

**Board of Selectmen
December 7, 2020
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

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

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 account payable checks were reviewed and signed.

6:35 PM Transfer Station Superintendent, Milton “Sonny” Ouellette, had met with the Board of Selectmen on November 2, 2020, regarding the increased use of the transfer station over the past summer. That meeting focused on the MSW tonnage. Ouellette had been asked to report back on the increase of C&D being brought to the transfer station. Ouellette reported that it appears that the COVID-19 pandemic has created a “cleaning serge” while people had the time to be at home. Ouellette reported that the uptick has seemed to slow now, much as it normally does in the late fall and winter months.

Selectman, Isaac DeWever, asked if the price charged to dispose of C&D had been questioned by a few residents in the past, is this still an issue? Superintendent Ouellette indicated that during the summer month some did question being charged for disposing of C&D, but it is not questioned as much during the slow time. Ouellette stated that several people will say “I pay taxes, why should I have to pay for disposing of these items?”.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated that when someone comments that “I pay taxes” he would agree for normal residential waste, but he does not agree that it covers commercial disposal of waste, especially C&D disposal. Ouellette agreed with Haskell, telling the Board that he tries to explain that to the users of the transfer station.

Ouellette offered that there are several new people using the transfer station. They seem to be “opening up” their older, previously unused buildings, and living spaces and cleaning them out. Selectman, Bob Berti, said he had to question as people say, “there is an increase in population”. Everyone seemed to agree that it may not be a population increase as much as it is an increase in the type of use of the transfer station during this COVID-19 period.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, asked Ouellette to share the names of dumpster rental companies with those who seem to be overusing or mis-using the transfer station.

Selectman, Bob Berti, recommended that updated signage and handouts be prepared explaining the rules and procedures of using the transfer station. Selectman, Ed Haskell, agreed and added the definition of a “load” needs to be defined and costs updated.

Ouellette reported he is working on updating the rules and they will be available for review soon.

Superintendent Ouellette had reported during a previous Board meeting that one part-time transfer station attendant had stated he would be giving his two week notice soon. That employee did give notice and has left the job. The vacancy was posted for two weeks in the Plymouth Record Enterprise and on the Town bulletin boards. Ouellette reported that he received an application from the Rumney Highway Department summer part-time laborer, who had also worked a few hours at the transfer station. Although it is not a “new hire”, Ouellette requested to fill the vacancy with this worker, as he has shown a good work ethic and is already a town employee. The Board approved filling the Rumney Transfer Station part-time attendant position with Ryan Coursey.

6:55 PM The Rumney Board of Selectmen had requested to meet with the Rumney Highway Agent, Nick Coursey, regarding next year’s Road Improvement project. Coursey provided the Board with a Road Improvement history going back from 2007 to current. Going oldest to newest the work areas include a sand seal of Old Route 25, Cutting Hill drainage, paving of Depot Street, paving of Buffalo Road, paving of the Town Office, Fire Station, Highway garage parking lots and North Groton Road, paving of School Street, paving and culvert work on Old Route 25 and Swainboro Road, extending pavement on Cross Road, paving Mountain View Drive, Quincy Bog Road and Cranberry Bog Road, paving the entrance to the Baker Athletic Field.

Road Agent Coursey stated he has a tentative plan he would propose to preserve and extend the life of the roads the town has worked on. Coursey would like to pave Mill Street in 2021 as the Road Improvement project. Then starting in 2022 shim and crack seal Buffalo Road, keeping in mind there may be a bridge project on Buffalo Road in the coming years, 2023 chip seal Buffalo Road, 2024 shim the lower part of Old Route 25, 2025 chip seal Depot and School Streets, 2026 topcoat Mill Street (if it is paved in 2021), 2027 chip seal Sand Hill and upper part of Buffalo Road.

Coursey advocates for the paving of Mill Street in that it would take minimal work to prepare it for paving and it would aid in the maintenance and plowing of that area. Coursey stated he has obtained budgeting quotes for paving the 2316

feet of Mill Street.

Selectman, Bob Berti, commented that pavement has held up better than we could have hoped that it would. Berti suggested that he, as the Highway Department liaison, and Coursey go for a tour of the roads before the budget process is complete.

Road Agent Coursey reported that he had visited Freightliner today to check on the new highway truck and set up the locations of the controls. Coursey stated that the only thing holding up the delivery of the truck is there are no dump bodies available. It seems that with the COVID-19 slowdowns, the availability of truck dump bodies is very limited. This will likely delay the delivery until after the first of the year.

The Road Agent also commented that even with Ryan Coursey working the 15 hours at the transfer station, he would like to still use him a few hours a week for shoveling and such after a snowstorm. The Board is OK with the sharing of the position, but wants to limit the hours he is used, remembering this is a parttime position.

Road Agent Coursey reported to the Board that the department had reset the stone on the wall of Highland North Cemetery. Coursey was not sure how long the setting will last, he reported that more work would be needed on the backside of the wall for a long-term fix.

7:23 PM Public Forum – No one was present

Police Chief, Greg Patten, presented his bi-weekly report to the Board of Selectmen. Patten reported that the radar sign had been placed on School Street near the French property. During the 7 days it was in place 842 cars went past, the average speed was 28MPH. The busiest traffic time was the starting and ending of the school day.

Patten reported he has been actively investigating several criminal reports and has seen an increase in motor vehicle traffic violations.

Patten spoke to the Board about additional information on camera systems. He is exploring the Watch Guard cameras, both body cameras and cruiser mounted systems. Patten explained that the Watch Guard systems are less expensive than the Axon (Taser) systems.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked the Chief if an officer is wearing a body camera, why would they also need a cruiser camera? Chief Patten explained that it documents different items, such as speed of the cruiser, location of the cruiser and items as the cruiser travels past. The body camera would most likely be attached to the chest of the officer and would not pick-up visual recordings while driving.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked Patten the status of finding a new officer. Patten reported that he has received three applications to date.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked for clarification on the replacement of the service rifle and shot gun that had been discussed in the recent meetings. The Board authorized the replacement of one rifle, one shot gun, and the required brackets for the cruiser currently being used.

Chief Patten has been working on new designs for the cruiser to increase the visibility. He plans on being ready to move forward on this project very soon.

8:00 PM Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion requesting to enter into nonpublic session under NH RSA 91-A:3,II (c). The motion was seconded by Selectman, Ed Haskell. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion to enter into nonpublic session passed 3-0.

8:09 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.

8:10 PM Budget Review – Budget items that were addressed during the November 18, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting had been adjusted and the new budget printout was provided to the Board members for review. One final adjustment was discussed during this meeting. The Road Improvement figure was reduced to \$50,000. With this last revision, department budgets will be returned to individual department heads for any comments, requests, and justification for reinstatement of any funding that was reduced.

8:16 PM Town Administrator Report -

A list of proposed meeting dates was given to the Board for review. Meeting stayed in the format of 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Three Mondays fell on or adjacent to town observed holidays. The Board determined to move the February 15th meeting to Tuesday February 16th, cancelled the July 5th meeting, with an option of rescheduling if needed, and move the September 6th meeting to Tuesday September 7th. Annual Town elections will be held Tuesday March 9th and the Annual Rumney Town Meeting will be held Thursday March 11th. All meeting dates are contingent on the status of COVID-19 and any State or Federal Emergency Orders.

A report of 2020 Part 2 property tax bills paid to date was shared with the Board.

Health Officer, Rebecca Bordonaro, requested permission to have the Wentworth Deputy Health Officer complete ride-a-longs to observe the duties of a Health Officer. The Board approved the ride-a-longs as long as a waiver of liability was

completed.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked the Board if there was any topic they wanted to see or address in the Rumney Annual Report. Topics to follow.

The Town Administrator reported that he has an initial meeting with architect, Peter Stewart, on Tuesday December 8th, to discuss the proposed addition to the Rumney Town Office building.

Correspondence for NHMA discussing the difference of an employee versus a volunteer was given to each Board member. Selectman, Ed Haskell, asked the Town Administrator to call the employment hotline to confirm their understanding between the two statuses.

The October 2020 Treasurer Report was provided to the Board for review.

A printout of the budgetary expenditures through December 1st was given to the Board for review.

The November 2020 Fire Chief monthly report was provided to the Board for review.

8:35 PM Old Business –

Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated he would attend the December 14th Fire Commissioners meeting for any follow up needed on the budget or pay structure.

8:37 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

Fire Commissioner Meeting	December 14, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting	December 21, 2020
Town Office Closed	December 25, 2020
Planning Board Meeting	December 29, 2020
Town Office Closed	January 1, 2021
Board of Selectmen Meeting	January 4, 2021
Fire Commissioner Meeting	January 11, 2021
Board of Selectmen Meeting	January 18, 2021