

Board of Selectmen
August 31, 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 document was reviewed and signed:

- Septic Design Map/Lot 12-15-04

6:37 PM Rumney Road Agent, Nick Coursey, reported that he had a follow up meeting with Custer Reed concerning the waterline leak that was affecting Will Colburn Road. Coursey reported to the Board of Selectmen he does not want to remove the culvert from Will Colburn Road and replace it with a water bar, as Reed had requested. A water bar would make winter maintenance very difficult.

Coursey feels that once the waterline is located it could be capped off without affecting anyone's water supply. If the waterline continues to leak Will Colburn Road will be icy all winter.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, asked if Dig Safe would be of any assistance locating the waterline? Coursey thought it was a plastic waterline and Dig Safe typically located metal and copper lines.

The Board directed Road Agent, Nick Coursey, to locate the waterline and either patch or cap the line to stop the water from running down Will Colburn Road.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, asked Coursey if there was any news on winter sand pricing yet? Coursey stated he had only heard from Warren Sand and Gravel.

The Town Administrator and Road Agent will look into winter salt costs.

7:00 PM Town Administrator Report-

Rachel Anderson, Judi Hall, Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, presented a demonstration of a proposed new website format. CivicPlus is a website used by several other towns in this area and throughout New England. Chivell showed the

Board the websites of towns using CivicPlus and describe the various functions the website would allow. Judi Hall and Rachel Anderson, who volunteer to update the website, spoke to the difficulty of updating the current town website that is rather antiquated. The current format requires formatting and can easily crash.

CivicPlus will offer a full day training to those that will maintain the website, assist with the new site set up, provide technical support, and will transfer historical information from the current website to the new website. It would take approximately three months to get the new website online.

The pricing and billing availability were provided to the Board for their review. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that funding was in the FY 2020 budget. Chivell mentioned that during the last two Public Budget hearings residents have asked about updating the town website. The information was taken under advisement by the Board and will be discussed at a future Board meeting.

Draft meeting minutes of the August 17, 2020 Rumney Board of Selectmen Meeting were made available for review. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the August 17, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The former "Rumney Rest Area" discussion was revisited. Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated that at the price the property was offered to be sold at and the number of restrictions that the State of NH-DOT were placing on the property, if it were to be sold, made it, in his opinion, an unusable piece of property for the Town. Purchasing the property, even at the reduced price of \$157,000, was not a feasible direction for the Town to go in. Selectman, Bob Berti, agreed, with the 75' right of way from the center yellow line onto the property, the proximity of the Baker River, the work the building would need to be made functional and the other restrictions the State would place on the property would make it very difficult to put the property into any suitable use for the Town. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, agrees, although it would be nice to have a small access area to the Baker River, the cost to do so and the access that is available is not worth the cost to the Town. The Board agreed to take no action on moving forward with procuring the property.

September 8, 2020 is the State Primary Election Day. Selectmen coverage of the Poll will be: Selectman, Ed Haskell, opening to noon, Selectman, Bob Berti, Noon to 4:00 pm, and Selectman, Isaac DeWever, 4:00 pm to close.

Correspondence from HealthTrust, the Town's health insurance provider, was shared with the Board. HealthTrust indicated that due to their cost savings this past year they may provide the Town with a premium refund. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked the Board if it would be appropriate to refund the Town Employees that are covered by the Town health insurance a prorated

amount of any refund the Town may receive. Employees pay 10% of the health insurance premium. The prorated amount paid to the employees should be done through payroll. The Board stated it would be appropriate to share a prorated amount of any refund the Town may receive and will discuss it further when the actual amount and time frame are known.

The FY 2021 Operating and Capital Budget worksheets will be sent out to the Town's Departments tomorrow. Operating budgets are to be returned by September 30th and proposed warrant articles are to be returned by October 5th. The Board asked that all Departments keep in mind that it is unknown how the COVID-19 Pandemic may affect the Town's revenues and to keep their budgets as level funded as possible.

A Facility Use Form was submitted by the Rumney Baptist Church, requesting to use the Town Common and the Baker Athletic Field for their annual fall outside church service. The Board authorized the use of the Town facilities with the requirements that the properties are cleaned after the use, all COVID-19 restrictions are followed, and an attendance list is kept for 14-days after the event.

