

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
TOWN OF RUMNEY
MINUTES OF THE WARRANT OF THE
2012 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

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

Voters of the town of Rumney met at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 13th day of March 2012 during the hours of 8:00 o'clock in the morning, at which time the polls opened for balloting on Article 1 until the polls closed at 7:00 o'clock in the evening.

The voters also met at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Thursday, the 15th day of March 2012 at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting at which time action was taken on the remaining articles in this warrant. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance led by Ethan Savall and Randall Scroggins. They also manned the microphones along with Daniel Ambrose.

Moderator Buttolph gave a brief history lesson as follows:

"This year, for our traditional history lesson, I would like to direct your attention to the 2012 Town of Rumney Annual Report. On the front cover is a photo of the intersection of the current Main Street (Stinson Lake Road) and School Street circa 1911, courtesy of Dave Learned. Included in the photo, riding in a car, are Abby Craig Learned, Hanna Ramsey Craig, George C Craig, Fred P. Learned and Theda Learned Bryant. Just imagine for a moment the view from the photographer's vantage point if he were to turn around. The photographer would be looking at what is now the intersection of Main Street and Route 25. However, in 1911 there would be no Route 25. Instead, he would see a substantial set of railroad tracks that represented the major artery for traffic traveling from north to south in the State of New Hampshire. A significant train depot would also be in view.

I was able to locate a copy of the Town of Rumney Annual Report from 1911 among my collection of Town Reports. Considering the people in the photo, I was interested to see if any of these individuals' names might appear in that report. I was not able to find any of those individuals with the last name of Learned, although I noticed that another individual by the name of W. S. Learned was mentioned in the report as having received an amount of \$4.00 for the 1911 fiscal year, apparently in payment for services rendered as "Truant Officer". However, I was delighted to notice that an individual named G. C. Craig, almost certainly the very same George C. Craig pictured in the photo, appeared in numerous places as he apparently was heavily involved in the business of the town at the time. For example, he was paid \$15.00 for "Use of a Derrick for 15 days", was paid \$15.24 for 508 feet of "finished boards", \$7.20 for another 400 feet of presumably unfinished lumber, and \$152.07 for "nails, cement, sheathing paper, paint, lime, hair, and small ware". The most interesting notation was a reimbursement of \$41.71 for "dynamite, tiling, lumber and merchandise". The dynamite charge appeared in the context of the Road Agent's expenditures, so presumably in those days if you needed to blow something up while working on the roads, George Craig would be a good person to contact. Considering current statutes governing the use and distribution of explosives, one can only imagine that things were very different in 1911.

I would like to thank Dave Learned for this fascinating photo which gives a small glimpse into Rumney life as it existed 100 years ago."

Janice Mulherin presented Frank Simpson, Road Agent, with an envelope containing a gift of appreciation for him and his crew for the time and attention they gave during the flooding from Hurricane Irene.

Mark presented Janice with flowers for her 2 terms of service on the Select Board. He also mentioned her service to the town on the Planning Board for 10 years and on the School Board for 7 years.

ARTICLE 1: To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 13th): The following were elected to said positions.

ACTION: The results of the election of officers from Tuesday's ballot voting were:

Selectman for 3 years		(2) Planning Board Members for 3 years	
Edward Haskell	161	Brian Flynn	212
Janice Mulherin	102	Robert Arey	20
Library Trustee for 3 years		Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years	
Thomas Wallace	233	Betty Jo Taffe	27
Trustee of Trust Funds for 2 years		Cemetery Trustee for 3 years	
Edward Gaiero	15	Kathy Sobetzer	234
Fire Commissioner for 3 years		Treasurer for 1 year	
David Coursey	233	Rita Wilkin	227
Moderator for 2 years		Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years	
James Buttolph	232	Gail Sanborn	245

Edward Haskell Jr. was winner of the contested race for Selectman.
Positions for Trustee of Trust Funds and One Planning Board were write-in votes.

ARTICLE 2: To choose two members for the **Advisory Committee** for three-year terms to represent the Lake and West Rumney areas.

ACTION: Article 2 was read and a motion was put on the floor and seconded to choose two members for the **Advisory Committee** for three-year terms to represent the Lake and West Rumney areas. Mike Lonigro was nominated to represent the Lake area and Roger Daniels was nominated to represent the West Rumney area. The nominations were seconded and voted in the affirmative. The clerk was instructed by the moderator to cast a single vote for each candidate in the affirmative.

ARTICLE 3: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$281,495** to defray the following **General Government Expenses** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Executive	
	\$ 63,857
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 71,010
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$ 4,142
Financial Administration	\$ 34,240
Legal Expense	\$ 35,000
Planning Board	\$ 2,954
General Government Buildings	\$ 35,900
Street Lights	\$ 7,800
Insurance-Property/Liability & WC	\$ 22,992
Regional Association Dues	\$ 3,600
Total General Government Expenses	\$281,495

ACTION: Article 3 was read and a motion made to put on the floor and was seconded all voted in favor. The Board made a motion to amend this article to add \$1,500 for a new total of **\$282,995**. The \$1,500 will be added to General Government Buildings account for some energy improvements to the Town Office per recommendations from a recent energy audit.

The amendment passed by voice vote and the amended article was passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 4: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$37,200** for **Assessing Services and Tax Maps updates** for the ensuing year and to authorize the withdrawal of \$21,500 from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (established 1984); the remaining \$15,700 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 4 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote with some questions about the revaluation procedure.

ARTICLE 5: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$5,000** for the purpose of **Code Enforcement** for the ensuing year. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 5 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. It was explained that this was requested by the Planning Board for assistance with enforcement of non-conforming lots and done by an outside person/firm who would not be bias.

ARTICLE 6: 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. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 6 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$247,298** to defray the cost of running the **Police Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 7 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote with no discussion.

ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** for **Ambulance Service** contracted with the **Warren/Wentworth Ambulance Service** for the ensuing year. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 8 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote with no discussion.

ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,548** to defray the cost of the **Safety Committee, E-911 and Emergency Management** services for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 9 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote.

Safety Committee	\$ 1,500
E-911	\$ 250
Emergency Management	<u>\$ 5,798</u>
Total Safety, E-911 & Emg Mgt	\$ 7,548

ARTICLE 10: Fire Department/Code Enforcement – Town meeting has the authority to decide which method should be used to determine the compensation of the Fire Chief. RSA 154:15. Question – Do the voters intend for the Chief to earn a flat \$1,500 for the year for code enforcement services or \$1,500 plus the actual inspection fees collected.

ACTION: Article 10 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The moderator presented an amendment to clarify the verbiage of the article so a vote could be taken. The amendment was:

“To see if the town will vote to direct the Selectmen to compensate the fire chief or his designee for “code enforcement” by using as a basis for said compensation the actual fees charged to the owner of the property being inspected, plus a flat, annual amount which shall be included in the Fire Department budget. If this article fails, the basis for said compensation shall be a flat, annual compensatory amount which shall be included in the Fire Department budget”

Amendment passed by voice vote. The Article as amended passed by voice vote “yes” to the flat fee plus actual inspection fee costs.

ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$56,817 to defray the cost of running the Fire Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 11 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$19,892 to defray the cost of running the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 12 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. Some questions were asked.

ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$296,245 for the maintenance of Highways and Bridges for the ensuing year. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: **ACTION:** Article 13 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. Selectmen Mulherin made a motion to amend Article 13 to add \$3,250 to the Design & Engineering line for a new total of \$299,495. The motion to amend was put on the floor, seconded and voted in the affirmative.
The Article as amended passed by voice vote .

hire The purpose of the increase in Article 13 line item Design & Engineering by \$3,250 is to hire H. E. Bergeron Engineers to prepare and submit a hazard mitigation grant program application on the town’s behalf to New Hampshire Homeland Security and Emergency Management. If accepted, the town would receive substantial funding from FEMA and the State to replace the Buffalo Road Bridge. (Number 128/073)

ARTICLE 14: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for **Road and Bridge Improvements** for the ensuing year; \$60,000 to be raised by taxes and \$15,000 to come from fund balance (FEMA funds received in 2011). This is a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7 V. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 14 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. A couple of nays were voiced. Some questions were asked.

ARTICLE 15: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$145,206** to defray the cost of maintaining the **Transfer Station** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 15 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. Some questions were asked.

ARTICLE 16: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,471** to defray the Town's share of the cost of the **Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District (\$1,370.84)** and the annual **Plymouth Water and Sewer District Permit Fee (\$100)** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 16 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. Some questions were asked.

ARTICLE 17: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,000** to defray the cost of services, labor and/or equipment needed at the Transfer Station for part of Phase II of the **Landfill Closure** process for the ensuing year as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 17 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. Some questions were asked.

ARTICLE 18: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$41,948** for the purposes of **Animal Control, Health and Welfare** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Animal Control	\$ 1,550
Health Officer Stipend, etc	\$ 1,135
Health Administration	\$ 500
Mount Mooselauke Health Center	\$ 1,250
Pemi-Baker Home, Health & Hospice	\$ 6,660
Plymouth Regional Clinic	\$ 1,000
Voices Against Violence	\$ 1,200
Bridge House	\$ 1,000
Genesis	\$ 300
CASA	\$ 300
CADY	\$ 500
Direct Assistance	\$ 15,000
Welfare Administrator Stipend, etc	\$ 4,658
Grafton County Seniors	\$ 3,000
Tri-County CAP	<u>\$ 3,895</u>
Total Animal Control, Health & Welfare	\$ 41,948

ACTION: Article 18 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. A couple of nays were voiced.

