

February 19, 2010

To The Editor:

The Rumney Board of Selectmen received a petition warrant article for the purpose of establishing a police commission in the town. The commission would consist of three commissioners. There will be two questions to vote on. The articles will be included on the official written ballot to be voted on Tuesday, March 9th. The articles will be voted on prior to Town Meeting; there will be no opportunity for questions or discussion about the commission.

1. The first petitioned article will ask if the town is in favor of establishing a police commission.
2. The second article will ask, if the preceding article is passed, by what method will the police commissioners be chosen (a) by popular election at next year's town election or (b) by appointment of the governor with consent of the council? The only qualification required to be a police commissioner is that one must have been a Rumney resident for three consecutive years immediately preceding their election or appointment.
3. There are few towns, if any, the size of Rumney that have a police commission. Most police commissions in the state were formed in large towns and cities.
4. The duties of the commission include appointing police personnel and officers, setting compensation, making and enforcing all rules necessary for the operation of the Police Department. The Commission may only remove police personnel for just cause; they have no budget authority (RSA 105-C:4).
5. While the Rumney Fire Department has a commission, the fire department has more members, more equipment and more complex operations. A police commission will add an additional level of government.
6. The RSA's are available @ www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rsa/html/VII/105-C-mrg.htm.

It is important that all Rumney voters consider the possible effects the formation of a police commission could have on the town.

Sincerely,
Rumney Board of Selectmen
Mark H. Andrew
W. John Fucci
Janice Mulherin