

**Board of Selectmen
November 18, 2020
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

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

NOTE: Due to a possible COVID-19 issue, the November 16th meeting was rescheduled for November 18th.

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. Documents signed included:

- Septic Design for 11-01-06
- 2021 – 2022 Plymouth Ambulance Agreement

6:40 PM Town Tax Rate – The initial information for NH-DRA was provided to the Board of Selectmen, along with the options of using varying amounts of the unassigned fund balance to reduce the rate. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to use \$110,700 of the unassigned fund balance resulting in a Tax Rate of \$23.94. This motion was seconded by Selectman, Isaac DeWever. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

6:55 PM Town Administrator Report –

Chris Fournier, of HEB Engineers, requested the Board of Selectmen provide a verbal acknowledgement that the Buffalo Road Bridge replacement project, a bridge that is on the State of NH Bridge Funding List, would be approved to move forward once State and or Federal funding is approved. The Board acknowledged the request and provided an affirmative response that the project would move forward.

Meeting minutes from the October 5, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting were provided for review. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the minutes. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

The Board was asked if they wanted a formal “Return to Work” policy for COVID-19 issues. The Board acknowledged that the recommendations seemed to have changed a few times and are comfortable with addressing this type of

issue on a case-by-case manner. Currently we will work on the method of the 7-days with no symptoms and 14 days with symptoms.

NH Senator, Bob Giuda, had contacted the Selectmen's Office to ask if the Board would like his assistance in making a last attempt to acquire the former "Rumney Rest Area" for a reasonable price and without the restrictions that were of concern to the Board during prior discussion. Giuda had offered to set up a meeting with the NH-DOT, Rumney Board of Selectmen, and himself on November 30, 2020 at noon. All three Board members agreed to attend this meeting. November 30, 2020 will be posted as a Work Session. All three members were also in agreement that the price needs to be adjusted and there were to be no restrictions. It is the position of the Board that if the Town of Rumney owns the property, they will operate it as they deem fit. As to the cost of obtaining the property, the building needs work and there will be a cost to maintain the property, these all need to be kept in mind during any meetings or negotiations.

The Board approved the Christmas gift card distribution of Town employees in line with prior years.

Due to COVID-19 the Historical Society will not be having their annual tea and cookie event nor is there a tree lighting plan. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, let the Board know that the Town Office staff agreed to decorate the gazebo and a tree this year. Selectman, Bob Berti, stated he would deliver a tree this year.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported that he spoke with CNP, the company that provides the town's assessing needs, about providing a Current Use review. This type of review has not been completed for 10 – 15 years. During the onsite review by NH-DRA it was recommended this review be done. This type of review has been discussed in the past as being completed by office staff and volunteers, but time and volunteers being limited, it has not been completed. Selectman, Bob Berti, would support the project, but he would like the involvement of the Conservation Commission and a local Forester, both who would have working knowledge of the status of the lands involved. Chivell reported that CNP would complete hands on file review, review of timber cut records, mailing to property owners requesting information, creating a matrix of the properties, and making the appropriate changes in the assessing software. Chivell thought that the matrix could be shared with the Conservation Commission and other volunteer and make comments to CNP. The Board agreed to sign an agreement with CNP, once available, to move forward with this project.

7:30 PM Budget Review

Two items that were not completed during the Budget Work Session on November 14, 2020 were salary and Revaluation.

The Board discussed the salary of all full-time and part-time employees. It was

determined that a flat \$.50/hr. raise will be given.

2021 will be the start of the required 5-year town wide revaluation. CNP, the assessing company that has been used by the Town, offered the same price for the complete four-year revaluation as during the last town wide revaluation. The additional costs are for George Sansoucy that covers utility revaluations and annual pick ups and hourly work completed by CNP. The total amount for the 2021 External Revaluation is \$38,000.00.

8:00 PM Old Business:

Bids from architects to provide designs for the remodel and addition to the Town Office Building will be reviewed during the November 30, 2020 Work Session.

8:05 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.

Joe Chivell
Town Administrator
Rumney, NH

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

Town Office Closed	November 26 & 27, 2020
Board of Selectmen Work Session	November 30, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting	December 7, 2020
Fire Commissioner Meeting	December 14, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting	December 21, 2020
Town Office Closed	December 25, 2020
Town Office Closed	January 1, 2021
Board of Selectmen Meeting	January 4, 2021