

Town of Raymond  
401 Webbs Mills Road  
Raymond, Maine 04071

Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, December 16, 2003

Attendance: Ada Brown, Chairman; Charles Leavitt; Christine McClellan; Denis Morse, Fire Chief; Amanda Simpson, Assessor's Agent; and Don Willard, Town Manager.

1. Call to order. Ada Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.
2. Consideration of previous minutes dated December 2, 2003.  
Correction: Ada Brown asked that her thank you to the Fire Police for the Fire Lane work extended to Lloyd Thompson and his contributions to Raymond.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to approve the minutes with the correction.  
Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Acceptance and discussion of Petition regarding the potential extension of Route 121 directly west to Route 302 – Jean M. Carter.

DISCUSSION: Jean Carter said that she had circulated a petition asking that the MDOT move the location of the intersection of Route 121 and Route 302. The intent of the petition is to have Route 121 cross Main Street and proceed to Route 302 instead of follow Main Street to Route 302 where it involves an intersection which includes Canal Road. She indicated she had over 300 signatures. She said that at a GPCOG meeting she introduced the idea with the MDOT and they were interested in moving the traffic light from the present intersection down toward Raymond Beach. They felt that this would alleviate some of the congestion problems between our present two traffic lights. She also said that the access to Route 121 from upper Main Street for fire/rescue vehicles would be improved. Mr. Leavitt thanked Mrs. Carter for her hard work on this project.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to endorse the petition to the Maine Department of Transportation without prejudice.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. Carter said that the MDOT won't accept citizen's petitions and would need an official request from the town. Mr. Willard said that it could be done. Mrs. Carter added that she had talked with David Morton, Town Manager of Casco, and he said that if the Raymond Board of Selectmen agreed to this idea he would present the idea to his Board of Selectmen. Doug Whittle, Misery Gore Road, didn't feel that this was a good suggestion in that it crossed wetlands. He felt that any changes should make the present road safer. Chief Morse said that there had been three fatalities on Route 302 between the

intersection of Route 121 & 302 and the Hawthorne Road as well as many accidents around the area of Raymond Beach. He felt the major problem was that there are no turning lanes and that the intersection of Route 121, Route 302, and Canal Road was a dangerous area. He didn't feel that individual changes would help unless the whole road was revamped with turning lanes, however, a change to the traffic flow on Main Street would help the problem with Canal Road and congestion at that intersection. Mrs. McClellan noted that the issue won't go away and that Raymond's part of Route 302 is the narrowest part of the highway between Portland and Fryeburg. The information received from the MDOT will help make a decision. Chief Morse said he had some frustration that during the Route 302 Project the landowner around the upper Main Street intersection was willing to give land in order to make turning lanes but the MDOT said they would decline because the project was too far along to make changes.

SECOND TO MOTION: Christine McClellan

VOTE: Unanimous.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard noted that this will take some time to get a reply from the MDOT, probably a couple of months. Mrs. McClellan said that this intersection was discussed during the Route 302 Project so that the MDOT was aware of the problem in the area. Mr. Willard added that the town is aware as well in that it tried to purchase 51 Main Street which would have allowed the town to try to improve the intersection.

4. Consultant selection – Farwell Commons – Hydro Geological Investigation – Amanda Simpson.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Simpson announced that the committee to pick a company had chosen Woodward & Curran. There were three finalists of ten applicants. She said that Woodward & Curran had an extensive background in working with closed landfills and had impressed the committee by having personal visitations to the site and specific background information obtained about it.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to approve the recommendation of the committee and engage Woodward & Curran and go forward with the scope of service and a contract. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

NOTE: Mr. Leavitt thanked all the contributors saying that they all had very good submissions.

5. Abatement 2003-02 – Assessor's Agent Amanda Simpson.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Simpson presented abatement of \$110.05 for abatement #03-13 for Diane & Wallace Brown which is on a travel trailer at Kokatosi Campground for which they had already paid excise tax.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to approve the abatement 03-13 in the amount of \$110.05 for Diane & Wallace Brown. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

a. 2003-2004 Tax Collection

Mr. Willard announced that so far Raymond has collected \$3,850,822.91 in taxes which is 49.4%. The amount yet to collect is \$3,951,641.92. Currently abatements total \$11,691.14 and supplemental taxes are assessed at \$2,914.11.

6. 2003 Supplemental Homeland Security Grant Program, First Responder Preparedness Application, Naples Regional Public Safety Center – Fire Chief Denis Morse.

DISCUSSION: Chief Morse reported that meetings with Casco and Naples have instigated automatic mutual aid and better communications. He said that this would help with “dead spots” in low areas for communications. At this time the state has \$225,000 to \$230,000 in grants for which the towns would be reimbursed. Avery Plummer of Naples has agreed to present this to the Naples Selectmen. Mr. Willard indicated that though the dispatch console was rebuilt and some new portable radios were purchased, this cooperation between towns is necessary to further communications. He recommended approving and endorsing the grant application.

Chief Morse mentioned that Cumberland County will be going ahead with a 3,000 sf dispatch center which will be built over the present location at the Windham bunker across from the Windham Correctional Facility. The whole addition will be 6,000 sf. Mr. Willard had concern that the County was duplicating space which was already available in the Raymond Public Safety Building. Mr. Leavitt inquired if Raymond has been asked to endorse the plan in Windham. He asked if it was FEMA money? Chief Morse replied it was FEMA funds but at the state level. Mr. Willard said that Raymond has not been asked to endorse the County plan. Mr. Leavitt noted that the discussion with the County has been going on for years and the small towns always wonder where our county tax money goes. He felt that this will cause questions to be asked and the County won't be able to ignore the towns in their deliberations. They felt the state should only support an application based on its merits. Chief Morse didn't think this building was good management of the County money and he wouldn't support it. He felt they should be more accountable to using the tax money and endeavoring to lean toward regionalization. Mr. Leavitt agreed that this gives mixed messages if the state gives the County project grant money for this building. Mrs. McClellan felt they should speak louder and stronger to the commissioners and possibly the state.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to submit and endorse a grant application for Raymond and the Naples Regional Public Safety Center. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

7. Communications and other business.

a. District 2 Fire

Mr. Willard reported that there had been a fire at the East Raymond garage when Public Works was using a compressor which apparently shorted a circuit breaker and the electric panel melted. Gray and Windham answered with mutual aid. He also said that our new employee Bruce Tupper was very capable and handled the situation well. One of the Gray firemen, an electrician, was able to keep the building electrified for the short term but a new panel would be needed. Chief Morse said the cause was assumed to be old equipment being plugged into an old electrical panel. He said that they had water problems in the past with that compressor.

b. Town Office.

Mr. Willard announced that the work to the Clerk's Office has been completed and that most of the work had been done with volunteer help and some small renovations. He said that a report had been sent to MMA insurance about our progress but no reply has been received.

8. Review and authorize December 16, 2003 Treasurer's Warrant.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$142,454.56. Seconded by Charles Leavitt.

VOTE: Unanimous.

9. Adjourn.

MOTION: Charles Leavitt motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Ada Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

NOTE: Mr. Willard wished everyone happy holidays.

Louise H. Lester  
Town Clerk