 p.m.

APPOINTMENTS

7:00 Frank Simpson met with the Board to discuss expenditures > \$500. All of these purchases have been budgeted for in the 2012 Highway budget. 1. Carbides for the grader (\$1,250) – okay; 2. Air compressor – est. \$2,000 – okay; plate compactor - \$1700-\$1800; stone – 15-20 loads to stockpile at transfer station – okay; Cheryl asked about getting estimates. Frank said Ambrose was the best deal at this time at \$12.50/ton.

Truck purchase – The bid process was discussed. Frank will make up the spec sheet and will send out to at least three businesses. Cheryl asked about input from either or both the Advisory Committee and Road Committee. The Board agreed to have the Road Committee review the specs, bids, etc. The Board will ask George Wendell and Bo Beadle if they would be willing to serve on the committee. Anne will schedule a meeting next week.

7:15 Ann Carlson, VP, Business Development Office from Meredith Village Savings Bank met with the Board to discuss options available to the town through MVSBS. Mark asked about reporting and tracking. She will provide Anne with contact information for some area towns who also do business with them. An appointment will be scheduled in the future for feedback and questions.

7:30 Ellsworth Selectmen Mike O'Brien and Anthony Landroche, along with Town Clerk Donna O'Brien and Fire Chief Dave Tobine met with the Board, Chief Ward and Fire Commissioners Dave Coursey, Jim McCart and Assistant EMS Director Anthony Reed to discuss the Fire and EMS contracts. Discussion followed; it was agreed for the 2012 year that Ellsworth will pay the flat rate of \$800 for the fire protection and \$250 for EMS coverage as in years past. In addition, in lieu of the hourly compensation for the volunteer firefighters who respond to Ellsworth fire calls, Ellsworth will pay \$316.42 to the Town of Rumney this year. This amount represents what was billed to Ellsworth in 2011 for calls Rumney responded to. Compensation for EMS volunteers was not discussed; no changes will be made to the EMS contract this year.

Further, it was agreed to send Ellsworth quarterly bills this year, along with the supporting documentation for each call the Rumney Fire Department responds to with the understanding the bills will not be paid until 2013. In 2013 Ellsworth will pay the Town of Rumney any balance that is due from the 2012 fire calls as well as begin paying for the calls that are generated and billed in that year. This compensation will be over and above the "flat" rate for fire protection agreed to for 2013.

A revised contract will be drawn up and forwarded to the Ellsworth selectmen.

8:10 PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – Jerry Thibodeau would like to see Privilege of the Floor earlier in the meeting or allow more input from attendees. Mark explained that these are public meetings, not public hearings and the right to speak is not guaranteed. Cheryl said that every residents' opinion is valued.

Ed said he has received feedback from residents wanting more input as well. Cheryl made a motion to allow public input after every topic and before the Board votes or makes a decision; Ed seconded the motion. The Board voted 3-0 in favor of allowing public input after every topic during Selectmen's meetings.

Dave Learned inquired about the status of the junkyard enforcement. Anne stated that Ken Knowlton begin his annual inspections within the next month or two and start working with the half dozen properties still in violation. Mr. Knowlton will also check out any new properties that may be in violation and contact them accordingly; the Board plans legal enforcement on two cases.

Mr. Learned also asked what the role of the Advisory Committee was. Cheryl said she would like to see them become more involved, attending meetings that deal with major purchases, etc.

SELECTMEN'S ISSUES

Minutes – The minutes of 03-12-12 were accepted as amended; Cheryl Lewis recused herself from accepting the minutes of 03-14-12. The minutes were accepted.

Linda Whitcomb, Tax Collector, met with the Board to discuss several properties that are up for deeding. The Board and Linda came to an agreement on payments on one of them.

Haven Little Scholarship Fund – Last year the Trustees of the Trust Funds asked the Board to reconsider how the dispersal of funds of the scholarship is handled. Presently 70% of donations received from memorials and fundraisers go towards the next recipient(s) and 30% towards the principal. The Trustees have stated that this current method proving very difficult to track. The Board discussed various ways to disperse these funds. After further discussion, and input from Dave Learned, the Board agreed to "50% of the deposits of the prior year, up to a maximum of \$2,000, plus the previous year's interest earned" would be available for scholarships annually. Cheryl made a motion to accept this change; Ed seconded the motion; the Board voted 3-0 to the change as worded above. Anne will notify the Trustees of this change.

Abatements – The Board reviewed nine abatements; five were granted, four were denied. The paperwork will be drawn up and signed next week.

Personnel Policies – The Board is in the process of updating the personnel policies. Under Section VIII Employee Insurance and Retirement "A" reads:

"The Town of Rumney offers all permanent full-time employees fully paid Group Health Insurance. The carrier and coverage plan, including type of membership, i.e. single, couple or family, shall be determined by the Selectmen.

The Board agreed Part A should be amended to reflect that the town pays a portion of the health insurance. Mark made a motion to amend "A" to read

"The Town of Rumney offers all permanent full-time employees Group Health Insurance. The Town shall pay a portion of said policy; as of 2012 that portion is 94%; percentage is subject to change per Selectmen." Cheryl seconded the motion; the Board voted 3-0 in favor of the amendment.

Health Insurance – The Board is in agreement that changes need to be made this year; Anne will schedule an appointment with representatives from LGC's Healthtrust to discuss other plans available and the Board will continue to look for outside options as well.

Road Committee – The Board discussed several possible candidates to serve on the committee; after discussion it was agreed to ask George Wendell and Bo Beadle to serve. Anne will contact them and set up a meeting for next week.

ADMINISTRATIVE

Letter to Campground Owners – Anne asked about sending a letter to the local campground owners notifying them that if travel trailer owners did not pay taxes, they could be liable for them. Cheryl said there is a lot of legislation pending at this time on the subject and all agreed it was a “gray” area of taxation. After some discussion, the Board agreed not to go forward with this at this time.

Certified Computers – 2012 Support Contract – The Board agreed not to change to the “monitoring software on individual work stations” at this time; they will continue with the present system.

Timber Tax Levels – The Board agreed to have Janice Mulherin assist with assigning timber tax levels to timber sales as needed.

Nonpublic Session – Anne brought a situation to the Board's attention. A motion to enter Nonpublic session was made Mark, seconded by Cheryl under RSA 91-A:3, II(c). The Board voted 3-0 to enter non-public session at 10:30 p.m. The Board voted 3-0 at 10:40 to leave nonpublic session. The decision was made in nonpublic session to seal the minutes permanently.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m.

SIGNED: Checks; WWAS letter; MS-2

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant