BYLAWS AND POLICIES

OF THE

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

TOWN OF RAYMOND, MAINE

Adopted January 18, 2005
Amended June 15, 2010
December 14, 2010
April 5, 2011
January 8, 2013
April 2, 2013

Section 1. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of these bylaws is to establish reasonable rules of procedure for Board of Selectmen (Board) meetings and to promote the fair, orderly and efficient conduct of the Board's proceedings and affairs. These bylaws shall govern the Board's practices and procedures except as otherwise provided by law and shall be liberally construed so as to accomplish their purpose. These rules by necessity shall be reviewed and amended from time to time as the need arises and to meet the needs of future Boards. The Selectmen are referred to State of Maine Statutes and Maine Municipal Association "Officers Handbook" for explanation of the many roles and responsibilities of the office.

Section 2. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Board in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws. A parliamentarian may be elected by the Board of Selectmen.

Section 3. Officers and their Duties

Officers of the Board shall consist of a Chairman and a Vice Chairman to be chosen annually at the first Board meeting after the annual town meeting by and from among Board members. The election of Chairman shall be by nomination and vote of the current Board and requires no qualification other than being a duly elected and sworn Selectman. All members of the Board of Selectmen are required to vote. The office of Chairman shall be limited to 2 consecutive 1-year terms requiring and at the minimum a term of 1 year between each 2-year period. The Chairman shall preside at all Board meetings and shall have authority to rule on questions of evidence and procedure, to maintain order and determine the course of proceedings, and to take such other action as may be necessary and not inconsistent with these bylaws or other law to enable the Board to perform its duties and conduct its affairs.

In the absence of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman shall preside and shall have the same authority. If the Chairman and the Vice Chairman are absent the most senior Selectman, based on uninterrupted years of service, shall preside as Chairman pro-tem. If there is more than one senior member, the Chairman pro-tem shall be chosen by the affirmative vote of a majority of attending membership. The temporary Chairman is to have and exercise any and all authority conferred upon the permanent Chairman. The Town Manager and/or Town Clerk shall maintain a permanent record of all Board meetings and all correspondence of the Board, which shall be a public record except as otherwise provided by law. The people's right to know law shall be upheld [M.R.S.A. Title 1, Chapter 13].

In accordance with M.R.S.A., Title 30-A § 2635, "the Board of Selectmen as a body shall exercise all administrative and executive powers of the Town except as provided in this subchapter. The Board of Selectmen shall deal with administrative services solely through the town manager and shall not give orders to any subordinates of the manager, either publicly or privately. This section does not prevent the Board of Selectmen from appointing committees or commissions of its own members or of citizens to conduct investigations into the conduct of any official or department, or and matter relating to the welfare of the Town."

Quorum: A majority of the Board constitutes a quorum. If a quorum cannot be obtained, the meeting may be adjourned until a time and place certain.

Section 4. Chairman Privileges

The Chairman may move, second, declare by unanimous consent, subject to the following limitations. As it is the function of the Chairman to preserve order and provide a fair hearing, the Chairman shall reserve the right to speak first and last on any subject before the Board. If the Chairman wants to actively participate in the debate in any other manner, he/she should stand down and call another member to take the chair with the majority consent of the other members of the Board present. The Chairman should not resume the chair until the pending question is disposed of.

Section 5. Seating Arrangement

Members shall occupy the respective seats in the Board chamber assigned to them by the Chairman, but any two or more members may exchange seats by joining in a written notice to the Chairman to that effect.

Section 6. Attendance

No Selectman shall be excused from attendance at a Board meeting without notification to the Chairman prior to the meeting. Attendance is expected except when a Board member notifies the Chairman prior to the meeting

Section 7. Meetings

Regular meetings of the Board shall be at the discretion of the Chairman. Special meetings may be called at the discretion of the Chairman or upon the request of a majority of the Board, provided, however, that notice thereof shall be given to each member at least twenty-four hours in advance, whenever possible, and that no business may be conducted other than as specified in said notice.

Notice of all Board meetings shall be given as required by law by the Town Manager or Town Clerk, and all such meetings shall be open to the public except as otherwise provided by law. This notice requirement does not preclude the Board from making a trip i.e. site walk during the meeting if circumstance requires. Whenever possible, this intention should be reflected in the agenda.

No business may be conducted by the Board except at a duly called and noticed meeting or without a quorum consisting of a majority of the Board being present. The order of business at regular meetings shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Minutes of the previous meeting
3. New business
4. Old (unfinished) business

5. Town Manager Report and Communications
6. Fiscal Warrants
7. Adjournment

Section 8. Special Meetings

All meetings other than regularly scheduled meetings shall be considered a Special meeting. Every reasonable effort must be made to notify all Selectmen in advance of a Special Meeting. Notice must be made to a newspaper of general circulation in the town and posted at the town office. A Special Meeting may be called by three methods:

1. The Chairman may call a Special Meeting at any time.
2. The Chairman shall call a Special Meeting if requested by a quorum of Selectmen.
3. A Special Meeting may be called by the Vice Chairman if the Chairman may not be reached by normal methods.

Section 9. Meetings to Execute Documents

If logistics require Selectmen to execute a document, approve a warrant or sign an order outside of the time of a regularly scheduled or Special Meeting, another meeting does not have to be called, providing an approved order exists from a properly noticed public proceeding and record of that proceeding reflects the actual execution will occur outside of the meeting.

Section 10. Executive Session

Board members are allowed to go into an executive session to deliberate on the matters authorized by 1 MRSA § 405 and no others. The executive session can only be entered after a motion has been made in public session to go into executive session. The nature of the business to be discussed must be a part of that motion, although the wording of the motion, obviously, may not substantially reveal the sensitive information which the law intends to protect by the executive session process. The motion must carry by at least 3/5 of the members present. No topic other than that referred to in the motion shall be discussed during executive session. The Executive session shall be held in such place as to ensure the privacy of the meeting and the Chairman shall determine the public and staff allowed to attend in the executive session. All matters discussed during executive session shall be held in strictest confidence by the Board and shall not be discussed with or divulged to any person other than a fellow Board member or persons in attendance at the executive session. Any violation of this confidentiality requirement shall be deemed to be malfeasance of office and shall subject the offending Board member to sanction by the Board. No official action shall be finally approved at an executive session. Since Minutes of an executive session will become public record, they should only be taken when the contents of the meeting are desired to become public.

Section 11. Public to Address Board

As each item on the agenda for any meeting is brought to the floor for discussion, the sponsor of each item or, if there is no Board sponsor, the Town Manager shall first be allowed to present their initial comments for consideration by the public and other Board members. Following this introduction of the issue, there will be time devoted to any questions of the sponsor or the Town Manager regarding the agenda item which any Board member may have which would help to clarify the question presented by the agenda item. The Chairman shall allow questions only during this time, and no debate or discussion of collateral issues shall be permitted. Once

the agenda item has been explained by its sponsor or the Town Manager and clarified by any questioning as provided above, there will be time devoted for any resident, taxpayer or authorized representative of an organization resident or taxpayer of the Town of Raymond to address the Board regarding this particular agenda item. The speakers will be required to identify themselves by stating their name, first and last, and residence address prior to sharing their comments. The speakers will be asked not to be repetitious of comments already made to the Selectmen in the interests of the most efficient use of time. Any comment by the public shall be limited to the expression of opinions or concerns regarding the agenda item. No public comment shall be allowed which has the effect of embarrassing or attacking the character of any individual or Board member. After listening to any input from the public present, the Chairman will close public comment on the issue and then provide for debate and vote of the issue by the Board. Any further information requested by the speaker shall be referred to the Town Manager to research the matter and make a recommendation to the Selectmen.

No complaints or allegations will be allowed in public concerning any staff member or any person connected to the Town of Raymond organization. Complaints will be referred to the town manager for investigation. If unresolved the issue will be brought to the Board of Selectmen. Complaints regarding the town manager must be brought to the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for investigation and resolution; and to the full Board of Selectmen if unresolved by the Chairman.

Section 12. Workshop Sessions

Workshop sessions may be scheduled by the Chairman for the purpose of disseminating information for Board enlightenment and evaluation or for the discussion or refinement of future agenda items.

Members of the public are invited to attend any workshop session but will not be allowed to participate in the workshop. Prior to adjourning any workshop session, the Board will provide time for members of the public to address the session to provide information relevant to the subject being explored or to ask questions, through the Chairman, relating to the subject of the workshop session. No formal vote shall be taken on any matter under discussion nor shall any Board member enter into a commitment with another respecting a vote to be taken subsequently in a public meeting of the Board, but an informal vote on any matter under discussion may be taken.

Section 13. Agenda Items

All agenda items shall be, under normal circumstances, submitted by the Board members to the Town Manager seven (7) working days prior to any regular or special meeting by 12:00 noon. The Town Manager will draft the agenda and obtain the Chairman's approval before distribution. In the event that a matter shall arise which was not submitted to the Town Manager within the proper time frame, then that item shall be presented to the Chairman as soon as possible. The first draft agenda will normally be available through public posting one week in advance of the Board of Selectmen meeting

Section 14. Continued Sessions

Any session of the Board may be continued or adjourned from day to day or for more than one day, but no adjournment shall be for longer period than until the next regular meeting.

Section 15. Hearings

Public hearings of the Board shall be called as required by law or on such other occasions as a majority of the Board may deem appropriate. Notice of all such hearings shall be given as required by law and shall include the date, time and place of the hearing and a general description of the subject matter.

The Chairman shall convene all hearings by describing the purpose of the hearing and the general procedures to be followed. The Board may receive any oral or documentary evidence but shall exclude unduly repetitious evidence, provided, however, that formal rules of evidence shall not apply. Every party shall have the right to present its case in the order determined by the Chairman and without interruption, provided, however, that the Chairman may impose such reasonable time limits as may be necessary to ensure that all parties have an adequate opportunity to be heard. In any adjudicatory proceeding, including proceedings on licenses, permits or other approvals, every party shall also have the right to submit rebuttal evidence and to conduct cross-examination of any other party through the Chairman, provided, however, that the Chairman may impose such other reasonable limitations as may be necessary to prevent an abuse of process.

Section 16. Participation and Voting

Any action of the Board shall require the affirmative vote of a majority of its attending membership of not less than three members unless otherwise provided by law.

No member may participate or vote in any matter in which the member has a conflict of interest or other disqualification as defined by law. Any question of whether a member has such a conflict of interest or other disqualification shall be decided by majority vote of the remaining members. Abstentions shall be limited to conflicts of interest, which shall be stated prior to the taking of the vote. Conflict issues shall follow established State Law. Any order may be reconsidered by motion of those voting in the affirmative, with Board approval. All other orders shall require a motion, second and recorded vote.

No member may participate or vote in any adjudicatory proceeding, including proceedings on licenses, permits or other approvals, unless the member was present during all hearings thereon.

All members who are present and not disqualified as provided herein shall vote in every matter to be voted upon unless excused by the Chairman for good cause shown. Those present, in such circumstances, who refuse to vote are regarded as having voted affirmatively, i.e. for the proposition, or to have voted with the majority.

Section 17. Meeting Length

All Board meetings, workshops or executive sessions should, except in extraordinary circumstances, adjourn at or before 9:00 p.m.

Section 18. Conflict with Laws

Any conflict or inconsistency between these bylaws and any applicable law shall be resolved in favor of the law.

Section 19. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any time in writing by majority vote of the Board.

Section 20. Right of Appeal

Any member may appeal to the Board from a ruling of the Chairman. If the appeal is seconded, the member making the appeal may briefly state his reason for it, and the Chairman may briefly explain his ruling. There shall be no debate on the appeal, and no other Selectmen/person shall participate in the discussion. The Chairman shall then put the question, “Shall the decision of the Chair be sustained?” If a majority of the members present vote in favor, the ruling of the Chairman is sustained; otherwise, it is overruled.

Section 21. Minutes

The Town Clerk shall keep an official record of all meetings, which are public proceedings, and the Chairman/Town Manager shall designate staff or a Board member to take the Minutes. The written minutes shall serve as a brief reference, but the verbatim and official record is the DVD recording. [Accepted 8/17/2010] The Minutes shall at the minimum reflect the following:

1. Date of meeting
2. Place of meeting
3. Selectmen present
4. Town staff present
5. Members of the public addressing the Selectmen
6. All executive orders and business considered
7. Business to be tabled for future action
8. Announcement of future meetings (special)
9. Time of adjournment
10. Person taking Minutes

Free lending copies of the DVD recorded approved minutes will be available to the public at the Town Office and other designated places.

Section 22. Standing Committees, Special Committees, Board Liaison

a. Standing Committees shall be established by the Board on the recommendation of the Chairman at a regular or special Board meeting.

b. The Chairman shall appoint Selectmen, as appropriate, to all standing committees, but two or more members may exchange assignments by joining in a written request to the Chairman to that effect and acted upon at a regular or special Board meeting.

c. The Chairman shall appoint members to special committees and boards except as otherwise established by Board action.

d. Committee meetings: All committee meetings will be called by the chairperson of the respective committee with the consent of the regular members. The Chairman of the Board or his Selectman designee is an ex-officio member of all standing committees.

e. Standing Committee action shall be referred to the next regular meeting of the Board, except that as an emergency measure the Selectman may take action at any regular or special Selectmen meeting.

f. Actions approved by Standing Committees shall be forwarded to the full Board as affirmative motion without need of a second.

Section 23. Administration Function and Compensation of Members

1. Compensation

Unless otherwise determined by Town Meeting action, the compensation for Selectmen shall be $100 per month for holding office and serving as a member of the Board.

Each Selectman may be reimbursed for documented expenses such as mileage, tolls, meals, telephone expense and other costs encountered while providing service to the Town in their administrative or executive function. All expense requests are subject to Board approval by accounts payable warrant order.

2. Functions of the Board

1. All letters of correspondence written by one member of the Board who is representing the Board shall be pre-approved by the Selectmen at a regular meeting of the Board.

2. While in the office maintaining daily activities, one member of the Board may not take action or make any decision, but merely serve in an advisory capacity to bring information back to the other Board members during the regular meeting of the Board.

3. While in office, all Board members are to maintain dignity and respect for all other members of the Board.

4. Correspondence for the Board shall be reviewed by the Board at the regular or special meeting and said correspondence is not available to the public until it has been noted at a regular or special Board meeting.

5. If a Board Member asks for information and the Chairman denies it, because of cost and the research is going to take up too much Town employee time, it can be brought forward as an agenda item and will be voted on by the Selectmen. [12/13/2010]

Section 24. Public Comment Periods

A Board member shall not be permitted to speak as a member of the public during any public comment periods, except on a matter where the Board member has recused himself or herself in order to assert or protect his or her personal interests or property rights.

Attest:

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk