

**Board of Selectmen
January 20, 2020
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

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

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

6:35 PM Police Chief, Brett Miller, had discussed entering into an Employee Agreement that contained a stipulation covering a “Partial Health Insurance Buyout”. Based on information from Town Council and the town’s health insurance provider, a new seventeen-month Employment Agreement has been developed. A draft version of the agreement had been given to Chief Miller by Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, last week. Chivell explained to the Board Miller had asked about two changes; removing the word “and” in the paragraph discussing vehicle use and asking the chief’s membership in the IACP be paid. Chivell explained that both changes were made and reflected in the document before them. The Board Members present reviewed the Employment Agreement and signed the document. This document was presented to Chief Miller later during the meeting for his signature.

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes for: December 2, 2019, December 16, 2019, January 2, 2020 and January 6, 2020 were reviewed by the Board members. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the Minutes from the December 2, 2019, December 16, 2019, January 6, 2020 Board Meetings and January 2, 2020 Board Workshop. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the Motion. The Motion passed 2-0.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, updated the Board on the former Rumney Rest Area property. Chivell explained the State-DOT is continuing their work on preparing the property for sale. A member of the State-DOT visited the office last week and reported to be confirming the western boundary line. Phil Miles, NH-DOT, called the town office reporting the State is nearing the appraisal, but also reported that recently State Fish and Game has voiced an interest in the property.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, submitted a vacation request for April, which was approved. Chivell reported that he had not taken a vacation that included a Monday for a few years as he had not had a payroll backup person. Chivell asked permission to train Deputy Town Clerk, Dawn Coffey, as a backup payroll person. The Board approved Coffey to be trained to complete the submission of payroll, to be allowed to pick up payroll and to prepare checks for signature.

Town Administrator Chivell reminded the Board that the Town Public Budget

Hearing will be held on February 3, 2020, 7:00 PM at the Russell School.

7:00 PM

Don Winsor and Wade Reed requested to meet with the Board of Selectmen regarding a Yield Tax on the timber harvest they completed at 12-06-29.

The landowner had previously sent a letter to the Board of Selectmen requesting a review of the bill, as she thought it was \$251.00 more than it should be.

Winsor and Reed felt that the yield tax was more than it should have been as it was a small job and small wood was taken from the lot.

Wade Reed took exception to the wording of the response to the landowner in that it stated the bill was reviewed, which in his thought the land should be walked, and documents requested for the logger.

The original bill was based on the Report of Cut, but no additional documentation was submitted by either Winsor or Reed. Reed indicated the Town should call the forester and ask for additional information. The Town feels that it is the obligation of the forester and or landowner to supply information that may require an adjustment.

Don Winsor stated that in over forty timber sales he has only had to file for appeals, two being with Rumney, he feels something is wrong with that. Selectman, Bob Berti, replied in the past ten years the town has only had four appeals, two of which came from him (Winsor).

Berti asked Reed how many jobs he has had in Rumney and how many did he have a complaint about. Reed was not sure of the number of jobs.

At the end of the discussion that Board agreed to have Don Winsor and Wade Reed meet with Janice Mulherin, the scorer of the cut at a mutually agreeable time.

7:20 PM

Police Department up-date with Chief Brett Miller. Miller provided handouts of the weekly activity. Miller explained that the police department members have been busy with follow up investigations during the last few weeks.

While reviewing the weekly activity handout Selectman Bob Berti asked if the resident check program counts as individual calls. Chief Miller stated it depends on the number of times the person is called.

Chief Miller submitted a letter outlining information on a request to purchase a cruiser. Selectmen, Bob Berti, stated that the letter was well done and answered many of the questions that were not answered during the original meeting. Miller added that the cost of the Ford utility style cruiser has increased, and he also has concerns of its availability. Chief Miller spoke about the Chevrolet pick-up

cruiser package. Miller stated that the only additional maintenance item was the blower motor on the 2010 cruiser is only working on high. The Board will make a final decision on capital purchases later during the meeting.

There was further information provided by Chief Miller to the Board on the matter of joining the Plymouth Area Prosecutors Association in a handout and supplemented by discussion. Miller reported that Rumney can join the association for \$5,000.00 to cover the 2020 calendar year. Miller projects the 2021 cost to stay with the PAPA would be closer to \$7,000.00 to \$8,000.00. There is an optout period toward the end of 2020 so that Rumney would not be obligated to stay in the association in 2021.

