

**Town of Rumney
Board of Selectmen
January 4, 2016
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Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

**Present: Select Board Members-Chairmen Ed Haskell, Dan Kimble, Mark Andrew
Administrative Assistant, Joe Chivell**

6:30PM Call to order – Payroll and accounts payable checks signed

6:35PM Contracts to provide fire, EMS, and transfer station services to the towns of Ellsworth, Dorchester, and Groton were reviewed, approved, and signed. Copies will be forwarded to each town for their review.

6:55PM Review of December 21, 2015 Meeting Minutes – Two amendments were made to the meeting minutes. 1) To reflect that \$2,563.00 will be encumbered for the repair of the library wall. 2) The snow date for the Town Budget Public Hearing will be February 3, 2016 so as not to be in conflict with the Russell School deliberative session. Ed Haskell made a motion, which received a second from Mark Andrew to accept the minutes as amended. Motion passed 3-0

7:00PM Public Forum – Martha B. Richards, Grafton County Commissioner-District 3 was present to offer an update on Grafton County Government.

Mrs. Richards provided handouts with information on Pharmacy Drug cards, Grafton County Information, (both available in the lobby of the Rumney Town Office), and a Keep the Heat On poster.

Richards recognized Mimi Ford, of Rumney, as being part of the Plymouth Area Community Closet, the organization that coordinates the annual Keep the Heat On fund raiser.

Richards spoke about the new Grafton County House of Corrections. The new facility is much safer for the staff and more economical to operate. It was built to hold 150 inmates; the current average population is 100 inmates. Tim Elliot oversees the operation of the House of Corrections. The Grafton House of Correction is the last to have a working farm, which produces vegetables, milk and eggs.

The Grafton County Nursing Home has received several life safety upgrades and created more open space for its residents. There is space for approximately 135 seniors to live at the nursing home and there is always a waiting list. The nursing home has approximately 200 employees. Craig Labore oversees the operation of the Grafton County Nursing Home.

The County's operating budget is \$40 million, of which \$22 million is raised by taxes. Rumney's portion is \$274,319.00. The county did require a TAN this year, but has paid the note off completely.

Mrs. Richards reported that foreclosures are down county wide and unemployment is low. Her concerns are that we are an aging area. There needs to be a way found to keep our young residents in the county and in the state. Richards other concern is the ongoing drug issue. She feels the area needs more counseling and mental health program made available. Mrs. Richards is still an opponent of the Northern Pass.

Mrs. Richards closed by inviting everyone to visit the county complex and to call her if there are any concerns. The Board thanked her for her time and her visit.

7:30PM Budget Advisory Committee - Present; Isaac Dewever, Roger Daniels and Bob Berti

The Board asked the members of the Advisory Committee for their input, concerns or general thoughts on the currently proposed budget.

The three members present agree that most all departments offer the needed supporting information to back their requested budgets.

Listed below are comments made:

- Looks like everyone has a good idea of department needs and keeping costs down, but the fire department budget is up and there is a need for more transparency
- Not every year can be a salary increase year
- Supports the health care benefits
- When comparing Rumney to other towns, make sure to compare like size towns
- Cemetery needs to watch how much work is done all at once
- Fire Department needs to keep budget within its means, and should not feel the need to "catch up"
- The Town has moved forward, which brings increased costs, but with that department "needs" need to kept within reason
- No raise in social security this year, budget needs to reflect that
- Closer scrutiny needs to be given to a department to control spending
- It is understood costs go up, but all departments need to be practical
- As far as the tax rate, the school placed unused budget funding into a capital reserve rather than return it to the general fund
- Library did a good job completing the project and keeping the cost down

The Board thanked the committee members for their time and efforts. The Board will meet January 9th at 8:00AM to further work on the budget, keeping the committees input in mind.

8:15PM Correspondence / New Business– The Fire Chief’s monthly report was made available to review. The Transfer Station quarterly report was made available for review.

Correspondence from Ken Knowlton, Compliance assistance consultant, was reviewed. The Board requested that Ken Knowlton follow up on compliance issues at 3465 Rumney Route 25 and 502 School Street.

A letter from NH-DOT regarding the Buffalo Bridge replacement was reviewed. This document reflected an increase in the town’s portion of the project. More information will be gathered on that amount.

A contract for the services of George E. Sancoucy, PE, LLC was review, approved and signed by all three Board members.

William Taffe submitted his letter of resignation as the Assistant Emergency Management Director. Ed Haskell made a motion, which received a second from Mark Andrew, to accept the letter of resignation. Motion passed 3-0. The Board went on record thanking Mr. Taffe for his years of service to the Town of Rumney in not only this role but the many roles in which he has served.

Mark Andrew requested that the Board appoint Joe Chivell as Assistant Emergency Management Director. Ed Haskell made a motion, which received a second from Dan Kimble, to appoint Joe Chivell as the Assistant Emergency Management Director. Motion passed 3-0

Old Business – Mark Andrew gave an overview of the last Planning Board meeting. Please see Planning Board meeting minutes for details.

Hazard Mitigation meeting has been rescheduled to January 21, 2016 at 6:00PM

Mark Andrew had requested a review of the Town of Rumney Purchasing Policy. The Board requested that a new copy of the purchasing policy be re-issued to all Department Heads and Commissioners. It was also asked that an acknowledgement of receipt form be attached with a return date of February 1, 2016. An explanation, in a coversheet, will address that the purchasing policy will need to be adhered to based upon the increase of the tax rate and at the request of taxpayers. Any bill submitted for payment without the proper documentation will be returned to the Department Head / Commissioners. Also to be provided is the State bid list information. The list can be found at: das.nh.gov/purchasing/Contracts_posteddte.asp?sort=can

The Board wanted to note that town roads have been kept in good shape this winter.

9:15 Dan Kimble made a motion, which received a second from Mark Andrew, to adjourn.
Motion passed 3-0

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell
Administrative Assistant
Town of Rumney

Upcoming events;

January 20, 2016 First day for candidates to file declaration of candidacy

January 21, 2016 Hazard Mitigation Meeting

January 29, 2016 Last day for candidates to file declaration of candidacy

January 29, 2016 Planning Board Meeting

February 1, 2016 Selectmen's Meeting at Russell School for Public Budget Hearing

February 3, 2016 Public Budget hearing snow date

February 4, 2016 Russell Elementary School Deliberative Session