

TOWN OF RUMNEY
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SELECTMEN'S MEETING
February 10, 2014

**PUBLIC HEARING
2014 PROPOSED BUDGET AND WARRANT
MINUTES**

Present:

Selectmen – Cheryl Lewis, Ed Haskell, Dan Kimble
Administrative Assistant – Anne Dow
Department Heads – Bill Main, Dave Coursey, Sonny Ouellette, Frank Simpson
Members of the public

The public hearing was opened at 7:33 pm by Ed Haskell, Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 11th):

Selectman for 3 years	Treasurer for 1 year
Library Trustee for 3 years	Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years
Cemetery Trustee for 3 years	Cemetery Trustee for 2 year
Fire Commissioner for 3 years	Fire Commissioner for 1 year
(2) Planning Board Members for 3 years	Moderator for 2 years
Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years	

ARTICLE 2: To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$361,215** to construct and furnish **an addition and alterations to the Byron G. Merrill Library** to make the building accessible to the disabled and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$334,595 of bonds or notes in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998) and to authorize the Library Trustees to withdraw \$1,620 from the Donald Young Memorial Fund and to authorize the Town and Library Trustees to apply for, receive and expend grants for this purpose with all such grant amounts received to be used to reduce the amount of the bonds or notes. The first bond payment would not be due until 2015. (The Selectmen do not recommend this special article) (two-thirds (2/3) ballot vote required)

Just addressed in the public hearing prior to this one.

Gary McCool noted that the Selectmen did not recommend the article and asked why. The Board said because of feedback they have received about the cost of the project, the unknown expenditures needed at the school and the general state of the economy they did not feel they could support the project at this time. Mr. McCool asked if this article gets voted down, will the Town be in violation of ADA regulations. Tom Wallace said it would not be violating anything at this time, but they know that it is a real possibility in the future.

Ken Weinig asked if there was anyone they knew in town that could not use the library for accessibility reasons. Tom Wallace said he knows of one person who is unable to use it. Selectperson Cheryl Lewis said the Board has talked about providing transportation for those individuals who are unable to access ours to another town whose library would be handicapped accessible and therefore would give them the opportunity to use a library.

Kathy Wallace stated that the price for this addition will only go up over the years.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$90,000** for the purpose of purchasing a **highway truck** to replace the 2006 Ford F-550 truck and to authorize the withdrawal of \$90,000 from the Highway Equipment Fund (established in 1960). The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Selectman Ed Haskell explained this is in line with the Capital Improvement Plan and the funds will be withdrawn from the Highway capital reserve fund with no new taxes being raised. Road Agent Frank Simpson said the 2006 truck will have 100,000+ miles on it by fall which is high mileage for a “light” plow truck.

Chairman Haskell said the Fire Department will be able to use the 2006 truck for a utility/forestry truck with some changes to the body. Dave Coursey said the sander will be kept by the Highway Department for the new truck, the plow would go with the truck, the dump body will be sold. Janice Mulherin asked if they had considered trading the truck. Frank explained that they would need to use the truck until the new one comes in, better deal is not to trade. Dave said the Fire Department would be getting rid of the 1969 truck that is currently used as the forestry truck and stored in the West Rumney fire station. He said this 2006 truck would be used as a utility truck also to go on the fire calls and used for some plowing. An additional \$5,000 has been included in the Fire Department Vehicle Repair and Maintenance line for improvements to the truck this year. Next year there will be a warrant article for the amount needed for the rest of the changes, approximately \$20,000. Janice suggested a separate warrant article for this to have the town decide about the utility/forestry truck.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$378,790** for the **replacement of the Buffalo Road Bridge #128/093**, with \$284,092.50 of said sum to come from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, \$75,758 of said sum to come from the NHDOT State-Aid Bridge Program, and the remaining \$18,939.50 of said sum to come from the Bridge Repair & Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2008). This is to be a non-lapsing appropriation, valid for a period of three years. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Ed Haskell explained that no tax dollars will be raised for this. There is currently \$73,000 in the Bridge capital reserve fund.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$28,000** for the purpose of replacing the **skidsteer** at the Transfer Station with a similar machine and to fund this appropriation with \$23,000 from the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2008) and the remaining \$5,000 from a New Hampshire the Beautiful grant. In the event the grant is not received, \$28,000 will be withdrawn from the CRF to fund this appropriation with no amount to be raised through taxation. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Cheryl Lewis explained that this is in line with the Capital Improvement Plan and the funds are available in the Transfer Station capital reserve fund, no new taxes raised for this. Sonny Ouellette said he looked at several different models but is recommending another Bobcat.

ARTICLE 6: To choose three members for the **Advisory Committee:** To be voted on at Town Meeting

- 1 for a 3-year term from the Village
- 1 for a 1 year term from the Lake area (to finish out another member’s term)
- 1 for a 2 year term from the Depot area (to finish out another member’s term)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$308,061** to defray the following **General Government Expenses** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Executive	\$ 67,965
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 74,437
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$ 3,561
Financial Administration	\$ 44,905
Legal Expense	\$ 35,000
Planning Board	\$ 5,506
General Government Buildings	\$ 39,530
Street Lights	\$ 7,500
Insurance-Property/Liability & WC	\$ 25,957
Regional Association Dues	<u>\$ 3,700</u>
Total General Government Expenses	\$308,061

Cheryl Lewis highlighted that the server and two computers will be replaced this year, wage increases of 1% to 1.5% were given and \$27,000 of legal expenses is budgeted for the ongoing appeals by New Hampshire Electric Coop and Fairpoint. The Town is represented by Donahue, Tucker and Ciandella and George Sancoucy in these cases along with several other towns. The legal expenses are being split among all the towns. There was some confusion at the public hearing as to the exact amount the Town received in taxes from the all the utilities. In 2013 New Hampshire Electric Coop paid taxes in the amount of \$106,469 and Fairpoint paid \$16,819. The total amount of taxes paid in 2013 by all the utilities we have in town was \$217,480 (NHEC, Fairpoint, PSNH, Time Warner, Iberdrola and New England Hydro Transmission). The utilities tax rate for 2013 was \$17.63 (the tax rate \$19.93 less the State Education Tax of \$2.30 (2013)). The Board agrees that it is worth moving forward with the legal appeals.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$61,650** for **Assessing Services and Tax Maps updates** for the ensuing year; of that total, to authorize the withdrawal of \$36,000 from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1984) with the remaining \$25,650 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

This is the final year of the revaluation; new values will be in place for the second tax bill.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,000** for the purpose of **Code Enforcement** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Dan Kimble explained this is for ongoing Junkyard enforcement through the Selectmen's Office and enforcement of land use matters for the Planning Board.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** for the operation of the **Cemeteries** for the ensuing year; \$5,000 to come from Cemetery Trust Funds and \$25,000 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be known as the **Cemetery Improvement Fund** for the purpose of funding major repairs, projects, maintenance needs and record updates for the cemeteries and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** to be placed in said fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Ed said there are several major projects that need to be taken care of in several of the cemeteries, i.e. a washout in Highland South. Having a capital reserve fund will help make the funding of these projects less of an impact when spread out over several years.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$242,954** to defray the cost of running the **Police Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Carl Spring questioned the increase from 2005 until now in the police (and highway) budget stating that the 2012 police budget indicated a cost of \$634 per day.

Chief Main explained that a full-time officer was added in 2006 and beginning in 2012 the personnel administration costs, which consist of health insurance, retirement, disability insurance and payroll taxes, were included in the individual budgets rather than in a separate account. This year the cost of those items for the police total \$69,763 which is approximately 29% of the total police budget. Fuel costs have also gone up approximately 50% since then.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** for **Ambulance Service** contracted with the Warren-Wentworth Ambulance Service for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required) No discussion.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,306** to defray the cost of the **Safety Committee, E-911 and Emergency Management** services for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Safety Committee	\$ 1,500
E-911	\$ 200
Emergency Management	<u>\$ 5,606</u>
Total Safety, E-911 & Emg Mgt	\$ 7,306

No discussion.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$69,687** to defray the cost of running the **Fire Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Ed Haskell explained increases in this budget are due to a new line item of \$3,120 for clerical assistance for the department, training expenses and \$5,000 specifically for upgrades/improvements to the 2006 highway truck (providing Article 3 passes).

More discussion followed on the utility/forestry truck. Janice questioned the acquisition of the 2006 truck. Dave Coursey explained that some of the cost of the estimated \$25,000 improvements will be offset by the sale of the old truck and the dump body. \$5,000 will be used in 2014 and the rest done in 2015.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to modify and clarify the organizational structure of the Rumney Fire Department from the vote taken at the 1994 March Town Meeting to the form of organization outlined below, such changes not to take effect until one year following this vote, in accord with RSA 154:1, paragraph IV.

1. The fire chief shall be voted into office by the firefighters of the Department, as permitted by RSA 154:1, paragraph III, subject to being confirmed by the fire commissioners. The fire chief's term shall be three years as authorized by NH RSA 154:5, I, unless sooner removed in accord with paragraph 2.
2. The provisions of RSA 154:5 shall apply to the fire chief, including but not limited to those provisions governing duties and suspension or removal, except where inconsistent with this article. For purposes of RSA 154:5 only, the fire commissioners shall exercise the authority given by that statute to "the appointing authority", provided, however, that any formal written policies adopted by the fire commissioners shall be consistent with personnel and other applicable policies adopted by the board of selectmen, and with ordinances adopted by the Town.
3. All firefighters shall be appointed by the fire chief, subject to confirmation by the fire commissioners. All new firefighters shall initially serve a probationary period of one year upon their appointment to the Department. However, all firefighters shall remain employees-at-will, and are subject to removal with or without cause, either before or after the end of the probationary period.
4. Other aspects of the organization of the Department, including maximum numbers of firefighters and subordinate officer structure, shall be as determined by vote of the fire commissioners. All subordinate officers shall be appointed by, and shall serve at the pleasure of, the fire chief.
5. The fire chief may suspend or remove any firefighter, subject to a hearing and review by the fire commissioners. Any such action shall be in accordance with the personnel policies adopted by the board of selectmen.

Ed explained that this year the Fire Commissioners and Chief Coursey are proposing a change to the organizational structure of the fire department as outlined.

No objections to the article.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** for the purpose of **installing, repairing and maintaining hydrants** for the town and to authorize the withdrawal of \$3,000 from the Water Supply Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010) with the remaining \$4,000 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required) Minimal discussion on the article.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$19,858** to defray the cost of running the **EMS (Emergency Medical Services)** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required) Minimal discussion on the article.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$300,173** for the maintenance of **Highways and Bridges** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required) Minimal discussion on the article.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for **Road Improvements** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Plans are to start work at the Rumney/Wentworth town line and continue on far as the budget will allow.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$153,285** to defray the cost of maintaining the **Transfer Station** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Increase in transportation and tipping fees.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,290** to defray the Town’s share of the cost of the **Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District** (\$1,190) and the annual **Plymouth Water and Sewer District Permit Fee** (\$100) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required) No discussion.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,800** to defray the cost of services, labor and/or equipment needed at the Transfer Station for part of Phase II of the **Landfill Closure** process for the ensuing year as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

Minimal discussion.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$35,612** for the purposes of **Animal Control, Health and Welfare** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Animal Control	2,050
Health Officer Stipend, etc	930
Health Officer-Payroll Taxes	50
Health Administration	500
Mount Mooselauke Health Center	1,500
Pemi-Baker Community Health	4,250
Voices Against Violence	1,000
Bridge House	1,500
Genesis	300
CASA	300
CADY	300
Direct Assistance	11,000
Welfare Administrator Stipend, etc	4,737
Grafton County Seniors	3,300
Tri-County CAP	<u>3,895</u>
Total Animal Control, Health & Welfare	\$ 35,612

Dan Kimble explained that this year the Board requested all agencies complete and submit a formal “Request for Funding for Social Service Agencies” questionnaire and request for financial information.

To be eligible for an appropriation, they had to demonstrate that they had a direct impact on the residents of Rumney and had to clearly show a financial need on their part. The Board reviewed the requests/questionnaires and made their decisions accordingly. The Board received 11 requests totaling \$28,849; they funded nine agencies with a total of \$16,345 in appropriations.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,400** for the purposes of **Culture, Recreation and Conservation** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Common-Mowing & Maintenance	1,500
Baker Athletic Field	2,500
Jim Darling Natural Area	500
Patriotic Purposes	450
Conservation Commission	750
Baker River Watershed Dues	200
Conservation Trust	<u>3,500</u>
Total Culture, Recreation & Conservation	\$9,400

Janice Mulherin, Chair of the Rumney Conservation Commission, was asked about the mowing of the Jim Darling Natural Area. She explained the RCC had agreed to take care of mowing the large field and the Town would continue to take care of the parking area and the paths to the river.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,500** for the purpose of an **Old Home Day** celebration for the ensuing year; of that total \$3,075 will come from the 2013 end-of-year fund balance, with the remaining \$1,425 to be raised by taxes. (Majority vote required)

No discussion.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$39,097** to defray the cost of operating the **Byron G. Merrill Library** for the ensuing year; \$1,367 is to come from the income of privately-created trusts held by the Town for library purposes, with the remaining \$37,730 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Tom Wallace said the amount to be raised by taxes is the same as last year. The difference in the amount, \$1,367, will come from an endowment fund and a donation from the Ralph Berg estate.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500** to defray the cost of **interest expenses** on loans in **anticipation of taxes** and other temporary loans for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

No discussion.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$176,500** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Highway Equipment Fund (1960)	30,000
Fire Department Fund (1963)	30,000
Town Revaluation Fund (1984)	10,000
Police Department Fund (1986)	8,000
Town Facilities' Fund (1987)	20,000
EMS Vehicle Fund (2005)	5,000
Transfer Station Equipment Fund (2008)	8,000
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	30,000
Fire Department Equipment Fund (2009)	4,000
Merrill Library Capital Improvement Fund (1998)	25,000
Water Supply Capital Reserve Fund (2010)	3,000
EMS Major Equipment Fund (2012)	<u>3,500</u>
Total Capital Reserve Funds	\$ 176,500

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** for the purpose of completing the **perambulation** of the town line **between Rumney and Groton**; \$3,500 to be paid by the Town of Groton and \$3,500 to be raised by taxes. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 V. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Dan Kimble explained - Per Groton's request and RSA 51:2 – Groton's records indicate the last time the Rumney/Groton line was perambulated was in 1928. The RSA states it shall be done once in every 7 years forever.

Minimal discussion.

ARTICLE 31: To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

This article will be handled by the Moderator at Town Meeting.

Roger Daniels had a question about street lights. He said every night around 9:00 the light at the end of Old Route 25 goes out. Anne will call the Coop about it.

Ed Haskell made a motion to close the public hearing at 9:10 p.m., seconded by Cheryl Lewis, all agreed.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne B. Dow
Administrative Assistant