

**Board of Selectmen
December 21, 2020
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes**

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

Excused Absence: Selectman, Ed Haskell

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 called to order by Selectman, Bob Berti. Payroll and accounts payable checks were reviewed and signed.

The Following documents were reviewed and signed:

- Septic System Design 2-3-57
- Personnel Action Form

6:35 PM Town Administrator Report –

A list of funds to be encumbered from the FY 2020 budget for use in 2021 had been prepared. An explanation for each encumbrance was provided by Town Administrator, Joe Chivell.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if the \$5,000.00, in Account 4220.4, for Dry Hydrants was part of the funds received in the Groton Winds agreement to install a dry hydrant on Groton Hollow Road? Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, clarified that the \$5,000.00 did not represent the funds received from Groton Winds, LLC. The \$5,000.00 listed on the Encumbrance form represents the portion that was raised by taxation in Article 15 passed during the 2020 Annual Rumney Town Meeting. The balance of the funds received from Groton Winds, LLC in 2014 is noted as a Restricted Fund Balance within the overall Rumney Fund Balance.

Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion directing the Town Administrator to contact Lloyd and Anita French and start the process of creating an easement to the pond that was targeted to be used as the Groton Hollow Road Dry Hydrant. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Not listed on the document but discussed, at the request of Road Agent Nick Coursey, was the possible encumbrance of funds to purchase a lawn mower, to be used by the Highway Department to mow town properties if one cannot be purchased prior to the end of the year. During the past several years the Town

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has contracted out property maintenance, such as spring and fall clean ups and summer mowing. This year the town utilized a part-time Highway Department position to complete these tasks. The Town did realize a savings. Road Agent, Nick Coursey, reports that the mowing equipment being used is an older, used mower that is not reliable. Earlier this summer Coursey, had asked to purchase a new mower. At that time, the Board wanted to see how the inhouse mowing worked out and if there was a savings to the town. At this point, knowing there was a savings, the Board authorized the use of up to \$3,000.00 to purchase a mower.

This amendment will be made to the Encumbrance List and the Board agreed to sign off on the request.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, provided a request to carry over unused vacation and compensatory time for all full-time town employees. Policy requires the carryover be approved by the Board of Selectmen prior to the end of the year. Chivell explained it could vary a little as there were 10 days left in the year and some additional time off may be used. It is possible some compensatory time could be earned, depending on the weather. The Board members agreed to sign the request. Selectman, Bob Berti, would like to visit the carry over policy next year for a possible payout option when an employee gets to a certain number of hours showing on the books. Chivell agreed, indicating that it is an unfunded liability carrying time over year to year.

The dates for the Public Budget Hearing, Town Election, and Town meeting have been tentatively set, pending any COVID-19 related issues or Federal or State Emergency Orders. Chivell requested the Boards approval to request the use of the Russell School Gym for all three events. In the past, the Public Budget Hearing has been held in the cafeteria. Chivell suggested this year the school gym be requested to allow for social distancing. The Board asked that the building use forms be sent to the school for those events.

The November 2020 Treasurers Report was provided for review.

An updated report on 2020 Part two property tax payments was provided for review.

Police Chief, Greg Patten, reported that an updated cost to be part of the Prosecutors Association had been delivered to him. The Department will need an additional \$800.00 added to the Prosecution Budget line.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, had received correspondence from NH-DOT providing an update to the conditions of sale for the former Rumney Rest area. The document did not provide any language of price changes nor did it address the ability to make improvements to the property. The Board wants it to be clear

that the Town will manage and control the area if it were to be purchased. The Board asked that the Rumney Conservation Commission be contacted to assure the Commission is still willing to assist, financially, if the Town were to make a purchase. Chivell was directed to follow up on this with both NH-DOT and Senator Bob Guida's office.

A first draft of the cover page of the new Town Website was shown to the Board members. Work will continue on the new site, which should be online early 2021.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported he has a Zoom meeting scheduled with architect Peter Stewart to view the first draft of the proposed Town Office Building addition on Tuesday, December 22 at noon.

7:20 PM New Business –

Part of the stone wall at Highland North Cemetery fell out of place last Wednesday. The Cemetery Trustees were contacted about this issue. Repairs should be made in the spring of 2021. There appears to be sufficient funds in the Cemetery Capital Reserve account to cover the repairs.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, wanted the Board to be aware that he had received complaints concerning the poor conditions of Post Office Lane. Post Office Lane is a private road leading to the US Post Office, which is a rented property. Several years ago, a warrant article was brought before the Town at the Annual Town Meeting to make Post Office Lane a Town road. The article failed. Selectman, Bob Berti, voiced his concern of creating a practice of taking over privately owned roads. The Board understands that some residents are upset about the maintenance of the Post Office, but at this time the Board is not in favor of going through the process of taking over the private way.

7:40 PM Old Business -

Selectman, Ed Haskell, was not able to attend this evenings meeting but wanted to report the following. He was not able to attend the Rumney Fire Commissioners Meeting on December 14th but was able to speak with Fire Commissioners Terri French and Cam Brown. The Commissioners requested that the following cuts made to the Fire Department Budget be restored:

- \$4,000.00 for Protective Clothing
- \$2,500 for Training and Mileage
 - The State has assured they will be providing training in 2021
- \$600.00 for Maintenance
 - To support mileage reimbursement be paid to the Fire Chief for the use of his vehicle.

Selectmen Berti and DeWever would like to know more about the protective clothing need. Their recollection was during last year's budget process the request for \$10,000 for protective clothing, which was approved, was said to address the need for some time to come. During last year's Annual Town Meeting, Fire Chief David Coursey stated the Department had 20-sets of protective clothing in use at that time and their target was to have 2-sets per fire fighter, primarily those that work interior at a fire scene.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, reported that the Fire Commissioners had no interest in changing the pay system for the call fire fighters from a point system to an hourly wage. Haskell stated he explained that would change the structure of the department, in that the volunteer or call fire fighters would then be deemed employees.

Follow up reports on illegal junk yards from Ken Knowles of MRI were provided for review. Complaints will be forth coming for three properties from the Town Attorney, two letters of warning to be going to two new properties.

Selectman, Bob Berti, requested that the Town Report recognize one group of volunteers (to be named later) and brief history of the Boston Cane be given.

8:00 PM Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman, Isaac DeWever seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell
Town Administrator
Rumney, NH

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

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