

SPECIAL JOINT BOARD OF SELECTPERSON'S MEETING MINUTES
Town of Rumford and Town of Mexico
December 11, 2014, 6:00 p.m.
Mexico Town Hall
Calvin P. Lyons Meeting Room

PRESENT:

Town of Rumford: Chairperson Gregory Buccina, Vice-Chairperson Jeffrey Sterling, Selectperson Bradford Adley, Selectperson Frank DiConzo, Selectperson Mark Belanger, Town Manager John Madigan

Town of Mexico Selectpersons: Richard Philbrick, Andy Dupuis, Byron Ouellette, Albert Aniel. Absent: Reggie Arsenault

ATTENDEES: Carlo Puiia & Scott Belskis-Town of Dixfield, Brad Gallant and other citizens from both towns.

1. Meeting Called to Order
2. All present Pledged Allegiance to the American Flag
3. Continued Discussion on Consolidation of Police Services in Mexico and Rumford

Dixfield Town Manager Carlo Puiia explained why Dixfield did not have budget meeting.

Mr. DiConzo did not like a press report on Channel 13 about a sexual assault. Chiefs Carter and Hodsdon explained that Channel 13 approached them under a Freedom of Access Request. The Chiefs had no choice. Mr. DiConzo thanked them for explanation.

Byron Ouellette said that citizens need to know what is going on.

Mr. Buccina said that lots of towns have the same issues.

Mr. Sterling was here at the last meeting just for the Sheriff's presentation. He though he was spot on, good numbers. Regarding Municipal Resources, they gave a good report with a lot of statistics. He is putting a lot of weight on that report. 12-15 is significant. He is not comfortable with a 12 member police force. Simple calculations show we would be paying more per officer for less of a force.

Mr. Adley believes the MRI report carries a lot of weight. He is concerned about assets being turned over to the County. If it does not work, we would not be able to re-establish our department. The County officials are concerned about spreading increased costs over the county. He is in favor of a separate police entity.

Mr. Aniel compared the Sheriff's 2 year plan and amount of savings. If more deputies were needed, the Sheriff would provide them. There are four more detectives in the county.

Chief Carter clarified that the 1.5 million is the amount the two budgets are now, that was given at the last meeting. The update now shows 2015-16 budget with added contractual and building costs for 1.36 million. The figures are \$40,000 different from the county's first year. Last year the Rumford Police turned back \$40,000. Four detectives are covering 26 other towns, we call on them now.

Mr. DiConzo stated that the Sheriff has access to 21 additional people plus he will hire from current staff.

Mr. Belanger asked when overtime kicks in. Chief Carter responded on 12 hours shifts.

Mr. Aniel asked about liability. The Town Manager explained that insurance will cover.

Mr. Ouellette believes we should have more than what the Sheriff is offering. We are likely to lose DARE and Explorers programs. There are pro's and con's.

Mr. Aniel asked about a combined department. There are 15 in the proposal.

Mr. Sterling believes the primary responsibility is to keep our citizen's safe. The crime stats are disturbing. Do we want to have 12 or 15 positions in the department?

Mr. Ouellette believes we need to decide to disband the two existing departments and create a new one and also the percentage of cost sharing.

Mr. Buccina made a motion, second by Mr. Belanger, to get a legal opinion and create a formula for wages and benefits from wage statements. Vote: 9-0

Brad Gallant and Scott Belskis also spoke at the meeting.

4. Continued Discussion on Consolidation of Police Services with Mexico, Rumford and Dixfield

Scott Belskis explained that the Dixfield Board of Selectpersons would be discussing the police department consolidation at their next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on January 7, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in Mexico.

5. Adjournment

Mr. Belanger made a motion to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Vote: 9-0

John E. Madigan, Jr.
Town Manager

JEMJr/tp