

TOWN OF RUMNEY  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
DECEMBER 2, 2013

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

Chair Ed Haskell opened the meeting at 7:03 pm.

**Minutes:** November 18, 2013 minutes were approved with changes.  
November 4, 2013 minutes were amended for clarification on EMS issues.  
Dan Kimble made a motion to accept the amended minutes, Ed Haskell seconded.

**County Commissioner:** Martha Richards, Grafton County Commissioner met with the Board to review County Government. Accompanying her was Mark Scarano, Chief Executive Officer of the G.C. Economic Development Council. Mark spoke of the new business incubator recently opened in Plymouth in conjunction with PSU. He offered insight in to what the incubator offers to help small business in the area. They not only offer advice but also financial support and a few startup businesses are currently located in the Plymouth office.

Martha gave a breakdown of all departments within the County Government explaining the responsibilities of each. She further explained the accomplishments this year for each - the farm earning a good income from their vegetable stand.

**Selectmen's Issues:**

**Fire Commissioner Appointment:** A decision was made on the appointment for the vacancy on the Fire Commissioners. Dan K. made a motion to appoint John Bagley, seconded by Cheryl Lewis to fill the vacancy, created by the resignation of David Coursey, until the elections in March. A 3-0 affirmative vote followed.

**Forestry Workshop:** Cheryl L. attended the forestry workshop on November 20, 2013. She reported on a few points of interest: (1) When an intent to cut is filed and there is a lien on the property, it is important to obtain a bond from the property owner to cover the estimated timber tax. Another time to obtain a bond is when there is a "tenant in common" such as a trust when more than one person or a person other than the property owner may be responsible for the tax. (2) A supplemental intent to cut should be filed if the cut is greater than the original estimate. (3) Slash must be kept 100' away from any occupied building whether it is a residence or a barn. (4) Basal Law provides guidelines for the visual impact of a cutting. Buffers should be left along roadways and streams as defined in this law.

**Draft Ordinance-No Overnight Camping/Parking on Town Property:** An ordinance to prevent camping/overnight parking on all town property is being worked on. The ordinance needs to be clear and enforceable.

**Administrative:**

**Tax Rate:** The Board set the final 2013 tax rate at \$19.93, a \$0.19 increase over 2012. The Board voted to use \$200,000 from unrestricted fund balance to keep the rate under \$20.00. The rate breakdown - Town \$4.39, School \$ 11.80, Education Tax \$2.30 and County \$1.44.

The tax bills were mailed out on November 23, four to six weeks later than the Town typically does. Bills cannot be sent out until the Town receives a tax rate from the Department of Revenue, and this year it wasn't until November 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Board will send a letter to the DRA expressing their concerns over the lateness of getting the rates out to towns and requesting that steps be taken next year to expedite the process.

**Pole License Petition:** A return call from the attorneys providing guidance with this is necessary prior to this being submitted.

**Highway:** Frank Simpson provided three bids for the purchase of a generator for the highway garage:

Small Engine Repair	\$1189.00
Northern Tool	\$2900.00
Tractor Supply	\$1000.00

Frank recommended accepting the bid from Small Engine Repair. Purchasing locally and from a company that can supply support and service is important which is not available from the other two companies. The Board agreed with Frank's recommendation and gave the go-ahead to make the purchase.

**Buffalo Road Bridge:** The Board received notification that NH HSEM has received the award letter for the Buffalo Road bridge project. The grant now must go before the Governor and Council for approval. The Board will hold a public hearing to accept these funds on January 6, 2014 at 7:00 pm. The estimated cost of the project is \$378,790 with \$284,092.50 of that to come from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, \$75,758 from the New Hampshire DOT State-Aid Bridge Program and the remaining \$18,939.50 from the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund.

To keep the process moving forward with a goal of completion in 2014, HEB has recommended that the Board have a survey and wetland delineation of the site completed at this time before the snow comes. HEB can do the work. The cost is \$2,500; the Town's portion would be \$625, reimbursed by FEMA upon completion of the bridge project. A motion to have HEB do the survey and wetland delineation and to withdraw the \$625 from the Bridge Capital Reserve Fund was made and seconded with a 3-0 affirmative vote.

The Town will also go forward with engineer selection using the Qualification Based Selection (QBS) process.

**Advisory Committee:** The Board will invite the Advisory Committee to attend the December 16, 2013 meeting to review the budgets.

**Junkyards:** Barlow – has not met with Ed H. for an inspection. A letter will be sent giving him a date for this inspection to take place. Nadeau – During Ken Knowlton's inspection last month he

questioned the number of ATV's being kept in addition to the snowmobiles and suggested the Board get legal clarification on this. Anne will check with Town counsel.

**DRA 600 Rules:** The Department of Revenue has issued a draft of their updated rules affecting assessing practices. Concerns over many of the rules have been raised by the assessing community as well as towns. There are questions about how much authority the DRA has over assessing practices and how much of a role the DRA should be taking. Many of the changes they have proposed would mean additional costs to assessing firms which would be passed on to the towns. The Board will send a letter to the DRA expressing their concerns about this.

**Law Updates:** The date agreed upon to have Atty. Waugh present the law updates to the Selectmen and the Planning Board is January 14, 2014. Anne will check with Atty. Waugh to see if he is available on that date.

**Personnel Policy:** The updated personnel policy draft has been received from the attorney's office with suggested changes. The first portion of this was reviewed by the Board at this meeting. They will continue reviewing the remaining portions over the next few meetings.

**Budgets:** The following budgets were reviewed: Executive (monies added to Moderator for January primary); Town Clerk/Tax Collector; Financial Administration; Revaluation; Legal; Planning Board; Code Enforcement; General Government Buildings. The cemetery trustees will be invited to a meeting for a review of their budget and discussion of several projects that are needed in various cemeteries.

**Evaluations:** The Board will begin meeting with department heads to go over their evaluations beginning December 16<sup>th</sup>. Frank, Sonny and Anne will be scheduled for that night.

**Signed:** Checks; Abatements (16-05-15-D/11-06-02); Tax Commitment Warrant; Request to transfer police revolving funds into General Fund; 2014 Forest Fire Warden/Deputy Wardens.

**Upcoming:** 12/16 Selectmen's meeting w/Advisory Committee  
12/17 Planning Board meeting

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kindell  
Clerk