ARTICLE 19: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$13,900** for the purposes of **Culture, Recreation and Conservation** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Common-Mowing & Maintenance	\$ 1,500
Baker Athletic Field	\$ 3,000
Old Home Day	\$ 4,100
Jim Darling Natural Area	\$ 500
Patriotic Purposes	\$ 350
Conservation Commission	\$ 750
Baker River Watershed Dues	\$ 200
Conservation Trust	<u>\$ 3,500</u>
Total Culture, Recreation & Conservation	\$ 13,900

ACTION: Article 19 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. No discussion.

ARTICLE 20: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$40,730** to operate the **Byron G. Merrill Library** for the ensuing year; \$37,730 to be raised by taxes and \$3,000 to come from Library Endowment Funds. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 20 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. No discussion

ARTICLE 21: 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 for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 21 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. It was stated that we have not had to borrow in anticipation of taxes in over 25 years and thanked the citizens for being so diligent in paying their taxes.

ARTICLE 22: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$145,000** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**; \$125,000 to be raised by taxes and \$20,000 to come from fund balance (FEMA funds). The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

Highway Equipment Fund (1960)	30,000
Fire Department Fund (1963)	20,000
Town Revaluation Fund (1984)	10,000
Police Department Fund (1986)	8,000
Town Facilities Fund (1987)	20,000
EMS Vehicle Fund (2005)	10,000
Transfer Station Equipment Fund (2008)	8,000
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	30,000
Fire Department Equipment Fund (2009)	4,000
Merrill Library Capital Improvement Fund (1998)	<u>5,000</u>
Total Capital Reserve Funds	\$ 145,000

ACTION: Article 22 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 23: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$100,000** for the purpose of purchasing a highway truck to replace the 2004 Ford F-550 truck and to authorize the withdrawal of \$25,000 from the Highway Equipment Fund established by vote of the town in 1960; \$20,000 will come from fund balance (FEMA funds received in 2011) and the remaining \$55,000 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 23 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 24: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$40,000** for the purpose of purchasing a generator set-up to power the Town Office building and the Depot Street Fire Station. The Town will apply for an EMPG Grant through NH HSEM (50/50); the Town's match would be \$20,000. Of that approximately \$4,000 could be met by in-kind costs. The remaining \$16,000 would be raised by taxes. If the grant is not funded the generator would not be purchased. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 23 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. After much discussion and suggestions Gary McCool made a motion to amend Article 24 to read:

“ To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,000 for the purpose of purchasing a generator set-up to power the Town Facilities. The Town will apply for an EMPG Grant through NH HSEM (50/50); the Town's match would be \$14,000. Of that approximately \$4,000 could be met by in-kind costs. The remaining \$10,000 would be taken from the Capital Reserve Town Facilities Fund. If the grant is not funded the generator would not be purchased. (Majority vote required)”

The amendment passed by voice vote. The article as amended passed by a hand count vote of 40 Yes and 12 No.

ARTICLE 25: To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of 35:1 to be known as the **EMS Major Equipment Fund** for the purpose of purchasing major equipment needed to maintain the EMS quality of care demands and to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500** to be placed in said fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this article. (Majority vote required)

ACTION: Article 25 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote. This fund will help stabilize the budget by being prepared for large dollar items.

ARTICLE 26: To see if the Town will raise and appropriate the sum of **\$25,000** for a Feasibility Study to investigate alternatives to make the Byron G. Merrill Library accessible to the disabled in a manner which preserves its historic character; the entire amount to come from the “Mitigation Funds” available to the Town as a result of the permit granted for the Groton Wind Project as administered by the State of New Hampshire Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) office, with no amount to be raised by taxation. The Library Trustees are hereby authorized to apply for said funds and take any other necessary action relating thereto.

ACTION: Article 26 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor. The article passed by voice vote.

