

**Board of Selectmen  
October 19, 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.

6:35 PM Police Department Update-

OIC, Greg Patten, met with the Board to give them a bi-weekly report. The Department handled 60 calls for service, which included 3 theft reports, 2 motor vehicle accidents, and 11 parking tickets issued. Department Secretary handled 10 calls for service and NH State Police reported handling 5 calls for service.

Patten reported that the radar sign had been placed on Buffalo Road the past two weeks. He reported that over Columbus Day weekend 2200 cars passed the sign.

OIC Patten provided follow up information to the Board on the Taser contract. There is no “package deal” available if the Tasers and body cameras were combined. Taser provided a plan for 5 years. The plan will cover three new Tasers, equipment, and updates for \$1,595.00 per year. The Board approved the renewal of the Taser agreement.

Patten reported to the Board that he has been looking into the cost to replace the 2010 Ford Expedition Cruiser. The 2021 State bid lists have become available for cruiser package vehicles, those bids do not include upfitting. Towns have been experiencing a back log between date of order to date of delivery ranging between 3-9 months. Towns not ordering in the first round of availability could be waiting a minimum of 9 months for delivery. The range for a replacement police rate SUV is \$35,500 for a Ford Explorer, \$35,800.00 for a Dodge Durango, and up to \$38,700.00 for a Ford Expedition. Patten would like to know if the Board would approve the pre-ordering of a cruiser, taking into consideration the backlog of delivery.

Selectman, Bod Berti, asked Patten his perspective of the cruiser color and design. Both Berti and Selectman, Isaac DeWever, have stated the 2010 blackout version

is difficult to recognize as a cruiser. All three selectmen have commented that visibility is needed as the town's cruiser travels down the road and have referenced the MRI study completed two years ago.

Patten explained he would like the next cruiser to be grey, so that the two vehicles would match, but he would add additional graphics to both vehicles for increased visibility along with light bars rather than the streamlined lighting.

There was discussion regarding making the 2010 Expedition more visible while it is in use. Both the Board members and Patten agreed on this idea.

All members of the Board would like the visibility of the police department to increase. They do not see the need to have a "stealth" style cruiser or "stealth" style uniform for day to day use. Patten agreed and will be working to get away from the low visibility appearance and changing the cruiser appearance with more visible vinyl to the cruiser and changing the uniform appearance possibly by changing the uniform colors. Selectman, Ed Haskell, agreed stating "make it new". Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated "it is the right time to re-brand".

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked about the shotgun that Patten reported to have been out of service for the past couple years. Patten reported that the pump action became detached from the weapon. Patten would like to replace both service shotguns and both rifles. Patten did not have pricing to do so for this meeting. Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated that when a cruiser is outfitted, items like this should be included.

OIC Patten was asked about parking along Buffalo Road in the area of the climbing rocks. Patten reported that he continues to work on addressing the parking issue. He reported about a month ago someone had removed eight "No Parking" signs along Buffalo Road, at about the same time the "No Trespassing" signs were removed from the Town Pound area on Quincy Road. More signs have been ordered for both areas. It was felt that both issues of signs being removed and stolen were more than likely someone local who disagrees with the parking and trespass issues.

Selectman, Bob Berti, believes that the parking issue on Buffalo Road is not going to go away but will only grow. Patten agreed and as to the trespass issues at the Town Pound, if that continues, he is not opposed to requesting the State to place additional "No Parking" signs in that area of Quincy Road.

OIC Patten reported that he will be at the Polls to provide coverage, as requested by the Rumney Town Moderator, for the General Election.

7:15 PM Omer Ahern, candidate for Grafton County Commission, requested to meet with the Board of Selectmen. Ahern provided the Board with his background and his views of how the County could operate more efficiently along with how it could

work to assist the towns within Grafton County.

7:40PM Town Administrator Report

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported that Department Heads had turned in staff evaluation forms.

EMS Director, Dan Madaglia, requested permission to purchase shelving for EMS supplies. Madaglia understands there is still a spending freeze but is requesting to spend approximately \$200.00 on the shelving. The Board approved the purchasing of shelving.

The Budgeting process was discussed. In keeping with safe operation during the COVID19 issue the Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked if it would be acceptable to deviate from the standards of gathering the Board of Selectmen, the members of the Budget Advisory Committee, and department heads in the Town Office Conference Room this year? The Town Administrator explained that he would prepare the Advisory Committee Members binders with the department heads budget requests and ask for feedback be given to the Board either in written notes or verbally, this allows the Board to gain the committee members insight. Chivell suggested the Board take the department heads budgets requests along with their justification sheets, any feed back from the Advisory Committee members and meet one evening or one Saturday morning dedicated just to the review of the budget requests.

Once the Selectmen make their budget adjustments, if any, the departments would be given their operating budgets to review. If there were any concerns from a department, they could request to meet with the Board.

Although this is a different approach, it does reflect a safe manner to move forward with the budget process. The Board asked Chivell to speak with the Advisory Committee members about the change and begin to move forward with the process.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported that the Town Office has had several electrical power flicks. Chivell was not sure if it is an internal issue or a problem in the line that feeds the building. Selectman, Ed Haskell, suggested to contact an electrician to check the Town Office Building fuse box, then if there are no issues found in the building, contact the NH Electric Co-op.

7:58 PM New Business – None

7:58 PM Old Business –

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if there was any update on the junkyard issue at 13-0410. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, stated that paperwork has been submitted

with the Grafton County Superior Court and we are just waiting on a hearing date.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if there was any new information on the possible junkyard violation at 12-0702. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported that he had not taken any new action, such as having the property inspection completed by Ken Knowlton, due to the lack of hearing dates being issued by the Grafton County Superior Court. Chivell did not want to spend funds on inspections of the properties only to have the inspection report become stale before a hearing.

The Ambulance agreement has been returned to Plymouth with the request to extend it out 18 months or more.

8:03 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to enter into nonpublic session, under RSA 91-A: II (a). Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

8:54 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.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to promote Greg Patten to the position of Rumney Police Chief effective November 2, 2020. The promotion will be outlined in an 18-month employment agreement. The position will have a starting salary of \$58,000.00, with evaluation reviews during February 2021 and August 2021 and allow for salary increases during those reviews. A mutually agreeable list of goals will be developed for the Chief to meet. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

9:00 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded 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	October 27, 2020
Absentee Ballot Review	October 31, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting	November 2, 2020
General Election	November 3, 2020

Fire Commissioner Meeting  
Board of Selectmen Meeting  
Town Office Closed

November 9, 2020  
November 16, 2020  
November 26 & 27, 2020