

Town of Raymond
Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 5, 2003

Attendance: Ada Brown, Chairman; Betty McDermott; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Christine McClellan; Ralph Norwood and Peter Hendrich, Gorrill-Palmer Engineering; 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 minutes dated July 15, 2003.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Presentation of Certificate of Community Appreciation – Walter & Linda Manchester – Good Life Market.

Chairman Ada Brown read and presented a certificate of appreciation to the Manchester's for their renovation of the former Pleasant View Inn, a historical building, on the corner of Webbs Mills Road and Roosevelt Trail.

4. Route 302 Improvement Project – financial update and discussion of potential

liquidated damages – Peter Hedrich and Ralph Norwood of Gorrill-Palmer Engineers.

DISCUSSION: Ralph Norwood announced that the Rt 302 Project was complete except for some street light issues. He said that the final quantities letter was 1% over budget and had been sent to Pratt & Sons for their review. The town budget was \$957,000 and is now \$963,000 which has added in the cost of the electricity for one year on the new lights, a pole a Sunset Variety, the added sidewalk in front of Sebago Watersports, and a gate across from Raymond beach. Mr. Willard noted that an offer of payment for the extra sidewalk was made but he felt it should be a part of the project budget. Mr. Norwood continued that Pratt & Sons has asked for their final payment including the retainage money. Mr. Norwood advised keeping the retainage until the final bill from the contractor is received. The total expense for the project is \$1,880,000, the town share \$907,000 and the retainage \$10,000. Liquidated damages are \$500/day beyond the date of June 15, 2003. Taking the dates from June 16 to July 25th when the lights were turned on, liquidated damages are about \$20,000. Mr. Willard thought the flag brackets which AD Electric installed should be paid for through the project cost. It was felt that upon the outcome of the liquidated damages the town might end up even or a little over budget and that the liquidated damages and the retainage should be held until the final amounts are known. Mr. Norwood said the cause for the delay with the lights was not the fault of AD Electric but rather the delayed delivery of the fixtures through Pratt & Sons. Representatives from AD Electric were present and said that they would be trouble shooting the problem lights and suspected the photocells were at fault. Mr. Leavitt asked about the amount of loam used in the project. Mr. Norwood replied that there was an underestimation of the "settings" loam, a quantity with the value of \$7,000 which they expected to pay for out of the project contingency.

Mr. Willard informed the Selectmen that the bond counsel said that Raymond can close out the waterline and the Public Safety Building projects with them.

5. School Department issues update.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Brown noted that members of the School Committee could not attend this meeting. Mr. Leavitt felt that 1) more communication needs to be established between the School Committee and the Selectmen. The concept of "One Raymond" needs to be enhanced for the benefit of the town. He said that he represented the Selectmen at the School Committee meetings much like he attended the Comprehensive Plan Committee meetings as an ex-officio member. He noted that the School Committee only held minutes from those meetings where they vote but no minutes at their workshops. He felt that it was difficult for residents to understand what the School Committee was dealing with if they can't follow their meetings through their minutes. He said that by publishing minutes it might defray misinformation and misunderstandings. Mr. Woodbrey felt that taping of meetings would be helpful in allowing the information to be available. 2) The Superintendent's work hours lead to questions in Mr. Leavitt's mind. After the Annual Town Meeting he understood that Ms. Caldwell would be working full time – five days a week. After the Special Town Meeting he thought she had gone from 140 days year to 156 days a year. Mr. Woodbrey said that last year she was working 3 days a week for a 50 week year. However, she was working 5 days a week being paid for 3 days a week. Mr. Leavitt cautioned against setting a precedent of allowing compensatory time to accrue for salaried employees. Mr. Woodbrey explained that Ms. Caldwell would be making the \$44,000 as last year plus a raise of \$3,080 and an extra \$5,000 for the 16 added days. Mr. Leavitt questioned whether 260 days would be considered full time? He added that there were three other contracts – special education and two principals, which are 240 days a year and are considered full time. Mrs. Brown indicated that Mrs. Stevenson, chairman of the School Committee, said that the signed contract would establish the position. Mr. Leavitt noted that her contract was not available for viewing. Mrs. Brown said that she had talked with Brenda Stevenson who said that the contract was not finalized but would be available when it was. They discussed having a joint meeting prior to school opening but Mrs. Stevenson didn't feel there was enough time to schedule one unless it was before or after a Selectmen's meeting or School Committee meeting. 3) Mr. Leavitt wanted to know what was going to be done about the playing fields. Mr. Leavitt referred to correspondence from the Superintendent and said that the town's investment in the fields must be maintained. Mr. Desjardins wanted the responsibility of the fields to be noted before the next budget season. He felt that the town could maintain them but said that the School Committee must agree. He also noted that Public Works does not have a tractor but the school does which would be needed for this maintenance. He felt that Public Works would need access to that equipment. He also noted that he understood that Mr. Dwinnell, a janitor at Raymond Elementary School, was licensed to use chemicals which should be used on the infields of the ball fields to get rid of the weeds. He understood that budgets are tight but felt that something should be done by some entity before the fields were irreparable. 4) Mr. Leavitt asked if there were any unmet challenges still unfinished prior to school opening.

Mrs. McDermott felt that enough time had been spent on this discussion and wanted questions about school subjects to be directed to the school or the School Committee members. She didn't feel that the Selectmen should be answering questions pertaining to school business.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to have questions asked by the Selectmen go directly to the Superintendent and/or the School Committee and not through Town Manager Don Willard as intermediary. Seconded by Ada Brown

DISCUSSION: Mr. Leavitt noted that he had attended School Committee meetings twice in March and didn't feel that individual requests were answered. He asked what the status of the chimney at Jordan Small Middle School was which needed to be repaired. He had concern as to whether these serious problems are being addressed.

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

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard asked if he should write a request about the field? Mrs. Brown felt it could wait until they have their joint meeting.

Mr. Leavitt felt that the Selectmen had a fiscal and overall responsibility to know what is happening in the town including the schools. He felt that the Selectmen had the ultimate fiscal responsibility for the town.

6. Maine Municipal Association Ballot for 2004 Executive Committee and Association Officers.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard noted that the only contested position was for vice president and that the two people running William Bridgeo and Dana Lee were both good candidates. However he was in favor of electing Dana Lee because of his interest in and understanding of small towns.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to vote the ballot and vote for Dana Lee in the office of Vice President. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NOTE: Kevin Woodbrey introduced Kyle Woodbrey who is working toward his Troop 800 Boy Scout Government badge. Mr. Willard invited Kyle to come in and talk with him about town government.

7. Maine Department of Transportation Urban Rural Initiative Program (URIP) annual utilization certification.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard explained that the Selectmen had to vote to approve receipt of the URIP funds in the amount of \$56,004.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to accept the funds to be used on capital road expenditures. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Discussion and Selectmen signature on 2003 Cumberland County Tax Warrant.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard explained that the latest state valuation for Raymond is \$524,150,000; the tax will be \$405,202. He noted that this tax is a 5.65% increase over last year and the town's value increased 7.34%.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to sign the Cumberland County Tax Warrant.
Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

9. Communications and other business.

a. Speed Limit Requests

1) Gore Road – the Town of Gray has requested a speed review, therefore we must join them in the request.

2) Raymond Hill Road has been requested for a speed and heavy traffic sign review.

b. Lighting review by Central Maine Power and especially Route 302.

The estimate cost for the new Rt. 302 lights will be \$5,000 annually. Since the town owns the fixtures it won't be paying a lease fee on them which will reduce the total expense of the lights from those that are leased.

c. Maine Department of Transportation letter.

Mr. Willard read a letter of congratulations from the MDOT concerning the completion of the Rt 302 Project and the success of the town administering the project with cooperation from the MDOT.

d. Cemeteries.

Mrs. McDermott announced that all the cemeteries now have new signs which look wonderful. She added that all the head stones have been cleaned.

e. Fire/Rescue calls.

Mrs. McDermott said that she listens to the scanner and believes there are about 4 calls a day for the two paramedics with a wide variety of problems. She felt that the volunteers are getting burned out. She asked that the Chief be asked to speak on this subject at the next Selectmen's meeting. Mrs. Brown agreed. Mr. Willard said the Department was trying to cover with per diem help and that life safety issues must be met and this should be discussed.

f. Public Works

Mr. Willard reported that work has started on Spiller Hill Road and that they will be working on North Raymond Road after that.

10: Review and authorize Treasurer's Warrants dated: a.) June 30, 2003; and

b.) August 5, 2003.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant for June 30, 2003 in the amount of \$66,796.47. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Treasure's Warrant for August 5, 2003 in the amount of \$487,610.46. Seconded by Dana Desjardins

VOTE: Unanimous.

11. Adjourn.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

ADJOURNMENT: Ada Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:19 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk