

Board of Selectmen
August 17, 2020
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Present: Select Board Members – Ed Haskell, Bob Berti & Isaac DeWever
Town Administrator – Joe Chivell

NOTE: The conference room at the Rumney Town Office Building has been arranged for this meeting so that the three Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator are seated six feet apart from each other. Five chairs are arranged to allow public members to attend and be seated a social distance of six feet apart. Face masks are available and offered to all entering the meeting.

6:30 PM Meeting opened by Selectman, Ed Haskell. Payroll and accounts payable checks were reviewed and signed.

The following documents were reviewed and signed:

- Town Facility Use – Baker River Band approved to use the Town Common August 20 & 27, 2020
- Septic Design for Map/Lot 05-01-13

6:35 PM Groton Hollow Road resident, Lang D. Gureckis, asked to speak with the Board of Selectmen, stating he had several questions. Although Gureckis was not on the agenda the Board permitted Gureckis time to ask questions.

Gureckis stated he was concerned about the speed that cars and trucks are travelling on Groton Hollow Road. He asked what the speed limit was for that road. The Board members were not sure. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, indicated that most Town roads, unless otherwise posted, are normally 30mph or 35mph. Chivell thought Groton Hollow Road was a 35mph road but will request that information from the Chief of Police. Gureckis stated the does not have a speed sign posted and feels that traffic sometimes travels more than 50mph.

Gureckis stated that the culvert on the back side of his property is not working. Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if that culvert was in Groton? Gureckis stated that the culvert was in Groton, but the water runs down the Town of Rumney road and onto his property. Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that the Town should talk with a Groton Wind Farm representative to find a remedy.

Lang Gureckis asked if his neighbors should be using a bulldozer or skid steer on Coursey Lane and if Coursey Lane is Town maintained? Selectman, Bob Berti indicated that the Town has maintained Coursey Lane to the Groton Town Line. Unless the Town authorizes someone to work on or maintain a Town road, no one should be working on the road. Berti asked Town Road Agent, Nick Coursey, if he had any knowledge of Gordon or Charlie Coursey working on Coursey Lane? Nick Coursey indicated he did not know of either Gordon or Charlie Coursey

conducting any work on that road. Gureckis indicated he has video of this occurring; in that he has cameras all around his house. Selectman, Bob Berti, told Gureckis that if that happened again to contact the Town Road Agent, who in turn will notify the Board of Selectmen.

Lang Gureckis indicated that a tree on Wind Farm Property needs to come down before it falls on his house. Selectman, Bob Berti, asked Gureckis if he had talked to anyone at the Groton Wind Farm about this issue. Gureckis stated he had not. Berti directed him towards Ryan Healy of the Groton Wind Farm to address this issue.

Lang Gureckis stated that he has hired a surveyor to address his concerns of the property lines. He stated the person he has hired does not agree with the map that was created by the surveyor hired by the Town. Gureckis also stated that his surveyor has requested additional information from the Town which has not been delivered. Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that he has a lot of confidence in Roy Sabourn, the surveyor hired by the Town, but if there is a disagreement, he would recommend the two surveyors sit down and talk about their different information. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, stated that initial information has been forwarded to Gureckis' surveyor and that the additional information requested is being worked on.

6:51 PM Will Colburn Road residents, Vicki Reed and Custer Reed, Jr., had requested to be on the agenda to speak with the Board of Selectmen concerning a waterline leak as it relates to where the line crosses Will Colburn Road. Custer Reed Jr. offered that history of the Reed's properties in that area, where he feels the road is really located, and the history of the waterline. His history dates back to 1926, as told to him by his grandfather and is personal recollections going back approximately 50 years.

As it relates to the leaking waterline, Reed feels it was caused by a culvert placed in the road several years ago, either during the "Blodget or Simpson Road Agent era". Reed reported that his waterline had never frozen before the culvert was put into place. Reed stated that since the culvert was put into place, the water line has frozen several times and now leaks.

The Board agreed to have Rumney Road Agent, Nick Coursey, meet with Custer Reed in the area of the leak, develop a plan, and have Coursey report back to the Board during the August 31, 2020, meeting. The Board agreed that the Town should be willing to dig across Will Colburn Road to allow for the repair to the waterline once they hear the plan.

7:26 PM Road Agent, Nick Coursey, met with the Board to follow up on projects. Coursey reported that he has requested quotes for winter sand from CNHA, Warren Sand, Ambrose, and J. Hiltz. To date the only response is from Warren Sand.

The installation of a culver along Coursey Lane does not have a timeline yet. It had been agreed that the Town would attempt to work with Gordon Coursey to complete the work. Nick Coursey stated that he had not received a response from Gordon Coursey relating to the culvert work. The Board agreed that the Rumney Highway Department should complete the culver work along Coursey Lane.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, reported that the crack seal company was back on Depot Street and Buffalo Road to complete the work they started last month. Although the company did not want to seal certain cracks over an inch wide, they were directed to do so. Coursey reported finding a cold crack seal system and has requested a demonstration of the product. This may be an option moving forward.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked about the status of the new Highway Department truck. Coursey stated that there have been a few delays, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the truck should be equipped and ready to put into service by mid-November.

7:38 PM Town Moderator, Jim Buttolph, requested to meet with the Board of Selectmen to update them on the Primary and General Elections and on a grant.

Buttolph reported that he is still taking part in the weekly Zoom meeting that address legal issues of the upcoming elections. The legality of masks and absentee ballots are still being discussed.

Buttolph reported that it has been acknowledged that the number of absentee ballots will be higher than normal. Funds from the CARES ACT have been set aside to assist towns with the additional costs related to the expected high number of absentee ballots. The maximum amount available to Rumney is \$3,860.00. The actual amount of funds received will be based on a formula that compares the absentee ballots of 2016 as compared to the absentee ballots during the 2020 elections. The funds are available through a grant, and the Board would need to accept the grant funds as unanticipated funds.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept up to \$3,860.00 of unanticipated funding from the CARES ACT to reimburse the additional costs of the 2020 elections as allowed, further to allow the Rumney Board of Selectmen Chairman, Ed Haskell, to sign any required documents related to the CARES ACT Grant. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. The motion was open for discussion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Town Moderator, Jim Buttolph, gave an overview of the pre-processing of absentee ballots that is allowed by law. With the expected increase in the number of absentee ballots, the pre-processing will lessen the burden of completing the process during the election day.

Buttolph indicated that the polls will be set up the weekend and or day prior to the election. Appropriate signage will be in place along with social distancing markers on the floor. Clear plastic screens, ballot mats, individual pencils and facemasks will be made available to voters and poll workers.

Buttolph is still requesting a police officer be on duty at the polls during both the Primary and General Election days.

8:05 PM Town Administrator Report

The minutes of the August 3, 2020 Rumney Board of Selectmen meeting was made available for review. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 3, 2020, Board of Selectmen meeting. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board authorized the Town Administrator to post an add requesting bids to connect the generator that was removed from the Russell School to the Town Office Building and Depot Street Fire Station. The bid will be used to calculate the total cost of the project, which is eligible for a 75% reimbursement grant from State HSEM.

The Board was updated on a letter to be sent to the property owners along Anderson Road and Loop Lane. The letter relating to damage being done to the Town road will come from the Planning Board.

Election Day Personal Protection Equipment was picked up from the State last week.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked if the Board would be willing to authorize a pay adjustment for a part-time transfer station attendant upon receiving a State Certification. The Board reported they will sign a salary adjustment once the certification course is completed.

8:20 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman, Isaac DeWever. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell
Town Administrator
Rumney, NH

Up-coming meeting dates – To be premised upon COVID-19 Emergency Orders

Planning Board Meeting	August 25, 2020
Select Board Meeting	August 31, 2020
Supervisors of Checklist	September 1, 2020
Town Office Closed- Labor Day	September 7, 2020
Primary Elections Day	September 8, 2020
Fire Commissioners Meeting	September 14, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting	September 21, 2020
Planning Board Meeting	September 29, 2020