

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF RUMNEY
2008 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING MINUTES**

To the inhabitants of the Town of Rumney in the County of Grafton and State of New Hampshire qualified to vote in town affairs:

You are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 11th day of March 2008, next, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at which time the polls shall be opened for balloting on Article 1 and shall close not earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening, and you are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 18th day of March 2008, next, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting at which time action will be taken upon the remaining articles in this warrant.

The meeting opened at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance. Recognition and gifts were given to the following people for their years of service to the Town of Rumney.

Ruth Young – retiring from over 43 years of dedicated service to Rumney

Supervisor of the Checklist 1986-2008	22 years
Auditor 1965-1980 & 1987-1990	18 years
Deputy Town Treasurer	2 years
Library Trustee 1975-1983 & 1991-1997	14 years
Cemetery Trustee 1984-1996	12 years

Don Smith –

Planning Board Member 1989-2008	19 years
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John Sobetzer –

Planning Board Clerk 1991-2008	17 years
Police Secretary 1996-1998	3 years

Judi Hall –

Planning Board Member 1990-2007	17 years
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John DeWever –

Fast Squad (EMS)	
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Allen Hunter –

Fast Squad (EMS)	
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Moderator Buttolph gave the following interesting historical facts about the Town of Rumney.

Some of you may recall that last year at town meeting, in keeping with Town Meeting tradition, I picked a town report at random from 1951 and noted the following Warrant Article:

Article 10: To see how much money the town will vote to raise and appropriate to celebrate "John Stark Day", (August 9, 1952).

I was not aware that there was a John Stark Day and did not understand the significance of the date. A few days after the meeting, a gentleman by the name of Richard Treichler was kind enough to mail me copies of a few introductory paragraphs of the book Rumney Then and Now, compiled by Jesse A. Barney, 1967. The answer was in the opening pages.

In 1752, John Stark and his brother William, Amos Eastman and David Stinson (Stark's brother in law), were among the first white men to come to Rumney - exploring and hunting. They had an altercation with Indians near the mouth of what is now called Stinson brook. David Stinson was killed and scalped and left beside the river.

John Stark and Amos Eastman were captured by Indians, and some weeks later released after a ransom was paid.

After this, William Stark and a number of others returned and miraculously found David Stinson's body, and according to accounts, "laid it in a grave, on higher land under an elm tree - Rumney's first funeral."

This grave location can describe a number of pieces of property near the mouth of Stinson Brook, including my own!

In 1952, Rumney celebrated the 200th anniversary of this event by a resolution in the Legislature and a proclamation by Governor Adams, making the second Saturday in August "John Stark Day". For this event, Rumney was visited by one US Senator, the Hon Style Bridges; one US Congressman, Hon, Chester Merrow, descendants of the Stark and Stinson families and many state and local officials. A skit of the capture and the scalping was enacted at the river very near to the place where David Stinson was slain. The towns in the valley cooperated and many societies contributed to this celebration and it closed with a band concert and chicken bbq. The Boston Globe reported that some 5,000 people were present for this extravaganza, which I gather was centered in a spot that is perhaps nearly, or literally, in my back yard.

This compelled me to eagerly review the Rumney Annual Report of 1952, assuming there would be a big write-up or something. Alas, there was not. The only thing I could find in the Town Report of 1952 relative to John Stark Day was that the Plymouth Community Band cost the Town of Rumney \$100 for their efforts.

If anyone has any further information on where David Stinson's grave is, I would be fascinated to know this.

As you know, John Stark went on to be one of our best known heroes, serving at Bunker Hill, the Battle of Bennington and of course coining our state motto, "Live Free or Die".

In closing, in relaying this story to my family's resident genealogist, brother John felt compelled to special order what is known as the John Stark flag, which is a green revolutionary war era flag which I will fly on my 30' pole every August 16 from this point forward. Why August 16? This date is of course close to the date of this great celebration that occurred in Rumney, but it is the anniversary of the Battle of Bennington. In the Battle of Bennington, one of my GGGG Grandfathers, his father, and his grandfather fought under General Stark, which is one case, perhaps even the only case of three generations of soldiers in the same family serving at the same time under General Stark at the Battle of Bennington.

So if you drive by my house near the mouth of Stinson Brook on any August 16 from this point forward and notice a green flag on my flag pole, you will know why it is there.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 11th):

Selectman - 3 year term	John Fucci	225
	Arthur Morrill	28
Moderator - 2 year term	James Buttolph	237
Treasurer - 1 year term	Polly Bartlett	239
Supervisor of Checklist - 6 year term	Sandra Poitras	228
Library Trustee - 3 year term	Jan Serfass	234
Trustee of Trust Funds - 3 year term	James Turbyne	231
Cemetery Trustee - 3 year term	Dean Gray(write in)	5
Fire Commissioner - 3 year term	James McCart	211
2 Planning Board Members - 3 year terms	Cheryl Lewis	175
	Thomas Grabiek	162
1 Planning Board Member – 1 year term unexpired portion of 3-year term	Carl Spring (write in)	28

ARTICLE 2: To choose one member for the **Budgetary Finance Advisory Board** for a 3-year term to represent the Village area.

ACTION: John Bagley was nominated and voted in for the position.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$373,396** to defray **General Government Expenses** for the ensuing year; \$362,624 to be raised by taxes, \$4,972 is paid by employees for 5% share of health insurance, and \$5,800 will come from municipal agent fees.

Executive	\$ 53,000
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 40,476
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$ 4,735
Financial Administration	\$ 29,950
Legal Expense	\$ 16,000
Personnel Administration/Benefits	\$ 152,635
Planning Board	\$ 3,250
General Government Buildings	\$ 34,250
Street Lights	\$ 7,500
Insurance/Other	\$ 30,000
Regional Association Dues	\$ 1,600
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 373,396

ACTION: The Article was amended to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$377,896 to defray General Government Expenses for the ensuing year; \$362,624 to be raised by taxes, \$4,972 is paid by employees for 5% share of health insurance, \$5,800 will come from municipal agent fees and \$4,500.00 from the Town Facilities' Fund. (for replacement of highway garage waste oil burner)

Executive	\$ 53,000
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 40,476
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$ 4,735
Financial Administration	\$ 29,950
Legal Expense	\$ 16,000
Personnel Administration/Benefits	\$ 152,635
Planning Board	\$ 3,250
General Government Buildings	\$ 38,750
Street Lights	\$ 7,500
Insurance/Other	\$ 30,000
Regional Association Dues	\$ 1,600
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 377,896

The Amended article passed by voice vote.

While the Town Finances are solvent with over 95% of 2007 taxes collected, Selectman Mark Andrew explained that if all articles as amended passed, it would mean about an 8 % increase in taxes. All department heads were asked to keep budgets to a minimum to avoid any unnecessary tax burden on Rumney taxpayers. Therefore, there might be some difficult choices to make throughout the evening. There may be a need to cut back on some items that are not absolutely necessary this year in order to raise money for items that have to be covered. The additional \$4,500, from the Town Facilities' Fund , as requested in this amendment, is for the replacement of the waste oil burner at the highway garage.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$54,400 for assessing services (\$53,000) and updating the tax maps (\$1,400) for the ensuing year.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,200 for the purchase of assessing & tax collection software as contracted with Avitar in 2007 and to authorize the withdrawal of said sum from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (created in 1984). (This purchase is part of the 3-year Revaluation Project with the assessing firm CNP).

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

Some felt this was an excessive amount of money for software. The board explained the functions that this software performs and where this might not be the least expensive software, it fit the needs of the Town the best.

ARTICLE 6: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for **Code Enforcement** for the ensuing year.

ACTION: Article was amended to read:
To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$10,000** for **Code Enforcement** for the ensuing year.

Article as amended was passed by a standing count of **Yes-45** and **No-17**. Residents have expressed their desire to have **junk cleaned up** around town for many years. This appropriation will allow assistance to the Selectboard to enforce already existing **RSAs'** and ordinances. In answer to a question asked by a resident, said that this is in no way a prelude to zoning. Some people thought this was too much money. The Selectboard assured that it would only be used when they needed more in depth knowledge.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,000** for the operation of the **Cemeteries** for the ensuing year; \$20,000 to be raised by taxes and \$10,000 to come from Cemetery Trust Funds.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 8 : To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$174,745** to defray the cost of running the **Police Department** for the ensuing year.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,195** for **Ambulance Service** contracted with the Town of Plymouth for the ensuing year.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,600** to defray the cost of the **Safety Committee, E-911 and Emergency Management** services for the ensuing year.

Safety Committee	\$ 1,500
E-911	\$ 400
Emergency Management.....	\$ 2,700
(includes Forest Fires)	
TOTAL SAFETY, E-911 & EMG MGT	\$ 4,600

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$53,723** to defray the cost of running the **Fire Department** for the ensuing year.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$13,515** to defray the cost of running the **EMS (Emergency Medical Services)** for the ensuing year.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$189,924** for the maintenance of **Highways and Bridges** for the ensuing year.

ACTION: Article was amended to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$267,924 for the maintenance of Highways and Bridges for the ensuing year. \$217,924 will be raised by taxes and \$50,000 for the loader will be offset with Highway Capital Reserve Funds.

Article as amended passed by voice vote.

Due to the unexpected severity of the winter the highway budget needed to be increased by \$78,000 to compensate for:

Amount of unanticipated overtime	\$ 3,500
Increase in fuel prices and gallons used	10,000
Unanticipated repairs to trucks, grader, loader	5,500
Sand & salt due to the depleted supply early on	7,000
Russell School plowing	2,000
Wheel loader	50,000
	(\$ 50,000 from Highway Capital Reserve Fund)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for **Road Improvements** as listed:

Depot Street	\$64,000
Buffalo Road	\$11,000

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$24,572** for the purpose of the second of two payments due on the 2006 Ford F-550 Highway Truck.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$116,600** to defray the cost of maintaining the town **Transfer Station** for the ensuing year.

ACTION: Article 16 was amended to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$119,100 to defray the cost of maintaining the town Transfer Station for the ensuing year; \$116,859 to be raised by taxes and \$2,241 will come from Rumney's portion of a property tax surcharge settlement between Casella and the Town of Bethlehem.

Amended article passed by voice vote.

(\$2,241 will offset some of the unanticipated repairs incurred in February on the Bobcat)

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,640** to defray the Town's share of the costs of the **Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District** (\$1,540) and **Plymouth Water & Sewer District Permit Fee** (\$100).

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** to defray the estimated cost of monitoring the wells at the Transfer Station as part of Phase II of the **Landfill Closure** process as **may** be required by the State of New Hampshire.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

Selectmen are checking to see if this testing can be stopped.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$30,557** for the purposes of **Animal Control, Health and Welfare.**

Animal Services	\$ 2,000
Animal Control Officer	\$ 1,500
Health Officer	\$ 1,200
Health Administration	\$ 500
Mount Mooselauke Health Center	\$ 1,250
Pemi-Baker Home Health & Hospice	\$ 7,007
Plymouth Regional Clinic	\$ 1,000
Voices Against Violence	\$ 850
Bridge House.....	\$ 250
Genesis	\$ 500
Direct Welfare Assistance	\$ 9,500
Grafton County Senior Citizens	\$ 2,700
Tri-County Community Action Program (CAP)	\$ 2,300
TOTAL ANIMAL CONTROL, HEALTH & WELFARE	\$ 30,557

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$15,550** for the purposes of **Culture, Recreation and Conservation** for the ensuing year; \$14,405 to be raised by taxes and \$1,145 to come from fund balance.

Common Mowing/Maintenance	\$ 2,000
Quincy Ball Field Mowing/Maintenance	\$ 3,400
Old Home Day	\$ 3,500
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 350
Conservation Trust Account	\$ 5,000
Conservation Commission Administration	\$ 1,100
Baker River Watershed	\$ 200
TOTAL CULTURE, RECREATION & CONSERVATION	\$15,550

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 21: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$38,900** to operate the **Byron G. Merrill Library** for the ensuing year; \$32,400 to be raised by taxes and \$6,500 to come from Library Endowment Funds.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ **54,000** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows:

To the Highway Equipment Fund-established in 1960	\$ 20,000
To the Fire Department Fund-established 1963	\$ 15,000
To the Police Cruiser Fund-established 1986	\$ 7,500
To the Town Revaluation Fund-established 1992	\$ 10,000
To the EMS Vehicle Fund-established 2005	\$ <u>1,500</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$ 54,000

(The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ACTION: Article 22 was amended to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$ **64,000** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds** as follows:

To the Highway Equipment Fund-established in 1960	\$ 30,000
To the Fire Department Fund-established 1963	\$ 15,000
To the Police Cruiser Fund-established 1986	\$ 7,500
To the Town Revaluation Fund-established 1992	\$ 10,000
To the EMS Vehicle Fund-established 2005	\$ <u>1,500</u>
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$ 64,000

(The Selectmen recommend this article.)

The amended article passed by voice vote.

The increase was for \$10,000 to the Highway Equipment Fund for the new loader.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$**3,500** to defray the cost of interest expenses on loans in anticipation of taxes and other temporary loans.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

This amount was reduced from \$7,000 in previous years. 95-96% of current taxes are usually collected, thereby not making it necessary to borrow money for expenses in anticipation of taxes.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of **purchasing equipment** as needed for the Transfer Station and further appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from said fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** to be placed in said fund. The sum of \$2,759 will come from taxation and the remaining \$2,241 from the proceeds of a property tax surcharge settlement between Casella and the Town of Bethlehem. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ACTION: This article was amended to read:

To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of **purchasing equipment** as needed for the Transfer Station and further appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from said fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** to be placed in said fund. The sum of \$2,759 will come from taxation and the remaining \$2,241 from the proceeds of a property tax surcharge settlement between Casella and the Town of Bethlehem. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

The amended article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to establish a **Bridge Capital Reserve Fund** under the provisions of RSA 35:1 for the purpose of **bridge repair and maintenance** and further appoint the selectmen as agents to expend from said fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$6,500** to be placed in said fund. (The Selectmen recommend this article.)

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** for the purpose of purchasing and installing used **Guard Rails** on portions of Groton Hollow Road and Cross Road.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote. Some opposition because of cost this year.

ARTICLE 27: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$19,270** for the purpose of improving the **Baker Athletic Field** area for additional recreational opportunities to include a **skating/hockey rink, skateboarding, storage shed and electricity**.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

Some no votes. Question was asked if this would be for skateboarding apparatus? The answer was no. The money for apparatus will come from grants and donations. The porta-potty is already there and will be maintained under Article 20: Quincy Ballfield mowing/maintenance. \$1,600 came in for the Miller Fund for the skating rink.

ARTICLE 28: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for the purpose of funding a portion of the **Summer Enrichment Program** for Rumney children through Rumney Recreation and the Russell School A+ program.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote. Some no votes. This is a 4 week program. There is an enrollment fee per student.

ARTICLE 29: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of ten thousand dollars, **\$10,000**, to be added to the **Rumney Conservation Commission Fund** (created in 1989). This sum to come from fund balance, and no amount will be raised from taxation. (This represents a portion of the funds received from the sale of the Cook woodlot to the United States Forest Service in 2007.) (The Selectmen recommend this article).

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

Sale price of the Cook lot was \$89,000. \$10,000 was used to reimburse the Rumney Conservation Commission Fund. \$20,000 was put in the Town Facilities Capital Reserve Fund (see Article 30) and 59,000 was used to reduce taxes.

ARTICLE 30: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of twenty thousand dollars **\$20,000** to be added to the **Town Facilities Capital Reserve Fund** (created in 1987). This sum to come from the fund balance and no amount will be raised from taxation. (This represents a portion of the funds received from the sale of the Cook woodlot to the United States Forest Service in 2007.) (The Selectmen recommend this article).

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 31: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$2,500** for the purpose of purchasing a storage facility/trailer to be used for overflow storage by the Town Office.

**ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.
Something nice looking (like a small shed).**

ARTICLE 32: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100**, or such other sum as the Town may determine, for the purpose of **planning** for an expansion to the town office building.

ACTION: Article was amended to read:

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$100 for the purpose of planning for an expansion to the town office building.

(or such other sum as the Town may determine was deleted from original article)

The article as amended passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 33: To see if the Town will vote to approve the following resolution to be forwarded to our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor:

Resolved: We the citizens of Rumney, NH believe in a New Hampshire that is just and fair. The property tax has become unjust and unfair. State leaders who take a pledge for no new taxes perpetuate higher and higher property taxes. We call on our State Representatives, our State Senator and our Governor to reject the “Pledge”, have an open discussion covering all options, and adopt a revenue system that lowers property taxes. (This article submitted by petition.)

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote. A few no votes.

ARTICLE 34: To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Board of Selectmen to accept gifts of personal property, other than cash, to the municipality for any public purposes. This authorization, in accordance with RSA 31:95-e, shall remain in effect until rescinded by a vote of the town meeting.

ACTION: Article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 35: To hear reports of agents, auditors, and committees heretofore chosen, to pass any vote relating thereto, and to transact any other business that may legally come before said meeting.

John DeWever who was on a call at the beginning of the meeting was presented with a nice gift basket for his years of service on the EMS.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Linda Whitcomb, Town Clerk