

Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 15, 2002

Attendance: Ada Brown, Chairman; Betty McDermott; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Christine McClellan; and Don Willard, Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Ada Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.
2. Consideration of previous minutes dated:

a.) September 17, 2002

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to accept the Minutes as written. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

b.) September 24, 2002.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to accept the Minutes as written. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Approval of Administrative Abatements submitted by Contract Assessor Michael O'Donnell.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to approve the 10 abatements. Seconded by Betty McDermott:

- #02/03-1 Account #X1010P
- #02/03-2 Account #B0250R
- #02/03-3 Account #C0015R
- #02/03-4 Account #Y0031R
- #02/03-5 Account #L0139P
- #02/03-6 Account #T0300P
- #02/03-7 Account #B1288R
- #02/03-8 Account #B0285R
- #02/03-9 Account #W3131R
- #02/03-10 Account #D0015R

VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Cumberland County Tax Assessor's Return.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Brown noted that this year's request was up by 20% and had hopes that it would go down next year.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve payment of this request of

\$377,498. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NOTE: The Selectmen signed the return.

5. Appoint Warden and new Ballot Clerks for November 5, 2002 Election.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to appoint Robert Akins as warden and Alice Richards, Kathryn Wallace and Elisa Trepanier as election clerks. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous.

6. Acceptance of Revised General Assistance Benefit Levels.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard announced that this was an annual requirement to be fulfilled and that the Maine Municipal Association annual survey reflected the new maximum amounts given in the greater Portland area. He said that the alternative would be to do our own survey and set our own limit.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to accept the revised benefit maximum levels. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NOTE: The Selectmen signed the ordinance.

7. Resignation - Route 302 Improvement Committee – Alvin H. Morrison.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Brown said the Selectmen would accept Al Morrison's resignation with regrets. It was decided to advertise in the ROADRUNNER for candidates to represent Raymond at the RTAC meetings.

8. Maine Municipal Association Tax Reform Initiative.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Brown said that she was not in favor of this resolution because she felt it tied the hands of the legislature. The money to run the state has to come from somewhere and if the state had to pay for schools other taxes would have to go up especially because of the current shortfall. Mr. Willard said that this was the first time that MMA has been an advocate for a legislative change. He didn't see in the initiative from where they intend the money to come. Mr. Leavitt felt it was "too little too late" and it appeared to be a deterrent to Carol Paleski's petition which would be a travesty. He hoped that this would push the legislature to do something about the school funding issue. He wanted to monitor the situation and be aware but didn't want to endorse.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned that the Selectmen not endorse the MMA resolution at this time supporting reduction of the property tax statewide based on the previous discussion. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: 3 in favor (Brown, McDermott, Leavitt) 2 opposed (McClellan, Desjardins)

9. Selectmen's Workshop Proposed Action Items.

DISCUSSION:

- Health Insurance - Mr. Willard said that one proposal was to use the \$50,000 emergency contingency fund to pay for family health coverage where needed. It will also have to be a part of the 2003-2004 budget. The other option would be to take it out of undesignated surplus. Also any new positions created during this year would have to be funded the same way. Mr. Leavitt felt that the emergency funds should be used for this purpose because the family coverage should have been introduced years ago and we're now seeing that it is necessary in order to hire people and keep current employees. Mr. Willard said that if the Selectmen didn't move on this issue it would allow more time for discussion i.e. the Budget Committee. Mr. Leavitt reiterated that he felt this was an emergency situation and should be addressed. Mr. Willard concurred in the area of hiring another paramedic for Raymond.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to take the money necessary out of the emergency contingency fund to pay for this benefit. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

- Town Office space – Mr. Willard felt that in order to conserve work on the old building he suggested rearranging some of the office space without making any alterations other than the asbestos remediation in the basement. Changes would be to technology and meeting space in the modular classroom which will take a little remodeling and painting. Elizabeth Cummings office would move into Mr. Willard's office; the new deputy clerk would be on the counter; Mr. Willard would move into the old conference room; Elisa Trepanier would move into Jack Cooper's office; Jack Cooper would move into the dispatch office; the sheriff's office would hold the computer servers etc; and assessing would remain the same.

- Assessing Office – Mr. Willard said that Amanda Simpson has been hired for 12 additional hours per week with a \$2.00 per hour raise. She will be taking classes in assessing so that in the future she can move into being Raymond's assessor.

- Revaluation – Ms. Simpson and Mr. Willard are working on an RFP

to procure an assessing company to do our revaluation.

10. Establishment of new Town Office Building Committee.

DISCUSSION: There was conversation about keeping some of the original people on this committee but adding people from other areas of expertise and organizations in Raymond like the library. It was decided to have an advertisement in the ROADRUNNER for candidates.

11. Architectural Proposal for Site Plan Concept of new Town Office and Library.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard said that the present idea is to use current town owned land where District 1 is and the library building. Robert Davis has proposed that he will do a study and produce a plan of possibilities for either a single building for the town office and library or a two building concept. This would not be a plan suitable for building but only for concept approval at a cost of \$2,400. Ken Walker felt that one building might be more economical because it would combine utilities. The idea of having this building in a village setting, town owned land availability and very importantly the public water system for the fire sprinkling system was foremost in choosing this location.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to hire Robert Davis not to exceed \$2,400 to prepare a concept plan according to his proposal dated October 10, 2002. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

12. Communications and other business.

a) Public Safety Building

Mr. Willard reported that last Friday, October 11, 2002, Denis Morse, Fire Chief; Bob Murray, Clerk of the Works; Nathan White, Public Works Director; Jack Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer; and himself toured the building and found 45 problems which will have to be remedied before the building is signed off. He added if they are not fixed then the town will receive a cash advance for them from the total amount owed.

b) MMWAC Meeting

Mr. Desjardins reported that Raymond will be receiving \$11,279 as a credit. He added that his tour of the facility was

very interesting and impressive. Mr. Willard said that they could elect to take the money up front or have it credited to our account to cover future debt. The Selectmen decided to take the check up front because there was no advantage in leaving it with MMWAC because they would not be giving Raymond any interest on the amount held.

c) Anderson vs. Durham

Mr. Willard explained that Geoff Hole, Town Attorney, is ready to defend Raymond in this action but said that we might go in with the other towns in the class action using Harry Pringle Esq. There is a question whether this attorney fee will come from the town budget or the school's. Mr. Leavitt said that if Raymond had always used public funds for public school choices instead of allowing public funds to be used for private school tuition, Raymond would not be in this debate.

13. Review and authorize October 15, 2002 Treasurer's Warrant.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$410,447.73. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NOTE: Mrs. Brown indicated that this was high because there were some bond payments involved in this warrant.

14. Adjourn.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Ada Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:05 pm.

Louise H. Lester  
Town Clerk