

Board of Selectmen
July 15, 2019
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

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

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

6:35 PM Ken Knowlton, MRI Code Enforcement, had been invited to meet with the Board of Selectmen regarding licensed and unlicensed junkyards. Approximately ten years ago, the town of Rumney contracted the services of Ken Knowlton to take on the cleaning of several unlicensed junkyards in Rumney. When Knowlton first started the process there were about 70 properties involved: all but two of the property owners complied with the State requirement. The remaining two were taken to Court where the Town of Rumney prevailed.

The Board of Selectmen indicated to Knowlton that they continue to receive complaints on several properties along School Street and on Cross Road. The Board wanted to discuss a plan of action to assure that these properties will be addressed and whatever action the town needs to follow up on will can handled.

In the past the process was that a list of properties of concern were sent to Knowlton. Knowlton would then do a “curbside” inspection to assess if there appeared to be a violation. The town would then send a letter introducing Ken Knowlton, a brief overview of the Junkyard RSA and a date to have Knowlton visit the property. Following the visit Knowlton would submit a report indicating whether the property owner was in violation. A letter noting the violation was then forwarded to the property owner and an opportunity to correct the issue was given. Inspections were then conducted to check on the progress of the corrections.

The properties that the Board asked Ken Knowlton to inspect this year have had prior inspections and notices of violation. The Board determined that the course of action for these properties will be; On site visit, by Ken Knowlton. Knowlton will notify the town of any violation of the State RSA. The town will mail a letter to the property owner indicating that they are in violation and have a sent number of days to correct the violation. The follow up visit will be conducted by Ken Knowlton to confirm or deny the corrections have been made. If the property still violated the State RSA all information will be turned over to the town attorney to start legal proceedings.

The Board members agreed to sign the MRI agreement for the services of Ken Knowlton.

The properties discussed were: 13-06-07, 12-09-06, 13-07-07, and 01-02-05.

6:55 PM Police Chief Brett Miller met with the Board to provide a department update. Chief Miller provided the Board with a printout of “Calls for Service Totals by Call Type” covering 06/17/2019 – 07/01/2019 and 07/01/2019 – 07/15/2019. Chief Miller provided a Weekly Update for 7/01/2019 – 7/15/2019.

The Board had asked what towns Rumney Police have a mutual aide agreement with. Chief Miller provided a list of towns with a current signed agreement.

The radar speed signs are continuing to be used. The batteries last about 3 weeks at a time. Miller reported that the use of the radar sign seems to have slowed traffic in the village area. Miller reported that he has had several requests from residents to place the radar sign on their street.

The Board had asked the Town Administrator to request any police calls for service that relate to an ongoing neighborhood dispute at the end of Groton Hollow Road. The Chief first noted that requests for reports should go directly to him and not the police secretary or her email. Chief then provided 5 Call for Service reports; 2 were handled by NH State Police, 1 was received on Miller’s personal cellphone during which Miller directed the caller to contact dispatch and be handled by Officer Patten.

Chief Miller feels there is one person in the neighborhood that is instigating the dispute. Miller stated he feels that after the last call for service on July 11th the issues should cool off. Selectman Bob Berti is concerned that residents in that area are parking cars in the town way, placing rocks and lawn chairs in the town way, hindering access to the Groton Wind Farm property and impeding town road maintenance. Chief Miller stated he needs to know where the town road lays and what is town road and private or Class VI road. Berti stated that the town has and continues to maintain the roadway, so it has accepted liability of the way, so it is a town road. It was determined that the center of the road will be located and then the town’s right of way can be marked to assure no one is parking or placing items in the way.

Selectman George Bonfiglio asked Chief Miller based on what he had heard of the last call on July 11th, why was no one arrested. Chief Miller stated, “there are two sides to each story”. Miller stated that NH State Police covered the call, so he doesn’t have the answer to that question.

7:15 PM Fire Chief David Coursey had been asked to meet with the Board regarding the water complaint from Gail Sanborn.

Selectman Bob Berti explained that the Board was aware that Gail Sanborn had brought a sample of her water to the Town Office on June 14th and explained that her water was cloudy following a blast at CNHA two weeks prior. The water was in a 2.7-quart size bottle that was labeled Simply Lemonade. The water was reportedly cloudy. Town Administrator Joe Chivell acknowledged the bottle of water and indicated that Sanborn should call the blasting company and or CNHA. Sanborn then left the office. Berti explained that he was told that Sanborn was not happy with the response she received from the Town Administrator. Berti did

state that the Board did talk to the Town Administrator about this issue and the Board feels that at this point the issue is a civil matter.

There was a brief discussion on the proper way to obtain a water sample: clean the faucet, run the cold water for a short time, then take the sample. It was reported that the sample obtained by Sanborn came for the water heater tap.

Selectmen Berti explained that the Boards concern is the process of water testing, and that the town officials should not take part in the civil issues, in this case the testing of water.

Fire Chief David Coursey stated that he did give Gail Sanborn a complaint form following the June blast. Coursey stated he told Sanborn to contact CNHA directly about any water issues she may be having. Coursey stated that Sanborn, like others, will call him because they have known him for a long time.

Selectman George Bonfiglio told Chief Coursey that what Board members had been told was that he went to CNHA and threatened to pull their blasting permit do to the reported water issue and the Board just needed to clarify what really had been done. Chief Coursey stated he did go to CNHA, but it had nothing to do with the water issue it was to discuss the condition of the blasting mats and future blasts.

Selectman Bob Berti commented that the Board wants to make sure that town official are not inserting themselves into matters that are civil. Berti thanked Coursey for coming to the meeting and discussing the matter with the Board.

7:45 PM

Town Administrator Report:

- The property owner of Map 7 Lot 7-1 send correspondence regarding an inventory penalty that was assessed on her November 2018 Part 2 Property Tax Bill. The property owner states that she mailed a completed inventory form but was charged a \$28.00 penalty for not returning the form. Town Administrator Joe Chivell explained to the Board the Town Tax Collector and her assistant reviewed the paper copies of the inventory for the year in question, the year prior and the year after. They located copies of the returned inventory for the year prior and the year after, but not for the year in question. Based on that Chivell felt the inventory penalty was valid, he also stated that he did not feel the request to have the \$28.00 abated was done in a timely fashion. After reviewing the correspondence from the property owner and discussing it with the Town Administrator the Board determine that the \$28.00 penalty was valid and should not be abated. The Board feels that if a property owner questions the town's receipt of the inventory form, they can either return it in person or mail it with a self-addressed stamped envelope.
- NH-DRA send an order form for the annual PA-28. The form asked if the town is going to continue using the PA-28 (Inventory Form) if so, how many were needed for 2020. There was a brief discussion on the continued use of the form. It was determined that as long the town did not require a building permits that the PA-28 were the next best thing. The

order form was signed by the Board and will be mailed to NH-DRA.

- A Prorated Assessment for Damaged Building had been submitted following a house fire at Map 7 Lot 7-3. The Board authorized the form to be forwarded to the assessing company that the town of Rumney contracts for property assessment.
- Rumney Road Agent requested to hire part-time summer help while he is shorthanded. The Board approved the request.
- PAF – vacation request was submitted and approved.
- An overview of the July 11th storm was given. Damage was along Groton Hollow Road, adjacent to Clark Brook. The damage included brook bank erosion, debris piles within Clark Brook which caused the water to overflow onto Groton Hollow Road, ditch washouts and the road surface was scoured. A section of Buffalo Road on an outlet end of a culvert was also damaged. The State has requested damage assessments to determine if damages in Grafton county meet the Federal Disaster Declaration standards.
- Deputy Town Clerk / Tax Collector Rebecca Peirce submitted her notice of resignation, effective August 30, 2019. The Board accepted the notice. The opening will be advertised locally.
- Minutes of the July 1, 2019 were made available for review. There was no action taken on the minutes, the Board determined it would wait until a full Board was present to review the minutes for acceptance.
- Town Administrator Joe Chivell reported he mailed letters outlining the Driveway Permit requirement to the property owners that were discussed during the last Board meeting.
- Board determined to continue the services of Pemi River Fuels and signed a heating oil agreement for 2019 – 2020.
- An amended Unlicensed Dog Warrant was submitted by the Rumney Town Clerk. It was amended to extend the due date of the Police Chief reporting the status of the unlicensed dogs in Rumney. The Board reviewed and signed the amended warrant.
- The Rumney Fire Chief submitted a copy of the water quality test that the State had conducted for review.
- 2019 Town Revenue through July 1, 2019 was supplied for the Board to review.
- Correspondence from NH Governor Chris Sununu, outline the State budget process, was made available for review.
- Town Administrator Joe Chivell reminded the Board that a meeting with the USFS, concerning water runoff from their parking lots and walkways on Buffalo Road, is scheduled for July 24, 2019.

8:20 PM

Old business: Upon review of the proposed police department the Board asked for the following information:

- Status of the police department part-time officer
- Proposed coverage for the Rumney Old Home Day
- Proposed coverage for the Stinson 5K

8:30 PM New business: A Board Work Session was discussed. The Work Session will be used to review the EMS Committee Report and to review the MRI Risk Management Report. The Board will set a Work Session date of July 24, 2019 at 7:00 PM.

8:40 PM Selectman Bob Berti made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman George Bonfiglio seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell
Town Administrator
Rumney, NH

Upcoming Events:

Board of Selectmen Work Session	July 24, 2019
Planning Board Meeting	July 30, 2019
Board of Selectmen Meeting	August 5, 2019
Old Home Day	August 10, 2019
Fire Commissioners' Meeting	August 12, 2019
Board of Selectmen Meeting	August 19, 2019