

Town of Raymond
401 Webbs Mills Road
Raymond, Maine 04071
207-655-4742

Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, September 7, 2004

Members present: Betty McDermott, Chairman; Ada Brown; Chris McClellan; Mark Gendron; and Mike Reynolds.

Staff present: Don Willard, Town Manager, Amanda Simpson, Assessors' Agent.

Others present: Peter Erskine, Ken Walker, Charles Leavitt, and Dennis Cole.

1. Call to order. Betty McDermott, Chairman, opened the meeting at 7:03 pm at the Town Office.

2. Consideration of previous minutes dated:

a.) August 17, 2004

MOTION: Ada Brown motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous.

3. Digital Broadcast Studio – Special Town Meeting Discussion – Selectman Mike Reynolds. (Taken out of order).

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds explained that because the town had a financial surplus at the end of last year he felt that this would be a good time to consider moving forward with live broadcasting of meetings and the ability to teach broadcasting in the school. He said that one of the reasons he ran for Selectman was to further communications in the town and he felt that this would be one way to do that. He added that if the Palesky tax cap is passed in November he didn't believe that the use of some of Raymond's surplus would be considered incorrect. He didn't believe that the surplus should be used to cover expenses which the reduced tax base would not cover because of the tax cap. He thought that the digital equipment Raymond would need would not be "cutting edge" but good useable equipment. He continued that live broadcasting had been looked at for many years and felt that Raymond should provide this advantage to the town now. Mrs. McClellan agreed that this was a good idea but didn't feel that it should be a part of a special town meeting and not combined with the Comprehensive Plan Special Town Meeting but that it could possibly be discussed at that time. Mr. Reynolds asked if this has ever been brought before a town meeting. It was felt that it never had been. Mr. Gendron asked to look for outside funds and felt that we need to do it eventually but had a problem with the speed of proposing this expenditure. He wanted to know what the day-to-day costs would be for it. Mr. Willard said that the set up would be done by our Technology Department and only the camera operators for meetings and electrical cost would be involved in the day-to-day

expenses. He added that any technical updates would add a cost. Mr. Willard continued that Mr. Woodbrey, Technical Director, believed that the equipment would last a long time. Mr. Reynolds said that with digital equipment there is no need for a station manager who would have to put tapes in and out for broadcasting. With digital it can be run by a programmed computer. Mr. Gendron felt that it should be discussed at an annual town meeting and to have more time to get general comments on the subject. Mr. Reynolds didn't think that surplus money was usually used at a regular town meeting except to reduce the tax burden. Mrs. McClellan asked if the TIF tax money could be used for this, understanding that it presently is fully encumbered. She asked if the TIF would grow because of the value added through the revaluation effort. Mr. Willard felt there was a possibility. Mrs. McClellan felt that taking the money from the TIF would be accepted by the taxpayers. Mrs. Brown wanted to do it now because the Selectmen have been talking about it for years and the residents have asked for it. She felt that because there is a place to put the studio in the rehabbed modular classroom, she didn't think that six weeks was too short a time to communicate to the voters what the warrant will include. She felt with this addition the communication would be improved which is what the people of Raymond want and need. Mrs. McDermott agreed and said that they have studied it and didn't want to postpone it. She felt that the educational benefits would more than pay for it. She didn't feel that \$58,000 was too much for what we'll get. She continued that publicity can be put out to inform the people. Mr. Willard noted that an argument might be that this is a budget add on. Mrs. McClellan felt that the Comprehensive Plan Committee had discussed this and felt it should be accomplished. Mr. Willard noted that Raymond already has the personnel to take care of a digital system. The only large expense would be if we needed a station manager. Mrs. Brown felt that if there was an article in the Lake Region Suburban News and the Roadrunner there would be time to inform the voters. Mr. Reynolds didn't think that the school would be getting full benefit until next spring or possibly a year from now before the whole system was up and running. He added that the difficult repairs and additions have been accomplished on the modular i.e. handicapped restroom. The only thing left is a handicapped ramp. He added that meetings and entertainment could be transmitted to those who can't get out to see them. Dennis Cole, Budget/Finance Committee member, asked why this couldn't be done here at the town office. Mr. Reynolds said that the extra expense of equipment to get to the town office would add to the total cost but that it would be possible. Mr. Leavitt asked what the occupancy limit would be in the modular. Mr. Willard said that the Fire Chief said about the same as this town office meeting room. Mr. Reynolds noted that this addition would bring broadcast capability to the cafeteria and gymnasium. Mr. Leavitt agreed that there should be an emphasis on communication. He asked that Mr. Willard's summary notes be read for the public to hear. Mr. Willard read his notes. Mr. Walker reminded the meeting that the Roadrunner was not totally welcomed at first and during the last year, people missed it when we didn't have it. Mrs. McDermott said that the people had a hard time remembering to watch the Selectmen's meeting playback on the following Tuesday night.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned that we bring to a special town meeting consideration of spending money from surplus from last year in the amount of \$58,000 to match \$48,000 from Time Warner to start a broadcast studio for the Town of Raymond for the mixed

purposes of municipal broadcast of meetings and the opportunity of our school children to learn digital or broadcast media.. Seconded by Ada Brown.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron wanted to be sure that there would be very good backup information for the public.

VOTE: Unanimous.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds asked that this be brought to the School Committee and the Budget/Finance Committee. Mr. Willard said that there would have to be a recommendation from the Budget/Finance Committee for the special town meeting warrant. He agreed to call Rolf Olsen about a Budget/Finance meeting and to ask Sandy Caldwell, Superintendent, to schedule this discussion on the agenda for the School Committee. Mr. Willard suggested the Lions Club as well.

4. Community Improvement Recognition – Mexicali Blues, Peter and Kim Erskine.

DISCUSSION: Mrs. McDermott read the certificate for the improvement of 1338 Roosevelt Trail which was presented to Peter Erskine. Mr. Erskine thanked the Board saying that he was very happy to be in Raymond and that he had further plans for improvement of the property.

5. Supplemental 2004, #6 Supplemental #03-08 James and Patricia Ross, Map 16-Lot 45B – Assessors' Agent Amanda Simpson, CMA, AICP.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Simpson explained that the house was not picked up at all last year. This is for \$2,307.50, which is for 100% value of the house.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to approve. Seconded by Ada Brown.

VOTE: 4 in favor (McClellan, Brown, McDermott, Reynolds) 1 abstention (Gendron)

6. Abatement 2004, #5-Abatement #03-20, Colin Greig, Map 4-Lot 28 – Assessors' Agent Amanda Simpson, CMA, AICP.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Simpson explained that they noted a house on a vacant lot. \$1,220.85 abatement to owner of vacant lot.

7. Abatement #03-21, Roger and Chris Francouer, F001P – Assessors; Agent Amanda Simpson, CMA, AICP.

Ms. Simpson explained that this is a bill for personal property (travel trailer) which was paid twice. Abatement for \$292.88.

MOTION: Christine McClellan motioned to approve both abatements. Seconded by Ada Brown.

VOTE: Unanimous.

Ms. Simpson announced that the 2004-2005 commitment would be ready the Selectmen's second regular meeting of September or before. She said that they are wrapping up now and she will be ready on time.

8. U.S. Postal Service – discussion of Raymond Road Runner delivery problems – Paul Robinson, Acting Director U.S. Postal Service.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard reported that Mr. Robinson has declined to meet in a public forum but will meet with them during regular business hours at either the town office or the post office. The credit they've offered will stand which will be around \$20. Mrs. McClellan felt it would be interesting to meet with them. Mrs. McDermott agreed. Mr. Willard asked if she would like to be in attendance at that meeting. Mrs. McDermott said yes if she is available and if not than Mrs. Brown will attend.

9. 2004 Cumberland County Tax Assessor's Return for signature.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard said this was a pro forma event to levy \$429,763.00 on the Town of Raymond. This represents a rate of increase of 6.06% over last year. Mr. Reynolds asked if the town ever goes over the due date and pays interest. Mr. Willard said no but that we wait until the last day.

MOTION: Ada Brown motioned to reluctantly pay Raymond's debit to Cumberland County. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

10. Communications and other business.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard said that since the bond bank wants the papers back by September 9th this must be done tonight even though it was not on the agenda. (Copies of the bonds are attached to these minutes.)

a. \$550,000 for fire truck bond.

MOTION: Ada Brown motioned to approve and sign the bond. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

b. \$950,000 for road work bond.

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to approve and sign the bond. Seconded by Ada Brown.

VOTE: Unanimous.

SIGNED: The Selectmen signed the bonds.

c. Comprehensive Plan Public Hearing on Thursday, September 9, 2004 at 7:00 pm at Jordan-Small Middle School.

d. Comprehensive Plan Special Town Meeting on Thursday, October 14, 2004 at 7:00 pm at the Jordan-Small Middle School.

e. Palesky Article

Mr. Willard said that he was planning some articles about this issue and the Palesky front is trying to see if it is appropriate for towns to do that. He thought he might wait to hear what the State Attorney General says. Mr. Gendron said that he heard

that municipal and state employees should not be talking about it during business hours but only on their own time. There was discussion of what might be expected if this passes. Mr. Gendron announced that public hearings in our area were going to be on Tuesday, September 14 at Lewiston's Multi Purpose Center; Thursday, September 16th at Maine Municipal Association in Augusta, and Falmouth High School was tonight. Mr. Reynolds thought that some basic budget figures should be done at the 1996-97 rate and today's rate for a low and high-end range for public information.

f. Road Runner Delivery

Mr. Gendron asked that if anyone doesn't get their Road Runner they should notify the Town Office so that we know the delivery rate. Mrs. McDermott said that the new issue should be out the first two days of the month.

g. Food Pantry Donations

Mrs. Brown felt that there should be a notation of the hours of the food pantry and where donations should be delivered in the Road Runner and website.

h. Lunch for staff

Mr. Willard said that he had won free lunch at the Montebello Restorante for the staff for next Tuesday sponsored by a financial institution. The front desk will be open during that time but the back offices will be closed while they are away.

Mrs. McDermott thanked Mr. Woodbrey for coming in at the last moment but said that she felt that everything was under control concerning the Digital Broadcasting issue. Mr. Willard said that he would like to have some more information from him in preparation for the special town meeting.

i. Technology Conference.

Mr. Willard, Mrs. Trepanier, and Ms. Simpson will be going to a Technology Conference tomorrow. He said that they went last year and it was most interesting and informative.

j. Town Office Sign Board.

Mr. Willard noted that Mr. Reynolds has donated his Selectmen's salary to rehab the signboard on the town office lawn. Mr. Woodbrey thinks that his son will use the rebuilding of the sign as an Eagle Scout project. Mrs. McClellan donated her paycheck to the fund.

k. Town Office Painting.

Some of the Windham Correctional Facility prisoners will be painting the town office next week. Mr. Reynolds asked if they could also paint the posts of the signboard.

11. Review and authorize Payroll and Treasurer's Warrants dated September 7, 2004.

MOTION: Ada Brown motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$74,455.36. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

MOTION: Ada Brown motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$66,839.43. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

12. Adjourn.

MOTION: Ada Brown motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Christine McClellan.

VOTE: Unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT: Betty McDermott adjourned the meeting at 8:21 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk