

Selectmen's Workshop Minutes

With Frye Island

Tuesday, June 3, 2002

Attendance: Ada Brown; Betty McDermott; Charles Leavitt; Dana Desjardins; Christine McClellan; David Bois, Current Superintendent; Frank McDermott, Chairman School Committee; Sandra Caldwell, new Superintendent; Denis Morse, Fire Chief; Jim Kuiken, Frye Island Selectman; John Crosby, Frye Island Selectman; Bob Roberts, Frye Island Selectman; Rich Roedner, Frye Island Town Manager; and Don Willard, Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Don Willard opened the meeting at 5:00 pm at the Raymond Town Office.

2. Discussion on the relationship between Raymond and Frye Island.

a. Emergency Dispatch.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Roedner opened referring to the new Emergency Medical Services contract which they had received. Chief Morse said that the amount was derived from a study of surrounding towns and what they charge for dispatch services. He said that when Raymond's dispatch moves to the new public safety building he expects that Raymond will become an automatic aid town. He said that the neighboring towns are interested in have a regional type of service. Mr. Willard added that in the future it may be possible to have a regional fire service as well where the towns would share manpower and equipment in order to better serve the individual towns. He said that he was in favor of using Cumberland County Sheriff's Department instead of forming a town held police department. Frye Island said that they were concerned with the three fold increase in the new contract. Chief Morse indicated that Raymond was cognizant of this increase and did phase the increase over two years. He felt that Frye Island would be getting better service i.e. training will be available at the new facility. He continued that when regionalization is taking shape there would be a board of directors with members from associated towns which would help direct the programs. Frye Island said that by July 2002 they would have 12 people trained as first responders. Chief Morse indicated that Raymond was looking to have an ambulance located near the end of the Cape. He felt that the Emergency Medical Dispatch office would be operational within 2 to 3 years. Frye Island said they would like to be included. They felt that had a lot of equipment to offer for mutual aid. Mr. Roedner said that they had investigated dispatching through Cumberland County services so that they would have something with which to compare. Mr. Willard felt that Raymond would offer administration support and training as well as dispatching. It was decided that more information would be shared between towns in the near future.

b. School Department

DISCUSSION: Mr. Roedner informed the meeting that Frye Island was a part of SAD 6 and that they had started withdrawal procedure through the legislature which didn't have legislative support. They wish to withdraw because their fee for 2002-2003 will be \$650,000 and they have no children in school. They feel that they should support the State's schools in some way but not to that extent. He added that the legislature will not take notice until a town shows interest in allowing Frye Island to join them. He said that he didn't feel that the valuation of Frye Island would necessarily have to influence Raymond's school subsidy from the State. They felt that Raymond was the natural school district for them because of the close proximity. If they did have a child in school Frye Island would now have to transport the child to Standish beyond White's Bridge before the child could get on a SAD 6 school bus. Mr. Bois said that there were three reasons why Raymond has not been interested in the past. 1) Raymond's professional relationship with Standish in taking away a part of their revenue. 2) The impact on Raymond's funding from the State in comparison to what Frye Island would be contributing. 3) The possible impact on the Raymond School system especially in special education if there should ever be children on Frye Island year round. Mr. Roedner said that they would be willing to negotiate but that they would have to continue to pay their debt to SAD 6 of

\$80,000 annually. He continued that they would be willing to pay an amount and if any children were to need education from the Island they would pay a tuition as set by the State. And they would transport to a mainland bus stop. Mr. McDermott said that from the beginning of Frye Island's withdrawal from Standish they had an understanding that Frye Island would be a part of SAD 6. He added that the Town of Standish and SAD 6 are two separate entities. Mr. McDermott felt that whatever funding Frye Island gave Raymond would be deducted from the school's State funds and therefore would be no advantage to Raymond but would take on liability should Frye Island have any school children. Mr. Roedner felt their attorney could look into the options in order to not have Frye Island's valuation be added to Raymond's for this purpose. Mr. Bois suggested that the School Committee might add this to their agenda for their next meeting Wednesday, June 5th. Mr. Leavitt said he understood Frye Island's position and he would be willing to talk about all the issues for the town's mutual benefit. Mr. McDermott felt that SAD 6 should be included in the talks about the school issue. Mrs. McClellan asked if they had any year round residents at this time. Frye Island replied said it would not be likely because there are no winter facilities on the Island and conversion would be very expensive. Mr. Leavitt asked what the ethical differences are with SAD 6. Mr. McDermott said it was basically the philosophy of Maine's school funding since Frye Island was a part of Standish which is a member of SAD 6. Mr. Roedner explained that Frye Island is considered 4.1% of the District and has 1 vote on the School Board. Again everyone agreed that this item needs further study.

c. Cape Road

Mr. Willard noted that the Cape Road receives a great deal of traffic from Frye Island and no help to maintain it. Mrs. Brown added that the road has become dangerous needing repairs and it supports heavy traffic from the Island which also tends to go very fast. She also noted a multitude of delivery trucks going to the Island. Mr. Willard felt that Frye Island might join with Raymond to approach the Department of Transportation to make the Cape Road a State supported road. Frye Island agreed. Mr. Willard suggested a meeting with the MDOT, the towns and Joe Bruno. Mr. Desjardins asked if the Frye Island Public Works could help with some maintenance of the Cape Road. Mr. White noted that their crew during the summer is very busy as is Raymond and that money would be more useful to support the road. Mr. Leavitt felt that if this group can present a total package to the voters of both towns it might be possible. Mr. Roedner thought that mutual aid for infrastructure might be possible. He said that they had a public works person on full time year round who might be helpful to Raymond during the winter months which might be a trade off. Mr. Willard added that Frye Island might rent office space from Raymond or help with the Raymond Village Library in some way. He felt that other areas of mutual cooperation might be found. Mr. Roedner said that their municipal budget for next year was about \$500,000 and their school budget assessment \$650,000. Mr. Willard felt they should talk again after the School Committee meets to discuss their issue. Mrs. Brown suggested Frye Island might want to rehab the old District 1 Fire Station for their winter office. Mr. Roedner mentioned that Frye Island hires a full time 40 hour/week Deputy Sheriff which might help patrol Cape Road for speeding. Mr. Willard suggested that they continue this discussion at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Raymond Town Clerk