

Board of Selectmen
February 5, 2024
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

Present: Selectmen Ed Haskell and Bob Berti
Town Administrator Joe Chivell
Excused absence: Isaac DeWever

6:30 PM Meeting was called to order by Board Chair Ed Haskell.
Payroll and accounts payable checks were reviewed and signed.

Documents to review & sign:

- Payroll worksheet
- Intent to Cut 7-001 003
- Cemetery Plot sale R98-L10

6:30 PM Fire Department Update –

Rumney Fire Chief, Evan Hacker met with the Board of Selectmen/Fire Commissioners to provide a Department update.

Chief Hacker reported that he has met with the Wentworth and Canaan Fire Chiefs to discuss coverage strategies while the towns of Canaan and Orford go through a staffing issue involving members and supervisors. The primary adjustment made by the Rumney Fire Department is coverage for the Town of Wentworth, while Wentworth provides extra mutual aid to the towns of Canaan and Orford. The Chief gave an overview of the changes to “run cards” and duties.

Chief Hacker reported that he is continuing to work with the Consumer Safety Commission as it relates to the lithium battery powered glove fire the Department responded to.

During the month of January, the Fire Department responded to 14 calls for service, including Mutual Aid responses to structure fires, smoke and CO2 alarms, trees on the wire, and motor vehicle accidents.

The Department responded to a building fire on East Rumney Road in Rumney. The response included three (3) trucks and seven (7) personnel. The fire started in the eaves, went into the attic, but with the response that was made, the fire was kept to the area of origin. Resulting in minimal damage and did not displace the homeowners.

One of the motor vehicle accidents resulted in the vehicle catching on fire. While extinguishing that fire an issue with a pump valve occurred on Engine 2. It has been diagnosed as a cracked pump seal causing the pump to draw in air rather than water. This

pump valve is original to Engine 2 and is of the type that cannot be repaired. Chief Hacker obtained three bids to replace the pump valve. Hacker recommended purchasing the valve that is the middle priced of the three. The cheapest one is the same as the valve currently on Engine 2 and is made not to be repaired, as the middle-priced item is re-pairable.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated that if the plan is to keep Engine 2 for ten (10) more years, the re-pairable style valve should be purchased. The Board approved the purchase of the valve, costing \$1,597.00. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked if there would be any installation cost. Chief Hacker reported that the members can install the part. Chivell will draft a purchase order for the item and Selectman, Ed Haskell, will sign the purchase order.

Chief Hacker reported that last month's training was on pumping and water calculation. Regarding training, Hacker reported that he plans to attend an upcoming class on Fuel/Gas Inspections. Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if that class would result in a training certificate and if it does, please forward the certificate to the Town Office to be placed in his personnel folder. Chief Hacker reported that it would result in a certificate, and he will forward it to the Town Office for filing.

A document showing the breakdown which showed the number of calls each member made during 2023 was provided to the Board of Selectmen. Of the 131 calls for service, the top three were Chief Hacker 109, Sam Coes 95, and Frank Simpson 90.

The last piece of information provided was that the Chief has decided to hold off on any renovation to the stairs of the Depot Street Fire Station for now. Knowing that an overall renovation is in the works, he felt it best to hold off on anything like that for now.

6:50 PM Police Department Update –

Police Chief, Greg Patten, met with the Board to provide a Department update.

Chief Patten reported that the Department has been busy since the last time he was able to meet with the Board. The types of calls that have been responded to are suicide attempts, unwitnessed deaths, domestics, neighbor disputes, stalking orders, motor vehicle accidents, motor vehicle violations, and various criminal investigations and arrests.

Chief Patten reported that the cruisers are in good shape. He reported that the Body Cameras have been delivered and are pending set-up and the cruiser cameras should be arriving soon.

6:55 PM - Chief Patten asked the Board if he could speak to them in nonpublic session. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to enter nonpublic session as allowed under NH RSA 91-A:3, II (a). The motion was seconded by Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no discussion on the motion. Following a roll call vote the motion passed 2-0.

7:00 PM – A motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session was made by Selectman, Ed Haskell. The motion received a second from Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no discussion on the motion. Following a roll call vote the motion passed 2-0.

There was no action or vote during or following the nonpublic session.

7:05 PM Public Forum – There was no one to take part in Public Forum.

7:05 PM Highway Department – Road Agent, Nick Coursey, asked to meet with the Board about the purchase of a replacement Highway truck. The Board has agreed to present a warrant article during the 2024 Town Meeting to replace the current Highway Department F-550. Coursey has started to gather bids for the replacement truck and wanted to share the information in hopes of placing an order for the truck now. Coursey shared the bids he had received to date. The bids were from three dealerships and varied from having the dealership add the plow, dump body and sander or sending the cab and chassis out to have the plow, dump body and sander added. The three bids were for Ford trucks, the remaining bid will be for a Dodge.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, stated that he would like to order the cab and chassis now. Coursey stated that if the warrant article failed during the Town Meeting, the Town would not be obliged to buy the truck.

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked about the time frame between ordering and delivery. Coursey was not sure but did state if we waited too long the delivery may not be until Fall.

The Board members indicated that they would wait until the next Board meeting to make any ordering decision. By that time, the last of the bids will be in and the Public Budget Hearing will have been held.

7:40 PM Public Budget Hearing Preparation –

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, provided the Board with copies of the 2024 Warrant Articles and proposed Budget. Chivell asked if they needed any additional supporting documentation for the hearing. After reviewing the warrant articles, the only topic that may need to be further explained is the increase in the Plymouth Ambulance agreement.

7:45 PM Town Administrator Report –

A copy of the January 15, 2024, Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes was provided for review. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the January 15, 2024, Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes. The motion received a second from Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

The December 2023, Treasurers Report was provided for review.

The January 2024, Month-end Expenditure and Revenue Report was provided for review.

Bruce White, owner of the parcel west of the former Rumney Rest Area, had followed up on his request to purchase approximately 1.5 acres of land that a survey showed belonged to the Rumney Rest Area parcel. The Rumney Conservation Commission had voiced its opposition of selling the acreage. The Board of Selectmen decided that they will invite the Conservation Commission to an upcoming meeting to discuss the request for the purchase.

The owner of the parcel east of the Rumney Rest Area had forwarded an offer to sell part of his parcel, MAP/LOT 12/007002, to the Town along with a Deeded right-of-way via his existing driveway. After a short discussion Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to forgo the offer to purchase the parcel and right-of-way. The motion received a second from Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no additional discussion. The motion passed 2-0.

The final payment on the bond used to purchase the Highway Department backhoe in 2019 was made to the Woodsville Guaranty Bank.

8:00 PM Old Business –

There was no old business discussed at this meeting.

8:00 PM New Business –

The agreement with Hells Gates Fireworks for the Old Home Day fireworks display was signed and the check covering the deposit was signed.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, brought up the issue of parking during the recent Presidential Primary Election. Haskell feels that the parking availability needs to be addressed with the school. It was also felt that school should be closed the day of the General Election in November.

8:05 PM Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion received a second from Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 2-0.

Sincerely submitted,

Joe Chivell
Town Administrator
Rumney, NH

Up-coming Meeting Dates

Public Budget Hearing	February 12, 2024
Town Office Closed – Presidents' Day	February 19, 2024
Board of Selectmen Meeting	February 20, 2024
Planning Board	February 27, 2024

Approved Meeting Minutes of the February 5, 2024, Board of Selectmen Meeting

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Town Elections
Town Meeting Business Session

March 4, 2024
March 12, 2024
March 14, 2024