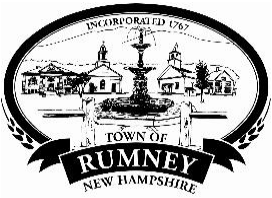


# STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE



## TOWN OF RUMNEY

### WARRANT for 2022 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

**Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, welcomed the residents to the Town of Rumney 2022 Business Session of the Town Meeting. The Meeting was officially called to order and opened at 7:00 pm with the pledge of allegiance.**

Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, introduced the Selectmen, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Supervisors of the Checklist, and the Chief of Police.

The Moderator then turned the meeting over to Selectman Bob Berti. Bob, asked for a moment of silence for those beloved Rumney Residents that we lost in 2021 and had served our community honorably. Bob also paid tribute to Arthur Morrill, Jr. who passed February 21, 2022.

**Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, then read the Warrant for the 2022 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:

Are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022, next, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at which time the polls shall be opened for balloting on Article 1 and shall close not earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening, and you are hereby notified to meet at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Thursday, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of March 2022, next, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting, for the purpose of discussion, debate, and final action, upon the remaining Articles in this Warrant.

**A motion was made and put to the floor and seconded, to allow non-residents, Transfer Station department head Milton (Sonny) Ouellette and Highway department head Nick Coursey, to speak at the meeting. The motion passed with a majority voice vote.**

Moderator, Christina M. Westfall, then went over the instructions for how the Town Meeting will be run. Supervisors of the Checklist handed out Multi-colored Vote tabs for Secret Ballots and Voter Index Cards to all Rumney Registered Voters as they checked in. The Index Cards are to be used from here on out instead of the voice vote previously used at Town Meetings. She also announced the Supervisors will be counting the Secret Ballots.

#### **Article 1) Choose Necessary Town Officers**

To choose all Necessary Town Officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 8th):

Selectman for 3-year term  
**Bob Berti – 127**

Town Clerk/Tax Collector for 3-year term  
**Lila Williams - 146**

Moderator for 2-year term  
**Christina M. Westfall – 141**

Trustee of Trust Funds for 3-year term  
**Janice C. Mulherin - 148**

Cemetery Trustee for 3-year term  
**Linda L. LaPrad - 145**

(2) Planning Board Members for 3-year term  
**Judi Hall – 146**  
**Donald W. Winsor – 147**

(1) Planning Board Member for 1-year term  
**Josh Allen Keyes - 144**

Fire Commissioner for 3-year term  
**Terry J. French - 122**

Library Trustee for 3-year term  
**Roger Daniels - 147**

#### **ARTICLE 2) Choose Members for Advisory**

To choose one member for the Advisory Budget Committee:  
1 for 3-year term

**Moderator read Article 2 and asked if there were any nominations for the Advisory.  
There were no volunteers or nominations to be an Advisory member.  
With no further discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

#### **Article 3) Purchase Replacement Fire Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$545,755 to purchase a replacement Fire Truck and authorize the withdrawal of up to \$450,000 for this purpose from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998). And further, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$95,755 in notes or bonds for the period of not more than 5 years, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the interest rate thereon. The Selectmen recommend this Special Article. (3/5 ballot vote required)

There was much discussion on this Article.

The wording of, "The Selectmen recommend this Special Article." was questioned by Nathan Mulherin.

Town Administrator, Joe Chivell, explained the wording has to be there because the money is coming out of the Capital Reserve Fund, and the Selectmen oversee the Capital Reserve Fund, and if the Article were to pass, the Selectmen would authorize the removal of the funds.

Selectman, Ed Haskell, explained it would be replacing the 30-year-old truck we have currently, due to age and rust holes and he asked Nick Coursey to explain further. Nick explained the size and capacity of the truck were important considerations, as there is only one truck to take care of all the needs. Pictures were brought of the proposed truck. Some revisions were made that brought the price down, with keeping safety in mind.

Brett Durham made a motion to have Nick Hilton from Pierce Trucks speak. It was seconded and approved by majority vote.

Nick Hilton said the price of \$533,775 is good until May 01, 2022, and a credit of \$14,724 if the truck purchase is paid in full by that date. He stated there is a 15-16 month waiting period to receive the truck, as it would be a custom build. Paying upfront gives lead time to order materials.

Betty Jo Taffe asked why the amount of Article 3 reads \$545,755, because she keeps hearing the price of \$533,775?

Joe Chivell explained the \$545,755 in Article 3 reflects the original amount that was given prior to the public budget hearing, and the change in price was given on February 14, 2022, after the original Warrant was set.

Isaac DeWever spoke of the importance of a new truck, although he is aware this proposed truck is expensive. The Board of Selectmen are responsible for looking after the Town Fleet and they chose the middle range option presented.

Nick Coursey said the old truck will be kept for now and a decision will be made later, on what would be done with it. There is not much trade-in value. Used trucks had been considered, but they were not a good fit for Rumney and had no warranties.

Josh Keyes asked what kind of warranty comes with this truck. Most components on the new truck would be covered for 10 years.

Mark Andrew, former Selectmen for 13 yrs., and an active member of the Fire Department for 20 yrs. Now retired. He agrees with Nick that the 30 yr. old truck probably needs to be replaced. He also agrees with Selectmen DeWever that it is a lot of money. I looked through the Capital Improvement Plan that the Fire Department submitted to the Planning Board and over the next few years the Fire Department plans on spending 1,008,000 dollars on vehicles. That is too much for this Town with 1500 residents. There are a lot of other options that we should explore. He found other, more affordable, options for Rumney to consider that are comparable to the one submitted. If we depleted the Capital Reserve now there would be no money left in the account to replace any of the other vehicles. The next truck is due to be replace in three yrs.

**Mark Andrew submitted an Amendment to Article 3 that would adjust the price to \$395,755.00, of which \$300,000.00 would come from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund.**

Dave Coursey clarified that the Fire Department will not be looking to purchase any new trucks in the next 6 years. The other trucks are in pretty, decent shape. He understands it is a lot of money, but they purchased a used ambulance once and had nothing but problems with it.

John Hemeon explained how the cost of things have gone up and the need for a truck. The cost will not be going down and will only be more if we wait.

Lila Williams asked Mark Andrew if he knew what warranties would be on the truck he proposed and how long it would take to get it. He had not looked into the warranties, but some of the trucks were ready now.

Brett Durham asked if the lower priced truck is equipped with the Fire Department's needs?

**A motion was made and seconded to bring the Amendment to the floor.**

**The motion to Amended Article 3 was approved with a vote of 40 yes and 31 no.**

**The Moderator then read the amended Article 3;** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$395,755 to purchase a replacement Fire Truck and authorize the withdrawal of \$300,000 for this purpose from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998). And further, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$95,755 in notes or bonds for the period of not more than 5 years, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the interest rate thereon. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (3/5 ballot vote required)

**The Moderator then motioned to bring the Article to the floor, it was moved and seconded.**

**Article 3 requires a vote by Secret Ballot.**

**Article 3 did not pass, with 46 yes and 35 no votes, needing a 3/5 vote or 60% to pass.**

#### **Article 4) Replacement of Buffalo Road Bridge**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$942,676 for the replacement of the Buffalo Road Bridge over Brook - Br. #093/082 with \$754,140.80 to come from the NH State Bridge Aid project #27162 and to authorize the Rumney Board of Selectmen to withdraw the remaining \$188,535.20 from the Rumney Bridge & Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2008). This special warrant Article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the Buffalo Road Bridge Project is complete or by March 10, 2026, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen recommend this special Article.

**Article 4 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 4 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

Joe Chivell explained we will receive State funds to replace the bridge that is near the Transfer Station. Gary McCool mentioned that the State is supposed to be getting \$225 Million for the use of bridge repair and replacement. Joe replied we had already applied and cannot apply twice. Bob Berti spoke about the funding we are already getting from the State. It was explained that this is an oversized culvert near the entrance of the hiking trails and that HEB is the company doing the work.

**With no further discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

#### **Article 5) Code Enforcement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 for the purpose of Code Enforcement during the ensuing year. (Majority Vote Required)

**Article 5 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 5 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 6) General Government Expenses**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$514,306 to defray the following General Government Expenses for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 6 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 6 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 7) Old Home Day**

**Article 7 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 7 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 8) Cemetery**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$27,650 for the operation of the Cemeteries for the ensuing year; \$5,000 to come from the Cemetery Trust Fund and \$22,650 to be raised by taxes.

