

Board of Selectmen
October 5, 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 two 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:

- Intent to Cut 13-02-26
- Notice of General Election November 3, 2020
- Vacation requests

6:40 PM Rumney Road Agent, Nick Coursey, met with the Board to discuss the waste oil furnace in the Rumney Highway Garage. Coursey reported that during the annual servicing of the waste oil furnace it was discovered that there were cracks in the chambers that could not be repaired. The service company would not restart the furnace due to the cracks. The waste oil furnace is the primary heating source for the highway garage. The waste oil is gathered at the Rumney Transfer Station.

Three bids were obtained to replace the waste oil furnace. Nick Coursey recommended the purchase of a rebuilt waste oil furnace from Arrow Equipment, Inc. located in Littleton NH. The cost of the furnace, installation and three-year warranty is \$6,350.00.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained that the funds for the replacement furnace can be found within this years operation budget, further that \$2,000.00 of the purchase price could be recouped from a State Waste Oil Grant that is submitted by the Town each year by the Transfer Station Superintendent, Milton "Sonny" Ouellette.

Selectman, Bob Berti, commented that Arrow Equipment has provided good equipment over the years.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to purchase the rebuilt waste oil furnace from Arrow Equipment and to accept the offsetting grant funds to support the purchase. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Approved Minutes of the October 5, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, provided the Board of Selectmen with three bids for the 2020-2021 road salt. Bids were received from Morton Salt-\$62/ton, Granite State Salt-\$57/ton and American Salt-\$67/ton. Following a discussion of the quality of the salt product selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the Morton Salt bid. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed 3-0.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if either the Road Agent, Town Administrator, or Police Officer in Charge, Greg Patten, had received a call from Groton Wind Farms regarding a complaint of people parking on Groton Hollow Road or harassing people travelling to the wind farm. None of the three had received a complaint from the wind farm. It was discussed that vehicles and other items need to be kept out of the roadway and with winter coming items can not be hindering snow removal. The Highway Department was directed to contact the Police Department if there are any issues of items blocking road maintenance.

7:00 PM Public Forum – No one present

7:00 PM Officer-in-Charge, Greg Patten, met with the Board for the bi-weekly update. Patten reported that there had been 62 calls for service during the last two weeks, included were: 3-Bad Check reports, a death at the Rumney Climbing Rocks, domestic violence calls, and thefts. Police Secretary, Janet Sherburne, also handled 15 calls in the office.

Patten reported that he and the Rumney Road Agent were still discussing what new road signs needed to be purchased and installed.

Halloween, as it relates to COVID-19 and how it should be handled, was discussed. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated there were no scheduled events in Plymouth. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, indicated that neither the Rumney School nor the Rumney PTO had any events scheduled for Halloween. OIC, Greg Patten, preferred that if anyone were to go out for Trick or Treat it be on Halloween between the hours of 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM. The Board determined that their statement would be: Due to COVID-19 there will be no Town or School sanctioned Trick or Treat events in the town of Rumney. If persons want to take part in Trick or Treat this year they are asked to do so in a safe and responsible manner, adhering to the State of NH and CDC guidelines and do so between the hours of 5:00 PM and 7:00 PM on October 31st.

The Board authorized OIC, Greg Patten, to move forward in the search for a part-time officer.

OIC, Greg Patten, spoke with the Board regarding the TASER contract expiring. The prior contract was for 5-years costing \$1,500.00 per year, covering two TASER's. The Board questioned whether this item was budgeted for this year, Patten was not sure. Entering into the new contract would allow the department

to have the newest model TASER and docking station. The Board asked that the budgeting issue be clarified, they are not opposed to renewing the contract, they just want to know if the funds are available this year or if it needs to wait until the next budget cycle. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked Patten to inquire about the TASER body cameras and if there was a discounted package deal for both the TASER and camera.

