

TOWN OF RUMNEY  
[www.rumneynh.org](http://www.rumneynh.org)  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
04/02/12

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

The meeting was opened at 7:05 p.m.

**Residents' Forum** – Mark began the session stating that this was the first forum; the Board plans to hold these sessions the first Monday of each month. During the first half hour residents are given the opportunity to discuss whatever is on their mind regarding town business. No appointments will be necessary. The Board hopes this meeting format will encourage participation in the meetings, and they welcome all input.

Present: Jerry Thibodeau, Tom Ambrose, Jim Buttolph and Anita French

Jim Buttolph asked for a timeline for the generator that was voted in at the town meeting. Mark explained that when Bill Taffe returns to town he will finish up the application and submit it to Homeland Security. If the application is approved, then Bill will move forward with the process. If the application is denied, the town has no commitment and nothing further will occur.

Jim questioned the need for the generator for the town office, especially one of the size and capacity discussed. He didn't see the need for one, especially during these economic times. Mark explained the importance of it for communication that is critical during a town-wide emergency.

Jerry Thibodeau said that the Chief Ward made the comment at Town Meeting that the fire department did not need a generator. Mark stated that after the town meeting Chief Ward did approach him and asked to be included with the generator purchase if possible. How the town proceeds depends on the granting of the application.

Tom Ambrose had questions regarding specific warrant articles. He asked if the articles are specific to the stated purpose only. Mark explained that individual articles such as the truck purchase or generator purchase are strictly for those purposes. Discussion followed on what the Selectmen can and cannot do with such warrant articles. They are not allowed to spend any more than is appropriated but can Selectmen choose not to spend money appropriated in an article? Anne will check with legal counsel on this matter.

Mr. Ambrose stated his concern about the 15% increase over last year's budget and questioned the Board's decision on such a budget. He asked if the town would consider purchasing a used truck? Mark explained that they do not usually consider a used truck because when they do make such a purchase they plan on it lasting a certain amount of years (a truck maybe 8 to 10 years, etc.).

Mr. Ambrose also expressed his concern over the amount of the police department budget.

Discussion followed about where the town stands with uncollected taxes. Linda Whitcomb, Tax Collector, was present and reported that at this time the town is 92% collected on three years' taxes. The number of liens in 2007 were 67, 2008 - 82, 2009 - 88 and in 2010 - 73.

Anita French asked about Iberdrola's timeframe. Mark said they plan to wait until school is out for the summer before bringing in the large equipment, etc.

Those present thanked the Board for the opportunity to speak. The forum concluded at 7:40 p.m.

## SELECTMEN'S ISSUES

**Minutes** – The minutes of 03-19-12 were approved as written; the minutes of 03-26-12 were approved as amended.

**Town Investments** – Present from Trustees of Trust Funds were Robin Bagley and Ed Gaiero; also present was former trustee Jim Turbyne. Cheryl explained that in reviewing last year's audit it was noted by the auditors that some accounts and investments were at risk due to various types of accounts they were in. The Trustees assured the Board that the Town's investments through Charter Trust were protected. After some discussion the Trustees and Anne will do follow-up work with Charter Trust and the bank to get written clarification of the level of protection that the town funds have.

**Haven Little Scholarship Fund** – The Board also talked with the Trustees about the dispersal of funds for this scholarship. They discussed the Board's recent change in method of dispersal using 50% of the total deposits of prior year up to a maximum of \$2,000 plus the prior year's earned interest. The Trustees asked if they had reviewed the criteria because that also has been an issue with this fund. The Selectmen have not addressed that at this time. The Trustees are still seeking their input.

Jim Turbyne recognized Robin Bagley for the time and effort she has put into her position as Trustee of the Trust Funds. He noted that she has gone above and beyond her scope of duties making sure the business of the trust funds is taken care of.

**Septic Plan Review** – Plans were reviewed for property #02-04-16; seeing no issues the Board approved the plans.

**Warren Wentworth Ambulance Service** provided the Board with copies of WWAS's response to the AG's report. The Board will review it before their meeting with WWAS on April 16<sup>th</sup>.

Jerry Thibodeau asked why the town was dealing with Warren Wentworth Ambulance Service; he thought the town had Plymouth for coverage. Mark explained that the town switched to Warren-Wentworth beginning in January of 2011.

### PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR –

- Jerry Thibodeau reminded those present of the review of the Master Plan Thursday night at the Russell School.
- Tom Ambrose suggested the town may want to contact other organizations, other than FDIC insured institutions, for possible investment options
- Jerry Thibodeau suggested asking the County how they handle these financial matters; what options do they have?

**Chief Main** met with the Board at their request. Mark made a motion to enter **nonpublic session** under RSA 91-A:3 (c), seconded by Ed. The Board voted 3-0 to enter non-public session at 8:17 p.m. The Board voted 3-0 at 8:25 p.m. to leave nonpublic session. No decisions were made. The Board voted to seal the minutes permanently.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE**

**North Country Council Representative** – Mark volunteered, as Planning Board liaison, to be the representative.

**Rumney Conservation Commission Appointments** – Upon the request from RCC Chairman Nory Parr, the Board voted to appoint Janice Mulherin and Susan Sepenoski as members to the commission for the three-year and two-year positions respectively.

**Road Committee** will meet tomorrow night, April 3, to discuss the purchase of the highway truck and other highway/road maintenance items.

**Junkyards** – Ken Knowlton met with Anne last week; he will begin his inspections within the next month. The Board will send out letters to the properties that are still in violation. The Board signed one initial letter to a property owner who may be in violation.

**IRS Payroll Audit** – The auditor should complete his field work this week and will follow up with written comments.

**Groton Wind** – The Town received a copy of the “Construction Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Plan” in accordance with Condition #14 of the Alteration of Terrain Bureau Final Decision issued October 8, 2010. This SPCC Plan outlines the procedures, methods and equipment used in the construction of the wind farm to comply with the EPA’s requirements.

Anne will forward the survey map of the road to the Board members. She will request an updated construction schedule.

Regarding the jar of liquid Bradley Shanks brought in last month, Groton Wind stated that they did not believe it was their responsibility to conduct testing on the liquid given the facts that it was gathered without their participation or witness, existing conditions of contamination in that area are unknown and other entities such as the NHEC have been working in the same area. The Board would like to have it tested. Anne will check with the Baker River Watershed to see if they can do the testing.

**Planning Board** – Mark reported on the recent meeting.

**Library Trustees’ Review of Candidates for LCHIP Study** – They plan to review applications in mid May and have asked for a representative from the Selectboard to participate. Ed volunteered to be the Selectmen’s representative.

**Signed:** Checks; Ellsworth Fire Contract; Septic Plan – 02-04-16; Timber Tax Warrant; Abatements; Intent to Excavate – K. Morrell; Junkyard letter;

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**Upcoming**    04/03   Road Committee  
                  04/04   Public Hearing – Master Plan at the Russell School @ 7:00 p.m.  
                  04/09   Selectmen's Meeting  
                  04/16   Selectmen's Meeting – WWAS; LGC

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow  
Administrative Assistant