

**Board of Selectmen
February 17, 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
- Town Warrant Articles and Budget
- Vacation Requests (2)
- Veteran's Tax Credit 16-6014
- Abatement 13-0226

6:45 PM Police Chief, Greg Patten, provided the Board with a Department update. Patten reported to the Board that after he posted the Police Officer vacancy on Indeed, he has received a total of 32 applicants with varying backgrounds and work histories. The Chief explained that he will be developing a hiring process to include written exam, PT testing, oral boards, etc. There is no definite timeline yet.

Chief Patten reported that so far this year the Department has received 150 Calls for Service and State Police have handled 7 Calls for Service. The call number handled by the Rumney Police Department is about normal compared to years past. The number of calls the State Police have had to handle is down as compared to the past couple years. During the past two weeks, the Rumney Police Department has handled calls to include domestic disputes, thefts, and requests to assist the Russell School. Chief Patten noted that the number of complaints relating to motor vehicle violations has increased.

Chief Patten reported that he had located a dealership in Massachusetts that has 2020 Ford Explorer Police Package vehicles available. He will be comparing these vehicles to the 2021 cruiser packages offered under the New Hampshire cruiser bid and if there is an enough of a cost saving to warrant purchasing a leftover vehicle.

The end of February will be the four-month period since Patten was appointed Chief of Police. He reported to the Board several of the items he has completed along with answering calls for service; several supervisory type classes, evidence room cleaned, inventoried and organized, prepared operating budget, started the rebranding of the department with uniform change, cruiser re-marking, equipment replacement (shotgun, rifle, Taser agreement), Prosecutor Agreement, NH Chiefs Association meetings, new photo ID's, new Facebook page, Property site check list, and continuing with the hiring process.

During the next six months Chief Patten would like to focus on: Hiring process, new cruiser purchase and upfitting, SOP review, balance out work schedule, and work on open criminal cases.

Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated he was happy with the work that has been done to date, likes the rebranding of the department, and just wanted Patten to pace himself. Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated he has only received positive feedback. Selectman, Bob Berti, asked Chief Patten if he had contacted any neighboring Police Chief to be a mentor. Chief Patten indicated there is not one specific Chief being used as a mentor but has connected with a few area Chiefs when he has a question and has also used the NH Chief of Police Association for information.

According to Chief Patten's Employment agreement, the next set of goals and period of review covers March 1st through August 30th. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, will offer the Board some suggestions on the next set of goals so they can be reviewed during the March 1st meeting.

7:15 PM The prior offer made to the State of NH for the purchase of the former Rest Area property had been turned down. The Town had been contacted by Stephen LaBonte, of NH-DOT, requesting that the Town notify them of their position of purchasing the property. In prior correspondence from the State, the property was assessed at \$157,000 of which the State indicated they only had the downward flexibility of 10%. The Board determined the property would be an asset to the Town for future use and the access to the Baker River. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to offer the State of New Hampshire \$141,000 for the purchase of the property with the conditions of: No deed restriction for the property, the Town will allow water access and parking as the Town deemed appropriate, the Town will allow Historical Marker #55 on the property, the sale be contingent on the approval of the Town vote during the business session of the Rumney Town Meeting scheduled for March 11, 2021. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no additional discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

7:20 PM Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked the Board if there needed to be any discussion on changing the Business Session of the Rumney Town Meeting, due

to COVID, from the traditional second Thursday, this year being March 11th, to a different date. It had been decided at a previous meeting that attempting a virtual meeting would be very cumbersome and not conducive to the setup throughout the Town of Rumney. Chivell explained that the March 9th Polling date did not have to be moved if the March 11th Business Session were to be changed to a later date. Chivell provided information on what would need to happen if the Board of Selectmen, in conjunction with the Town Moderator and Town Clerk, were to postpone the meeting until April, May or June. Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated he wanted the date to stay as March 11th. He did not see that the attendance would change, or the situation would change by moving the meeting by a few months. Selectman, Bob Berti, stated he has heard from a few residents that they would not attend the meeting due to COVID concerns. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, understands that some may not feel completely comfortable attending the March meeting, but either way it will not affect the process. Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated that he feels that most all who normally attend the meeting will still go. A discussion of moving the Business Session date involved the possible effect it could have on the proposed purchase of the "Rumney Rest Area", the proposed Funding for the Town Office addition, the proposed timing of the bidding and building of the Town Office addition and the timing of the principal payment towards the addition note. It was determined that the Polls will be open for elections on March 9th and the Business session will be on March 11th.

8:00 PM Town Administrator Report –

Selectmen's Meeting Minutes for the January 4th and January 18th meeting were made available for review. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the minutes. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported that members of Commerford Nieder Perkins Assessing started the Current Use file review this past Friday. One or more representative of CNP will be in the Town Office during the next several Friday's reviewing all the property folders that have property in Current Use. CNP will complete a matrix showing what each property owner needs to bring the property into compliance. CNP will complete a mailing to all property owners outlining what information is needed to complete the update.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported to the Board that engineer Tom Duffield has not submitted the required reports to the NH-DES nor to the Town to allow the Rumney Transfer Station to stay in compliance. Chivell is concerned that this is an ongoing issue and perhaps it is time to search for a replacement engineer. The last correspondence between the Town and Tom Duffield indicated that Duffield would complete the 2019 and 2020 reporting to NH-DES. Information on

alternative engineering firms will be gathered and provided to the Board of Selectmen.

The Annual Town Report is in line to be available by the March 2, 2021 required time frame.

8:15 PM Selectman, Isaac DeWever, made a motion to adjourn. Selectman, Ed Haskell, 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	March 1, 2021
Selectmen Office Closed	March 3, 2021
Fire Commissioner Meeting	March 8, 2021
Town Meeting Election	March 9, 2021
Town Meeting Business Session	March 11, 2021
Board of Selectmen Meeting	March 15, 2021
Planning Board Meeting	March 30, 2021