

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Workshop
December 6, 1999

DRAFT

ATTENDANCE: Tim Pomerleau, Chairman; Ada Brown; Betty McDermott; Michael McClellan; Mark Acker; Peter Feeney, Chairman of the Cumberland County Commissioners; Ester Clenott, County Commissioner; Gary Plummer, District 3 County Commissioner; Peter Crichton, Cumberland County Manager; Phil Hamilton, Budget Finance Committee; Nathan White, Road Commissioner; and Nathan Poore, Town Manager.

Call to order. Tim Pomerleau called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall.

2. Meeting with the Cumberland County Commissioners to discuss the level of law enforcement service provided to the Town of Raymond by the Sheriff's Department.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Feeney explained that Raymond now had general revenue patrol coverage. He said that Sheriff Dion requested 5 more deputies for the new budget and the Commissioners have OK'd two new deputies. Mr. Plummer assured the Selectmen that if they hired a contract deputy they would also get the general revenue coverage as well. Mr. Feeney said it was important for the Town to define what they determine "adequate service" and if what they now get from the general revenue patrol, they should have a contract deputy. Mr. Pomerleau, Mrs. Brown and Mr. Acker felt that the present coverage was adequate. Mr. McClellan said that his only experience had shown a slow response time. Mr. McDermott noted that vandalism and speeding were increasing in Raymond and that a contract deputy might help. Mr. Poore felt that better communication would help. He suggested monthly meetings with the deputy supervisor. He also said that strategic planning was needed. Mr. Feeney said that strategic planning was in the works and that they are now talking with towns to find out what they want. Mr. Creighton indicated that the planning process was a high priority in order for them to give the services needed. He felt that increased communication was a good idea. Mr. Hamilton asked what Raymond was getting for their tax money. The Commissioners said that the Town had a copy of their proposed budget which Mr. Hamilton could look at and then they would answer any questions that he might have. Mr. Poore thanked the Commissioners for their prompt attention to Raymond's concerns. Mr. Acker noted that he thought Raymond paid more per capital than the urban areas of Cumberland County.

3. Review and consideration of the FY00/01 budget.

a. Public Works Department

DISCUSSION: Mr. Poore recommended that the Town go to a one man Public Works Department. He felt that this position would be mostly administrative in nature and whatever work the foreman did on his own would be deemed safe for a single worker. He reported that the increased budget for contract labor would almost be covered by the savings of benefits and taxes for the current employees. Mrs. McDermott had concern that Raymond would be dependent on contract labor and would it always be available. Mr. Acker questioned whether the budgeted amount would in reality cover the costs of contract labor since it is an unknown at this time.

NOTE: The Selectmen accept the concept of a one man Pubic Works Department.

b. Garage mechanic position.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Poore said that his research with the Public Works Foreman proved that a designated mechanic for the public works, fire department, and school garage could not be justified at this time.

c. TIF Budget

DISCUSSION: Mr. Pomerleau suggested that the TIF projects would not be funded in the warrant normally and that without the TIF money available those projects probably would not be done. He felt that the amount of tax money derived from that property within the TIF district should go toward the repair of our roads or whatever the Town needs instead of improving the Route 302 corridor for which the MDOT should be responsible. Mr. Poore said that the CDBG Committee has developed their plan for the upgrade of Route 302 and feel that it will be important to Raymond's future. He felt that Raymond's pro-active approach has made the State look at our roads with more interest and possibly will bring us more help. The upgrading of Webbs Mills Road and the surveying of Route 302 are examples. He also said that the plan for the highway was one of the reasons HUD approved the senior housing project. Mr. Poore continued that the State has given approval for Raymond to "shelve" funds to be used at a later date after the preliminary planning is done for the project i.e. survey and consultant work. Another reason was to "shelter" this tax money from our State and County tax assessment. Mrs. Brown felt that the work to be done on Route 302 would be considered a safety issue as well. Mr. Acker said that he had reservations about using Town tax dollars to improve a State MDOT road. Mr. Poore said that this item would appear as a warrant article on which the Selectmen could recommend or not.

d. Bicentennial Celebration.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Poore said this money would be set aside again this year to have funds for Raymond's bicentennial celebration in 2003.

MOTION: Michael McClellan motioned to approve the 2000-2001 budget as amended on this date 12/6/99. Seconded by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

4. Communications and other business.

a. Public Works heating system bids.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Poore read his memo and reviewed the two bids received. He asked that all bids be rejected at this time and that the existing furnace be patched in order to allow more time to decide whether to go ahead with the boiler scenario and just purchase another furnace.

NOTE: The Selectmen approved rejecting the bids and patching the existing furnace to allow time to get more information.

5. Adjourn.

MOTION: Mark Acker motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Ada Brown.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Tim Pomerleau adjourned the meeting at 8:56 pm.