

Rumney Fire Department
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2022

Commissioners present: Chairman Cam Brown, Terry French, Jim McCart

Fire Chief: Evan Hacker

Secretary: Cathy Hacker

Guests: Wayne Patrick, Sam Coes, Mike Brandli, Nick Coursey, Dave Coursey, Daniel Medaglia

Chairman Brown opened the meeting at 6pm.

The minutes of March 9, 2022, March 14, 2022, and March 21, 2022 were approved as written. These minutes were for the vote of the new Fire Chief.

Bills were signed.

The meeting started with Fire Chief Evan Hacker asking the Commissioners why none of them were present at the town meeting for the revote for the proposed new Fire Truck, in support of the Department.

Commissioner Terry French responded that he didn't agree with or like these meetings where a warrant was brought back to the floor for another vote from the town people. He also felt that the selectmen did not support the truck. He stated also that he felt betrayed by the vote for Chief, and that the former Fire Chief was not being supported.

Cam stated he'd had a personal conflict that night.

Fire Chief Hacker felt it reflected badly on the department not to have any of them there for that meeting, or the meeting at the station, (Monday Apr. 4th open house for the public) where the town people were invited to come and ask any questions they had, regarding the proposed new truck.

Public Comments:

Wayne Patrick also wanted to know why the commissioners were not at the meeting. He said that by them not being there, it came across that the commissioners were not supportive of the Department. He also felt that the re-vote meeting was one of the only times the town people would see unity among the department and commissioners. He also stated that there needs to be better communication with the town people, and that there was not enough information given to the taxpayers, re: the proposed new truck.

Dan Medaglia then asked the Commissioners for a copy of their bylaws. Chairman Brown asked him to put that request in writing, which Dan did.

Mike Brandli asked why there was such animosity between the Town Select board, and the Fire Department. Chairman Browns answer was "control".

Sam Coes asked if the Dept. had an information officer. Dan stated that several people on the department had access to the Facebook page, to get info out to the town people, including himself, Dominica, and the Dept. Secretary. The Secretary then stated that she had asked four people, if it would be ok to post information on the proposed new truck, to help inform and answer questions the town people might have, and each person asked, answered no, so she did not post anything.

Sam commented on the voting system and that it needed to change, and the bylaws need to be looked at and changed.

Chairman Brown stated that making change is key. Chief Hacker stated that at the next Dept. Business meeting, the Bylaws were first on the agenda to address.

The next item brought to discussion was the issue of the Fire Warden. Chief Hacker stated that most towns and fire departments have their Fire Chiefs as the Fire Warden.

Chief Hacker felt having the former fire chief as Fire Warden would be confusing for the town people.

Dave Coursey commented that he has talked to Steve Sherman several times, and that Steve asked him if he wanted to be Fire Warden, they would like him to stay on as Warden.

Dave also commented that it was only a courtesy for the selectmen to be asked for their signatures, on the appointment form for Forest Fire Warden.

Chairman Brown asked if Chief Hacker and Dave Coursey could work together, and they both agreed they could. Cam also stated if there were any issues, regarding Forest Fire Warden, they could speak with the commissioners, and/or Fire Department liaison Ed Haskell. This was discussed more in the nonpublic session, and the minutes were permanently sealed.

Next up for discussion was some building maintenance issues the Chief would like to work on. He would like to replace both outside doors, as they do not work well. Cam mentioned getting some quotes and going on from there.

The Fire Chief also brought up the West Rumney Station, and that it badly needed to be painted. It was suggested that he talk to the town facilities committee, as it is a town building.

7:20 Chairman Brown suggested a 5 min. break. He then went into the office with Dave Coursey and closed the door.

7:35 the meeting reconvened, and Chairman Brown made a motion to go into non-public session.as allowed by RSA 91-A:3,11 (a)

Terry seconded the motion, all agreed.

9:20 Cam made a motion to end nonpublic, Terry seconded, all agreed. No discussion was had, no decisions made. Cam made a motion to permanently seal the minutes seconded by Commissioner French, Agreed to by all

9:25 Chairman Brown then made a motion to adjourn. Terry seconded, Agreed to by all.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cathy Hacker

Amended Copy

