

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
March 7, 2013
Work Session

Selectmen: Mark Andrew, Cheryl Lewis, Ed Haskell
Administrative Assistant: Anne Dow
Fire Chief – Ken Ward
Fire Commissioners – Dave Coursey, Jim McCart and Terry French
Emergency Management Director – Ray Valentin was present for part of the meeting
EMT Tyler Reidy was present for a part of the meeting
Fire Secretary- Tom Lord

The meeting was held at the Depot Street Fire Station and opened at 6:30 p.m.

The purpose of the work session was to make a final decision on compensation for Rumney's fire fighters when they are responding to calls specifically in Groton although Rumney does respond to calls in Dorchester and Ellsworth also. The Selectmen strongly agree that costs related to the contracted towns we serve should not be paid by Rumney taxpayers..

Last month the Selectmen and Fire Commissioners agreed to compensate the Rumney fire fighters at a rate of \$15 per hour with a 3-hour minimum when responding to calls in Dorchester, Ellsworth and Groton. The rationale behind this decision was to make sure the responders were given a fair wage and an incentive to respond to these calls. In 2010 they were paid \$10 per hour with no minimum hours set and last year they were paid at \$11 per hour with no minimum. The bulk of the Fire Protection contract is calculated by using the previous year's actual expenses for the fire department and the fire station building.. The Groton Selectmen are not taking issue with that part of the contract, but they do have a problem with what they have called an unreasonable hike in the hourly wage and a three-hour minimum. Commissioner Da
ier in the week and discussed options for
compromise.

Chief Ward said he thought the fire fighters were happy with what they had been getting and weren't looking for a change. Commissioner Coursey said he felt a change should be made because these responders are using their own vehicles, leaving their jobs and families to respond to calls in another town. After much discussion it was Selectman Ed Haskell's offer to compensate the fire fighters at a rate of \$13 per hour with a two-hour minimum that was agreed upon. A 7-0 vote was taken with all members in agreement. They all also agreed that "no stipend points" would be earned for calls to contracted towns.

The subject of some specialized annual training was also discussed whether it was for Groton Wind or just training in general. Again, after some discussion all agreed that a sentence should be written into the contract stating that "Any specialized training needed annually for emergency service personnel for the contracted towns would be billed at the rate of \$13.00 per hour".

Anne will contact Pam Hamel to see if Chief Thompson and at least one of their selectmen can meet with the Rumney Selectmen on Monday night to discuss the offer. Anne will let everyone know Groton's decision sometime on Friday.

Respectively submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant