

**Board of Selectmen
February 4, 2019
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes
Public Budget Hearing
Russell School**

Present: Select Board Members Present – Robert Berti, Ed Haskell & George Bonfiglio
Town Administrator - Joe Chivell

6:30 PM Meeting opened by Selectman, Robert Berti.
Payroll and accounts payable checks reviewed for signature.

6:30 PM Police Chief, Brett Miller, met with the Board to give the Police Department's update.

Miller provided the Board with statistics cover the prior two weeks. Chief Miller indicated activity was up during that time. Miller reported that there are three residence taking advantage of the daily check in program with the department. Chief Miller is starting a list of local volunteers that are willing to assist local senior citizens with shoveling their walkways. If anyone is willing to volunteer or is need of some assistance, they were welcome to contact the police department.

Chief Miller reported receiving a report of a scam in that the resident is contacted concerning a computer virus issue. The scammer then asks to be sent gift cards to clear the computer issue.

Chief Miller reported that they responded to flooding / ice issues on Buffalo Road and Quincy Road. The Buffalo Road issue was in the area of the Forest Service parking lot. Selectman, Bob Berti, indicated it may be time to invite the USFS to a meeting concerning drainage issues resulting from their parking lots and walkways.

Chief Miller spoke about the number of non-residents taking sand from the public sand pile. The sand pile is in place to allow Rumney residents to get sand by the bucket full to sand walkways. It is not meant for contractors to fill their trucks or for out of town people to get sands. Chief Miller will provide the Board of Selectmen with the names of those non-residents getting sand. Chief Miller mentions that by restricting access to the sandpile it may limit those who back up to the sandpile with their trucks. Both selectmen, Bob Berti and Ed Haskell, were concerned that restricting the access to the sandpile could make it difficult for the senior residents that may have trouble picking up a bucket of sand once it is filled.

Chief Miller reported that he has received one application for the part-time officer opening. The application process is open until March 4, 2019.

Selectmen, Bob Berti and George Bonfiglio, shared with the Chief that last Sunday vehicles were parking in the road way, along Buffalo Road, in the area that ice climbers use. Chief Miller stated that the parking lots in that area have now been plowed and that should solve that issue.

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6:45 PM Lila Williams, Town Clerk / Tax Collector, met with the Board with a request to hire.

Williams submitted a request to hire Rebecca Peirce as the part-time Deputy Town Clerk / Tax Collector. The request to hire is based on applicable interviews, past employment background checks, motor vehicle and criminal history records checks. Peirce is a Rumney resident. The Board authorized the hire, which will have a probationary period and a condition to gain required certifications within six months.

6:55 PM Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, provided the Board with the results of placing the town audit services out to bid. Based on a three year agreement the low bid for audit service was awarded to Plodzick & Sanderson, PA. Chivell will notify Plodzick & Sanderson and request a three-year engagement of service agreement.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, provided the Board with a three-year agreement from Commerford Nieder Perkins, LLC to provide assessing services to the town. The three-year rate stays the same as the past year rate. The Board reviewed and signed the agreement.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, provided the Board with a three-year agreement with George Sansoucy to provide utility assessment services to the town. The three-year rate stays the same as the past year rate. The Board reviewed and signed the agreement.

7:00 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to suspend the Rumney Board of Selectmen meeting and to hold the 2019 Public Budget Hearing. Selectman, George Bonfiglio, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Copies of the proposed Rumney Budget Worksheet and Warrant Articles were provided to the public in attendance. The Budget Worksheet had a reference as to the warrant article it referred to and the Articles had a reference to the corresponding page of the budget worksheet. Public members and town department heads in attendance: Brett Miller, Nick Coursey, Dan Medaglia, Joan Coursey, Steve Coursey, David Coursey, Diana Kindell, Terry French, Tim Lewis, Cam Brown, Sean Zaikowski, Frank McClain, Jim Buttolph, Cheryl Lewis, Richard Lewis, Judy Hall, Janice Mulherin, Mark Andrew, Sonny Ouellette, Jerry Thibodeau, and Lila Williams.

Selectman, Bob Berti, opened the Public Hearing with a few remarks. Berti stated that the Board of Selectmen work hard to keep the budgets in line. The goal is to keep the overall Town budget increase to be no higher than the rate of inflation. Some individual department budgets may be up or down, but the goal is to keep the bottom-line Town budget at no more than the inflation rate. It becomes more difficult to do each year in that the State doesn't fund the towns at a rate as they are supposed to, this lack of funds for the town of Rumney is approximately \$100,000. Some town revenues are up, such as yield tax and vehicle registrations, but that doesn't make up the difference for the lack of State funding.

Selectman, Bob Berti, directed everyone's attention to Article 3, General Government Expenses and opened it for public questions and comments. Cheryl Lewis asked if there was funding for a

town webmaster. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that the town website has been maintained by a volunteer for the past several years. In the 2019 Budget, under Financial/ Admin/ Selectmen in the line Computer Services, there is funding for a stipend to be paid to a person(s) that are being training to maintain the website.

Jerry Thibodeau asked about adding funding to the Planning Board to allow for a sub-contractor to be hired to complete the sub-division regulations. The funding request is based on a meeting with the proposed sub-contractor after the budgets had been submitted, at a January Planning Board meeting. Selectman, George Bonfiglio, stated that he has the information and has asked to discuss it with the two other board members following the public hearing.

Mark Andrew asked for an explanation for the increase in the Technical Support line, under Financial / Admin / Selectmen. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that the town has been using Certified Computer Solutions for technical support for several years. CCS offered the town a five-year contract that locks in the 2018 prices for computer replacement, other hardware and software equipment and support. The contracted price includes the annual replacement two computers within the Rumney Town Building (one on the administrative end of the building and one on the police end of the building). This will eliminate the spikes in individual departments for computer replacement. The contracted price includes the replacement of the town office server, which is due this year, and all required security equipment. CCS has a great track record with the town and response to any issues and inquires immediately.

Frank McClain asked about the overage in the Fire Department Heating line. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that the Depot Street fire station required a replacement of the furnace and chimney, those costs were paid out of that line.

Article 4 – Code Enforcement, covering items such as blasting permits and junk yard licensing, No questions or comments

Article 5 – Old Home Day, no questions, Selectman, Ed Haskell, did state that there would be fireworks this year.

Article 6 – Town revaluation and Tax maps. There was a brief explanation of the town wide revaluation. Assessment date is gathered from a third of the town for each of the prior three years. 2019 is the year that all the information is pulled together, and the town assessment will be completed. Traditionally the town takes the fifth year off for assessment data gathering and will start the process over, in what will be 2021. There is also a revaluation that is done on all utility company buildings and equipment in Rumney. At this point most all utility companies are appealing the rate at which they are taxed, this is statewide, not just Rumney. This appeal has been ongoing for the 7 plus years. Rumney is part of a group that shares the cost of the defense of these appeals. One of the companies that is appealing their tax rate is the NH Electric Co-op.

Article 7 – Cemeteries - It was asked if there were any projects in mind for the coming year. No major plans had been presented by the Cemetery Trustees.

Article 8 – Police Department - Frank McClain asked why there is an, almost 20%, increase in

the police line and commented it would be helpful to have a sheet showing the number of calls for service. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that the requested amount for 2019 may be close to a 20% increase over what was expended in 2018, but the actual budget increase from 2018 to 2019 was closer to 2%. Police Chief, Brett Miller, explained that the largest amount in the 2018 budget that went unspent was for part-time officer coverage. The department has been attempting to hire a part-time officer but has been unsuccessful. Not having the part-time officer available proportionally reduces funds spent in other areas. Chief Miller went on to explain that listing numbers of calls for service doesn't always properly show the amount of time spent on addressing an issue. Miller stated that the department covered approximately 1300 calls for service. Cheryl Lewis asked if the 1300 calls were covered by just Rumney or if that included calls covered by State Police. Chief Miller stated the 1300 calls were covered by Rumney and that State Police probably cover another 6% above that.

Frank McClain asked what amount of money is spent on drug prevention. Chief Miller stated nothing is spent on a specific drug prevention program, but he does spend time in the Russell School.

Article 9 – Radar Sign - Police Chief, Brett Miller, stated the type of sign that the department would like to purchase is the same type that the town of Wentworth uses. The sign mounts on a pole and can be moved around to different locations in town. The sign can collect data such as speed of vehicle, number of vehicles, time of traffic. The information gathered can then be used to assign directed patrols more effectively. Frank McClain asked if it can take pictures so that summons can be issued. Chief Miller stated that the sign doesn't have a camera function. McClain stated he would like to spend more to allow for a camera feature.

Article 10 – Capital Reserve Funding – Frank McClain asked for a beginning / ending balance on each account. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, apologized for not including those figures, but there will be available in the Annual Town Report and at Town meeting. Chivell invited McClain to stop by the Selectmen's Office so he could give him a copy of the balances and explain the uses and time lines for each account.

Cheryl Lewis asked if the EMS Advisory Committee had any input on the EMS Capital Reserve. EMS Advisory Committee members, Janice Mulherin and Mark Andrew, stated that the committee had not completed its' review. They both stated that any finding would not impact the funding needs of EMS during 2019.

Article 11 – Ambulance – This funding covers the Plymouth Ambulance contract.

Article 12 – Emergency Management – Jerry Thibodeau asked how much of a stipend the Safety Committee members were paid. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, stated that no member of the Safety Committee was paid, all funds go towards safety training or safety equipment.

Article 13 – Fire Department – Frank McClain asked what the replacement cycle of protective clothing was. Fire Chief, David Coursey, state clothing was a required 10 year replace, if not soon due to damage and SCBA packs were 15 years. The Department purchased fire new SCBA packs last year and hopes to purchase 5 new packs this year.

Mark Andrew asked about the \$3,500 budget amount and why \$6,295 spent. Chief Coursey explained the base \$3,500 was paid as a stipend for building inspections. The amount above that is paid, for gas and oil burner inspection. The Gas and oil burner inspection if funded to a fee paid by either the property owner or the gas/oil company.

Article 14 – Fire Department Forest Fire - no questions or comments

Article 15 – Fire Department Purchase of SCBA Equipment. Fire Chief, David Coursey, stated the department purchased 5 new SCBA sets and this is to have 5 additional SCBA sets.

Article 16 – Fire Department Purchase of Mobile Radio. This is for the purchase and replacement of the mobile radio in the Fire Department’s Forestry truck.

Article 17 – Fire Department Non-Capital Reserve Fund. Jerry Thibodeau asked if this had to be a stand-alone article. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained it had to be a stand-alone article as it is a “special article” and is a reserve fund.

Article 18 – Rumney EMS – Joan Coursey asked if the funding was enough. EMS Director, Dan Medaglia, stated it was for this coming year. Frank McClain asked if there was any revenue from EMS. Medaglia stated there was not at this time. To create revenue the squad would need to make enough transports to make it feasible for a billing company to be willing to work with them. To make transports the squad is required to have a minimum of two licensed providers on the ambulance.

Cheryl Lewis asked how many EMS calls there were in a year, Medaglia indicated between 120 and 150.

Article 19 – EMS Purchase of a Heart Monitor – EMS Director, Dan Medaglia, explained the current heart monitor will not pass the State or hospital inspection and well past its prime. The replace heart monitor is the easiest to use, compatible to town owned AED’s, light weight, durable and has a 15-year life expectancy.

Article 20 Highway Department – Jerry Thibodeau asked why there was a \$5,000 increase in the Hourly Employee Payroll line. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained there was only a \$2,000 increase in that line item. There is a \$5,000 difference between the 2018 expenditure line and the 2019 proposed budget line and that is due a change in staff that resulting in an open position for at least a month. Selectman, Bob Berti, commented on the good job the highway crew has done this winter, and everyone should be happy with the condition of the roads.

Article 21 Road Improvements – Road Agent, Nick Coursey, explained that the road improvements proposed for this year comprise of rehabbing Cross Road, including adding additional pavement going up the hill. Coursey hopes that after one more year of paving the town can then start a maintenance plan to lengthen the life of the roads that have been paved.

Article 22 Highway Truck Bond Payment – the amount will be the last payment of the loan. The

load was originally taken to purchase the 2016 highway dump truck.

Article 23 Highway Department Backhoe Purchase – A handout was provided showing that the 2016 Highway truck loan will be paid off in 2019. A loan of \$65,000 combined with \$50,000 from the Highway Capital Reserve Fund would be used to purchase a backhoe. The first payment on the backhoe loan, approximately the same amount being paid on the 2016 Highway truck, would start in 2020. Taking this approach there will be no impact on the tax rate for this purchase. The Highway Department Capital Reserve Fund would then have enough to fund the Highway truck that will need to be replaced in 2020.

Jerry Thibodeau asked if we could go one more year before replacing the backhoe. Road Agent, Nick Coursey, said no and explained that the current backhoe was put into service in 2001, it is considered an emergency response piece of equipment, and there is no other back up piece of equipment to take its place if it were to breakdown. Thibodeau asked how often the backhoe has broken down. Coursey replied that it hasn't yet, but it is time to replace it. Thibodeau asked about renting a backhoe if this one was to breakdown. Coursey explained that it isn't always that easy to do. Examples were given; During a snow storm if it were to breakdown in the middle of the night or on a weekend 1) it would be difficult to contact someone during those hours 2) If a rental backhoe was available there would be a delay in delivery, during which time roads and culverts could be damaged; not to mention the extra cost to rent the equipment.

Selectman, Bob Berti, added that the Board supports the purchase. It is the proper time to replace the backhoe and with the replacement plan that is on the additional handout there is no impact on the tax rate.

Jerry Thibodeau commented that a backhoe should last 40 years, and that he is disappointed with both the Highway Department and the Board of Selectmen concerning this purchase.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, stated that the time line for equipment replacement makes sense and works in the best interest of the town.

Selectman, George Bonfiglio, stated that the proposed replacement plan is the best plan and should be followed.

Article 24 Transfer Station – Jerry Thibodeau commented that the Transfer Station is doing a good job. Mark Andres asked if the Grant line item was for the Waste Oil Grant, Transfer Station Superintendent, “Sonny” Ouellette confirmed it was. Frank McClain asked about revenue and if the fees to use the C&D container should be increased. Ouellette responded that if the fees go too high, some people will not pay, and it becomes a road side trash issue. McClain asked if scales would help with revenue. Ouellette stated that the cost to purchase, install, inspect, and certify the scales would be more than any increase in revenue.

Article 25 Byron Merrill Library Operation Cost - no questions or comments.

Article 26 Byron Merrill Library Improvement Bond Payment – Last payment will be made in 2020.

Article 27 Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District & Plymouth Water and Sewer District Fees – Jerry Thibodeau asked if we needed a warrant article for this. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, responded to raise and appropriated funds there needs to be a warrant article.

Article 28 Landfill Closure - no questions or comments.

Article 29 Animal Control, Health and Welfare – Joan Coursey asked if Rumney had a Health Officer and who it is. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, answered that Rebecca Bordonaro is the town's Health Officer. Jerry Thibodeau asked if the town of Rumney could obtain the tax returns from the non-profit agencies that the town contributes to. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, responded that several of the non-profits that request funds from the town submit a financial report with their request. All non-profits are required to submit documentation to the town they are based in and the State of NH to retain their non-profit status. Upon request we could obtain all the reports.

Article 30 Dredge and Riprap a section of Clark Brook – Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that the need to complete this work in this area was a result of damage done during the 2017 October flood. The expense will be reimbursed at a rate of 75% by FEMA. Jim Buttolph asked if any of the damage could be a result of the Groton Wind Tower Project. Road Agent, Nick Coursey, explained that the location of the area that needs dredging is too far down stream to be a result of work that was done by the wind farm project. Selectman, Bob Berti, added that the rock that had rolled into place had caused a dam causing the brook to wash out the bank that runs next to Groton Hollow Road. Dredging will restore the natural course of the brook and the riprap will rebuild and protect Groton Hollow Road.

Article 31 Appoint the Board of Selectmen as Agents to Expend from the Highway Equipment Fund. – Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that, with the exception of the Highway Equipment Fund, the Board of Selectmen are the agents of the Town's capital reserve funds. Being the agent of the capital reserve funds allows the Board to expend funds, if a need arises, following a public hearing. If the Board is not the agent, the expenditure would require a vote at the annual town meeting or the calling of a special town meeting. If an emergency were to occur in mid-summer and a piece of highway equipment needed to be replaced, the town could not use funds from the Highway Capital Reserve as it is set up now.

Article 32 Culture, Recreation and Conservation – Jerry Thibodeau questioned the Stinson Lake Port-a-toilet. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that a port-a-toilet is placed at the boat launch during the summer months.

Article 33 – Release the right of way of an abandoned road – This was at a request of a land owner, that owns property where the former Old Town Road (North Groton Road) passed through prior to the straightening of Halls Brook Road in 1950. Selectman, Bob Berti, asked that the definitions be clarified.

Selectman, Bob Berti, thanked everyone for attending the Public Budget Hearing and reminded them that Town Elections Day is March 12th and Town Meeting Day is March 14th.

9:30 AM Selectman, George Bonfiglio, made a motion to close the Public Budget Hearing and resume the regularly schedule Board of Selectmen Meeting. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Selectman, George Bonfiglio, asked to discuss the Planning Board's request to increase the Planning Board budget by \$2700 to retain an independent contractor, Tara Bamford, to complete the sub-division plans in a six-month period. The Board agreed to increase the clerical line item by \$2700.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, advised he had received a budgeting quote to raze the building that is owned by the town, that was formally the Bagley property. This property was taken under tax deed in 2013. The budgeting quote was for \$5000. After a brief discussion it was determined not to add the funds to the 2019 budget for this project.

Meeting minutes of the January 7th, and January 21st, 2019 Board of Selectmen meeting were provided for review.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the January 7, 2019 meeting minutes. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0. Selectman, George Bonfiglio, abstained as he was not in attendance for that meeting.

Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion to accept the January 21, 2019 meeting minutes. Selectman, George Bonfiglio, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0. Selectman, Ed Haskell, abstained as he was not in attendance for that meeting.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, submitted a leave request for February 27th & 28th, March 1st and April 24th – 26st. This will result in the closing of the Selectmen's office for those days. The Board approved the leave request.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman, Bob Berti, Seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell
Town Administrator

Up-coming events:

February 6 st	School Deliberative Session
February 11 th	Fire Commissioners Meeting
February 13 th	Conservation Committee Meeting

February 18 th	Board of Selectmen Meeting
February 26 st	Planning Board Meeting
February 27 th	Selectmen's Office Closed
March 1 st	Selectmen's Office Closed
March 4 th	Board of Selectmen Meeting
March 11 th	Fire Commissioners Meeting
March 12 th	Town Election Day
March 14 th	Annual Town Meeting