

TOWN OF RUMNEY  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING  
MINUTES  
JANUARY 20, 2014

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

Chairman, Ed Haskell opened the meeting at 7:04 pm.

**Fairpoint Petition:** Diana Graves-Kindell presented the Fairpoint petition which will update the wording regarding taxation of the utility poles on the Pole Licenses held by the Town of Rumney. A hearing will be scheduled for this petition.

**Minutes:** The minutes of December 30, 2013 were accepted as written.  
The minutes of January 14, 2014 were accepted with one change.  
The minutes of January 16, 2014 were accepted with changes.

**Junkyard:** Ed Haskell inspected the property of Brendon Barlow on January 4, 2014 and found one junk truck, a parts truck for the plow truck and three registered vehicles. Mr. Barlow was not present during this inspection. A follow-up letter will be sent to him.

**Ambulance Service:** Brian Clark, Ilene Clark, Steve Alabugh, Ralph Edmond and Becky Bordonaro of the Warren-Wentworth Ambulance were present to discuss the town's use of their service. Also in attendance was Bill Taffe, Director of Rumney EMS service. Issues with the service included response time and only one person on board the ambulance. Brian explained they follow the rules and cannot run lights and sirens for Bravo or Alpha calls – these are not life threatening calls and they must respond with traffic. Should a 1<sup>st</sup> Responder notify them the call has changed to a Charlie (critical) call, they will then use lights, siren and proceed at a faster rate. Providing response numbers and times for 2012 and 2013, the average time to respond was 16.3 minutes. This will vary depending on the location of the call with the back side of Stinson Lake or the farther end of East Rumney Road a longer response time than other parts of town. Bill Taffe stated he had no problem with their response time. Becky Bordonaro, also a Rumney 1<sup>st</sup> Responder, stated the EMS people will be prepping a patient for transport while waiting for the ambulance. If a patient needs immediate transport, Rumney EMS can provide that service. There is a highly trained crew on the W/W ambulance.

Brian Clark said he only knew of one time that W/W responded with only one person on board. That call was on Halls Brook Road and Ray Valantin, Rumney 1<sup>st</sup> Responder, boarded as a second person. Becky further said she likes being the third person on board as it is a learning experience for her. W/W and Rumney crews work well together. Ilene Clark stated she has intercepted the W/W ambulance at times and boarded to assist.

Cheryl Lewis questioned updates and periodic meetings with the Select Board. The W/W crew has never had a problem to discuss and suggested the Board contact them for occasional meetings. Brian does contact Bill Taffe via cell phone when Bill is away – contact is always there. W/W is manned 24/7 with paid staff during the day and volunteers at night.

Cheryl further questions the issues W/W had with the State of NH such as filing reports. Brian said that was no longer an issue, but an ongoing internal process of how they handle their paperwork.

**Administrative:**

**Fiscal Year change:** Anne Dow had inquired into the process for changing the fiscal year to correspond with the town meeting and budget processing. This is an involved process, requires a vote of the town and would require the first year be an 18 month budget.

**Trustee of the Trust Funds:** Bette Jo Taffe has resigned her position as one of the trustees as of January 17, 2014. She further recommended Deb Maes as having an interest in this position. Cheryl Lewis made a motion to appoint Deb Maes as Trustee of the Trust Funds for the remainder of Bette Jo's term which is March 2015. Ed Haskell seconded the motion and all voted in the affirmative.

**Fire Dept. pay period:** The change from paying stipends on a yearly basis to a monthly basis was a form that needed to be submitted to the Department of Labor. Anne is waiting for a response from the State on this.

**Bridge Funds:** The public hearing to accept FEMA monies for replacing the Buffalo Road Bridge has been rescheduled for February 3, 2014.

**Town Report:** There are still some department reports that have not been received.

**Fire Commissioner's Minutes:** In reviewing the commissioner's minutes from December, it was noted the department was questioning the cost of putting an addition on to the building using volunteers. Any addition to a town building must be approved by the voters through a warrant article. Also – Ed Haskell stated the old forestry truck will have to go.

**Selectmen's issues:**

**Auditor's questionnaire:** This questionnaire was reviewed, answered and signed by the Board.

**911 Maps:** The maps and information were reviewed. Anne will check with Linda Whitcomb, Town clerk, and question what changes have been made out of the suggested listing. The maps were not signed off on.

**Warrant Article Assignments:** The Board members divided the warrant articles to speak about at town meeting.

**HB1441:** Jeannie Forester, Rep. had sent a questionnaire regarding HB1441 which would repeal the timber tax. Comments were requested regarding this bill and a letter of opposition will be sent. This would mean a significant reduction of income to all the northern towns in the state.

**Non-Public Session:** At 9:00 pm Ed Haskell made a motion to enter Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3,II(c), seconded by Dan Kimble and all voted in the affirmative. At 9:40 pm Dan Kimble made a motion to leave Non-Public Session, seconded by Ed Haskell and voted 3-0 in the affirmative.

**Fire Dept.:** Chief Dave Coursey told the Board he had contacted Neil McIver for figures on the permits to install a new hydrant at Stinson Lake, repairs to an existing hydrant on Quincy Road and stated the hydrant at the Conference Grounds is still a work in process when the ground thaws. He will be doing an inspection with the State Fire Marshall on Friday of the Groton Wind Farm building and the school.

Figures obtained to convert the highway truck to a forestry truck are: flatbed \$1,600, paint \$3,700 and the skid tank \$10,000. They will use a radio and lights they presently have. A \$25,000 figure will be put into the warrant article for this.

**EMS follow up:** Present were Bill Taffe, Ray Valentin and Tyler Reidy from the EMS dept. Bill stated that Brian Clark had pulled all the runs. Cheryl L. stated she has concerns for while Bill is away this winter – payroll issues – need commitment to do the paperwork. Ray said he steps back while Bill is here and steps up while Bill is gone. Doing the stipends on a monthly basis will be much easier – they will be due on a certain date still to be determined.

Dan has a concern with the future of the department as it appears to be dying. Long term volunteer viability is a concern everywhere. You cannot just get volunteers as it takes a lot of initial training and commitment to join EMS. Lakes Region was dismayed by the town's letter to stop service to both Groton and Ellsworth. Cheryl stated she felt the department needed to get on track before serving additional towns. Ray stated it was of no help to the department by dropping the two towns. Rumney still is called to Groton under mutual aid, so we are still servicing the towns, but getting nothing for it from the town. We

stepped back from a regionalization by dropping two towns. Warren/Wentworth coming here was "regional". Regionalization needs to be seriously looked at for the larger long range picture. It would need to be done through the Select Boards and not through the EMS departments. They are concerned as they are a month into a contract term, but still have no contract. Plymouth will not enter into anything they cannot control.

Ed Haskell made a motion to stay with Warren/Wentworth for the next year. Cheryl Lewis seconded the motion and all voted in the affirmative. They will contact Brian Clark regarding a meeting twice a year.

Stipends for EMS were discussed as very low and not conducive to recruiting members. Ed made a motion to recommend an increase in EMS stipends to \$13.00 for EMR, \$15.50 to EMT.B and \$18.00 for EMT.1. Cheryl seconded this motion with all agreeing. The EMS stipend budget item will be increased by \$1000 to cover this change.

**Warrant Issues:** Atty. Waugh has reviewed the warrant and found that Article 16 was not legal as written. He will re-write the article correctly.

**Signed:** Checks; Intent to Cut – A. Morrill; Oath of Office – Special Police Officers; Dorchester Fire and Transfer Station contract; Groton Fire contract; Ellsworth Fire Contract.

**Upcoming:** 1/28 Planning board Meeting  
1/29 Public Hearing on Russell School budget – 6 pm  
2/03 Selectmen's meeting; Public Hearing on Bridge FEMA funds,  
Resident's forum  
2/04 Deliberative Session – Pemi Baker School @ 6:30 pm at the High School  
2/06 Deliberative Session – Rumney School District @ 6:30 pm at Russell School  
2/10 Public Hearing – Town Warrant, Budget; Library Addition Hearing

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kindell  
Clerk