

**TOWN OF RUMNEY
SELECTMEN'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2015
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
2015 PROPOSED BUDGET AND WARRANT**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Rumney in the County of Grafton and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 10th day of March 2015, next, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at which time the polls shall be opened for balloting on Article 1 and shall close not earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening, and you are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Thursday, the 12th day of March 2015, next, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting at which time action will be taken upon the remaining articles in this warrant.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 10th):

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	Fire Commissioner for 3 years
(2) Planning Board Members for 3 years	

ARTICLE 2: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of \$322,500 for the purpose of constructing and furnishing an addition and alterations to the Byron G. Merrill Library to make it accessible to the disabled; and of this total, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$224,000 in 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; and further, to authorize the withdrawal of \$50,000 from the Merrill Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998); and further, to authorize the Library Trustees to withdraw \$20,000 from the Library Endowment Funds; and further, to apply for and expend \$28,500 from a grant through "LCHIP/Mitigation Funds"; and finally, to authorize the Town and/or Library Trustees to apply for, receive and expend other 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 2016. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (2/3 ballot vote required)

Mark Andrew inquired if information could be compiled for the library public hearing and the town meeting for a 5 year bond to allow comparison of the total figures between the bond pricing and tax impact for a one year payout as spelled out in Article 3.

Jerry Thibodeau inquired as to how many bricks have been sold. Kathy Wallace could not give a number of bricks, but stated they have raised \$20,000 in brick sales and donations.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the total sum of \$322,500 for the purpose of constructing and furnishing an addition and alterations to the Byron G. Merrill Library to make it accessible to the disabled; and of this total, to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw \$50,000 from the Merrill Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998); and further, to authorize the Library Trustees to withdraw \$20,000 from the Library Endowment Funds; and further, to apply for and expend \$28,500 from a grant through “LCHIP/Mitigation Funds”; with the remaining sum of \$224,000 to be raised by general taxation; in addition, the Town and/or Library Trustees are authorized to apply for, receive and expend other grants for this purpose with all such grant amounts received to be used to reduce the amount to be raised by taxation under this article. The Selectmen do not recommend this article. (Majority vote required.) **(It is the intent of the Selectmen that if Article 2 passes, no action should be taken on Article 3).**

ARTICLE 4: To choose two members for the **Advisory Committee:**

- 1 for a 3-year term from the Lake area
- 1 for a 3-year term from West Rumney
- 1 for a 1-year term from Quincy

Note to correct wording to reflect three members.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$464,762** to defray the following **General Government Expenses** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Executive	\$ 77,578
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 66,735
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$ 2,000
Financial Administration	\$ 34,039
Legal Expenses	\$ 49,200
Health Insurance	\$153,370
Planning Board	\$ 4,796
General Government Buildings	\$ 38,000
Street Lights	\$ 8,300
Insurance-Property/Liability & WC	\$ 28,894
Regional Association Dues	<u>\$ 1,850</u>
Total General Government Expenses	\$464,762

A request to have the health insurance broken down – HIPAA regulations do not allow the dollar amounts per person or family to be released.

David Saad questioned the increase in Town Clerk/Tax Collector – the increase is payroll for one and a half (1 ½) people. Asked if they would be open more hours – not at this time. Their off days are for completing necessary paperwork.

Jerry Thibodeau asked if the town was self-insured – no, insured with Primex for Workers Comp and Property and Liability and health insurance is through HealthTrust.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,500** for the purpose of **painting the Highway Garage** and to authorize the Selectmen to withdraw up to \$6,500 from the Town Facilities' Fund (established in 1987) with no amount to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$20,000** for **Assessing Services and Tax Map updates** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 8: 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)

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$31,810** for the operation of the **Cemeteries** for the ensuing year; \$6,150 to come from Cemetery Trust Funds and \$25,660 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Kathy Wallace asked if this was to repair the washout damage at Highland South. No that will be a later project.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$8,000** for the purpose of repairing the stone wall and gates at the Highland North Cemetery. This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 V. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required).

Jerry Thibodeau questioned if this was an estimate, and it was clarified this is one estimate and more will be gotten prior to the work being done.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$198,990** to defray the cost of running the **Police Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

How many officers? Presently one full and one part-time. An ad is being placed for a second full-time officer.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$42,000** to purchase a **police cruiser** to replace the 2007 cruiser and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$42,000 from the Police Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1986). The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

How many vehicles will the department have? They will continue to maintain two cruisers.

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)

Does Warren-Wentworth Ambulance Service bill the transports?

This \$25,000 guarantees there will be ambulance service available to the town 24/7.

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,315** 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>\$ 5,615</u>
Total Safety, E-911 & Emg Mgt	\$ 7,315

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$70,019** to defray the cost of running the **Fire Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Considerable discussion on the Fire Chief's salary with John Bagley requesting to have the chief's pay equal to other department heads. David Saad suggested maintaining logs for activity and time involved in the position to back up such a request.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,900** to defray the cost of **purchasing two (2) new portable radios** and **two (s) new pagers** to replace out-of-warranty equipment and for **purchasing three (3) new sets of protective clothing** and **five (5) new SCBA sets** to replace EXPIRED sets for the Fire Department and to authorize the withdrawal of \$4,900 from the Fire Department Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2009) with the remaining funds to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required).

Roger Scroggins questioned what happens if this article fails? If so, nothing would be purchased. He further questioned if this would affect the workings of the fire department? David Saad requested SCBA be spelling out for better understanding in identifying the product.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,000** so the Fire Department can **complete, repair and maintain two dry hydrants** (one located at the New England Fellowship and one located on Buffalo Road. (Majority vote required)

Dave Coursey requested this be changed to just New England Fellowship as he recently learned of additional work needed to maintain the Buffalo Road dry hydrant.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,556** to defray the cost of running the **EMS (Emergency Medical Services)** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Article 19: To see if the Town will support the Selectmen's efforts to explore options for **Emergency Medical Services in town** during the ensuing year.

It was asked what the Board was trying to do. A brief discussion as to the current problems facing EMS in town, number one being lack of responders, which most towns are now facing. Mark Andrew suggested the Board name a committee to assist them in looking at options. It was further suggested to strike the article as the Board has this authority without a vote of the town.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$252,745** for the maintenance of **Highways and Bridges** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Jerry Thibodeau questioned \$15,000 for crushing and trucking of material and would like to have projected cost savings available for town meeting.

ARTICLE 21: 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)

Which road? The paving will continue on Buffalo Road.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$143,098** to defray the cost of maintaining the **Transfer Station** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Sonny Ouellette was asked what the "incentive" line was comprised of. He stated when he sells recycled product, he looks for the best price and time to sell the recyclables. He then receives a portion of what is made on the sale.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,348** to defray the cost of the **Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District** (\$1,248) and the annual **Plymouth Water and Sewer District Permit Fee** (\$100) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,200** to continue with Phase II of the Landfill Closure process as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$35,887** for the purposes of **Animal Control, Health and Welfare** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Animal Control	2,050
Health Officer Stipend, etc.	946
Health Administration	400
Mount Mooselauke Health Center	1,250
Pemi-Baker Community Health	4,250
Voices Against Violence	1,000
Bridge House	1,750
Genesis	300
CASA	400
CADY	600
Direct Assistance	11,000
Welfare Administrator Stipend, etc	4,746
Grafton County Seniors	3,300
Tri-County CAP	<u>3,895</u>
Total Animal Control, Health & Welfare	\$ 35,887

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,300** for the purposes of **Culture, Recreation and Conservation** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Common-Mowing & Maintenance	1,600
Baker Athletic Field	1,800
Jim Darling Natural Area	600
Patriotic Purposes	450
Conservation Commission	1,050
Baker River Watershed Dues	300
Conservation Trust	<u>3,500</u>
Total Culture, Recreation & Conservation	\$9,300

ARTICLE 27: 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; \$4,043 will come from the 2014 end-of-year fund balance, with the remaining \$457 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$37,730** to defray the cost of operating the **Byron G. Merrill Library** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 29: Shall the Town accept the provision of RSA 33:7 providing that any town at an annual meeting may adopt an article authorizing indefinitely, until specific rescission of such authority, the Selectmen to issue **tax anticipation notes**? (Majority vote required)

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$203,000** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Highway Equipment Fund (1960)	40,000
Fire Department Fund (1963)	40,000
Town Revaluation Fund (1984)	20,000
Police Department Fund (1986)	8,000
Town Facilities' Fund (1987)	20,000
Transfer Station Compactor Fund (2005)	4,000
Transfer Station Equipment Fund (2008)	3,000
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	30,000
Fire Department Equipment Fund (2009)	8,000
Merrill Library Capital Improvement Fund (1998)	25,000
Cemetery Improvement Fund (2014)	<u>5,000</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$203,000

Article 31: 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 **Town Computer System/Software Fund** for the purpose of funding purchases of new computer equipment and software, as needed, for all town departments and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** 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).

The town has a need to purchase municipal accounting software as they are using the original Peach Tree program put into use when the computers were installed. David Saad suggested this fund have a more generic title for more flexibility – not just computer/software items – all office equipment.

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,500** for the purpose of purchasing security equipment for the Town Office Building and to authorize the withdrawal of \$1,500 from the Town Facilities' Fund (established in 1987). The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required).

What is the town looking at? They want to install cameras and blacken some of the windows in the town office building.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to retain Parcel #11-06-02, taken by Tax Collector's Deed dated 06/12/13 with a street address of 1140 Old Route 25, to be used for public purposes. The intent of this article is to allow the Town to retain the cited tax parcel and obtain a boundary line adjustment to add this parcel to the existing Parcel #11-06-01 (1142 Old Route 25-West Rumney Fire Station) currently owned by the Town of Rumney . The addition of this #11-06-02 would add ¼ acre to the current Town parcel and allow for a septic system to be used on the property to make the property more useable for future Town needs.

ARTICLE 34: 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.

Ed Haskell made a motion to close the Public Hearing at 8:55 pm, seconded by Cheryl Lewis and agreed to.

The Board did discuss the suggestions made during the hearing and will adjust some of the articles to reflect these changes.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Kindell
Clerk