ARTICLE 27: WHEREAS, the Town of Rumney is located in the general vicinity of the existing electrical transmission line right of way that carries a High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) power line designated by Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) as Line X-178; and,

WHEREAS, PSNH et al., acting on behalf of Northern Pass, LLC, are attempting to purchase property in towns throughout New Hampshire's North Country for a new high voltage electrical transmission line right of way that will extend the aforementioned PSNH right of way generally north to the Canadian Border; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Northern Pass transmission line, would carry 1,200 Megawatts of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) power generally south from Canada through New Hampshire on visually damaging power lines hung from tall, intrusive steel towers at heights ranging from eighty (80') feet to one hundred and thirty-five (135') in the air, well above tree height; and

WHEREAS, the Voters of the Town of Rumney have concluded that the Northern Pass transmission line, as it has been proposed, would cause significant area-wide degradation of real estate property values resulting in losses of property tax receipts well in excess of any conceivable property tax revenues from levying tax assessments on the aforesaid towers and transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, numerous other negative impacts from the aforesaid proposed Northern Pass transmission line will occur or can reasonably be expected to occur, over time, including, but not limited to:

- a. A drop in area-wide tourist visits and revenues as damages from the power lines to the region's natural scenic beauty will be a deterrent to people coming to visit or live in the region.
- b. A drop in toll fees and New Hampshire gas tax revenues as motorists choose other routes into Northern New England or worse, choose not to come at all.
- c. The strong likelihood of negative health impacts from Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF's) radiating from the 1,200 Megawatt HVDC cables.
- d. A drop in business revenues and consequently, a drop in employment at local businesses throughout the region such as; ski areas, restaurants, gas stations, constructions firms, shops, stores, banks, real estate firms, to mention just a few – all of which are heavily dependent upon visitors coming to the area.

Therefore, the undersigned citizens of Rumney, by petition, ask the town to adopt the following ordinance:

Other than high voltage electrical transmission lines in existence, if any, as of the effective date of this ordinance, there shall be no overhead development of alternating current or direct current high voltage transmission lines within the borders of the Town of Rumney. All such future electrical transmission lines, if any such lines are contemplated, must be placed underground within power line rights of way or within yet to be established power line corridors and installed in a manner approved by the State of New Hampshire's Public Utility Commission and/or Department of Transportation. Distribution lines carrying electrical power and other utility lines such as telephone and cable television for local residential or commercial use may continue to be installed above ground, but undergrounding of such lines, is strongly recommended and encouraged.

This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

(This article submitted by petition)

ACTION: Article 27 was read, motion made to put on floor and seconded all voted in favor of placing article on the floor.

After much discussion and explanation, there was a motion made to amend this article by dividing this it into two separate articles, the first article being the original petitioned ordinance, and the second article being a directive to the selectmen to write a letter to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee (SEC). The amendment passed by voice vote. A vote was then taken on the two separate articles. **The newly divided first Article 27 (Ordinance) failed.** The second article was ultimately amended to include much of the embellishment language from the original ordinance article, followed by the aforementioned directive to the Selectmen to write the SEC. **This second Article 27A was voted in favor of doing.**

The newly divided ARTICLE 27A: “ WHEREAS, the Town of Rumney is located in the general vicinity of the existing electrical transmission line right of way that carries a High Voltage Alternating Current (HVAC) power line designated by Public Service Company of New Hampshire (PSNH) as Line X-178; and,

WHEREAS, PSNH et al., acting on behalf of Northern Pass, LLC, are attempting to purchase property in towns throughout New Hampshire's North Country for a new high voltage electrical transmission line right of way that will extend the aforementioned PSNH right of way generally north to the Canadian Border; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed Northern Pass transmission line, would carry 1,200 Megawatts of High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) power generally south from Canada through New Hampshire on visually damaging power lines hung from tall, intrusive steel towers at heights ranging from eighty (80') feet to one hundred and thirty-five (135') in the air, well above tree height; and

WHEREAS, the Voters of the Town of Rumney have concluded that the Northern Pass transmission line, as it has been proposed, would cause significant area-wide degradation of real estate property values resulting in losses of property tax receipts well in excess of any conceivable property tax revenues from levying tax assessments on the aforesaid towers and transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, numerous other negative impacts from the aforesaid proposed Northern Pass transmission line will occur or can reasonably be expected to occur, over time, including, but not limited to:

- a. A drop in area-wide tourist visits and revenues as damages from the power lines to the region's natural scenic beauty will be a deterrent to people coming to visit or live in the region.
- b. A drop in toll fees and New Hampshire gas tax revenues as motorists choose other routes into Northern New England or worse, choose not to come at all.
- c. The strong likelihood of negative health impacts from Electro Magnetic Fields (EMF's) radiating from the 1,200 Megawatt HVDC cables.

- d. A drop in business revenues and consequently, a drop in employment at local businesses throughout the region such as; ski areas, restaurants, gas stations, constructions firms, shops, stores, banks, real estate firms, to mention just a few - all of which are heavily dependent upon visitors coming to the area.

The Town therefore directs the Selectmen to write a letter to the SEC articulating that the Town of Rumney opposes such development that includes overhead development of alternating current or direct current high voltage transmission lines within the borders of the Town of Rumney.”

ACTION: This second article passed by voice vote to have the Selectmen write such letter.

ARTICLE 28: 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.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, there was a second and voice vote in favor. The meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Whitcomb, Town Clerk