

**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TOWN OF RUMNEY  
MINUTES FOR THE WARRANT for  
2014 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:

Inhabitants of the Town Of Rumney met at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium on School Street in said Rumney on Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014, at 8:00 o'clock in the morning at which time the polls were opened for balloting on Article 1 and did not close earlier than 7:00 o'clock in the evening, and also met at the Russell Elementary School Gymnasium in said Rumney on Thursday, the 13<sup>th</sup> day of March 2014, at 7:00 o'clock in the evening for the second session of the Town Meeting at which time action was taken upon the remaining articles in this warrant.

A brief History on fires in Rumney back in 1955 was given by Moderator Buttolph. Recognition was given to Kathy Wallace, Ken Ward and Betty Jo Taffe for their many years of service to the town.

**ARTICLE 1:** To choose all necessary town officers for the ensuing year (by official ballot on March 11th):

Selectman for 3 years	Cheryl Lewis	147 votes
	Mark Andrew	146 votes
Library Trustee for 3 years	Leina Smoker	255 votes
Cemetery Trustee for 3 years	Vacant	
Fire Commissioner for 3 years	John Bagley	151 votes
(2) Planning Board Members for 3 years	David Coursey	219 votes
	Steve Weber	169 votes
Supervisor of the Checklist for 6 years	Jane Patterson	253 votes
Treasurer for 1 year	Rita Wilkin	266 votes
Trustee of Trust Funds for 3 years	Vacant	
Cemetery Trustee for 2 year	Vacant	
Fire Commissioner for 1 year	Tim Lewis	244 votes
Moderator for 2 years	James Buttolph	268 votes

An immediate recount was done and the tallies for Selectman came out the same. A formal recount was requested by Mark Andrew and was done on March 18<sup>th</sup> and the count came out to be the same.

**ARTICLE 2:** To see if the municipality will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$361,215** to construct and furnish **an addition and alterations to the Byron G. Merrill Library** to make the building accessible to the disabled and to authorize the issuance of not more than \$334,595 of bonds or notes 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 and to determine the rate of interest thereon. Furthermore, to authorize the withdrawal of \$5,000 from the Library Improvement Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1998) and to authorize the Library Trustees to withdraw \$1,620 from the Donald Young Memorial Fund and to authorize the Town and Library Trustees to apply for, receive and expend grants for this purpose with all such grant amounts received to be used to reduce the amount of the bonds or notes. The first bond payment would not be due until 2015. (The Selectmen do not recommend this special article) (2/3 majority ballot vote required)

**ACTION Article 2:** In response to the vote at the 2013 Town Meeting, the Library Trustees developed a design proposal, with associated costs, during the year and presented it to the Town. Both Dennis Mires, Architect and Jeff Downing, Project Manager, non-voters, were given permission to speak about the project plans. Following a lengthy discussion, a secret ballot vote was taken and article 2 failed to meet the required 2/3 ballot vote –Yes 50, No 48.

**ARTICLE 3:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 for the purpose of purchasing a **highway truck** to replace the 2006 Ford F-550 truck and to authorize the withdrawal of \$90,000 from the Highway Equipment Fund (established in 1960). The Selectmen recommend this special article.  
(Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 3:**

Because the Selectmen had just learned of a possible USDA grant for the truck, there was a motion made to amend article 3 to read: "To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$90,000 for the purpose of purchasing a highway truck to replace the 2006 Ford F-550 truck with said funds to come from an anticipated grant from the USDA and to further authorize the withdrawal of up to \$90,000 from the Highway Equipment Fund in the event the grant is not received in full. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)."

The motion to amend the article passed by voice vote. Selectman Haskell stated that this truck purchase is in line with the Capital Improvement Plan for replacement this year. With little discussion, the amended article 3 passed by voice vote.

Following Article 3, a motion was made by Mark Andrew to reconsider Article 2.

His basis for the reconsideration was to see if Article 2 would pass using a variety of funding sources, i.e. grants, Town Facilities Capital Reserve funds, etc. paying for the whole project this year as opposed to bond payments over 10 years. Mark stated that the Town has several big item projects coming up in the next few years and thought paying for the addition in one year would be a positive alternative.

The vote was yes to reconsider 43 and no to not reconsider 35. After much discussion, the amendment failed to get a 2/3 vote Yes 43 and No 37.

**ARTICLE 4:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$378,790 for the **replacement of the Buffalo Road Bridge, #128/093** with \$284,092.50 of said sum to come from the FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, \$75,758 of said sum to come from the NHDOT State-Aid Bridge Program, and the remaining \$18,939.50 of said sum to come from the Bridge Repair & Maintenance Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2008). This is to be a non-lapsing appropriation, valid for a period of three years. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 4:** An amendment was made to change the bridge number from 128/093 to 128/073. This was simple a typo error. Amendment passed by voice vote. The article as amended passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 5:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$28,000 for the purpose of replacing the **skidsteer** at the Transfer Station with a similar machine and to authorize the withdrawal of up to \$23,000 from the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2008). The Town has applied for a grant from New Hampshire the Beautiful for up to \$5,000 with the remaining amount to be withdrawn from the Transfer Station Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Should the grant not be funded, the entire amount of \$28,000 would come from the capital reserve fund. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 5:** The article was read there being no discussion Article 5 passed as written.

**ARTICLE 6:** To choose three members for the **Advisory Committee:**

1 for a 3-year term from the Village

1 for a 1 year term from the Lake area (to finish out another member's term)

1 for a 2 year term from the Depot area (to finish out another member's term)

**ACTION Article 6: Mark Andrew was nominated for the village representative**

**Isaac Dewever was nominated for the Depot area**

**No one was nominated for the lake area. Voice vote was taken and the clerk was instructed by the Moderator to cast a single vote for each nominee.**

**ARTICLE 7: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$308,061 to defray the following General Government Expenses for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)**

**ACTION Article 7: An amendment was made by the selectmen to increase the total by \$1,000 for a new total of \$309,061 for General Government Expense. The reason for the increase for the increase is for the addition of a new line item under General Government Buildings for "Tax Deeded Property". The Town acquired two properties through tax deeds in 2013. The amendment passed and Article 7 as amended passed.**

Executive	\$ 67,965
Town Clerk/Tax Collector	\$ 74,437
Supervisors of the Checklist	\$ 3,561
Financial Administration	\$ 44,905
Legal Expense	\$ 35,000
Planning Board	\$ 5,506
General Government Buildings	\$ 40,530
Street Lights	\$ 7,500
Insurance-Property/Liability & WC	\$ 25,957
Regional Association Dues	\$ 3,700
<b>Total General Government Expenses</b>	<b>\$309,061</b>

**ARTICLE 8: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$61,650 for Assessing Services and Tax Maps updates for the ensuing year; of that total, to authorize the withdrawal of \$36,000 from the Town evaluation Capital Reserve Fund (established in 1984) with the remaining \$25,650 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)**

**ACTION Article 8: Article 8 passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 9: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$3,000 for the purpose of Code Enforcement for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)**

**ACTION Article 9: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 10: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$30,000 for the operation of the Cemeteries for the ensuing year; \$5,000 to come from Cemetery Trust Funds and \$25,000 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)**

**ACTION Article 10: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 11: To see if the Town will vote to establish a capital reserve fund under the provisions of RSA 35:1 to be known as the Cemetery Improvement Fund for the purpose of funding major repairs, projects, maintenance needs and record updates for the cemeteries and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$2,500 to be placed in said fund and to appoint the Selectmen as agents to expend from said fund. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)**

**ACTION Article 11: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 12: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$242,954 to defray the cost of running the Police Department for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)**

**ACTION Article 12: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 13: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000 for Ambulance Service contracted with the Warren-Wentworth Ambulance Service for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)**

**ACTION Article 13: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 14:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,306** to defray the cost of the **Safety Committee, E-911 and Emergency Management** services for the ensuing year.

(Majority vote required)

Safety Committee	\$ 1,500
E-911	\$ 200
Emergency Management	\$ 5,606
<b>Total Safety, E-911 &amp; Emg Mgt</b>	<b>\$ 7,306</b>

**ACTION Article 14:** Article passed with no discussion.

**ARTICLE 15:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$69,687** to defray the cost of running the **Fire Department** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 15:** The Selectmen made an amendment to increase the Fire Department budget by \$1,000 for an amended total of \$70,687. During the first quarter of this year there has been an increase in calls as well as the number of members responding to these calls. This \$1,000 increase will be added to the Fire Stipend line item to insure there will be enough funds to cover the calls. The vote on the amendment passed.

Janice Mulherin asked why the extra \$6,000.00 in the Vehicle Repair/Maintenance line. Selectman Haskell asked Fire Chief Coursey to explain and the Chief said they would like to try and do more maintenance on some of the fire trucks to possibly get 15 years out of a vehicle rather than the usual 10 year expectancy.

Article 15 as amended passed by voice vote.

**ARTICLE 16:** To see if the Town will vote to modify and clarify the organizational structure of the Rumney Fire Department from the vote taken at the 1994 March Town Meeting to the form of organization outlined below, such changes not to take effect until one year following this vote, in accord with RSA 154:1, paragraph IV.

**ACTION Article 16:** Article passed with no discussion.

1. The fire chief shall be voted into office by the firefighters of the Department, as permitted by RSA 154:1, paragraph III, subject to being confirmed by the fire commissioners. The fire chief's term shall be three years as authorized by NH RSA 154:5, I, unless sooner removed in accord with paragraph 2.
2. The provisions of RSA 154:5 shall apply to the fire chief, including but not limited to those provisions governing duties and suspension or removal, except where inconsistent with this article. For purposes of RSA 154:5 only, the fire commissioners shall exercise the authority given by that statute to "the appointing authority", provided, however, that any formal written policies adopted by the fire commissioners shall be consistent with personnel and other applicable policies adopted by the board of selectmen, and with ordinances adopted by the Town.
3. All firefighters shall be appointed by the fire chief, subject to confirmation by the fire commissioners. All new firefighters shall initially serve a probationary period of one year upon their appointment to the Department. However, all firefighters shall remain employees-at-will, and are subject to removal with or without cause, either before or after the end of the probationary period.
4. Other aspects of the organization of the Department, including maximum numbers of firefighters and subordinate officer structure, shall be as determined by vote of the fire commissioners. All subordinate officers shall be appointed by, and shall serve at the pleasure of, the fire chief.
5. The fire chief may suspend or remove any firefighter, subject to a hearing and review by the fire commissioners. Any such action shall be in accordance with the personnel policies adopted by the board of selectmen.

**ARTICLE 17:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$7,000** for the purpose of **stalling, repairing and maintaining hydrants** for the town and to authorize the withdrawal of \$3,000 the Water Supply Capital Reserve Fund (established in 2010) with the remaining \$4,000 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 17: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 18:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$19,858** to defray the cost of running the **EMS (Emergency Medical Services)** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 18: Article passed by voice vote with no discussion. One nay was heard.**

**ARTICLE 19:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$300,173** for the maintenance of **Highways and Bridges** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 19: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 20:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$75,000** for **Road Improvements.**

**ACTION Article 20: Article passed. Selectman Haskell explained that the plans are to continue with improvements to Buffalo Road – starting from the Wentworth/Rumney town line and working back. Last year no paving done because the money was used towards the purchase of the new highway garage.**

**ARTICLE 21:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$153,285** to defray the cost of maintaining the **Transfer Station** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 21: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 22:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$1,290** to defray the Town's share of the cost of the **Pemi-Baker Solid Waste District** (\$1,190) and the annual **Plymouth Water and Sewer District Permit Fee** (\$100) for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 22: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 23:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,800** to defray the cost of services, labor and/or equipment needed at the Transfer Station for part of Phase II of the **Landfill Closure** process for the ensuing year as required by the State of New Hampshire. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 23: Selectman Lewis explained that per the State of NH DES, Rumney must continue with annual monitoring of the site until further notice from the State. Monitoring has been on-going since 2003. Tom Duffield, engineer, takes care of the monitoring and sends in the annual report to the State. This is still less expensive than an actual "cap and closure"**

**ARTICLE 23 passed as written.**

**ARTICLE 24:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$35,612** for the purposes of **Animal Control, Health and Welfare** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Animal Control	2,050
Health Officer Stipend, etc	930
Health Officer-Payroll Taxes	50
Health Administration	500
Mount Mooselauke Health Center	1,500
Pemi-Baker Community Health	4,250
Voices Against Violence	1,000
Bridge House	1,500
Genesis	300

CASA	300
CADY	300
Direct Assistance	11,000
Welfare Administrator Stipend, etc	4,737
Grafton County Seniors	3,300
Tri-County CAP	3,895
<b>Total Animal Control, Health &amp; Welfare</b>	<b>\$ 35,612</b>

**ACTION Article 24: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 25:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$9,400** for the purposes of **Culture, Recreation and Conservation** for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

Common-Mowing & Maintenance	1,500
Baker Athletic Field	2,500
Jim Darling Natural Area	500
Patriotic Purposes	450
Conservation Commission	750
Baker River Watershed Dues	200
Conservation Trust	3,500
<b>Total Culture, Recreation &amp; Conservation</b>	<b>\$9,400</b>

**ACTION Article 25: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 26:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$4,500** for the purpose of an **Old Home Day** celebration for the ensuing year; of that total \$3,075 will come from the 2013 end-of-year fund balance, with the remaining \$1,425 to be raised by taxes. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 26: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 27:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$39,097** to defray the cost of operating the **Byron G. Merrill Library** for the ensuing year; \$1,367 is to come from the income of privately created trusts held by the Town for library purposes, with the remaining \$37,730 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 27: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 28:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$3,500** to defray the cost of **interest expenses** on loans in **anticipation of taxes** and other temporary loans for the ensuing year. (Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 28: Article passed with no discussion.**

**ARTICLE 29:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of **\$176,500** to be added to the previously established **Capital Reserve Funds**. The Selectmen recommend this special article. (Majority vote required)

Highway Equipment Fund (1960)	30,000
Fire Department Fund (1963)	30,000
Town Revaluation Fund (1984)	10,000
Police Department Fund (1986)	8,000
Town Facilities' Fund (1987)	20,000
EMS Vehicle Fund (2005)	5,000
Transfer Station Equipment Fund (2008)	8,000
Bridge Repair & Maintenance Fund (2008)	30,000
Fire Department Equipment Fund (2009)	4,000
Merrill Library Capital Improvement Fund (1998)	25,000

Water Supply Capital Reserve Fund (2010)	3,000
EMS Major Equipment Fund (2012)	<u>3,500</u>
<b>Total Capital Reserve Funds</b>	<b>\$ 176,500</b>

**ACTION Article 29:** Selectman Haskell explained that there is a need to continue to add to these accounts to relieve the burden on the taxpayers when it comes time to make some of these big purchases later on. There was no discussion. Article passed as written.

**ARTICLE 30:** To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$7,000 for the purpose of completing the **perambulation** of the town line **between Rumney and Groton**; \$3,500 to be paid by the Town of Groton and \$3,500 to be raised by taxes. The Selectmen recommend this special article.  
(Majority vote required)

**ACTION Article 30:**

Per Groton's request and RSA 51:2 – Groton's records indicate the last time the Rumney/Groton line was perambulated was in 1928. The RSA states it shall be done "once in every 7 years forever"...

After some discussion Article 30 passed by hand count Yes 44 and No 14.

**ARTICLE 31:** 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.

**ACTION Article 31:** There being no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, all were in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Linda Whitcomb*

Linda Whitcomb,  
Rumney Town Clerk