

Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, August 19, 2003

Attendance: Ada Brown, Chairman; Betty McDermott; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Christine McClellan; Michael Schmidt, owner Café Sebago; Denis Morse, Fire Chief; Chris Champagne, Deputy Fire Chief; Dwayne Buzzell, Fire Captain; 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 August 5, 2003.

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

VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Public Safety Departmental needs and staffing overview – Fire Chief Denis Morse.

DISCUSSION: Chief Morse noted the increase of calls and the decrease in volunteers. He also said that the national call up for reserves for Iraq took three members and two volunteer families have new babies in the household which restricts their participation. Presently the Department is down 19 people from 2001 with two key members gone. The Department is asking for a standby commitment of twelve hours, three times a month. Members also have to attend mandatory Wednesday training sessions several times a month. From June 1st through August 14th there were 218 calls (128 rescue and 90 fire). Of that number there were 25 car crashes. Chief Morse reported that the Town of Naples has gone to a paid paramedic and a driver 24/7. He said that an extrication truck and more personnel (paid by moving some finances from line items to the personnel account) would help. He would like to hire Kathy Gosselin to be full time and do some paper work as well as be available for calls. Deputy Chief Champagne noted that Raymond's personnel problem can't be helped by a town high school like other towns with high schools. He explained that high school age kids can be explorer fire fighters which can help stretch manpower. Also our population isn't conducive to having people who want to be fire fighters or rescue volunteers. He thought that area wide participation might help and that a plan for coverage was essential. Chief Morse praised our current members who have the greatest dedication. In some cases both member employees and the member employers suffer financial losses because they attend calls. He added that the rescue call types are changing with less than emergency situations requiring coverage. Mr. Leavitt asked about per diem employees. Chief Morse replied that what Raymond is willing to pay is less than surrounding towns and the availability of per diem workers is not great. He also stressed that we have a high level of mutual aid calls responded to which in July was 33. Mr. Leavitt felt that Chief Morse's study will help the Selectmen in their next budget deliberations. He questioned whether in-house fire fighting training in local businesses like Sabre Yachts, Chipco, or Dielectric might get more volunteers or cooperation from the employers to allow employees to leave work to answer calls. Deputy Chief Champagne said that for the last few years the Department has conducted some training at those businesses but have not seen any interest from the employees; part of the reason might be because the employees live out of town. Mr. Leavitt asked if direct contact between the

Town Manager/Selectmen and the CEO's of the companies might do something? He felt that cross training should be encouraged for fire/rescue. Chief Morse said that they have been talking for years with neighboring towns. He also felt that Raymond should be charging "full fare" for mutual aid calls because the return is not compensatory. Raymond goes out of town more than other departments come here. For rescue services, Naples considered hiring United and found them to be too expensive. Captain Buzzell felt that a membership drive was necessary and didn't like the idea of per diem coverage. Mr. Leavitt felt that other entities need to be involved in our life safety issues such as the businesses, Lions Club, and neighboring towns. He felt talks among all interested parties need to take place at the highest level to gain solutions. Mr. Willard felt that a major drawback is the amount of training required which many interested people cannot afford the time to do.

4. Consideration of liquor license renewal for Café Sebago – Michael Schmidt, 1248 Roosevelt Trail.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard explained that Café Sebago's liquor license expired on August 19, 2003 and that he had given Mr. Schmidt a letter confirming that Raymond was giving him a two week extension of approval in order for him to install his required alarm system. His recommendation was to hold the application until the work is completed and inspected. Mr. Schmidt questioned the need to have this alarm installed. He said installation would cost between \$2,800 and \$3,000 with an annual expense of \$350. He felt that he had been in business for nine years with no liquor violations or problems and didn't need this requirement put on him. He wanted to know what other businesses in town were required to have alarms. Chris Champagne explained that under Fire Code 101 it was required and that currently places serving liquor, day care centers, and schools are being required to have alarms and that other businesses are being updated as they are built or under new ownership or usage. He added that Café Sebago was to have installed this alarm system two years ago but that it had been waived until now. Last year Mr. Schmidt wrote a letter saying that it would be done. Mr. Schmidt said that he would install a system but that it put a great financial burden on him. Deputy Chief Champagne noted that the Department had been patient to this point but that it must be done for the protection of their customers and their building investment. He added that early warning of a fire made a big difference in curtailing a fire. Chief Morse said that the ordinance didn't allow for size differences and that they can't make exceptions in order to cover for liability. Mr. Leavitt asked if this was a request for an extension of a current license. Mr. Willard replied that it was a renewal and that it could be held until their next meeting. Deputy Chief confirmed that he would do an inspection after notification that the alarm system had been installed.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to approve the two week liquor license extension as noted in Mr. Willard's letter of August 19, 2003 and put this liquor license issue on their September 2, 2003 meeting agenda. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard added that his recommendation was to not entertain any further extensions on September 2nd if the alarm system isn't installed and inspected. Chief Morse noted that the Department has only Chris Champagne for inspections at this time. They would like to train at least two more people in Fire Safety 101 to work with Deputy