The board reviewed correspondence from the Town Attorney regarding the follow up inspection of the Daigle property completed by Ken Knowlton, contracted Code Enforcement. The Board agreed to follow the guidance provided by Town council.

The Month of August Fire Department Activity Report was provided for review.

Information from Police Chief, Brett Miller, had been requested. This included the Department's Activity Report for the past three months, information related to the Radar Speed sign, and information related to the traffic speed complaint received during the August 17th Board of Selectmen's meeting. The information provided was given directly to Selectman, Ed Haskell, prior to the meeting. This information was provided for review.

The Month of July Treasure's Report was made available for review.

7:42 PM Town of Rumney Moderator, Jim Buttolph, met with the Board for a final update before the September 8th, Primary Election. Buttolph reported that several more absentee ballots have been submitted. As allowed by State Law the pre-processing of the absentee ballots will take place on Monday, September 7th, at the Rumney Town Office Building. The process will be posted and open to the public. The actual opening of the absentee ballots will still occur on September 8th, at the Polls.

Jim Buttolph gave an overview of the Poll layout, explaining the greeting area, mask use, area for those that may refuse to wear a mask, voter blinds and exiting out the back door.

Buttolph gave an overview of the process if anyone were to need a “curbside” voting process.

Buttolph reported that the Democratic Party had, as allowed, requested that two inspectors from the Democratic Party be on site. Buttolph explained that he has spoken with one of the inspectors and she will be used as a Ballot Clerk. His attempts to contact the second inspector have been met with no success. Buttolph explained the several ways he has attempted to make contact, but still no response. He is not sure what else he should try to do to make contact and get a response. Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that Buttolph, as the Town Moderator, should not have to spend time and effort trying to chase a person that is supposed to be a volunteer for either political party. The Board agreed that Buttolph had done enough and need not spend anymore time on the issue. Buttolph thanked the Board for the support on that issue.

8:05 PM New Business-

Isaac DeWever stated that an alternate member of the Planning Board had requested to use the Rumney Town Seal on her professional biography. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, indicated he had received a call from a person asking for the use of the Town Seal for a member of the Select Board, Chivell stated the name given was not a member of the Board of Selectmen. The Board agreed that the Town Seal was not intended to be used for personal gain.

The Planning Board has been planning to conduct a survey regarding the implementation of some form of zoning in Rumney. The Planning Board had received a comment that there may be too much going on right now, i.e. COVID-19 and elections, and may want to put off the survey. The Planning Board wanted to know what position the Board of Selectmen took on delaying the survey. The consensus of the Board of Selectmen was to move forward with the survey.

8:12 PM Old Business- Personnel Issues-

8:14 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

8:17 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

No action required to be taken in public session.

8:18 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) and RSA 91-A:3,II (a). Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded

the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

8:36 PM Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session. Selectman, Ed Haskell, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

8:37 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to indefinitely seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes, because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board. The motion was seconded by Selectman, Isaac DeWever. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

No action required to be taken in public session

8:38 PM Selectman, Isaac DeWever, made a motion to enter nonpublic session under RSA 91-A:3, II (c) and RSA 91-A:3, II (a). Selectman, Ed Haskell, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

8:55 PM Selectman, Isaac DeWever, made a motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session. Selectman, Ed Haskell, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

8:55 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to indefinitely seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes, because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this Board. The motion was seconded by Selectman, Isaac DeWever. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion to notify Rumney Police Chief, Brett Miller, as outline in information provided by Town Council, Shawn Tanguay, that the Selectmen have received and accepted his resignation as Rumney Police Chief, and as of September 4, 2020, his services as the Chief of Police or as a police officer for the Town of Rumney are no longer required. All required payroll will be fulfilled in accordance with Brett Miller's Employment Agreement, Town Policy, and guidance from Town Council. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Selectman, Isaac DeWever, made a motion to assign Officer Greg Patten as the Officer in Charge of the Rumney Police Department, effective September 4, 2020, and having an ending date of November 2, 2020. The Officer in Charge written agreement will include a pay adjustment for that period and require biweekly reporting to the Rumney Board of Selectmen. Selectman, Ed Haskell, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board of Selectmen directed Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, to assemble a Promotional Board of Review for Officer Greg Patten as it relates to the possible promotion to Police Chief.

9:03 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no discussion. 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

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