

Board of Selectmen
March 18, 2024
Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

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

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
- Septic Design 2-006 003
- Intent to Cut 9/ 1-4, 1-14, 1-17, 1-19

Following the March 2024 Town Elections, the Board of Selectmen discussed the reorganization of its members. Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to nominate Selectman, Bob Berti, as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, seconded the motion. Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that he would accept the nomination and recommended all new positions take effect at the end of this meeting. All members agreed these elections would be enacted at the end of this meeting. The motion passed 2-0, with Selectman, Bob Berti, abstaining from the vote.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to nominate Selectman, Isaac DeWever, as Vice-Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Selectman, Bob Berti, seconded the motion. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated that he would accept the nomination. The motion passed 2-0, with Selectman, Isaac DeWever, abstaining from the vote.

The Board members' liaison duties were discussed. They agreed to stay with the same duties. Selectman Ed Haskell will work with: Fire Department, Police Department, and EMS. Selectman, Isaac DeWever will work with: Planning Board, Town Administrator, and Town Clerk. Selectman Bob Berti will work with: Road Agent and Transfer Station.

There was a discussion that the Board should have a designated liaison with the Rumney School Board. Following a brief discussion on this issue, Selectman, Isaac DeWever, agreed to add this to his list of duties.

The Board then signed appointments to reappoint Janice Mulherin and Robin Goldstein to the Rumney Conservation Commission.

The Board reappointed Maggie Brox as Deputy Treasurer.

6:40 PM Highway Department –

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, asked to meet with the Board of Selectmen regarding ordering the replacement Highway Department truck. Road Agent, Nick Coursey, supplied the Board with the results of the bids he had obtained to replace the current F-550. Coursey recommended ordering a F-550 cab and chassis from Irwin Motors in Laconia NH. The truck was based on the State of NH bid sheet, but upgrading to the specks that Coursey has prepared. The quote provided by Irwin Motors for the cab and chassis is \$54,700.00. The second low bid was from Nu-Car at \$55,864.00.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to accept the low bid from Irwin Motors of \$54,700.00 and to sign a purchase order to allow the truck to be ordered. The motion received a second from Selectman, Isaac DeWever. There was no additional discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, stated he was still working on gathering bid information for the upfit portion of the truck. He hopes to have that available for the April 1, 2024, Board of Selectmen Meeting.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, reported that Jason Hong will be completing the Six (6) Month probation period at the end of the month. Coursey reports that he feels Hong has completed the probation period successfully and will submit a PAF accordingly.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, spoke with the Board of Selectmen regarding the removal of hazardous trees on East Rumney Road. Coursey stated that East Rumney Road is a Scenic Way and to complete some maintenance there either has to be approval given by the Selectmen or a hearing held by the Planning Board. Coursey stated that, in this case, the trees to be removed are a hazard and that the Board of Selectmen can vote to remove the trees in question. Coursey reported to the Board that the trees in question need to be taken down before they fall, making it a hazardous condition. The Board asked that Road Agent, Nick Coursey, speak with the landowners about the trees before they are removed, but accept the information that Coursey offered.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to allow the hazardous trees on East Rumney to be removed by, or under the direction of, Rumney Highway Road Agent, Nick Coursey. The motion received a second from Selectman, Isaac DeWever. There was no additional discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, spoke with the Board of Selectmen about lowering the weight limit on Posted Roads starting during next year's "Mud Season". Coursey asked if the Board would approve lowering the Posted limit to six (6) tons starting next year. Coursey explained that he is asking for a reduction for the following reasons. First, the lowering of the limit will assist in the maintenance and longevity of the Town roads that are normally posted. Also, several of the Town roads lead to neighboring town roads that are posted at six (6) tons. Once the trucks make it that far, they need to turn around, causing more damage to the Rumney roads. Coursey stated that the six (6) ton limit is the equivalent of a loaded F-550. Selectman, Ed Haskell, stated that if someone needed to travel over a posted road most everyone knows to call the Road Agent to get

