

**Board of Selectmen  
February 3, 2020  
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes  
Public Budget Hearing  
Russell School**

- 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.
- 6:40 PM Transfer Station Superintendent, Milton “Sonny” Ouellette, asked to meet with the Board. Ouellette explained that recycling mixed papers had at one time been a source of revenue for the town, companies were willing to purchase the mix papers. The practice has changed and is at the point that the town now has to pay for the removal of mixed papers. The recent projected cost to have a load of mixed papers removed is \$1,300.00.
- A discussion covering the cost of having mixed paper removed covering different companies to contact and to watch the price of removal to determine is any changes will have to happen at that point.
- Selectman, Bob Berti, asked about the market for tin cans. Ouellette did not have a current price for tin cans. It takes a couple years to generate a full load of tin, there is about  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's of a load now.
- 6:50 PM A letter requesting an abatement/refund for 16-05-10 was submitted by Town Administrator Joe Chivell. The was a software error, in that a Veteran's Credit had been removed and should not have. The refund will be placed on the June 2020 Tax Bill for this property. The Board reviewed and signed the request.
- A letter requesting an abatement for 16-05-15-43 was submitted by Tax Collector Lila Williams. This abatement was for an owner of a camper trailer that had received a tax bill for a camper trailer that was found to be properly registered.
- 7:00 PM Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion to suspend the Rumney Board of Selectmen meeting and to hold the 2020 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 refence 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: Isaac Dewever, Brett Miller, Nick Coursey, Dan Medaglia, David Coursey, Diana Kindell, Terry French, Cam Brown, Dawn Brown, Jim Buttolph, Judi Hall, Janice Mulherin, Mark Andrew, Sonny Ouellette, Jerry Thibodeau, Lila Williams and John Dow.

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, even though some individual department budgets may be up or down. This becomes more difficult to do each year in that the State doesn't fund the towns at a rate as they are supposed to.

Selectman Berti asked Articles #1 and #2 be skipped over as they are the positions up for election. Berti then asked Town Administrator Joe Chivell to lead those in attendance through the budget and warrant articles.

#### Article 3: General Government

- Mark Andrew asked about the addition of a Retirement Line item in the executive budget. Chivell explained that all full-time town employees receive contributions from the Town towards their mandated NH Retirement System retirement plans. The rate of contribution for employees is 11.17%, police is 28.43%, teachers is 17.80% and if Rumney had full-time fire it would be 30.09%. The position of Town Administrator is exempt from the NH Retirement system. To treat all full-time employees in a similar fashion, a funding line at 8% was created to be placed in a Roth- IRA, or similar plan.
- Mark Andrew asked if any significant saving had been noted since changing the Town Office and Highway Department over to LED lighting. Chivell stated with the power rate increase and the short time since the change over it is difficult to note a "significant" change yet.
- Mark Andrew asked what the increase in Workers Compensation cost was? Chivell explained that last year towns that use Primex for Workers Compensation coverage were given an option for either a rebate or a one-year reduction based on the saving Primex had experienced. Rumney requested the one-year reduction.

#### Article 4: Town Office Architectural Design

- An overview of the article was given by Chivell and Selectman Bob Berti. Chivell explained that the Town Office Building had been built in 1990 with no significant changes between then and now. The building has served the town well, but there is a need for more space for the operational aspect and for storage. Input for the departments that work within the building had been gathered and a basic idea has been put together, but no design created. Selectman Berti added that we had hoped to have a design to share with the town and move forward on an addition project in 2020. The Town was unable to have an architectural plan and funding idea in time for this meeting or Town Meeting. The concept to funding the

building is to use funds from the Town Facility Improvement Capital Reserve Fund and a bond, as needed. This year, 2020, will be last payment on the Library Project loan. Any loan needed for the addition could be kept in line with the ending of the library loan, having little to no direct impact on the tax rate.

#### Article 5: Code Enforcement - Explained

- No Questions

#### Article 6: Old Home Day

- Mark Andrew asked if there were any funds left over from 2019 Old Home Day budget. Chivell stated there were no funds remaining from 2019.

#### Article 7: Assessing Services and Tax Map

- Chivell explained the reduction in this line item reflects that the revaluation cycle ended 2019. Assessor will still need to work on reported property changes “Pickups” and other changes.
- Janice Mulherin asked if there was a need to fund the Assessing Capital Reserve Fund. Chivell stated the balance in the capital reserve is \$33,284.06, so it was determined that was a sufficient level at this time.

#### Article 8: Cemeteries

- No questions

#### Article 9: Police Department

- Jim Buttolph asked what the police department was doing with the radar speed sign. Police Chief, Brett Miller, stated that the information gathered by the radar sign can be downloaded showing the speed and volume of traffic. This information can be used to adjust the times an area is patrolled.
- Janice Mulherin asked if there was noticeable adjustment being made by the motoring public? Chief Miller stated for the most part it seems to be working.

#### Article 10: Capital Reserve Funding

- Mark Andrew asked if there were any major changes? Chivell stated comparing year to year there were no major changes.

#### Article 11: Ambulance Service

- Chivell explained that Rumney just completed a three-year agreement with the town of Plymouth Ambulance service. The 2020 agreement shows an increase in for the service, which reflects the Town of Rumney absorbing the costs that the Town of Plymouth experiences for non-billable runs made to Rumney.
- Selectman Bob Berti stated that the Town of Rumney had convened a

group of local residence to review the EMS needs in Rumney, the EMS services provided and how to best move forward. Berti stated the town has an obligation to provide services to the residence of Rumney and to do so in a profession and cost-effective manner. Berti appreciates that service provided by the local Rumney EMT's but acknowledged relaying on volunteers makes that a difficult situation not only in Rumney but Statewide. The Board of Selectmen did receive a report for the EMS Committee and will be meeting with them prior to the Annual Town Meeting.

- Fire Chief, David Coursey, stated the service provided by Plymouth Ambulance is great. He knows other areas of the state towns the size of Rumney are paying \$80,000 for a similar service.

#### Article 12: Safety Committee, E-911 and Emergency Management

- Chivell explained the increase in the Emergency Management line reflect the town's cost to move the emergency generator from Russell School to the Town Building / Fire Station lot. Grant funding will be request to the project as well.

#### Article 13: Fire Department

- Mark Andrew noted the over expenditure for the Fire Department Vehicle Maintenance. Andrew asked the Chief Coursey if the budgeted amount would be enough. Chief Coursey stated that the trucks are getting older and as they get older there is more maintenance required. The Department is looking to purchase a replacement truck soon. Coursey stated that the Highway Department will start completing some of the small maintenance on the fire trucks, so that should save some money. Chief Coursey stated that they will make the funding work.

#### Article 14: Forest Fire Protection

- No questions.

#### Article 15: Dry Hydrant Replacement and or Repair

- Chief Coursey reported that the Buffalo Road Dry Hydrant was completed last summer, for approximately \$5,000.00.

#### Article 16: Mutual Aid Fire Fighter Fund Non-Capital Reserve Account

- No questions.

#### Article 17: EMS

- 2020 budget is less that \$500.00 than the 2019 budget.

#### Article 18: Rumney Highway Department

- Jerry Thibodeau thought that the Outside Labor Account line was going to be reduced following the purchase of the new tractor. Road Agent, Nick Coursey, pointed out that the 2020 Outside Labor Account line is down

\$4,500.00 from the 2019 funded amount.

Article 19: Road Improvement

- Funding is the same as the past several years. Paving is planned for Mountain View Drive, Quincy Bog Road and Cranberry Bog Road. There is a plan to start to crack-seal roads that have been paved in past years.

Article 20: 2019 Rumney Highway Backhoe Purchase Bond Payment

- No questions

Article 21: Highway Department Dump Truck

- Plan is to purchase a dump truck that is larger than a Ford F-550, but smaller than the full-size dump truck purchased in 2016. It is planned that this size truck will last 12 to 15 years rather than the 8 years the F-550's have been in service. Selectman, Bob Berti, explained that the Board has had many discussions with the Road Agent about the truck replacement, including the size and length of service life.

Article 22: Transfer Station

- Majority of the increase is for the service of the Bobcat.
- Mark Andrew asked about the service life expectancy. The expansion of the Bethlehem landfill site is being challenged. There was no answer at this time if the site will be expanded or if it will be full and close within a year. If the Town needs to find a new facility to transport its trash to, it will very costly.

Article 23: Byron G. Merrill Library

- No questions

Article 24: Byron G. Merrill Library Improvement Bond

- This is the last payment. No other questions

Article 25: Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District

- No questions

Article 26: Phase II of the Landfill Closure process

- No questions

Article 27: Animal Control, Health and Welfare

- No questions

Article 28: Dredge and Riprap section of Clark Brook

- No questions

Article 29: Culture, Recreation and Conservation

- Police Chief, Brett Miller, asked for a location to the new port-a-toilet in the village area. Town Administrator Chivell stated that is yet to be

determined. It has been budgeted because of many requests.

Article 30: Petition Warrant Article to address Climate Pollution

- No questions

Article 31: Petition Warrant Article to adopt the All Veterans Tax Credit

- No questions

Selectmen, Bob Berti, thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He reminded everybody that the Russell School Deliberative Session is February 5, 2020 at 6:30 PM at Russell School, Town Elections will be at the Russell School on March 10, 2020 and the Annual Town Meeting is on March 12, 2020 at 7:00 PM at the Russell School.

The Board members discussed the increase of the Board of Selectmen Stipend. If had been started at the last Board meeting but was held off until this meeting. The Board re-visited the Board of Selectmen stipends from the surrounding towns and agreed it should be increased. The increase will reflect a stipend of \$2,000.00 for the two Board Members and \$2,200.00 for the Chairman.

8:15 PM George Bonfiglio, made a motion to close the Public Budget Hearing and resume the regularly scheduled Board of Selectmen Meeting. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Old Business –

Town Administrator provided a letter for review to be sent to the property, Sandra Bedsaul, regarding her Yield Tax bill review. The Board approved the sending of the letter.

New Business –

Town Administrator Joe Chivell asked about the Board's Poll coverage during the Primary Elections on February 11, 2020. Selectman, Ed Haskell, will cover the morning, Selectman Bob Berti, will cover the afternoon, and Selectman George Bonfiglio will cover until the closing.

8:30 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 3-0.

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell  
Town Administrator  
Rumney, NH

Up-coming meeting dates

02/03/2020 BOS Meeting Minutes as Approved on 03/16/2020

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