The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (Majority vote required)

**Article 8 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 8 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

Selectman, Bob Berti, asked Mark Andrew, Trustee of the Trust Funds, how the money could be used? Mark Andrew explained there is a process they are looking into for use of the monies.

**With no further discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 9) Police Department**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$255,490.00 to defray the cost of running the Police Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 9 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 9 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 10) Ambulance Service**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$49,639 for Ambulance Service contracted with the Town of Plymouth for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 10 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 10 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 11) Emergency Management**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$6,335.00 to defray the cost of the Safety Committee, E-911, and Emergency Management. (Majority vote required)

**Article 11 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 11 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 12) Fire Department**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,286 to defray the cost of running the Fire Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 12 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 12 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

Kevin Maes asked the question, how many hydrants are there and how many are operational?

David Coursey answered, there are 4 and all are working. They are located at Stinson Lake, Cersosimo Lumber, HWY 118, and the Conference Grounds. The Department is looking into adding a 5<sup>th</sup> one this year.

**With no further discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 13) Fire Department – Forest Fire**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,002 to defray the cost of Forest Fire Protection for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 13 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 13 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 14) Fire Department Non-Capital Reserve**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate \$1000 to add to the Mutual Aid Fire Fighter Fund non-capital reserve account (established in 2016) for the purpose of compensating fire fighters involved in fighting forest fires. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (Majority vote required)

**Article 14 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 14 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 15) EMS**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,350 to defray the cost of running the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 15 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 15 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 16) Highway Department**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$267,312 to defray the cost of running the Rumney Highway Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Terry French submitted an Amendment forth to raise Road Agent, Nick Course's pay to \$50,000.00. The Moderator requested this to be in writing. Mark Andrew pointed out that Nick Coursey's pay already exceeded that amount.

Janice Mulherin asked if Selectmen are required to put the money to the Road Agent pay? Joe Chivell replied, no, it can be applied to expenditures at the Highway Department. Judi Hall stated this would affect payroll taxes and more.

Jon Dow mentioned it could set a bad precedence to give raises at Town Meetings.

Bob Berti mentioned the salary isn't only \$45,760 as there is overtime pay and compensation time pay is also given. Highway Department is really the only department that gets overtime. Except occasionally also the Police Department. We are not saying that we don't appreciate the hard work from the Highway Department Supervisor, but we have given merit raises to him in the past above and beyond what the base increase has been. Bob Berti stated that the Selectmen have been given a job to do and they try to do it fairly and accurately.

**A motion was made and seconded to vote on the Amended Warrant Article. The Amendment did not pass.**

**The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 16 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no further discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

Daniel Medaglia asked for a revote on Article 3 as originally written. Lila Williams asked him to restate, which he did.

Janice Mulherin correctly stated that we would have to come back after allowing at least seven days. Bob Berti supported the reconsideration.

Daniel Medaglia will request to reconsider the vote we cast as modified back to the original amount of \$545,755.

**The Moderator then explained how the reconsideration will work. The motion to reconsider was put to the floor and seconded and passed by majority vote.**

**Joe Chivell stated that we will reconvene on April 7, 2022, at 7:00 PM.**

## **Article 17) Road Improvement**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$75,000 for road improvements for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 17 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 17 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 18) Debt Services**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$88,277 for payment on the 2019 Rumney Highway Backhoe Purchase Bond (14,236.59) The Rest Area purchase (20,095.14) and Town Office Addition (53,945.29). This Article does not include appropriations contained in special or individual Articles addressed separately. The Selectmen recommend this Article. (Majority vote required)

**Article 18 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 18 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

Kim Ganley asked for an update on the Rest Area purchase and Town Office addition.

Bob Berti explained, on the Rest Area purchase, the State is requiring the Town to get a survey, and that it is turning out to be a challenging task as area surveyors are booked through the Summer. The Deed had to be rewritten w/conditions removed and this has also slowed the process. Berti explained, on the Town Office addition, no bids were submitted, so a modular building is being considered.

Selectmen were able to apply for and receive a grant from the State of \$160,000 from Covid Funds to use towards the addition, as the distancing space in the current building is not Covid compliant.

**With no further discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 19) Library**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$49,980 to defray the cost of operating the Byron G. Merrill Library for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 19 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 19 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 20) Transfer Station**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$173,470 to defray the cost of maintaining the Transfer Station for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 20 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 20 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 21) Landfill Closure**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7000 to continue with Phase II of the Landfill Closure process as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

**Article 21 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 21 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

## **Article 22) Solid Waste**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$1,819 to defray the cost of the Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 22 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 22 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**



### **Article 23) Assessing and Mapping**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$39,750 for assessing and mapping and authorize the withdrawal of \$7,000 from the Town Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund (Established 1998) created for that purpose. The balance of \$32,750 is to come from general taxation. The Selectmen recommend this Special Article. (Majority vote required)

**Article 23 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 23 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

### **Article 24) Health, Welfare, Animal Control**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$33,603 for the purposes of Animal Control, Health, and Welfare for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 24 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 24 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

### **Article 25) Culture, Recreation, Conservation**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$14,360 for the purposes of Culture, Recreation and Conservation for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**Article 25 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 25 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

### **Article 26) Clark Brook**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$20,000 to dredge a section of Clark Brook that runs along Groton Hollow Road relating to Disaster #4357DR and Disaster #4355DR and allowed by NHDES File Number 2020-00876. This special warrant Article will be a non-lapsing appropriation per RSA 32:7, VI and will not lapse until the dredging is completed or by March 10, 2027, whichever is sooner. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (Majority vote required)

**Article 26 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 26 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

### **Article 27) Capital Reserve Fund**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$110,000 to be added to the following previously established Capital Reserve Funds. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (Majority vote required)

	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>
Police Department Fund (1986)	\$14,500	\$16,000
Highway Equipment Fund (1960)	\$40,000	\$40,000
Fire Department Fund (1963)	\$20,000	\$30,000
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	\$5,000	\$15,000
Fire Department Equipment (2009)	\$6,000	\$5,000
Transfer Station Equip	0	\$1,500
EMS Major Equipment	\$1,500	\$1,000

Cemetery Improvement (2014)	\$2,000	0
Office Equipment	0	\$1,500
<hr/>		
TOTAL CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS	\$89,000	\$110,000

**Article 27 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 27 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.**

**With no discussion, the Article passed by majority vote.**

#### **Article 28) Veteran Credit**

To see if the Town of Rumney will vote to raise, All Veterans Tax Credit NH RSA 72:28-b, from the present \$500.00 to \$1000.00 for all Veterans who are Rumney Residents. It has been 12 years since the last increase. (Article submitted by Petition) (Majority Vote Required).

There was much discussion about the current Veteran credit and how they feel the current amount of \$500.00 is plenty. They do not want to put an added burden on other Town Taxpayers.

Joe Chivell stated that this Article is not enforceable as written because \$750.00 is the maximum credit allowed. Joe Shalinsky amended Article 28 to read \$750.00.

Ken Weinig thinks it is chickenfeed and supports raising the credit.

Joe Chivell does not support this Article because our disabled Veterans only receive a \$700.00 credit.

**The Amendment was brought to the floor and seconded. The Amendment did not pass.**

**Article 28 was brought to the floor for a vote and seconded. The Article did not pass.**

#### **Article 29) Reports**

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.

**Meeting was adjourned at 9:43pm until we reconvene on 04/7/2021 at 7:00 PM to reconsider Amended Warrant Article 3.**

**Moderator called the meeting back into order on 04/7/2021 at 7:00pm with the pledge of allegiance.**

She also introduced the Selectmen, Town Administrator, Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Supervisors of the Checklist, and Chief of Police. The meeting rules were available.

A motion was made and put to the floor and seconded, to allow non-residents, Fire Chief Evan Hacker, and Deputy Fire Chief Nick Coursey to be allowed to speak at this meeting. The motion passed with a voice vote.

Amended Warrant Article 3 was read; The Moderator asked for a motion to bring Article 3 to the floor, it was so moved and seconded.

**The amended Warrant Article 3 was read. A 3/5 ballot vote is required.**

### **Warrant Article 3) Purchase Replacement Fire Truck as Amended March 10, 2022.**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$395,755 to purchase a replacement Fire Truck and authorize the withdrawal of up to \$300,000 for this purpose from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998). And further, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$95,755 in notes or bonds for the period of not more than 5 years, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the interest rate thereon. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (3/5 ballot vote required)

**Daniel Medaglia made a motion to amend the Warrant Article back to the original Warrant Article. There was a motion and a second.**

**Medaglia's proposed amended Warrant reads as follows:**

### **Warrant Article 3) Purchase Replacement Fire Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$545,755 to purchase a replacement Fire Truck and authorize the withdrawal of up to \$450,000 for this purpose from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998). And further, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$95,755 in notes or bonds for the period of not more than 5 years, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the interest rate thereon. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (3/5 ballot vote required)

#### **Discussion:**

Mark Andrew spoke about his original amended amount and the fact that \$545,755.00 is way too much money for this small-Town of 1500 residents. I do support the need for a fire truck and recommend the new amendment to Article 3 be rescinded.

Lila Williams inquired if the Fire Commissioners support the purchase of a new fire truck. She stated that the Fire Commissioners were not in attendance at the Fire Department on April 4, 2022, for the question and answers on the proposed new fire truck, and none of the Fire Commissioners are here. Sean Zaikowski spoke of how disheartening it was that the Commissioners did not come, but the members are the individuals who know what the needs and necessities are for a truck, and they are here in attendance.

Kim Ganley asked if the rock climbers and hikers had been approached to pay for some of the truck from the Fire Department. Chief Hacker stated that they have not been asked to contribute.

Wayne Patrick spoke that he has not been in Town that long and has been a businessperson for 40 years and has worked with Fire Departments in the past. He spoke about the importance of buying a

quality truck and not just a cheap or used truck. He stated that the Town voted to purchase a beach and that will not put out fires. He supports this Fire Truck option.

Fire Chief Hacker stated that there are three (3) purposes for the purchase of the truck, fires, car accidents, and climbing accidents.

It was asked why there were not three (3) bids on the truck? Chief Hacker stated they did get three bids and went with the medium one. The question was asked once you chose a price did a sealed bid go out for that dollar amount? It was asked why there was not a more diverse truck committee with more Towns people and Towns businesspeople and not just Fire Department Members.

Selectmen Bob Berti stated, the Selectmen do not always agree. A purchase of this amount is a lot of money. The need to dis-include the Town on the committee was inequitable. The Selectmen asked the Fire Department to form a truck committee of Town folk, Town businesspeople and individuals with knowledge of trucks, and that did not happen. The Selectmen do support the concept of a new truck. Chief Hacker stated that this information was never passed on to the members. He has been Fire Chief for two (2) weeks and if he were aware of this, he would have acted upon it.

With much discussion from Town of Rumney Registered Voters: About the warranty differences, how it's important to have a truck to save lives and houses in Rumney, how the purchase would deplete the Capital Reserve account and leave no money for future needs of replacement vehicles, where would the truck be serviced, if we wait another year the cost could be higher, the need to purchase a good truck, how the older trucks are sometimes better than the newer ones. The older trucks are easier to fix, and you can't purchase/get parts for the emissions and the sensors and other parts right now. The need for a truck that can have a front suction is very important because we do not have a hydrant system in Rumney, we only have dry hydrants.

**A motion was made and seconded to bring the Amendment to the floor.**

**The motion to Amend Article 3 was approved with a vote of 34 yes and 29 no.**

**The Moderator then read the amended Article 3.**

### **Amended Article 3) Purchase Replacement Fire Truck**

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$545,755 to purchase a replacement Fire Truck and authorize the withdrawal of up to \$450,000 for this purpose from the Fire Department Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998). And further, to authorize the issuance of not more than \$95,755 in notes or bonds for the period of not more than 5 years, in accordance with the provisions of the Municipal Finance Act (RSA 33) and to authorize the Selectmen to issue and negotiate such bonds or notes to determine the interest rate thereon. The Selectmen recommend this special Article. (3/5 ballot vote required)

Moderator, Christina Westfall, explained due to the Article including a note for this purchase, it will require a Secret Ballot Vote and a 60% affirmative vote to pass, and voting is to stay open for 15 minutes. After the 15 minutes had passed, votes were counted.

**The Amended Article 3: did not meet the 60% affirmative votes to pass, there was a vote of 31 yes and 37 no. 41 yes, or 60% was needed for the 3/5 vote to pass this Article.**

**There was a motion made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm.**

Lila Williams, Town Clerk

Dawn Coffey, Deputy Town Clerk