

Town of Raymond
401 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071

Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 2, 2003

Attendance: Ada Brown, Chairman; Betty McDermott; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Christine McClellan; Nathan White, Road Commissioner; Kevin Woodbury, Technical Administrator; 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 November 18, 2003.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Minutes with the correction at the end of number 11 that she also thanked Denis Morse and Don Willard for their shopping skills in saving Raymond money. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Lake Region Development Council – Introduction of new staff members Lori Allen, Community Development Director and Brett Doney, Executive Director.

DISCUSSION: Lori Allen, Community Development Director for the LRDC, explained that she was employed by the Western Maine Development Corp. which is helping to run the LRDC for one year. She added that Bridget Marsten will be director of the Business Development Division which will work with new and existing businesses in the area. She has already arranged for the Small Business Administration representative to visit the LRDC office on a regular basis to counsel business owners or prospective business owners in the area. Ms. Allen said that one of her projects is to restart the Route 302 And You program. The MDOT has requested that every town along Route 302 have a representative. The meetings will be every third Wednesday. The next meeting will be December 17th at the Naples Town Office at 5:30 pm. Mrs. Brown thanked Ms. Allen for coming to this meeting and for her work on behalf of the LRDC towns. Mr. Willard added that Raymond is always looking for grants which would enhance the town. Ms. Allen noted that there will be some planning grants available in March 2004.

4. Recognition of Fire Police volunteers – Presentation of plaques.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Brown presented Bill Parker his plaque with thanks from the Board of Selectmen and the town for his years of work along with Dick Morris, Lloyd Jacobsen, and Jack Goosetrey in organizing and erecting Raymond's Fire Lane signs. Mr. Parker replied that it has been more than six years of work and with Raymond's growth it will continue.

5. Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT) – Hot Mix Asphalt Overlay Project, Route 302 – Permit for hauling loads in excess of road limits specified in Title 29 M.R.S.A. on town roads accessing construction area.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard explained that this was liability protection for the MDOT in their work. He said that every town influenced by this work was being asked to sign a permit. He felt that if a town didn't sign off then the project might not go through.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to approve the MDOT agreement. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

6. Communications and other business.

a. Route 121 Road Access to Route 302

Mr. Willard explained that Jean Carter has over 300 signatures on a petition to request the MDOT reroute Route 121 from the intersection of Main Street across Main Street instead across the wetlands to Route 302. He asked if this could be placed on the agenda for December 16th.

b. ¾ ton Pickup Truck

Nathan White announced that a 1995 Chevrolet ¾ ton pickup truck had been purchased from State Surplus for \$6,000 which included a Fisher plow. The truck had 97,000 miles and was used by the IF&W. This will replace our 1995 Chevrolet 1 ton which will be sold by bid. Mr. White felt that the new truck would be more useful to Public Works and more economical. The old truck would need repairs to keep it running. Mr. White asked if the profit from the sale of the old truck be kept in the Public Works account. Mrs. McDermott felt that Mr. White should be added to the smart shoppers list.

c. American Flags on roadways

Nathan White asked if the Public Works Department remain responsible for erecting and lowering the American Flags on the town's streets. He felt having volunteers working along our streets would not be a safe situation for them. He thought that it would not take 3 men more than a day to do the work. Mrs. Brown felt he had a good point. Mr. White said they have 58 flags along Rt. 302 and 75 others around the town. Mr. Leavitt reiterated that the town needs to encourage volunteerism to handle this type of work. Mr. Willard suggested that volunteers might be trained by Public Works and supplied with safety equipment.

d. Budget Season

Mr. Leavitt noted that the first meeting for the new budget was held to authorize the schedule of events. He wanted to be sure that the Selectmen's meeting on April 6, 2004 would give the Selectmen an opportunity to give their recommendation on the School Budget prior to printing of the warrant. He had concern that Raymond citizens are not being well informed about the budget and wanted to make information available to all. Mr. Willard said he would revise the schedule. Mr. Leavitt felt the scheduling meeting showed a good working group. He added that the loss of the Roadrunner has been brought up in several venues including the public hearing for the Comprehensive Plan. He felt this paper may need to be visited by the budget process or some other way of financing needed to be found.

e. Roadrunner/Website

Mr. Leavitt thought that the town's publications may become a display for lobbying groups in Raymond. He felt that the Selectmen should have an opportunity to preview anything which was to be published as a town entity. He thought that a policy should be established in order to keep the town's published articles in a neutral form. Mrs. McDermott asked why Mr. Willard's review would not be enough. Mr. Leavitt thought that might put Mr. Willard in an awkward position. Mr. Willard suggested that he review the articles, possibly make revisions, and then send it on to the Selectmen for their approval. Mr. Leavitt thought that would be satisfactory in order to keep Raymond's sources of information free from advocacy promotions. He felt that leaving Raymond's information sources totally open would leave the town open for additional liability.

f. Technology Director position

Mr. Leavitt noted that he thought this position was originally intended to be shared by Raymond's schools and possibly Casco. He was not comfortable with a bartering system of compensation. He asked that a definite value of service be established which would be reasonable compensation to other entities. He asked if this value should be retail cost or a community discounting to community organizations. Mr. Willard asked if this should be an agenda item. Mrs. Brown replied yes. Mr. Willard noted that Elizabeth Cummings would delay billing the School Department for Kevin Woodbrey's work.

g. Fire Lanes

Mr. Leavitt asked if all the fire lanes were not notated on our GIS. Mr. Woodbrey said that they are up to date and Elisa Trepanier was currently training the Dispatchers in how to access that information.

h. Comprehensive Plan

Mr. Leavitt reported that the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Plan was last week and he found it to be an active, vocal group. He said that the Com Plan Committee would be meeting to discuss the questions posed by the public hearing in the near future. He said the biggest complaints were the 10 acre lot size for the Rural Zone and the lack of announcement of the meeting. Mr. Willard added that there seemed to be a good cross-section of the population there. Mr. Desjardins wanted to see more large lot landowners attending. Mr. Leavitt suggested having more lead time prior to the meeting date for publicity. There was discussion about the lack of opportunity for announcements in the Press Herald.

i. Agenda Items

Mrs. Brown asked that in the future the Selectmen submit their request for agenda items prior to a meeting instead of bringing them up under communications. Mr. Leavitt felt that his items were not agenda items but appropriate to be under communications.

7. Review and authorize December 2, 2003 Treasurer's Warrant.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$2,078,605.03. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Adjourn.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Ada Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:49 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk