

Board of Selectmen
January 18, 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 13-2-26
- Upper Valley Humane Society Agreement
- Refund Check for Double Property Tax Payment

6:35 PM Town Moderator, Jim Buttolph, met with the Board to review the March 2021 Town Election and Annual Town Meeting. The discussion centered around HB 1129, that was approved July 10, 2020. Attached is an outline of the information provided by Moderator Buttolph. The consensus of both the Moderator and The Board of Selectmen is, barring any new Emergency Order that is put into place limiting the number of people allowed to gather or some drastic increase in the numbers of those infected with COVID-19, the Town of Rumney will move forward with a traditional in person Town Election on March 9th and a traditional in person Annual Town meeting on March 11th. Both events will be set up to allow for social distancing and wearing face coverings will be strongly recommended. Buttolph reported that only 6 or so voters, who took part in the most recent General Election, did not wear a mask.

Jim Buttolph, who is the Moderator for both the Town and the Russell School, wanted to make the Board aware of his plans to retire in 3 years. After he retires his plan is to move out of the area, which means he can no longer serve as Town or School Moderator. Buttolph has served as the Town Moderator since 2006. The Board acknowledged the great job he has done in this position and noted it will be difficult to fill his position.

Jim Buttolph wanted to let the Board know of his plans, understanding how difficult it can be to find people to fill elected official positions and wanted to allow

for time to see if anyone would be interested in being the Town Moderator. Buttolph is willing to assist in training a new person.

The Board thanked Buttolph for his ongoing work and his proactiveness of filling the position.

7:10 PM Town Administrator Report –

- Emergency services agreement, which allows for the Town of Rumney Fire Department and EMS, to charge for their response to the Town's of Groton and Dorchester, had been prepared for the 2021 - 2022 coverage period. The base fee to each Town is a structured percentage based on the prior year's actual operational cost and any equipment purchase related to the coverage that is provided. A per-call charge is also billed quarterly to each Town, based on the number of responders and the amount of time spent on the call. An additional fee is billed if a department member conducts any required inspections or service calls. The response fee increased by \$2.00 per hour per responder this year, as there had been no increase since 2013.

The Board reviewed and signed the agreements. It was noted in the December 14, 2020 Rumney Fire Department Meeting minutes *"It is important the Commissioners be involved with the contracts for this coming year with Groton and Dorchester. Groton more so as the Fire Chief has been requested to attend to more inspections as well as the department covering a greater area. This should be brought to the liaison's attention."* As in past years, it was mentioned that if the structure or formula for billing the Towns receiving the service is to be changed, it is only fair to those Towns to start that discussion earlier in the year allowing those towns time to take part in those discussions.

The 2021 - 2022 Transfer Station agreement allowing Dorchester to use the Rumney Transfer Station was available for review. The agreement is based on a percentage of the prior operational costs of the Rumney Transfer Station. The Board members reviewed and signed the agreement.

A draft version of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles was reviewed and discussed. Article 1 & 2 address the election of positions.

Warrant Article 3 is the first monetary article, addressing the funding of an addition to the Town Office Building. It will be over \$100,000 and involve a bond. This article is required to be the first article listed, will require a secret ballot vote that is open for 1-hour, it will require 3/5 vote to pass,

and will require a bond hearing prior the Town Meeting. The Board authorized moving forward with Article 3.

The Board then discussed adding a warrant article for the purchase of the Rumney Rest Area. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, was instructed to create what will be Warrant Article 4, to purchase the property known as the Rumney Rest Area from the State of New Hampshire – DOT. The Board would ask to fund not more than \$95,000.00 using a note or bond and partner with the Conservation Commission for remaining funds.

Articles 5 – 30 were authorized as drafted.

The overall 2021 Town budget is down from the 2020 budget, accounting for budgeted off-sets and proposed revenue, by \$53,929.

Contractors have been invited by CCI to walk through the Town Office Building in an effort to generate a budgeting cost for remodeling and adding onto the building. The walk through will be in January.

During the January 4, 2021 Selectmen’s Meeting, the Board directed the Town Administrator to forward an offer to purchase the property known as the Rumney Rest Area to the NH-DOT. The offer was not accepted by NH-DOT. The Board will continue to try to obtain the property, as mentioned above related to a warrant article discussion.

The Board of Selectmen were notified that the new Highway Department Truck is ready, except for the dump body. It is hoped that the build of the truck can be completed in about a month.

A local church group had asked permission to use sand from the Town sand pile in an effort to deliver buckets of sand to the Town’s elderly and shut-in population. The Selectmen approved the group’s request.

7:43 PM Old Business –

Selectman, Isaac DeWever, liaison to the Planning Board, updated the Board of Selectmen on the sub-division issue brought to the Selectmen’s attention during the January 4, 2021 meeting. The Planning Board will hold off on any legal action until after notifying the landowner of their responsibility of legal expenses.

DeWever reported that the Planning Board survey generated 400 responses. Selectman, Bob Berti, commented that was a very good response. DeWever indicated that the Planning Board does not intend to have in person meetings for some time, which will make any follow up to

the survey difficult. DeWever noted the “Junkyards” came up a lot in the narrative section of the survey. The Planning Board will have to investigate, how or if, Zoning can address the “Junkyard” or “Junky yard” issues around town.

Selectman, Bob Berti, spoke about “Building Notifications” versus building permits. Berti stated that years ago a Town could require “Building Notifications” without Zoning being in place, that is no longer the case. The issue of creating a “ Building Notification” requirement under a Zoning ordinance would go a long way to provide the Town with current information to assure everyone is paying their fair share of property tax and not having years of delays in finding new buildings or if a major addition has been built. It would also address the safety issues to assure heating and electrical work is being completed correctly. It does not need to be over the top, just a notice to the Town that building is taking place. Berti explained that there could be a square foot minimum needed for a Building Notification, so, for instance, you do not need to do anything if you were to build a “doghouse” but would need to complete a Notification to build a garage.

Selectman, Bob Berti, commented “you don’t need zoning, until you need zoning, a negative issue can drive a “sudden need” for zoning.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, offered if the Planning Board is looking for a starting point, they could work on a Special Events Ordinance.

Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that clean water issues should be addressed, stating “Stinson Lake is the cleanest lake in New Hampshire and every effort should be taken to keep it that way”.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, commented that if Zoning were to be in place, it needs to be with limits. He is not against Zoning; he just would not want it to go too far.

Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated it is identifying the issues and addressing them. There needs to be an outline created to allow discussion on the topic.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated that the upside to Zoning is it would allow people to get flood insurance.

8:07 PM

Police Department Update –

Chief Patten shared the new design concept of the uniform shoulder patch. It depicts the Town Common and has color. It would replace the subdued uniform shoulder patch currently in use. The Board commented that the design was a good idea, moving away from the subdued, unrecognizable uniform that had been worn.

Chief Patten reported that the radar sign had been placed on the west end of Old Route 25 monitoring westbound traffic for the past 8-days. Patten reported that the radar sign noted 820 vehicles passing the location. The average non-violation speed was 23 MPH with a peak speed of 54 MPH. Of the 820 vehicle 7% would have been in violation of the posted speed limit.

Chief Patten reported that he handled four-theft reports, domestic issues, two motor vehicle accidents, and a stolen boat, among other calls for service during the past two-weeks.

Chief Patten indicated he had one additional application come in for the vacant Patrol Officer position.

8:30 PM

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, 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

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

Approved Version of the January 18, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting