

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
07/30/12

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

The meeting was opened by Chairman Mark Andrew at 7:00 p.m.

DEPARTMENT HEAD MEETING

Mark explained that these meetings were conducted several years ago, and this Board wanted to start them up again and meet 2 – 3 times a year as a group. It is an opportunity for all departments to talk with one another as well as updating everyone on the happenings of their respective departments.

Fire Department – Present were Chief Ken Ward, Fire Commissioners Dave Coursey, Terry French and Jim McCart. They reported on the following:

- Dealing with numerous truck repairs, some quite costly
- Building inspections are up to date – safety and life codes for schools, businesses, etc.
- They were busy with the rescue at the lake over the past weekend
- They have a few new members, and they are always looking for more interested people
- They will be around on Old Home Day and working the firework display that evening
- Budget – extra expenses on unanticipated truck repairs (numerous issues with truck computers)
- Looking ahead to 2013 – more truck repairs and anticipate needing more funds going into fire truck capital reserve for future truck purchases; not adequate as currently funded
- Chief Ward is pleased with his volunteers

Highway Department – Frank Simpson, Road Agent

- Buffalo Road has been paved; replaced several culverts on the road prior to paving
- Working on winter sand
- Plan to replace culverts next week near the Hunter subdivision on East Rumney Road
- The new truck should be arriving soon; then it will go to Fairfield for the body, etc; this is a little earlier than originally expected
- Budget is okay

Library – Tom Wallace, Trustee

- Running smoothly
- There is a problem with the oil tank; a temporary fix is in place but it will have to be addressed
- Budget – reported no problems
- Upcoming – Feasibility study will be conducted through the LCHIP program. Architect should have a conceptual drawing completed by September and will be in to discuss it with the Board and continue to keep them up to date with the project

Trustees of the Trust Funds – Betty Jo Taffe, Trustee

- Currently working with the Cemetery Trustees to come up with a plan/policy for spending the perpetual funds; funds can only be used for maintenance. They need to determine what percentage of the care goes with the lots.
- Cemetery Trustees are in the beginning stages of marking all cemetery lots. Betty Jo thanked Kathy Sobetzer for her work on these projects.
- Budget is fine; they do anticipate an increase next year for trustee expenses associated with attending training and completing the maps.

Health Officer – Bill Taffe reported no issues; the usual septic inspections.

Emergency Management – Bill Taffe

- Currently working on plans for the generator as voted in at town meeting; although Chief Ward initially stated at the meeting that the Fire Department did not need a generator. However, following the town meeting he said that if there was adequate funding for two the fire department would like to be included. The FD does have a portable generator but would like to be on a permanent one if it works out.
- Bill is presently working with several vendors; looking at 1 or 2 generator options; perhaps go back to the town in 2013 for a second generator
- Received a quote for propane which would involve bringing in one large tank
- Plans to meet with the Fire, Highway and Police departments to discuss options, plans
- Linda Whitcomb, Town Clerk/Tax Collector stated that at the 2012 town meeting there was discussion on 1 generator, not 2; she will check the minutes for accuracy; she expressed concerns about several years down the road that this/these generators would not be adequate again and will need to be upgraded
- She said in 2003 the town purchased a large generator, located at the school, which was supposed to serve the needs of the community, the school serving as the shelter but now that doesn't seem to be adequate enough
- Bill said the building can serve as a warming shelter, just not sufficient enough to serve as overnight accommodations
- Cheryl Lewis said he shouldn't base his decision on counting on a second year
- Bill said he was and will continue to do the right thing; if it is just one generator then it would be at the town office
- Dave Coursey said it would still have to be tied in to the fire department's system for water
- Chief Ward said two generators makes more sense

EMS – Bill Taffe

- Staff is limited, very short-handed, no recruits at this time
- Ambulance is running fine
- Reliable volunteer help is had to find
- The agreement with Wentworth-Warren Ambulance Service is working out fine; they work good together
- Presently the squad has five people who actually respond, 10 would be nice

Police – Chief Bill Main

- Purchasing tires for the 2007, budgeted expense
- Budget is in good shape; don't anticipate anything out of the ordinary
- Good personnel working for the department – George Hill is the newest special
- Radar certified
- All officers need to be firearm certified
- Plymouth has a canine available to assist other departments on a "mutual aid" basis; he attended a meeting today on protocol, etc.
- Majority of complaints are MV related; some DWI
- Plans in 2013 – long range – looking to recycle all firearms so within 2-3 years all are the same

Planning Board – Tom Grabiek, Chairman

- Recently adopted the new Master Plan; last version was completed in 1985
- There is frustration with the lack of rules and regulations
- Hopefully the Master Plan will guide them as to what is needed down the road
- Presently working with MRI Code Enforcement on miscellaneous matters
- He suggested bringing serious concerns to the Board's attention sooner so they can be dealt with sooner than later
- Do not anticipate any additional expenses in the 2013 budget

Cemetery – Trustees Kathy Sobetzer and Dave Berman

- No major plans in 2012 until they figure out about the perpetual funds
- Working with software to computerize all the cemeteries; very time consuming
- Trustees would like to have an updated survey done on Highland North, last one was in 1998
- One mower has been replaced this year
- Trees need to be cut, Sand Hill fence needs to be replaced
- 2013 budget – funds for surveys of the cemeteries

Town Clerk/Tax Collector – Linda Whitcomb

- Reported collection is 90-95% on the current bill which is average
- 2009 Lien – 25 or more people still couldn't pay, first time in her 25 years
- She continues to work with residents to make payment plans
- Registrations are down a little due to the economy
- Dogs are done
- Upcoming MV workshops
- Using the State's new laser printer for registrations

Tom Wallace asked if the town had received the quote for heating fuel; Anne said not at this time; she expects it in the near future.

Tom Grabiek asked if Groton Wind had contributed towards anything in the town. Mark said they did donate \$1,500 for the Fun Run and Old Home Day. Tom suggested asking them about helping out with a contribution towards the emergency services, maybe the generator. The Board will consider his request.

Bill Taffe updated the Board on the ongoing search for a missing person in the Stinson Lake area. He stated that these types of incidents are not budgeted for; to date the EMS has approximately 80 hours into it. EMS volunteers are paid through a quarterly stipend. The volunteer fire fighters are paid on a point system receiving payment at the end of the year. Chief Main said this is the fourth incident like this in four years. There was some discussion about funding for the future. Linda asked if the town ever bills for this type of incident. Chief Main said no, taxpayers already pay for it.

Mark thanked all the departments for attending. This part of the meeting concluded at 8:00 p.m.

Air Conditioner – Linda and Anne asked the Board's permission to purchase a new air conditioner for the meeting room. The second-hand one that was given to the town 5+ years ago stopped working. That machine worked well to keep not only the meeting room cool, but also the majority of the rest of the building. They presented the Board with four quotes averaging about \$500. The Board gave permission for the purchase.

8:15 Frank Simpson met with the Board on several purchase requests:

- 1) Permission to hire D.A. White for the Hunter culvert project on East Rumney Road, estimated cost is \$2,500; the Board would like to see 2 – 3 quotes before making a decision. Cheryl said they want to see consistency with all departments and would like to see the major expense items go out for bid. Frank will get the information to Anne tomorrow. Mark said they are looking for fairness and consistency.
- 2) Winter Sand – Can he use Rumney Sand & Gravel, same as last year - \$5.25/yd – after some discussion, Board okayed the purchase
- 3) Culvert purchases – Frank would like to use Ferguson; Board okayed
- 4) Roadside Mowing – asked to use Owens Mowing again this year – Board okayed

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – David Saad asked what was the preferred method of bringing something to the attention of the Board. Mark suggested 1) Residents' Forum 2) Privilege of the Floor 3) getting on the agenda for a specific date and time.

NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS

8:30 Richard Gowen and Frank Simpson were present to meet with the Board. At 8:30 Selectman Andrew made a motion to enter into **non-public session** under RSA 91-A:3 II (d), the motion was seconded by Selectman Lewis, the Board voted in favor of the motion 2-0. Selectman Ed Haskell recused himself from any discussion on this topic. The Board voted 2-0 to leave non-public session at 8:40 p.m. The Board approved the wording of a Purchase and Sale Agreement (for Heal property for highway garage) subject to town counsel's review. Selectman Haskell rejoined the Board.

8: 45 Bill Taffe was present to meet with the Board (on an EMS issue). At 8:45 Selectman Andrew made a motion to enter into non-public session under RSA 91-A:3 II (c), the motion was seconded by Selectman Haskell; the Board voted 3-0 in favor of the motion. The Board voted to seal the minutes 3-0. Motion to leave non-public session was made by Mark Andrew at 9:00, seconded by Ed Haskell; the motion passed 3-0.

SELECTMEN'S ISSUES

1. **Minutes** – The minutes of 07-16-12 were accepted, 3-0, with a wording correction.
2. **Search & Rescue** – The Board discussed the cost of search and rescues and the difficulty in budgeting for such events. Cheryl asked if there were some way to monitor such events. Mark said they will review the quarterly stipend summaries and police time cards to see what the cost was for this recent search for a missing person. If it needs to be addressed, the Board will do so during the budget process this fall.
3. **Grafton County Commissioners' Response** – The Board received notice from the Commissioners that they did not agree to waive the 90-day notification for ending the dispatch agreement due to their budget and the timing of the Board's request. The Selectmen would like to meet with Commissioner Ahern and Chief Main next week to discuss this matter further. Anne will contact Commissioner Ahern and Chief Main to see if they are able to meet next week.
4. **Inventory Penalty** – The Board received a request to waive the inventory penalty incurred on #02-01-06 for not returning inventory. The taxpayers' request stated that they did not receive the inventory. The Board agreed to remain consistent with past practices and deny the request. The taxpayers can appeal the Board's decision if they choose to.
5. **Driveways** – Mark reported that the "Russell" driveway on School Street is okay; he also has no objection to the request from owners of #10-01-07 and 10-01-07-04 to have just one driveway instead of the two requested by the previous owner.

6. **Draft Noise Ordinance** - The Board reviewed a draft ordinance. They need additional information on numerous parts of it before they move forward with one. There was discussion on what is "noise"; how would it be enforced. David Saad discussed noise made on private property, distances from others, measuring intensity. The Board will need to research this further before any action is taken. The Board suggested contacting MRI for assistance with this.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR – David Saad asked if the Town had a code of ethics. The Town does have one; Anne will get a copy of it to him.

ADMINISTRATION

1. Follow-up on questions from last week:
 - a. Silt on Halls Brook Road – Kelly Revel responded that Groton Wind was not doing any blasting in an area that would result in silt on Halls Brook Road.
 - b. Bry Harv Property – The property was subdivided earlier in the year; a septic design has been approved by both the Board and the State.
 - c. Route 25 Speed Limit – Both Senator Forrester and Councilor Burton have contacted the State DOT with the Board's concerns; no response from the State as of today.
 - d. Groton Wind Signage – Kelly is still working on this.
2. Meetings with Candidates – Bob Lamb, Martha Richards, Lester Bradley and Charles Sova have been scheduled to meet with the Board on August 27th.
3. Vacation – The Board okayed vacation time for Anne the week of August 13th.
4. Personnel Policies – The Board reviewed some more of them; Anne will ask for assistance from Primex on several parts of them.

SIGNED: Checks; Letter – Hawthorne Village Condo Association/Driveway; DRA PA-16 – Application for Reimbursement of Federal/State Forest Land

UPCOMING:

- 07/31 Planning Board – Latulippe Pit Hearing
- 08/06 Selectmen's Meeting – Residents' Forum
- 08/11 Old Home Day
- 08/13 Selectmen's Meeting ? decide next week
- 08/20 Selectmen's Meeting
- 08/27 Selectmen's Meeting – Candidates

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant