

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
MINUTES
08/19/13

Selectmen: Ed Haskell, Dan Kimble, Cheryl Lewis
Administrative Assistant: Anne Dow

Chairman Ed Haskell opened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Appointments

Frank Simpson – Road Agent

1. Bid for Electrical Work at Heal building opened
 - a. Contacted three electricians
 - i. Received one – Wentzell Electric for \$4,625/\$310 for generator – Board voted 3-0 to accept Wentzell's bid
2. Bids for Contractor for Garage Door project
 - a. Received two bids
 - i. Randy Latulippe -\$4,600 – Board voted 3-0 to accept Latulippe's bid
 - ii. Kelley Building - \$6,400

Anne will notify the bidders of the outcome and request certificates of insurance from the contractors; no work can begin until we receive those.

3. Roadside mowing may begin this week.
4. Winter sand bids – The Board agreed to have Frank call and verify prices from at least 3 vendors
5. Backhoe is at the CAT dealership for repairs – they will start with the big repairs first
6. Concrete blocks are needed to contain the sand pile at the new garage site. Frank asked if he could purchase a
a. ' @ \$30/each; Carroll Concrete - \$50/each, there are no other sources in our area. The Board agreed to have him go forward and get the blocks from Persons. Money is available in his budget.
7. Groton Hollow Road Final Inspection with Groton Wind – (Cheryl Lewis recused herself from discussion on this item). Frank and Ed met with Doren Emmett from Groton Wind on August 6, 2013 to inspect the road for the final inspection following the end of the Groton Wind project.
 - a. There were a few places that required some minor ditching but Frank and Ed agreed that the Town highway crew would be able to do the work during their regular road work rather than have Groton Wind's contractor move equipment back to Rumney to clean it up.
 - b. Carl Spring, although not present for the inspection, had stopped before the inspection and said he had a few concerns:
 - i. one specific location with excessive dirt – will wash into the ditch
 - ii. width of the bank close to Route 25 – feels it is encroaching on to the r-o-w
 - iii. where the NHEC cut trees along the bank, he said it should be rip-rapped, etc.

Frank and Ed said they were satisfied with the condition of the road. Selectmen Ed Haskell and Dan Kimble voted 2-0 to officially "accept" the condition of Groton Hollow Road and agreed to release the Letter of Credit.

Later in the evening Carl Spring addressed this with the Board. He restated his concerns with the road and recommended the Town bill Groton Wind for their time for doing the minor ditching.

Cemetery Trustees – Kathy Sobetzer and David Berman met with the Board to discuss the maintenance of the cemeteries. Both the Selectmen and the Trustees have received numerous complaints this year about the cemeteries, the lack of mowing, trimming and overall condition of them. The Trustees are well aware of this but do not have any solutions at this time. Ed Haskell has talked with Linda Duncan from Forever Green about assisting with the problem. She has the equipment and workers and is willing to help the Town out. The hourly wage the Town pays is \$10/hour and that is what was budgeted for 2013. She is willing to do the work for the \$10/hour rate. It is not the Board's intention to replace the current employees but to have Forever Green get all the cemeteries mowed and trimmed and then come back only if needed. Hopefully the current employees will be able to keep up with the mowing and trimming for the rest of the year as the season is winding down. The Selectmen and Trustees were in agreement with this arrangement.

The Trustees brought up the big washout in Highland South that is going to require major work. Frosty Sobetzer is going to contact DES about what may be needed for permits, etc.

Privilege of the Floor – Two attendees had concerns about a cemetery issue. They recently buried a family member and had questions on the cost of the burial and some other charges. Anne asked the cemetery trustees to come back in and they were able to answer their questions.

Russ Rigoli – Mr. Rigoli brought in the payment for the fireworks detail the Fire Department did on July 3rd at a residence on the lake. He also stated that he has been happy to provide the fireworks for the Old Home Day celebrations for the last few years. He has given the Town a very good deal on the price and said he will continue to do so, but if he has to wait for the job to be put out to bid each year, he may not be able to. He needs a \$500 deposit in February to secure a date in his schedule. He asked if the Board would be willing to agree to that if he continued to provide the fireworks for the event. The Board said they would agree to that. He should submit a request for the \$500 in February for payment.

Fire Commissioners and Fire Chief – Dave Coursey, Jim McCart and Chief Ward came in to talk with the Board about several issues. Carl Spring was present also.