Chief Champagne. Chris felt that the Fire Department could send a letter to the business owners telling them what the Department would be phasing in and what might be expected of them in the future. Chief Morse noted that early warning can save buildings which include those buildings which are not being currently used but have active alarm systems.

VOTE: Unanimous.

5. Approval of Quit Claim Deed for Map 9, Lot 57, 3 Cottage Lane.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to approve the Quit Claim Deed. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NOTE: The Selectmen signed the Quit Claim Deed.

6. Communications and other business.

a. Abatement Professionals, Inc.

Mr. Willard said that the original court date of August 21st has been postponed until October 16, 2003.

b. New Deputy Town Clerk

Mr. Willard announced that Rita Theriault will be our new deputy town clerk beginning in mid September.

c. Public Works Pole Building

Mr. Willard said that correspondence and a visit from the Dept. of Defense and the Army Corps of Engineers has indicated that they may be willing to build a pole building at the Plains Road facility if the town will pay for the materials. More will be known in October. This building (40' x 80') will be used to house equipment which now has to be stored outdoors. Mr. Desjardins asked if this building could store school buses. Mr. Willard said it would protect the public works equipment. Deputy Chief Champagne noted that if the building is over 10,000 square feet it must have a sprinkler system.

d. Building Permits

Mr. Willard reported for the Code Enforcement Office that from January 1st to date there have been building permits issued valued at \$13,735,219.00.

e. Cumberland County Commissioners

Mr. Willard informed the Selectmen that he has been speaking with Esther Clinott, Chairman of the Commissioners, who would like to continue with talks about mutual cooperation. She entertained having a meeting with the Selectmen in September. Mr. Willard suggested a date in a week offset of the regular Selectmen's meeting.

f. Maine Municipal Association Elections

Mr. Willard announced that Mr. Dana Lee has won by petition the opportunity of being on the MMA ballot for Vice President. The vote was 98 towns to 52 towns.

g. IT Position

Mr. Willard announced that the bids for the IT work to be done in Raymond were opened this afternoon with the range from \$33,120 by TriNet to \$97,500 by Burgess Company. He noted that the Technology Committee would be studying the bids and doing interviews as needed for a recommendation by the September 2nd Selectmen's meeting.

h. Extrication Truck

Chief Morse asked if the Fire Department would be given permission to proceed with the RFP to purchase an extrication truck which will have foam capacity as well as tool storage. He asked that they can purchase it this year instead of in two years because it would alleviate manpower to accidents using only one person to deliver the truck to an accident site. He would like to look toward buying a demonstrator vehicle before they look at new or used. Mr. Willard said this would be paid for from the CIP and that they need the consent of the Selectmen to begin the search and if found they would need the Selectmen's approval to purchase.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the RFP process. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

i. Property Tax Proposals for November Election

There was discussion about the two proposals submitted by the Maine Municipal Association and Governor Baldacci. Voters need to decide which is better before they vote in November. Mr. Leavitt felt there was misunderstanding of both proposals and that both plans have merit but must find reform and not just shift the way the money is gained or disbursed. Mr. Willard said that a quick survey he did showed that taking a city like Bangor, not counting the offices the small towns don't have like an airport, it seems that the combined neighboring towns around Raymond making the same population as Bangor actually have fewer employees than Bangor has. He has a concern that Governor Baldacci's idea of regionalization might not work in all situations.

j. Suburban News

Mr. Leavitt thanked the Suburban News for their effort in keeping Raymond's information before the public.

7. Review and authorize Treasurer's Warrants dated August 19, 2003.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$79,371.17. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Adjourn.

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

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Ada Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:25 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk