

**Board of Selectmen  
January 4, 2021  
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 called to order by Selectman, Ed Haskell. Payroll and accounts payable checks were reviewed and signed.  
The Following documents were reviewed and signed:

- Payroll Worksheet
- Intent to Cut 11-01-06

6:35 PM Planning Board Items – Select Board liaison to the Planning Board, Isaac DeWever, and Planning Board Member/Clerk met with the Board to update them with Planning Board activity.

An issue the Planning Board wanted to bring to the Selectmen's attention is a request that has been submitted to designate a residential house that is situated on a .25-acre lot of land on Stinson lake as a condominium.

The Planning Board had met with the property owner, Joe Carter, and his attorney, Jack McCormick in a Zoom style meeting. Approximately 30 other residents viewed the meeting. The issue at hand; does this action constitute a sub-division under the Town of Rumney Sub-Division regulations. It is important to note that the Rumney Sub-Division regulations parallel State law.

There was discussion on the building size, number of bathrooms and the septic system plan design.

In-depth information on this Planning Board issue may be found in the December 29, 2020 Planning Board Meeting minutes.

The Board of Selectmen authorized the Planning Board to utilize the Town Council for legal assistance as needed.

The Planning Board requested to enter into an agreement with Tara Bamford to assist them, as a consultant, by assisting them with hosting web style meetings

and moving forward on Planning Board projects. Bamford was used in 2020 to assist with the new Sub-Division regulations. Bamford will charge only when directly being used as a consultant but will, at no fee, take part and assist in hosting regular meetings. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, made a motion to authorize the Rumney Planning Board to enter into a one-year agreement with Tara Bamford and to allow the Planning Board Chairman, Brad Eaton, to sign the agreement on behalf of the Town of Rumney. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

6:58 PM

Public Forum – Heidi Bliss of Hawthorne Village asked to meet with the Board regarding a parking issue on Doetown Road near the Stinson Mountain Access area. Bliss reported that she, and several others, received parking tickets while parking along Doetown Road to access Stinson Mountain. Bliss reports that she and others have parked there for years without issue.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported that both Highway Agent, Nick Coursey, and Police Chief, Greg Patten, had told him about the parking issue in that area over the weekend.

Coursey had reported that the driver of the Town Plow truck that plows that area had complained that he was not able to plow the entire width of the road due to the number of vehicles parked on the road. Coursey reported that the driver had contacted him twice that day about the vehicles. Coursey then forwarded the complaint to Police Chief, Greg Patten.

Police Chief, Greg Patten, had told Chivell that he responded to the area, based on the Highway Departments complaint, noted, and pictured the vehicles in question and issued parking tickets.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, gave a brief history on the revision of the Parking Ordinance, that was enacted November 2018. One of the primary issues in this case would be the response of emergency response vehicles.

Heidi Bliss felt that the vehicles were off the road enough and thought the road maintenance was complete.

Selectman, Isaac DeWever, thought possibly a complaint may have come from a resident at the end of the road too, but was not sure.

Selectman, Bob Berti, commented on the years of vehicles parking along the roadsides and hindering road maintenance. Berti stated that they would not tell the Police Chief how or when to charge or ticket someone, but welcomed Bliss to have a dialogue with the Police Chief.

7:10 PM Meeting Minute Review –

Meeting minutes from the December 7<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Board of Selectmen Meeting were available for review.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of December 7, 2020. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Selectman, Isaac DeWever, made a motion to accept the Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes of December 21, 2020. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. Selectman, Ed Haskell, indicated he would abstain because he was not at the meeting. The motion passed 2-0.

7:12 PM Police Department Update -

Police Chief, Greg Patten, reported that December activity was up, the last two weeks the department handled 105 calls for service. Types of calls for service include: Domestic issues, Thefts, Suspicious Activity, Trespass, Russell School assist, and Motor Vehicle Accident. NH State Police handled 6 additional calls for service.

Chief Patten reported that the radar sign had been in place on Main Street, between the Town Common and the Rumney General Store, tracking south bound traffic during the past 9 days. During that time, it recorded 1,233 vehicles, the average speed was 23.8 MPH with a top speed of 40 MPH. The radar sign is now positioned on the west end of Old Route 25.

Patten updated the Board members on the equipment purchases that the Board had approved. The replacement rifles have been ordered and the new Tasers are in, along with the training equipment at no cost to the Town. A time for the new cruiser graphics has been scheduled and the cruiser rifle mounts will be installed at the same time. Also, as part of the re-branding of the Police Department, Chief Patten showed the Board the new gray uniform shirt and black uniform pant. A new shoulder patch has also been designed to replace the subdued patches currently in use.

A spreadsheet showing four cruisers at base cost with the various upfitting options was given to the Board to assist with the discussion of the proposed cruiser purchase in 2021. Chief Patten told the Board that information he had been given by the different dealerships was that there was no delivery target dates for a

Dodge Charger Cruiser package, Chevrolet had a delivery target of 6-9 months, and Ford had a 3 – 4 month delivery target. It was determined to base the cruiser purchase on the Ford Explorer platform. Graphics will be added to match the updated Ford Explorer graphics. New rifle, shotgun and mounts will be ordered and installed. A new radar system will be ordered and installed.

The Board and the Chief discussed the pros and cons of an in-cruiser camera system and a body camera system. There will be more information provided on this topic along with information on a new version of an in-cruiser camera coming out this Spring. There was no final decision made on a camera system.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to authorize the ordering of a Ford Explorer Police Package for the Rumney Police Department with the understanding if funding is not supported by voters during the 2021 Annual Town Meeting the purchase can be voided. Funds to purchase and upfit a new cruiser to come from the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Account. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. Discussion on the motion noted the need to start the purchase process because of the recent history of limited numbers of cruiser packages available and the delays in the delivery. The motion passed 3-0.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked Chief Patten if there was any news on filling the Police Officer vacancy. Patten reported there was nothing new to report.

7:55 PM Town Administrator Report -

Correspondence from NHMA on the topic of holding traditional Town Meetings in 2021 was provided to the Board for review. The consensus of the Board was to move forward on a traditional style Public Budget Hearing, Town Election and Annual Town Meeting.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, provided a viewing of the cover page of the new Town Website. The Board approved the setup. Development of department pages will be next.

An initial viewing of the architectural drawing of the Town Office addition was provided to the Board. The Board agreed with the concept, except the drawing did not include a bulkhead for basement access. Chivell reported that had been discussed and he will make sure it is added.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, provided the Board with an update on the properties that are reported to be in violation of the State Junkyard statute.

A copy of an email sent by Trevor Pesccek, owner of 220 Quincy Road, was shared with the Board. Pesccek questioned being limited in the amount of construction

debris he has been allowed to bring to the Rumney Transfer Station. Pesccek is upset with the explanation given to him by the Transfer Station Superintendent, Milton "Sonny" Ouellette, that the canister used for debris is in place for all Rumney residents and if he, Ouellette, were to allow Pesccek to fill the canister it would not be fair to the other residents. Pesccek also questioned the cost of canisters comparing them to private dumpsters he had priced out in the past. The Board of Selectmen restated that the Rumney Transfer Station is meant to be used as a residential waste station and not to cater to commercial style disposal. And to clarify commercial style disposal, someone does not need to be on a paid job to be considered commercial. Someone renovating an entire house and generating enough debris it requires multiple truck loads to remove the debris, is considered commercial. For a project that involved, a person should hire their own dumpster.

8:20 PM Old Business –

Selectman, Ed Haskell, had met with Fire Commissioners, Cam Brown and Terri French, concerning cuts to the Fire Department Operation Budget. The Commissioners assured Haskell that the State will be providing Fire Fighter Level 1 training this year. As part of this training a fire fighter is required to have two sets of turnout gear, one for the station and one for training. The Commissioners requested that the Selectmen replace the removed funds from the Protective Clothing budget to allow for the purchase of turnout gear.

On that same note, the Commissioners asked that \$2,500 be returned to the training line item of the Fire Department to allow fire fighters to take part in the fire academy training.

Last, the Commissioners asked for \$600 to be returned to vehicle maintenance. They have discussed paying the Fire Chief either mileage or a vehicle maintenance stipend for the use of his personal vehicle.

Haskell reported that the Commissioners have no intent to: pursue the purchase of a new fire truck this year, nor do they have any intent to change the type of pay for the department, from a point stipend system to an hourly pay system.

The Board members agreed to replace the funds that had been removed from the Fire Department Operating Budget.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked to speak about the Rumney Rest Area. Berti stated he would like the Board, on behalf of the Town, to make an offer on the Rest Area. Although the revised appraisal for the property, completed by NH-DOT, is \$157,000, with several restrictions, Berti thinks the Board should submit an offer to purchase the property for \$65,000 with no restrictions, pending approval of the

voters at the 2021 Rumney Town Meeting. In Berti's opinion, the property is still over valued at the revised appraisal based on; the State Right of Way onto the property, the proximity to the Baker River and the remaining restrictions the State is placing on the property.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to make a conditional offer of purchase of the property, known as the Rumney Rest Area, in the amount of \$65,000, with no deeded restriction and contingent upon the approval of the Town voters at the 2021 Annual Rumney Town Meeting. The motion was seconded by Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed 3-0.

8:40 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

Fire Commissioner Meeting	January 11, 2021
Board of Selectmen Meeting	January 18, 2021
Board of Selectmen Meeting	February 1, 2021
Public Budget Hearing & Bond Hearing	February 1, 2021
Fire Commissioner Meeting	February 8, 2021
Trustee of Trust Funds Meeting	February 9, 2021
Town Office Closed – Presidents Day	February 15, 2021