7:35 PM Generator Bid-

The Town of Rumney is in the process of completing a grant to place a generator between the Rumney Town Office and the Rumney Fire Department. Bids were required to complete the electrical work for this project. A Request for Sealed Bids had been placed in the Record Enterprise. The bids were due to be opened during this meeting. Only one bid was submitted for this work. Upon review of the bid from Brian Weeks Electrical, Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the bid from Brian Weeks Electrical to complete the connections from the generator to the Rumney Town Office Building and the Rumney Fire Station. The Motion was seconded by Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Town Website Update-

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, had presented a proposal to the Board to enter into an agreement with CivicPlus to develop the platform for a new Town of Rumney website. Chivell asked the Board if they had had time to think about this proposal and if they had any additional questions. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated that it was time to move forward with a new town website platform. Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion to move forward with the proposal to have CivicPlus create a new Town of Rumney Website. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no further discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

7:49 PM Town Administrator Report-

Meeting minutes from the September 21, 2020 Board of Selectmen's meeting were provided. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, made a motion to accept the September 21, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting minutes. Selectman, Ed Haskell, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0. Selectman, Bob Berti, abstained as he was not at the September 21, 2020 Board meeting.

Earlier this year the annual payment to the Capital Reserve funds had been delayed to the end of the year because of the unknown effect COVID-19 would have on the overall revenue and if town's would be able to adjust their budgets. The Town Administrator asked the Board if, at this point, it would be appropriate to make the payments to Charter Trust so that the funds could be placed in the

Capital Reserve accounts. It was determined that this year's payments will be made, but the level of funding next year needs to be revisited.

Town Department Head's had been given evaluation forms to be completed for their staff. They are due at the end of the month. The Town Administrator asked if the Board could complete evaluations on the Department Heads either as a Board or by liaison assignments. The Board determined evaluations will be completed by liaison assignments for the Department Heads and by the Board for the Town Administrator.

The proposal for ambulance service by Plymouth Fire Department was reviewed by the Board. The annual cost did increase. Selectman, Bob Berti, commented that even with the increase it is still a good price for the service that is provided by Plymouth Fire Department. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, indicated that Plymouth Fire Chief, Tom Morrison, asked if the town would be open to signing an 18-month agreement to bring Rumney in line with the other towns they serve. The Board reported they are open to 18-months or longer if possible. Chivell indicated he would work on getting a new proposal with the longer coverage period.

The "NO TRESPASSING" signs that had been in place at the Town owned property known as the Town Pound have been removed and or stolen. The Board of Selectmen requested that new signs be purchased and that the property be reposted.

8:23 PM Old Business-

Police Chief Promotional Process-

Selectman, Bob Berti opened the discussion on the topic stating the choosing a Police Chief is a major decision, as is any Department Head position. The Board needs to assure this it has access to the Police Chief, again as with all Department Heads. The Board also needs to understand how to assess the progress of a new chief and make sure the department is serving the town properly. There has been a perception that the police department was not serving the residents.

Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated that the department's service to the community has slipped, although it is the duty of the Department Heads of the Town to assure service is provided, it does ultimately fall upon the Board of Selectmen to make sure that all town operations are completed in a satisfactory manner.

With that being said, the Board agreed that a promotional process needed to be completed to assure the department will move forward in a proper and proactive manner. The Board members were thankful for the assistance given to the Town of Rumney by the Woodstock and Bridgewater Police Departments, the Grafton County Sheriff's Department, and the Office of the Grafton County Attorney with

the recent promotional board. With their input from the Promotional Board interview and their input on the creation of a list of goals for the new Chief of Police, the Board feels comfortable it will be able to move forward. The Board will take all this information under advisement and will move forward with its decision at the October 19, 2020 meeting.

9:00 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. 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

Supervisors of the Check List	October 9, 2020
Fire Commissioner Meeting	October 12, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting	October 19, 2020
Planning Board Meeting	October 27, 2020
Absentee Ballot Review	October 31, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting	November 2, 2020
General Election	November 3, 2020
Fire Commissioner Meeting	November 9, 2020