1. The Ladies' Auxilliary has purchased a lighted sign for the department. They would like to make it a permanent fixture with a roof over it out near Route 25. The Board said they had no problem with them putting up the sign but they will have Anne check with the DOT on the property lines and get their okay should the location be in their R-O-W.
2. The Fire Department will be holding an Ice Cream Social and cake decorating contest on August 31st at the fire station as a fund raiser for the department. They asked if they could sell raffle tickets for the event at the Transfer Station. The Board agreed to have them sell the tickets there. If they were going to have a fire truck at the Transfer Station, no one from the public is allowed to climb on the truck for liability reasons.
3. The Board asked if department equipment had been returned by a former fire fighter. Chief Ward reported that to date it had not been returned.
4. Some concerns were raised about the lack of responders to recent EMS calls. The Board will schedule a meeting soon with Bill Taffe and Ray Valentin to discuss this issue.

Selectmen's Issues

1. **North Country Council Upcoming Meeting** – The agenda for their August 21st meeting calls for discussion on the North Country Housing Needs. Although none of our selectmen can attend the meeting, they did want to pass on some comments regarding this subject.

In the North Country Housing Needs Assessment (June 2011), which was included with the meeting notice, the Board noted recommendations calling for the development of more land use regulations to encourage development of lower cost year-round housing. The Selectmen strongly disagree with these recommendations and feel there needs to be less regulation. One of the selectmen recently spoke with a local landlord who said the reason he has sold most of his rental properties is because of the difficulty in meeting all of the regulations that are currently in effect.

In addition, the Board feels the belief that seasonal properties negatively impact affordable housing is not accurate. They feel seasonal properties significantly improve a town's tax base, therefore helping to keep the tax rate lower for the landlords who are currently offering affordable housing.

Anne will send a letter to North Country Council with the Board's comments listed above.

2. Transfer Station – Used Waste Oil Grant – Sonny had submitted recommendations on supplies for the used oil burner. The Board agreed to have Sonny purchase the supplies for the grant.
3. New Hampshire Electric Coop, Inc. Appeal – Their attorney has requested that the 2012 appeal be included with the ongoing 2010-11 appeal; Attorney Boldt, representing the town in this appeal recommended that the Board do so to save money and time. The Board voted 3-0 to include the 2012 appeal with the others.

4. Blasting Regulations – The Board agreed to hold off on making a decision about the blasting regulations until they see what the State receives regarding his Alteration of Terrain permit.
5. Septic Approval – 02-03-16 – Board reviewed and approved the septic plans.
6. Police Department Details – The Board had some questions on the Old Home Day details. After some discussion, the Board agreed that future non-reimbursed details must be approved by the Board four weeks in advance of the actual detail.
7. Advisory Committee – The Board would like to work closely with the committee this year and hopes that all members will be able to participate as their input is very important.

Administrative

1. Trustees of the Trust Funds – Request for recommendation on funds to invest over the next 6-12 months; the Board would like to wait until budget time to meet with department heads and get their input before making a commitment on the investments. Anne will ask the Trustees if they can wait for a month or so on a decision.
2. There has been a request for “Yield to Oncoming Traffic” signs for both sides of Sand Hill bridge, if only one, they would like it on the Route 25 side. Anne will check with both Chief Main and Frank Simpson about the signs.
3. Library/Church – The Board reviewed a draft deed from the town attorney on the boundary line adjustment. Anne will forward to the church for their review.
4. The Board received a complaint from a resident on Stone Hill Road about a logging operation. Anne contacted the Department of Revenue Timber Division who will be looking into the complaint.
5. The Board received a request to waive an inventory penalty. The request was denied.
6. Wentworth Selectman Francis Muzzey has asked when the Board intends to complete the perambulation the two towns started several years. He said it has not been completed. Anne will check with Janice Mulherin, the selectperson who was working with Mr. Muzzey on this at the time.
7. A SEC hearing has been scheduled for October 3rd to continue with discussions on two specific issues:
 1. The location of the O& M building
 2. The winter road maintenance issues – although they dealt with this in the spring, the Board will wait to hear what is said at the hearings

Signed: Checks; Septic Approval – 02-03-16;

Upcoming: 08/26 No Selectmen's Meeting
08/27 Planning Board Meeting
09/02 Labor Day – No Selectmen's Meeting
09/09 Selectmen's Meeting – Residents' Forum

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant