

TOWN OF RUMNEY
MINUTES
HEARING TO TRANSFER HIGHWAY TRUCK TO FIRE DEPARTMENT
OCTOBER 20, 2014

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

Public Present: Roger Daniels, Mark Andrew, Dennis Burnham, Isaac DeWever, Ken Wernig, David Coursey, Jim McCart, Terry French, John Bagley, Ray and Morgan Valentin, Sam Coes, Carl Spring, Nate and Janice Mulherin, Frank Simpson, Evan Hacker and Dan Medaglia.

At 7:15 pm Ed Haskell made a motion to open the hearing to transfer the 2006 F550 from the Highway Department to the Fire Department. Dan seconded this motion, and all agreed.

Dave Coursey, Fire Chief, spoke of the need for a forestry truck. The 1969 Farrar had been sold and he felt it was cost effective to retrofit the F550. Nate M. questioned the need for a forestry truck. Do we have that many forest fires? Dave answered that it would not only serve to carry the tools and foam needed for a forest fire, but also serve as a utility truck at any fire or accident. The smaller truck would be a better vehicle to take onto Doe Town Road or East Rumney Road especially during mud season. The plow would remain with it and be available for clearing dry hydrants, emergency access to a driveway or be available should one of the highway trucks be down for any reason.

Dave also spoke of a situation this past summer where Engine 2 was running from midnight until the break of dawn to provide lighting at a crime scene. The use of a utility vehicle in this instance would have better served the purpose and not been running such an expensive piece of equipment.

Where would it be stored? In the West Rumney station. An addition to the present station was also a thought.

Mark A. questioned if the state not the town was responsible for forest fires. Did the state not have small vehicles available? Dave was not sure of that, but stated an equipment trailer is parked in Warren and available if needed. The town is the first responder regardless of where the fire is located.

Mark thought that taking a vehicle over 8 years old could be a maintenance problem. Having been involved in the purchase of a used ambulance in the past that cost a lot of money to repair and maintain, he recommends looking at a new utility truck. How do we pay for this? The Capital Reserve Fund is too low to replace a fire engine at this time. Federal Standards set the life of a fire truck and after 15 years a yearly pump test must be done to maintain certification. Without that certification, the equipment does not roll.

Janice stated she felt this should have been discussed at town meeting as the truck will be replaced. There was discussion of this at the budget meeting, but never brought up at town meeting when there was a larger group of voters to decide this. She reviewed the minutes from town meeting.

Carl S. stated this is hindsight and we needed to move forward.

Dennis Burnham questioned if there was an estimate to retrofit this truck. Dave said the cost to have it sand blasted, undercoated, painted with decals was \$3500, a new radio is \$2200, the bed \$1500, skid

tank \$11,500. He had put \$5000 in this year's budget and would ask for \$20,000 this next year. He was trying not to over spend.

Mark questioned keeping equipment longer due to replacement cost. The high cost are due to the NFPA standards and getting a truck refurbished is \$100,000.

Janice questioned buying a smaller lighter truck to replace an engine? It would not be capable of carrying the equipment that is carried on an engine.

Carl mentioned the usage – our coverage of the wind farm and offered a ride to anyone on Engine 2 especially when those roads were muddy or icy.

The income derived from the other towns was questioned, but that varies from year to year per the contract requirements.

Frank S. stated the 2006 F550 is no longer a 40 hour a week truck. It has had some expensive repairs during the last 2 years. It would not be used as a 40 hour a week truck.

Further discussion regarding buying new vs retrofitting 2006 –

Dan M. If the 2006 only lasted two years, we still have all the equipment that could be put on a new cab and chassis.

Carl – we would only loose the cost of paint, undercoating and lettering. The department can do the conversion.

Cheryl – a couple of years down the road we would discuss this at town meeting. Using this truck now would determine the exact usage it will receive.

Anne – call it a utility truck with forestry capability. Dennis B. agreed.

Mark – buy new with a longer life expectancy.

Janice – does the department do EMS runs – only when called to assist.

Nate – why decide this tonight – wait for March town meeting.

John B. – we own the truck and that is 6 months out.

Ray V. – we will be going through mud season with the risk of losing a fire engine.

Mark – do cost comparison and savings by buying new.

Ed H. made a motion to close the hearing at 8:00 pm, seconded by Dan and agreed to.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kindell, Clerk