

TOWN OF RAYMOND
Selectmen's Minutes
Tuesday, September 18, 2001

Attendance: Mark Acker, Chairman; Ada Brown; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Betty McDermott; Michael O'Donnell, O'Donnell Associates; Charles Turner, Raymond Waterways Assoc.; John Rand, Raymond Conservation Commission; and Don Willard, Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Mark Acker called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm and asked for a moment of silence in memory of the people who lost their lives in the World Trade Center destruction.
2. Consideration of previous meeting minutes.

September 4, 2001

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve the Minutes as written. Seconded by Ada Brown.

VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Consideration to set mill rate and sign the commitment paper for 2001-2002 tax year -- Mike O'Donnell from O'Donnell Associates, assessors.

DISCUSSION: Mr. O'Donnell informed the Selectmen that using a \$19,084 overlay the mil rate will be 16.05. The commitment will be \$6,594,942.00.

MOTION: Betty McDermott motioned to approve a 16.05 mil rate. Seconded by Mark Acker.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Brown asked why such a high increase? Mr. O'Donnell responded that the County Tax was up 5.3%, the Municipal budget up 5.8%, and the School budget up 8.9%. He added there was a 12% increase in new valuation. Mr. Desjardins asked what the assessment levels were? Mr. O'Donnell replied that Raymond was at the low to mid 90 percentile. He added that some of the waterfront was now undervalued as compared to the new sales figures but that the other properties were about right. He said that it had been some time since the last revaluation and the Selectmen might consider doing that in the next few years to come.

VOTE: 4 in favor (McDermott, Acker, Brown, Leavitt) 1 opposed (Desjardins)

NOTE: Mr. Willard said that he would have a sample budget schedule ready soon for 2002-2003.

4. Milfoil problem identification, state action plan and local management proposal – John Rand & Charles Turner, Conservation Commission.

DISCUSSION: John Rand reported that this threat is real and substantial and that the Town should take action so that our waterfront property value isn't influenced. He said that eight of our lakes have variable milfoil but not the invasive type as yet. He said that a 1 inch piece could root and flourish. He felt that a major infestation might take 10 years to be established but that once in it is very difficult to stop it. This covering would be from the shoreline out to about 200 feet in shallow water. There is no native predator plant or animal. This would lead to devaluation in recreational use and property value. He said that dealing with a milfoil problem would drain funds from other watershed work being done. He added that prevention was the best remedy. Also the State passed pilot milfoil legislation in June for several locations for which stickers will be sold for boats next year for \$10 for residents and \$20 for non-residents will help fund. There will also be fines to owners of boats which are found to have been launched with plants attached. Mr. Rand felt that volunteers would be utilized but a full-time person should be hired for monitoring and organizing the program as well as educating the volunteers. He thought the "lakes conservation ranger" might be combined with the Tassel Top Beach Ranger. He said a rough estimate would be 800 hours per year with the peak season would be March to November. He thought there were possibly 10 ramps in Raymond. He also noted the private lots from which boats might be launched. He estimated a \$20,000 annual budget of which possibly 50% could be contributed by shore land owners. Mr. Willard said that increased coverage of Raymond and Crescent Beach might cover this need as well. He wanted to work with the Conservation Commission to form a plan for the next budget proposal. Mr. Rand asked that this be ready for next spring which might require a special town meeting to raise the funds. Mr. Willard suggested a meeting with Charlie Turner, John Rand, Pete Klepsig and himself to discuss this. Mr. Leavitt felt that the State should support a part of this since they will be raising funds through the sticker program. Mr. Turner reported that there was some variable milfoil in Panther Run River and that he expects it to be at Raymond Beach within three to five years. He said that other vegetation is also of concern. Mr. Leavitt also said that cooperation with our neighboring towns was important.

Raymond Beach – consideration of lighting and landscaping issues.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Acker announced that the Planning Board and the Selectmen met last week and the Selectmen have been asked to have a new lighting plan available within two months. Mr. Willard said that he had been in contact with Lightolier Company who said that two lights would not light the whole area. Mr. Willard also said that they might not be able to do the lighting and landscaping this year because of a lack of funds. Mr. Acker said he would like to consider just lighting the parking lot and not the beach area. He felt that two telephone poles would keep the cost down. Mr. Leavitt felt they must cover all the issues and felt they needed to protect the area for safety's sake. He also wanted to be sure to satisfy the Planning Board's request. He asked for more information on our options and what they would look like. Mr. Desjardins felt this should be done as cheaply as possible. Mrs. Brown thought they should wait to see what the Route 302 Development Committee wants for style and have their recommendation as well.

6. Update on EmbedTech development plan and capital reserve fund - John Kendall CEO EmbedTech.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard reported that he had received a \$40,000 check from EmbedTech and was waiting for the last \$10,000 to make the \$50,000 needed to start the waterline project. Once obtained he will organize the engineering work with Portland Water District.

7. Maine Municipal Association 2002 ballot for election of officers.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to vote the ballot as presented and have Don Willard as Raymond's delegate. There was a second.

VOTE: Unanimous.

8. Communications and other business.

a. Cumberland County Commissioners

NOTE: The Cumberland County official's forum has been postponed and will be rescheduled. The increase will be 16.7%.

b. Route 85

NOTE: Work will begin on the surfacing September 24th.

c. North Raymond Road

NOTE: Paving will be done September 19 & 20.

d. Fire Department

NOTE: The Fire Department received a thank you letter from the Captain of the Boston Fire Marshall's office who appreciated their help in a personal matter in Raymond.

e. New Public Safety Building.

NOTE: The Public Safety Building has received conditional approval from the Planning Board awaiting DEP approval.

f. Fire/Rescue Department Fundraiser

DISCUSSION: Frank Norbert represented the Department as Chief Morse and Deputy Chief Champagne could not attend. The Department will be holding a "fill the boot collection" at the Raymond Shopping Center and District One on September 27, 28, and 29, 2001 for the families of the New York Fire/Rescue Department members who were lost in the World Trade Center tragedy. Paramedic Norbert said they would be in uniform and have a rescue unit at the Shopping Center to identify who they were.

g. Flag petition.

DISCUSSION: Tammy Knights submitted a petition with 610 signatures on it to ask the Town to install American flags on the utility poles along Route 302 from the Windham line to Raymond Beach. Mrs. McDermott noted that the Founders Day Committee had talked about doing that but had no funds to support it. She questioned having unlighted flags displayed during the night. Mr. Acker asked that price and availability be investigated. Mrs. Knights said that her pricing was about \$50 each for the durable flags. She felt that some of the business owners might contribute. The Selectmen asked Mr. Willard to look into it.

9. Review and authorize the September 18, 2001 Treasurer's Warrant.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$118,586.05. Seconded

by Betty McDermott.

VOTE: Unanimous.

10. Adjourn.

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

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Mark Acker adjourned the meeting at 9:07 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk