

Selectmen's Workshop Minutes

Thursday, July 11, 2002

ATTENDANCE: Ada Brown, Chairman Raymond Board of Selectmen; Betty McDermott; Christine McClellan; Dana Desjardins; Charles Leavitt; Joe Potts, Frye Island Acting Town Manager; James Kuiken; Robert Roberts; John Crosby; Denis Morse, Raymond Fire Chief; and Don Willard, Raymond Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Ada Brown called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm at the Raymond Town Office.
2. Joint meeting with the Town of Frye Island to discuss issues of mutual concern and interest.

DISCUSSION: Don Willard noted the cooperation that Frye Island and Raymond has been enjoying with Fire/Rescue and felt that possibly Frye Island would like to expand that cooperation through administrative help which might include annexation to Raymond in the future. Mr. Potts explained that Frye Island has had the ability to be self taxing for many years when still a part of the Town of Standish and since July 1, 1998 the Island has been a town in fact. He said that the Island had never received any services from Standish except the use of the trash site. They have roads which are still gravel, their own public water supply, trash collection, and the ferry service. If Frye Island was to become a part of Raymond, Mr. Willard felt that they could keep their roads which are seasonal as they are through creating a new zone for them which would have its own ordinance. Mr. Leavitt asked if they had a planning board. Mr. Potts replied yes and they have an ordinance as well as a Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Willard felt that the two towns have common interests i.e. Cape Road, public works, fire/rescue, and possibly a larger library. Mr. Crosby said that they also have a Municipal Maintenance Corporation which runs the golf course and owns certain areas of the island which will never be developed. He added that they are presently doing a revaluation which should be completed next year. Bob Tripp is their assessor. At the present time they have the Island valued at about \$33,000,000 and the State valuation is about \$45,000,000. Their mill rate is something over 34 mills. Their municipal budget is about \$1.1 million plus their SAD 6 contribution of over \$600,000. They have some bonds with the last being paid off in 2013-2015.

The ferry service is near to self supporting with an annual income of \$250,000 without figuring major repairs. It runs for the residents from the last week in April to the first week in November. It carries workers over about two weeks prior to April and a couple of weeks after the first week in November with no set schedule. The ferries themselves are over 30 years old but will last indefinitely with periodic repairs to the engines etc.

The golf course also breaks even and is owned by the Municipal Maintenance Corp.

The public water supply is lake water which is filtered and dispensed. Its budget is \$65,000 annually. There are no private water supplies on the island.

Currently the island has budgeted for two deputies but can only find one to hire presently.

A company named Leisure Living developed the island into 1400 lots but went out of business in 1975. Since that time Frye Island been somewhat self governing until 1998 when it became a town. They have a year-round town manager, bookkeeper, and public works employee. They have other help during the summer on a part-time basis. The town holds two town meetings a year with the first weekend in July being their municipal elections. The island presently has 410 cottages/houses with 12 new building permits taken out this year. There are about 800+ lots which are privately owned not all built on. Frye Island can have up to 750 septic systems.

Denis Morse mentioned that the parking issue on each side of the ferry landings needed to be dealt with. He said that the last run made by Rescue, the driver had to pull in his mirrors so that he could get through the parked cars waiting for the ferry. This was a dangerous situation where a fire truck could not have gotten through. There was discussion about the possibility of the island

purchasing/lasing land on the mainland for parking.

Mr. Roberts said that he felt that some sharing of services would be a possibility but didn't feel that the Town of Frye Island was ready to make any changes to their type of government. However, he felt it might be a possibility at some time in the future. Mr. Potts said that all Frye Island documents are on their website www.fryeisland.com.

Mr. Willard asked if they would be willing to consider contracting for municipal services i.e. town clerk, Code Enforcement Office, town manager? Mr. Roberts said they had one more year on their lease for office space in North Windham but would like to do something different after that. Mr. Willard felt that the only problem for the island is not having a municipal "presence" on the island but that the residents of Frye Island would have to come to the Raymond Town Office. In this aspect he felt that if Raymond had its Town Office closer to Frye Island i.e. in Raymond Village that might not be as hard on them since they would be on Route 302 when they left the island anyway.

Mr. Desjardins also mentioned that Raymond has a very active recreation association which is constantly expanding its program and this would be an asset to Frye Island as well.

All decided it would be beneficial for the Raymond Selectmen to have a tour of the island and possibly to have their next meeting on Frye Island in August.

3. Adjourn. Ada Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:59 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk