

**Board of Selectmen
February 17, 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.

6:40 PM Police Chief, Brett Miller, supplied two weeks of statistics in handouts. During the January 20, 2020 Board meeting Chief Miller had told the Selectmen he was meeting with the Chair of the Plymouth Area Prosecutor Association and would make his final recommendation on whether to join the Plymouth Area Prosecutors Association. Chief Miller reported that for this year he feels it is in the best interest to the Town to join the PAPA. Miller reported that there is no contract for the Town of sign, but the bylaws will be signed by the member Chiefs during the next PAPA meeting, March 12th, and there will be a signature line for the Rumney Police Chief.

Chief Miller will enter a notice of withdrawal to the PAPA in July to protect the interest of the Town. A decision will then be made about staying in the Association in 2021.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, asked what will happen if a town withdraws this year? Chief Miller stated that once a town is in, that they cannot withdraw until the following year.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked what towns are currently in the Association. Chief Miller stated: Groton, Thornton, Ashland, Alexandria, Wentworth and now Rumney. Miller stated he is not sure what Groton's status will be next year. Miller stated the Association is in discussions with Warren and had also talked about reaching out to Bristol.

The Board agreed to have the Rumney Police Department use the services of the Plymouth Area Prosecutor for the calendar year 2020.

7:00 PM The Board of Selectmen had arranged a meeting with the EMS Committee members to discuss the report the committee had generated. Members of the committee in attendance: Isaac Dewever, Dan Medaglia, Janice Mulherin and Judi Hall.

Selectman, Bob Berti, thanked the members for taking the time to meet on many occasions and for drafting a report of the conclusions they came to. Berti explained that this issue is not solely a Rumney problem, but a statewide issue that needs to be addressed. The Board is sorry that they haven't met with the

committee sooner, but they know this will take time to address and wanted to plan a time when this topic would be given the attention it deserves. The Board did receive the committee's report and has taken the time to read and process the information.

Isaac Dewever chaired the EMS Committee. Dewever explained the method the committee took to reach the resulting report. The importance of this review was completely understood by the committee members. The first determination made by the members was that Rumney EMS was needed and should be kept in place at some level.

Janice Mulherin stated that Rumney EMS provides a great service when it can. In-town response is still needed and Rumney EMS should not be done away with. The difficulty is in the reliance on "volunteers" staffing the squad. Rumney is not alone in this situation. The committee met with several other representatives in the EMS community and heard that staffing is an issue throughout the state.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated that he has been the Board's liaison to the Fire Department for the last 9 years. During many of those years there was tension between the Fire Department and EMS Squad, but during the past few years that seems to have been resolved. Haskell stated he knows the older population of Rumney wants to know that there will be local EMS response if/when needed.

Dan Medaglia, EMS Director, is still trying to recruit members. It is difficult in that if a new member without training joins there is a 6-month training period before they can gain certification. Medaglia stated there does seem to be a younger crew coming to the Fire Department, but EMS isn't what they want to do.

Janice Mulherin followed up saying the committee found it isn't money necessarily keeping people from joining EMS, it is the commitment.

Selectman, Bob Berti, added that it is difficult to fill any part-time positions. The cost to fill a full-time position is very costly. He shared the examples of the cost for family health insurance, contributing to the NH Retirement system, and other tax liabilities.

Dan Medaglia, who works for Warren-Wentworth Ambulance stated that the annual cost to staff that service 24/7 is \$650,000 without benefits.

Everyone agreed that looking at a regionalized approach would be a necessity.

Dan Medaglia gave an overview how Campton-Thornton, Holderness and Ashland are handling EMS coverage.

Isaac Dewever stated that there is no quick fix, that regionalization is a needed

approach. He asked what is the first step to get others around us to a meeting and discuss this type of approach? Dewever add that the sense the committee got was there was a sincere interest in both Rumney EMS and Rumney Fire officially combining, unlike in years past. Fire Chief Coursey stated that he knew of members of the Fire Department that would be willing to become EMT's if the merge happened. The question at this point is why would they not want to become EMT's now and what guaranty is there for follow through on their part if a merger were to happen?

Selectman, George Bonfiglio, feels the problem with merging now is the Fire Chief is not EMT certified and that he should be to supervise EMS.

Dan Medaglia said the Fire Chief doesn't necessarily have to be EMT certified, but the supervisory structure would have to be set up, so an EMS certified person is in charge of EMS operations. Medaglia explained that even to assist in transportation of a patient, outside of a catastrophic situation, everyone needs to be EMS trained to some level.

Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that he understands the recommendations in the report and several of the items that were discussed during this meeting. He understands the reports recommendation of restructuring the levels of supervision of the departments and how members are appointed to their positions. There is a concern for liability where there is a questionable line of direct supervision, as it has been felt that the Fire Chief doesn't answer to the Board of Selectmen. The need for this direct line of supervision may not be the popular thing to say, but it is felt that if merging is going to happen at some point there needs to be a clear line of supervision and accountability.

Janice Mulherin agreed that the Fire Chief needs to answer to the Board of Selectmen and have a clear understanding of direction and supervision.

It was determined that a meeting between the Board of Selectmen, the Fire Commissions, Fire Chief David Coursey and EMS Director Dan Medaglia needs to happen. It was determined a meeting with these groups would be set up in April.

Selectman, Bob Berti, once again thanked the EMS Committee members for their willingness to take on such a task and for creating the report. It is understood this task took a lot of time and the task is not done yet.

8:05 PM

Town Administrator Report

- Copies of the Town Warrant were made available for review. All three members of the Board signed the warrant.
- The Board had discussed a policy outlining Public Participation during a prior Selectmen's Meeting. A boilerplate version of the policy was provided for the Boards' review along with several other policies that had

been adopted by other towns and school boards. The Board members would like a combination of the boilerplate and other towns version. The Town Administrator will create a draft as discussion, for the next Board meeting.

- Minutes of the January 20, 2020 Board meeting were reviewed by the members. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the meeting minutes. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. The motion passed 2-0. Selectman, George Bonfiglio, abstained for voting as he was not in attendance for the January 20, 2020 meeting.
- Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, provided the Board with a proposed Health Insurance Opt-Out Policy, along with backup documents. The Policy would require the eligible Full-time Town Employee wishing to opt-out of the town provided health insurance coverage provide proof showing that the employee is covered by other means with health insurance. Upon being approved to opt-out of the town health insurance the employee may request a portion of the insurance premium cost paid by the town. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to adopt the Health Insurance Opt-out Policy and to make it part of the Town Employee Personnel Policy. Selectman, George Bonfiglio, seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.
- Two deeds for cemetery lot sales were provided for signature. The Board members signed the deeds.
- Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported that Library Trustee, Roger Daniels, reported that the library heating system had a leak and is showing signs of having additional leaks in the future. It is a steam heating system that is more than a hundred years old. The Trustees will look deeper into the issues this summer, after the heating season is over. Selectman, Ed Haskell, wants the Library Trustees to remember any major work, such as replacing the heating system will require three bids.
- The Rumney Transfer Station Annual Report to DES was provided for review. The Board did not have any questions regarding the report. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, did have a concern that one certification had expired and when Tom Duffield was questioned about this his response did not leave Transfer Station Superintendent, Sonny Ouellette, with a positive feeling. More information will follow at the next Board meeting.
- Veterans Credit Applications for Map and Lots: 13-3025, 12-0604, 16-0301 and 07-0702 were provided for review and signature. All three Board members signed all applications.
- The Town Administrator reported that the annual PA-28 Inventory Forms will be prepared and mailed out next week.
- The Town Moderator submitted a report covering the activities during the recent Presidential Primary. The Report was reviewed by the Board members, no action was required.
- The Board was reminded that during the February 19, 2020 School Board meeting the school project bond rate is scheduled for discussion.
- The Board was reminded that the Rumney Planning Board Public Hearing

for updated subdivision regulation will be February 18, 2020 at 7:00 PM in the Russell School Cafeteria.

- As a point of interest following a discussion with Selectman Bob Berti, Kathy Sobetzer, located and provided a copy of the deed that shows how the water is provided to the Town Common.

8:40 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

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
Select Board Meeting	March 16, 2020
Planning Board Meeting	March 31, 2020