

**Board of Selectmen**  
**January 6, 2020**  
**Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

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

6:30 PM Meeting opened by Selectman Robert Berti. Payroll and accounts payable were review and signed.

6:35 PM Police Chief, Brett Miller, met with the Board to give a Department update. The Chief provided the Board with handouts reflecting the last two weeks statistics along with a brief overview of the activity. Chief Miller asked if the Board had any ideas as the type of statistics to list in the Annual Town Report. Miller stated he had looked at a few other police department reports in other town reports but wasn't sure what to list.

Chief Miller reported on the past two weeks activity. Miller indicated that the year-end statistics show an increase of activity over 2018. The Chief stated that in addition to the incidents that Rumney Police Department responded to State Police Troop "F" responded to 73 calls in Rumney.

The Board had requested information on the Chief's request to purchase a new cruiser in 2020. Chief Miller reported that the 2010 Ford Expedition currently has 90,373 miles on the body and transmission and 14-15 thousand miles on the motor that was replaced in February 2018. Miller stated he has not narrowed down the specification of a replacement cruiser. The Chief mentioned Ford, Dodge and Chevrolet SUV's and pickups. Miller explained that he would look at upfitting the cruiser at either Adamson's, OME or MHQ, but had no bids at this time. Selectman, Ed Haskell, reminded Chief Miller he is required to have 3 bids on a purchase of this type.

Chief Miller stated that in support of replacing the 2010 Ford Expedition he would speak toward the cost of mechanical maintenance and body work. Miller stated he added \$2,000.00 to the vehicle maintenance budget if he were to keep that cruiser. He stated that the vehicle is running fine right now, but the transmission, front end and other parts like that will have around 100,000 miles of operation.

Chief Miller requested that the annual agreement of use of the Upper Valley Humane Society be signed by the Board of Selectmen. The Board agreed to sign the document.

Chief Miller recommended that the police department join the Plymouth Court Jurisdictional Association. Rumney withdrew from the association in 2016 due to the cost of being a member versus the volume of cases. Since the withdrawal

Rumney officers either handled their own circuit court cases or the Grafton County Attorney's Office was on retainer to handle cases that the officer was unable to prosecute. If the County Attorney's Office handled the prosecution in circuit court the town was billed per case, this service had only been used once since 2016. Chief Miller feels the department should rejoin the association. Currently, the PCJA is using an attorney from the County Attorney's Office to fill their attorney vacancy. The agreement between the PCJA and County Attorney to fill this vacancy expires July 1, 2020, the Chief is not sure what will happen after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

The Board had asked for additional information regarding caseload, trials and warrants to help them understand the request for funding the prosecutor line item. Chief Miller stated that he is having a difficult time completing the requested information because of terminology used and the way the software that is used by the police department makes it difficult to pullout the information asked for.

Chief Miller assured the Board the cost to the town to be a member for 2020 would be limited to \$4,400.00. After 2020 Rumney would be billed both the \$4,400.00 and the costs for case load. Chief Miller indicated the PJCA operational cost is approximately \$80,000.00 annually. Chief Miller stated Rumney officers would continue to prosecute their own motor vehicle and pre-trial cases, so that they stay sharp for court and build a rapport with the sitting judge.

Chief Miller was asked how other departments are handling prosecution. Miller stated Campton has hired an attorney and the cost is shared by Woodstock and Lincoln. Plymouth handles their own cases in circuit court. Miller stated the current members of the PCJA are Wentworth, Alexandria, Thornton, Ashland, Hebron and possibly Groton.

Chief Miller stated the only options for prosecution are joining PCJA, hiring someone to prosecute, or handle cases himself. Miller stated if he handles the caseload, he will not be successful.

The Board took no action at this meeting on the request to join the PCJA.

Selectman, George Bonfiglio, handed out a copy of a blog for the Rumney Times Facebook page discussing the current burglaries in Rumney. Bonfiglio stated that people started asking questions about the incident and asked Chief Miller if he had any response to the questions. Chief Miller replied that no one had asked him any direct questions about burglaries. Miller stated that he had read the blog but did not comment on it. Bonfiglio asked Chief Miller if he had seen the blog why he wouldn't comment on it to put people at ease. Miller stated he was not willing to share any information on that situation.

7:06 PM Public Forum- Susan Dellacamera and John Butler, representing the Stinson Lake

Association, asked to meet with the Board of Selectmen. During the last revaluation the shared property, of seven members of the Stinson Lake Association, was reclassified to be shown as a shared property rather than a singular property. The Association members did not want the property handled in this manner. There was a brief discussion as to the properties access, ownership and how it is deeded. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that a meeting with the association members, the assessing company and himself has been arranged for January 10, 2020. Dellacamera and Butler were happy about the meeting being arranged, but still wanted their concerns noted to the Board of Selectmen. If the issue can not be resolved during the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting a follow up meeting will be arranged with all parties and the Board of Selectmen.

7:30 PM The Fire Department Commissioners and Chief had been invited to discuss their Warrant Articles for the 2020 Budget, but they were unavailable for this meeting. The Rumney Road Agent, Nick Coursey, arrived early for the review of his 2020 Budget Warrant Article so the Board moved forward with Coursey.

Road Agent Coursey is requesting to replace the 2012 Ford F-550 during the 2020 Budget process. The idea of replacing the F-550 with a bigger truck had been discussed earlier this year. Coursey stated that he has found getting a bid price on a larger Ford difficult. He has received budgeting bids for a cab and chassis from International and Freightliner. A third budgeting bid from Kenworth is still pending.

Three budgeting bids had been received for outfitting the truck with a 4-5-yard dump body, plow and wing.

Coursey stated this size truck is larger than the F-550 but comes in under the size that would require a CDL. This size truck is still a four-wheel drive, which Coursey explained would still be needed. There was a brief discussion on the size of the motor, springs, transmission and transfer case.

Coursey explained running a larger truck should lengthen the life of the truck, which would outweigh the extra cost of the purchase. The F-550's have been lasting 8-years. Coursey feels this size truck would last closer to 15-years.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked for the cost of a F-550. Coursey stated an F-550 outfitted would be approximately \$100,000.00. This larger truck would cost an additional \$50,000 to \$60,000 but have almost twice the user life and handle the stress of a plow, wing and sander better. Berti asked for the current balance in the Highway Equipment capital reserve fund, as it was thought this truck would be completely funded from capital reserve. The current balance in that fund is approximately \$127,000.00 with a plan to add \$40,000 this coming year. The pricing discussed, at this point, was budgeting pricing and did not include a trade in of the 2012 F-550. Coursey will work on obtaining trade in value of the that truck.

There was a brief discussion on the new location of the resident sandpile, now located at the Transfer Station. Everyone feels it was working out well and saving a lot of sand. In the past there had been several non-residents taking sand along with several contractor filling their trucks and sanding properties for a fee.

8:15 PM Budget Review –

Salary – A list of weekly paid employees, both full-time and part-time, was provided to the Board. The list showed the employee, the department they work in, average number of hours work per week and average weekly pay. The list showed how a raise of \$.25, \$.50, \$.75 and \$1.00 and hour raise impacted the employee’s weekly pay and the impact of the weekly payroll. The document also showed the town contribution to the full-time employees NH Retirement and on a separate form the town / employee cost for health insurance. The Board then discussed and assigned hourly payrates to each employee.

Board of Selectmen Annual Stipend – The Board requested additional information to show what surrounding towns are paying their Board’s of Selectmen for annual stipends.

Benefit packages –

During the December 16, 2019 meeting Chief Miller had asked the Board to allow him to change his health insurance coverage and enter into a “ Partial Buyout” policy. The Town Administrator was instructed to check with other towns to see if this practice was in place, and to check with the health insurance provider to make sure this did not violate any members rules, and finally with town council on how to move forward with such an agreement if the Board so choose to.

The Town Administrator reported back that the type of “partial buyout” is not a common practice. Complete health insurance “buyouts” are commonly offered with stipulations. Only one other town reported having an agreement for a “partial buyout”. The town’s health insurance provided reported this did not violation any rules. Town counsel stated that this type of action should be supported by a written agreement signed by both parties involved.

The Town Administrator had a spreadsheet showing the amounts for a payment to the employee ranging from 30% to 60% of the cost sharing. This payment did not include payroll tax deductions that would be required.

The Board agreed to move forward by offering 50% of the cost saving that could be effective upon the signing of an employment agreement.

The Town Administrator is not part of the Retirement System. The Board asked

to have information related to providing some sort of retirement contribution to that position.

The Board asked to have the Fire Department rescheduled for the review of their warrant articles. The Board also asked that the Budget Advisory Members be contacted for this final meeting.

9:00 PM New Business –

A request for an abatement on the property tax on 16-05-15-33, a camper trailer, was submitted by the Tax Collector. The Board reviewed and approved the request.

9:05 PM Old Business –

Documents for Ken Knowlton, of MRI, were reviewed. These documents will be forwarded to the town's legal counsel.

9:10 PM Selectman, George Bonfiglio, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman, Ed Haskell. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell  
Town Administrator  
Rumney, NH

Up-coming meeting dates

Supervisors of the Check List	January 7, 2020
Cemetery Trustees	January 8, 2020
Fire Commissioner Meeting	January 13, 2020
Select Board Meeting	January 20, 2020
Supervisors of the Check List	January 21, 2020
Planning Board Meeting	January 28, 2020
Select Board Meeting	February 3, 2020
Public Budget Hearing	February 3, 2020