permission. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, thought that it was an appropriate action to take. Selectman, Bob Berti, agrees with the lowering of the limits.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to allow for the lowering of the road limits to six (6) tons, as needed seasonally, to assist with the upkeep of the Town of Rumney roads. The motion received a second from Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked to speak about the Stone Hill Road research while the Road Agent was here. Chivell explained that he knew that the Road Agent and the Town Clerk, Lila Willaims, were working on gathering documentation regarding the layout of Stone Hill Road. Chivell explained that he had minimal involvement with this project but knew that the research needed was out of his comfort zone and ability and did not think the overall progress of the project was moving forward in a timely manner. Chivell went on to explain that he knew that the information was needed to be able to move forward on the Highway Department's summer projects. Chivell asked for Coursey's input and stated he thought it was time to hire either a surveyor or someone that could properly conduct the research needed.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, stated that the hill portion of Stone Hill Road should be rather straight forward in that it appears to be a two (2) rod road and he has not found where the State ever gave up the entrance portion of Stone Hill Road. Selectman, Bob Berti, stated that it is the corner of the road that seems to be the difficult issue to clarify.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, stated that it would be nice to have a licensed surveyor or researcher to find the corner and width of the way and place markers indicating the location of the way. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, agreed that timing is an issue with this situation. We did agree with an adjacent property owner to work on this, and it will affect the summer projects that the Highway Department has planned.

Chivell asked if this needed to be a surveyor or someone that understands research of boundary layouts. Selectman, Bob Berti, asked if we had any documents at this point. Coursey stated we had some deeds and maps from the State – DOT. Berti stated that a non-surveyor can do the research but would not be able to stamp a map. That step may be needed at some point, but the research would be a good start. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated he was concerned about the timing and availability of a licensed surveyor.

Road agent, Nick Coursey, asked about talking with Tom Hahn about completing the research portion needed to move forward. The Board authorized Coursey to meet with Hahn to discuss the needs of this project moving forward.

Road Agent, Nick Coursey, stated he would like to meet with the Board during their April 1st meeting to discuss paving bid information and he hopes to have new truck upfitting information by that time.

7:00 PM Police Department –

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Police Chief, Greg Patten, met with the Board to provide them with a Department update. Chief Patten stated that it has been busy with several ongoing criminal investigations.

Chief Patten stated that he has advertised the vacant Patrol Officer position. He had received a few inquiries, but none with police experience. Patten explained that most agencies both locally and statewide are having a difficult time recruiting and retaining candidates for open positions.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked Chief Patten if he had been able to look into a cellphone agreement as discussed during the March 4th Board meeting. Patten indicated that he had not been able to finalize anything yet. Chivell asked the Board if they would agree to authorize Chief Patten to sign an agreement with AT&T Cellular if he was able to obtain the appropriate agreement that would allow for cell coverage and camera downloading. This may speed up that process, rather than the Chief getting a contract, bringing it to the Board, and submitting the contract.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to allow Police Chief, Greg Patten to sign an agreement with AT&T Cellular for a coverage package that allows for cell phone coverage and the camera system transfer. The motion received a second from Selectman, Isaac DeWever. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

7:10 PM - Selectman, Isaac DeWever, stated that he had an issue to discuss in nonpublic session with the Chief of Police. DeWever made a motion to enter nonpublic session as allowed under RSA 91-A:3, II (c). The motion received a second from Selectman, Ed Haskell. There was no discussion on the motion. Following a roll call vote the motion passed 3-0.

7:15 PM Selectman, Isaac DeWever, made a motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session. The motion received a second from Selectman, Ed Haskell. There was no discussion on the motion. Following a roll call vote the motion passed 3-0.

There were no decisions made or votes needed following the nonpublic session.

7:15 PM Town Administrator Report –

The Public Budget Hearing Minutes were provided to the Board for their review. Selectman, Bob Berti, made a motion to accept the February 12, 2024, Public Budget Hearing Minutes. The motion was seconded by Selectman, Ed Haskell. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, reported to the Board that the franchise agreement between the Town of Rumney and Spectrum Enterprise for cable service has been re-initiated. Chivell reported that the attempt to renew the agreement has been ongoing for the past two (2) years, but the representative from Spectrum was non-responsive. The attorney representing the Town reported that person has been replaced and it appears negotiations can now move forward. Chivell reported that the focus will be on revisiting the residence per-mile service, free access to

cable at all Town owned facilities, and a fifteen (15) year term agreement. The reason for the length of the agreement is to lock Spectrum into providing service for that amount of time, as online live streaming is cutting into the cable business.

Chivell reported that he and Fire Chief, Evan Hacker, had an initial meeting with John Francis to discuss the appropriate way to initiate the Depot Street Fire Station renovation. Francis recently retired after serving as a long time SAU 48 Facilities Director. Being a town resident, he has offered to assist in the process of investigating the renovation of the fire station. It was reported that the initial meeting was very productive, and a follow-up meeting will be scheduled for early to mid-April. At that time, it is thought to invite one of the newly elected Fire Commissioners and a Select Board representative.

A draft of a Request for Proposal to shingle the Rest Area Roof was provided for review. Technical adjustments were made to the scope of work and materials. The Town Administrator reported that he hoped to advertise both the Rest Area Roof and the Byron Merrill Library Roof projects at the same time, in that it may generate interest from contractors to bid on both jobs.

7:33 PM Fire Department Update -

Fire Chief, Evan Hacker, met with the Board of Selectmen to provide a Department update. Hacker reported that he missed the March 4th Board of Selectmen's meeting due to being on a mutual aid call assisting with a structure fire in Thornton. Hacker reported that it was a multi-unit apartment building. He reported that Rumney responded with an Engine, a Tanker, and seven (7) personnel.

Chief Hacker reported that the Fire Department responded to eight (8) calls for service during the month of February, including three (3) out of town building fires, one (1) building fire in Rumney, a propane leak, and motor vehicle accidents and motor vehicle fire. It was noted that the building fire in Rumney was a good save. It appears to have been pellet stove related, with the fire going into the eaves of the building. The fire was kept to a minimum, allowing the residents to be able to stay in their house. Wentworth and Plymouth provided mutual aid. Rumney fire had eight (8) personnel respond.

The monthly training included radio communications and mayday calls. The newest Rumney member with two (2) new Wentworth Fire Department members trained and practiced building search procedures.

Chief Hacker reported that he attended a Fuel Oil and Gas Code training provided by the Fire Marshalls Office. Chief Hacker reported that during the month of March he has been completing Campground fire pit inspections and permitting, and occupancy inspections. He also had a meeting with the State Fire Ranger.

Chief Hacker reported that he, EMS Director, Dan Medaglia, and Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, visited the Hebron Fire Department to inspect the ambulance that is being replaced and possibly being sold. Hacker reported that he and Medaglia feel the unit has been well maintained

and is in good shape. It is a Four-wheel drive diesel that would be a great replacement for the current ambulance in use. Following a discussion on the age, milage and use of the current ambulance and the Hebron ambulance the Board was in favor of going forward with gaining additional information from Hebron. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked the Board how they would like to move forward with the issue. The Board determined to initially have Chivell meet with the Hebron Town Administrator to gather further information.

Chief Hacker asked about moving forward with the Hose and Ladder testing. The warrant article funding the testing passed during the March 14th Town Meeting. Chief Hacker was told to confirm the quotes for the testing and with that information, the Board would approve the low or recommended bid allowing for the Chief to request the service. Once the job is complete and an invoice is received, a request can be given to the Trustee of Trust Funds to withdraw the funds from the Fire Departments Trust Fund.

Chief Hacker asked about the equipment list that was discussed to upfit the new fire engine when it arrives. Chief hacker was told to update the list with pricing and delivery time, and to check in with the delivery status of the new fire engine and the ordering can then be discussed.

Chief Hacker is scheduling a spring clean out of the Depot Street Fire Station. He asked about disposing of unused and outdated items. Hacker reported that he has a dump trailer that he could use to haul discarded items to the Rumney Transfer Station, in coordination with the Transfer Station Superintendent. The Board authorized the cleaning and disposal of old, unused, and outdated items. Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked if the Town could have one of its dumpsters delivered to the Fire Station, eliminating extra use of the dumpster at the transfer station. The Board agreed that the Fire Chief and Superintendent should coordinate the delivery of a dumpster to the Fire Station for a clean out day.

Chief Hacker hoped to have the Depot Street Fire Station cleaned out by the time the new engine is delivered and would like to host an open house. The Board agreed that would be a good idea and would like to discuss this further when the new engine delivery is confirmed.

Chief Hacker reported that he will be away for vacation April 2nd - 9th. Hacker reported that coverage and inspections will be covered while he is away.

8:00 PM – Old Business

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked the Board how they would like to move forward with the appointment of a Part-time Fire Chief now that it has been a year since the 2023 Town Meeting approved the new structure of the Rumney Fire Department. Chivell provided a copy of a job description for the position and recommended an Interim Fire Chief Appointment should be offered to Fire Chief Evan Hacker, much like it had been for the past two police chief openings. Following a discussion on the duration of the interim period Selectman, Ed Haskell, made a motion to direct the Town Administrator to draft a six (6) month interim agreement for the position of Part-time Fire Chief. The motion received a second from Selectman, Bob Berti. There was no discussion on the motion. The motion passed 3-0.

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Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, asked the Board to authorize the posting of a tax deeded camper that is currently located at NEF. The Board approved the posting of the camper to be bid on in a sealed bid to be due by April 12, 2024.

8:10 PM – New Business

The 2024 MS-232 outlining the budget items passed during the March 14, 2024, Town Meeting was provided to the Board of Selectmen to review and sign. The document was signed by all three (3) members of the Board. It will be submitted to NH-DRA.

A Veterans' Credit application, PA-29, and Veterans' Credit application approval, PA-35, was provided for the Board of Selectmen to review and sign. The documents were signed by all three (3) members of the Board. The credit will be applied to the property and the approval will be mailed to the applicant.

Sole Track Brewing had submitted an application to take part in a Farmers Market to be hosted by the Barn Door Hostel. The application was reviewed and signed by the Board.

Following the approval of the various departments operating budgets during the March 14, 2024, Town Meeting, PAF's were provided for the Board to review and sign to authorize employee pay adjustments.

The Town Moderator Report, providing an overview of the recent Town Election and Town Meeting was provided for review.

The three new Fire Commissioners for the next twelve (12) months are Janice Mulherin, Mark Andrew, and Lila Williams. The Board discussed how best to interact with the Commissioners and how best to use the position to move forward with the needs of the Fire Department and Fire Chief. The Board agreed that the interactions with Chief Evan Hacker have been good and productive. Selectman, Ed Haskell, commented that Chief Hacker works well with others and is a good communicator and seems to enjoy the job. He sees Hacker working well with the Commissioners. Selectman, Bob Berti, would like to ask the Commissioners to work with the Board on long-term projects, such as the building renovation, the next truck and equipment needs, use of Capital Reserves and the funding of the Fire Department Capital Reserves, and other items listed in the MRI Fire Department audit. Selectman, Isaac DeWever, would like to ask Commissioners Mulherin and Andrew to share their knowledge of budgeting and capital funds with the Chief. The Board feels that the Commissioners can be a good mentor for the administration portion of the Fire Department.

The Board asked the Town Administrator to invite the Fire Commissioners to the April 1st Board of Selectmen's meeting to discuss the best way to move forward for the betterment of the Fire Department and the Town.

8:30 PM Selectman, Bob Berti, assumed the duties as the Chairman of the Board, and made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Selectmen, Isaac DeWever, assuming the duties as the Vice-Chair, 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

Planning Board	March 26, 2024
Board of Selectmen Meeting	April 1, 2024
Old Home Day	April 2, 2024
Conservation Commission	April 10, 2024
Cemetery Trustees	April 11, 2024
Board of Selectmen Meeting	April 15, 2024