

**Board of Selectmen
September 16, 2019
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

Present: Select Board Members Present – Robert Berti & George Bonfiglio
Town Administrator – Joe Chivell

Excused absences: Selectman Ed Haskell

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

6:35 PM Janice Thompson and her daughter Kay Bailey had requested to meet with the Board of Selectmen concerning an issue at the Highland North Cemetery. Bailey stated to the Board that they had sent a letter of complaint to the Cemetery Trustees and did not like the response they received. They feel that their family grave site had been “desecrated” in that the artificial flowers and vase they placed there had been damaged.

Selectman Bob Berti tried to explain the function of the Trustees, as they are elected. Thompson stated she is familiar with these types of positions, but they feel “the buck stops with the Selectmen”.

Bailey provided pictures of artificial flowers that had been knocked out of a vase. She also brought a plastic vase that had the bottom prong broken off. Bailey also complained that the vase was covered with grass clippings. She feels that the lots were “desecrated” because it happened a couple of times. Both Bailey and Thompson stated several times that they don't know who did the damage, but they feel something needs to be done about it. They both stated they were not looking for money for the damage, but they want something done.

Bailey stated that they don't know if it was unintentional damage done by the maintenance company or someone else vandalizing the property, but if it is the maintenance company they should be spoke to. If it is vandalism the police should do something about it. Bailey stated they spoke with Chief Miller, but they were not happy with his response.

Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that he and the Board of Selectmen understand Baileys and Thompsons concerns, but he feels the issue is best addressed by the Cemetery Trustees or the Police Chief, if need be.

Bailey stated that she feels that the Trustees and the police department should be checking the cemeteries more often. Cemetery Trustee Linda LaPrad stated that the sexton is in the cemetery on a regular basis for maintenance. She went on to say that she understood it to be vandalism and she suggested it be investigated by the police department.

Selectman Bob Bert told Thompson and Bailey that he was not sure if they had satisfied their concerns, but in speaking for the town he feels everyone does their best to take care of the town's cemeteries.

6:55 PM Police Chief Brett Miller met with the Board to provide them with the department's weekly update. The Chief handed out two activity sheets, one labeled Weekly Update 9/3/2019 – 9/16/2019 and the other Calls for Service Totals By Call Type.

Selectman George Bonfiglio asked what term Suspicious Activity meant. Chief Miller stated that was a big catch all category that could include someone walking that seems out of place, a car somewhere that doesn't seem right and items such as that.

Chief Miller reported that the 2010 cruiser is in the shop having the rocker panels repaired as required for the State Inspection.

Chief Miller reported, as it relates to the prior portion of the meeting, the police department does check the cemeteries in town. He provided video taken after receiving a complaint for Bailey and Thompson. It showed routine maintenance being done, but no damages.

7:15 PM Judi Hall, Rumney Planning Board Clerk/Member met with the Board concerning Drive-way Permits. A letter had been sent to property owners that had driver-ways and no permits. A few had responded while a few others have not responded or submitted a permit application. It was determined that the Planning Board Clerk and the Town Administrator should collaborate on a follow up letter to be sent to those still out of compliance which would be follow by legal action if needed.

There was also a brief discussion on how to streamline the application process so that submitted application could be reviewed and returned in a more time appropriate manner.

The Planning Board is working on a sub-division of Groton Hollow Road. Part of the process will require an engineer to review and oversee the placement of an access road. The Planning Board has asked HEB Engineering to take on the project. The cost of the engineering is covered by the group requesting the sub-division.

7:30 PM Town Administrator Report:

- Meeting minutes for the September 3, 2019 Board of Selectmen Meeting were reviewed. Selectman George Bonfiglio made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bob Berti. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed 2-0.
- Transfer Station Superintendent Milton "Sonny" Ouellette submitted a

request to hire a replacement part-time transfer station work. The request was approved and signed.

- The town wide revaluation preliminary report was available for review. It reflected an average increase in property values of 10.5%. Assessing company CPN will send out a mailing for property owners that reflect the current assessment. CPN will host public meeting, upon request on September 20th, 21st and 24th (Friday, Saturday and Tuesday).
- Town involved in the on-going utility abatement process with PSNH are invited to take part in a mediation setting on September 28th and 29th. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, stated he had a prior obligation that weekend, but asked if any of the Board members would like to attend that he would let the town council know.
- Road Agent, Nick Coursey, reported that he will be renting a mowing tractor from Dean Yeaton. This tractor is for sale, Coursey would like to know if the Board would be willing to allow him to purchase the tractor. As discussed during prior meetings it is becoming difficult to rent roadside mowing tractors. The Board would like to have more information and a timeline in which Dean Yeaton would have for the purchase.
- The refund covering 50% of the cost to change the Rumney Highway Garage lighting over to LED has been received.
- The Board was reminded that the Selectmen's Office would be closed September 20th and 25th.

8:00 PM Old Business

- Follow up activity numbers for Rumney EMS, Plymouth EMS from Lakes Region Dispatch were provided by Town Administrator Joe Chivell. It was an update showing recent EMS requests in Rumney and the response of Rumney EMS.

Additional information the Board would like is; how Plymouth EMS determines their transport rate for contract purposes?

- Roy Sabourn will begin working at the end of Groton Hollow Road to determine the Rumney/Groton Town Line and the center of Groton Hollow Road starting at the town line.

8:30 PM New Business

- Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, and Road Agent, Nick Coursey, will be part of the initial FEMA intake call on September 19, 2019, for the July 2019 storm. An on-site visit with FEMA and State Emergency Management will follow in a week or two.

8:35 PM Selectman George Bonfiglio made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman Bob Berti. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0.
Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell
Town Administrator
Rumney, NH

Up-coming meeting dates

Planning Board Meeting	September 24, 2019
Trustee of Trust Funds	October 2, 2019
Selectmen Meeting	October 7, 2019
Fire Commissioners Meeting	October 14, 2019
Planning Board Meeting	October 15, 2019
Selectmen Meeting	October 21, 019
Planning Board Meeting	October 29, 2019