Chief Miller reported that the County Attorney did offer handling cases on a per-case fee. Miller indicated he estimates the cost to pay the County Attorney per-case would cost more than the flat fee to join the PAPA.

Chief Miller stated he will attend the PAPA meeting this coming Thursday for additional information. Selectman, Bob Berti, recommended that the Chief and Town Administrator meet following the PAPA on Thursday and come forward with a final recommendation.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated he is willing to try the PAPA and will make a final decision after the Chief meets attends the Thursday PAPA meeting.

7:45 PM Fire Department Warrant Articles. Fire Commissioners Cam Brown, Terry French, Tim Lewis, Fire Chief David Coursey and Fire Department Clerk Diana Kendell were present. Members of the Budget Committee were invited at attend, Isaac Dewever was present for the meeting.

Commissioner, Cam Brown, wanted it to be known that a decision was made by the Commissioners and Chief to withdraw the request for a rescue boat this year. Although they feel there is a need for a boat, it will not be persuaded this year. Chief Coursey stated that the request for a boat will come back at some point. Coursey feels that with reoccurring flooding it is a piece of equipment that is needed to assist in rescues for the local campground.

Diana Kendell asked what amounts had been budgeted by Dry Hydrant and Equipment capital reserve funds. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported the Board had agreed to place \$12,000.00 in the Equipment Capital Reserve and \$2,000.00 in the Dry Hydrant Capital Reserve. There is currently a fund balance of \$28,637.15 in the Equipment Capital Reserve and \$12,593.56 in the Dry Hydrant Capital Reserve. Kendell stated that the Equipment account should be funded at \$16,000.00, that in the past the amount had been promised. The Board felt that the Equipment Capital Reserve was adequately funding.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked what Dry Hydrant work is planned for the coming

year? Chief Coursey stated he would like to work on a hydrant in Stinson Brook near the Quincy Road bridge. If that doesn't work out, he would like to work on the hydrant near the green bridge on Main Street. Chief Coursey stated he will work on the hydrant at French's Pond, used the Groton Wind Farm funds. Chief Coursey stated that the hydrant on Buffalo Road was completed, it works well and supplies a lot of water. The total cost for that hydrant was approximately \$5,000.00.

Cam Brown asked for clarification on the \$5,000.00 that was approved for a radio during the 2019 Town meeting, as this project was not completed. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, stated that the Board had agreed to incur the funds through the 2020 calendar year, but if it is not used during 2020 it could not be incurred again.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked the Town Administrator if he had forwarded the list of questions the Board formed to the fire department regarding the request to purchase a new fire truck. Chivell stated he had forwarded the questions and Cam Brown acknowledged he had received the questions.

Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that it isn't that he is against such a purchase, but he needs to understand why the town needs to make the purchase.

Fire Chief, David Coursey, stated that the 1992 Engine 2 would be the truck turned in. Coursey spoke about the pump having a leak. Coursey reported the Town spent money rebuilding the pump several years ago, but it is leaking. Coursey stated that there is a fluid leak near the rear wheels, that might be a seal leaking.

Chief Coursey stated that it is a 7 Speed standard transmission and not many of the current members of the department can drive the truck. Coursey stated that there is rust underneath on the body, oil pan and crossmembers. Coursey also stated the truck is losing antifreeze somewhere. Chief Coursey reports it is just time for a new truck.

Coursey reports that the new truck would be the mainline primary response truck. Currently, the mainline primary response truck is 18 years old. The Chief said he needs to have dependable equipment.

The initial warrant article submitted by the Fire Department indicated the cost of a new truck would be \$450,000.00. The Capital Reserve account that would be used currently has \$446,512.22, with plans to add \$40,000.00 to the fund this budget season.

Chief Coursey initially thought that the truck could be funded completely out of the capital reserve fund. Currently, Coursey feels that some funds from the capital reserve could be used and then bond or lease part of the cost of the new

truck. This would leave funds in the capital reserve to start towards replacing the next truck or if something else were to happen. Coursey stated the town could then make a bond or lease payment and continue to fund the capital reserve funds.

Selectman, Bob Berit, state he is concerned about the tax rate. By paying on a bond or lease and fund the capital reserve account it would impact the tax rate.

Isaac Dewever asked Chief Coursey if he had looked at refurbishing the truck. Chief Coursey stated he did not think that was feasible. Coursey knew of one other town that did that and it did not work out well. To rebuild the pump alone would cost about \$10,000.00.

Coursey admitted if it were his own personal equipment, he would keep it running, but as a fire truck he needs a dependable piece of equipment. Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if this would be a custom-built truck or an off the lot truck? Chief Coursey stated it would be a custom-built truck, as they are safer pieces of equipment and would last longer.

Chief Coursey stated that having good equipment can have an effect on homeowner's insurance rates.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, asked if any other quotes were obtained. Chief Coursey stated no. E-One has treated us well, he and at Lakes Region Dispatch.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, said \$450,000.00 for one truck is too much. Chief Coursey responded by saying talking to other towns their trucks are costing between \$350,000 and \$450,000. Haskell said \$350,000 is \$100,000 cheaper.

Chief Coursey stated he will look around at other trucks, that he only met with the truck committee once, but fire trucks are like buying a Ford or Chevy or Dodge, everything is close to the same price.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if Chief Coursey could get three bids prior to Town Meeting? Chief Coursey stated the E-One will offer the Town a rebate if the truck is paid for upfront. Selectman, Ed Haskell, said that could be a selling point but remember you need three bids. Selectmen, Bob Berti, said with that in mind if you can get a truck for \$300,000 you would still have \$180,000 in capital reserve.

The Board will finalize funding amounts later in this meeting.

Cam Brown asked about adding language in the agreements with Groton and Dorchester to cover the cost of the Chief Fire conducting inspections. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, stated that language had been added.

Cam Brown asked about the request to allow the NH State Fire Marshall to cover

the building inspections during the Russell School Building Project. Chivell stated that is later in the agenda, but a response will be forwarded to them.

8:20 PM The Board reviewed the proposed warrant articles as they would appear at the Annual Town Meeting.

Article 3 - Will go forward requesting funds to design an additional to the Town Office Building. Funding amount of \$5,000.00 all of which to come from the Town Facilities Improvement Fund.

Article 4 – Three adjustments were discussed:

- Adding a retirement line for the Town Administrator in the amount of 8%. All other Town employees received a Town contribution to NH Retirement System at a rate of 11.17%, Full-time Police contribution rate is \$28.43, and teachers' rate is 17.8%.
- A discussion on the stipends paid to the Board of Selectmen resulting in a preliminary decision to increase the stipends amount. The Board members in attendance wanted the input from the third member who was not available for this evenings meeting.
- The Health Insurance line was reduced based on a recent coverage agreement made with the Chief of Police and a pending Opt-Out policy for all employees.

Article 9 – Police Cruiser

- The Board removed the funding for the new Police Cruiser. A new motor was placed in the 2010 cruiser 2-years ago. At that time, it was determined that the 2010 cruiser should be run for 3-years. Further the discussions with the Police Chief did not show the need for the replacement this year.

Article 16 – Fire Truck

- The Board agreed to leave the Fire Truck article in place, but to limit the purchase amount to \$350,000 all of which would come for the Capital Reserve Fund.

Article 17 -The Fire Department Rescue Boat

- Removed.

Article 23 – Highway Department Dump Truck

- Approved to stay with the cost not to exceed \$160,000, all of which will come from the Capital Reserve Fund.

All other articles will remain the same until the Board meets for the Public Budget Hearing on February 3, 2020.

New Business – The Rumney Fire Commissioners sent a letter requesting that the Rumney Board of Selectmen authorize the NH Fire Marshalls Office, at no cost to the Town of Rumney, oversee the Russell School addition as it relates to Code Enforcement Inspections. The Rumney Fire Commissioners feel that the Fire Marshalls Office is better suited for this oversight than is the local Fire Chief. The Board agreed to this request and asked the Town Administrator to forward a letter to the Rumney Fire Commissioners outlining their approval.

Old Business – There appears to be no action on the part of the owner of 13-04-10 regarding the request to remove vehicles from their property. The Board authorized the information to be forwarded to the Town’s attorney.

9:40 PM Selectman, Bob Berti, 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 2-0.

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell
Town Administrator

Up-coming meeting dates

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| 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 |
| Fire Commissioner Meeting | February 10, 2020 |
| Trustee of Trust Funds | February 12, 2020 |
| Town Office Closed | February 17, 2020 |
| Select Board Meeting | February 17, 2020 |
| Planning Board Public Hearing | February 18, 2020 |
| Planning Board Meeting | February 25, 2020 |
| Supervisors of the Check List | February 29, 2020 |
| Select Board Meeting | March 2, 2020 |
| Fire Commissioners Meeting | March 9, 2020 |
| Town Elections | March 10, 2020 |
| Town Meeting | March 12, 2020 |