Members present: Betty McDermott, Chairman; Lonnie Taylor; Mike Reynolds; and Dana Desjardins.

Members absent: Mark Gendron.

Staff present: Don Willard, Town Manager; and Amanda Simpson, Assessors’ Agent.

Others present: Trudilyn Files; Robert Crawford, Bernstein, Shur, Sawyer & Nelson PA; Mike Tarello, Vision Appraisal Technology; Peggy Roberts, Lake Region Suburban Weekly; and about 40 others.

1) Call to order. Betty McDermott called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm at the Raymond Elementary School gymnasium. She then recused herself from the first agenda item and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairman Mike Reynolds.

2) Execution of closing documents to purchase land located off Egypt Road formally utilized as a municipal landfill, Map 14, Lot 34 presently owned by Trudilyn Files.

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve Don Willard as their agent in signing for the purchase of Map 14, Lot 34. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 3-0

NOTE: The papers were signed by Trudilyn Files and Don Willard, and Ms. Files received a check for the land.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the treasurer’s warrant in the amount of $100,287.99. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 3-0

NOTE: The public meeting with Vision Appraisal began at 7:45 pm.

3) Revaluation Presentation – Mike Tarello, MAI, ASA District Manager for Vision Appraisal Technology.

DISCUSSION: Ms. Simpson introduced Mike Tarello from Vision Appraisal saying that this meeting would be about the process and not questions about specific properties. She added that specific property questions would be answered through her office during regular business hours by mail, phone, email or in person.

Mr. Tarello informed the meeting that their original program included Kevin Leen of Vision who worked on the Raymond project. Mr. Tarello said that he did not work directly in Raymond, and therefore could not answer questions about Raymond specifically. He apologized for Mr. Leen’s absence saying that he had a family
emergency which prevented him from attending. However, he said that they could arrange a further meeting with Mr. Leen and other staff members if requested. He added that a round table discussion using maps and associated materials could be most helpful. He continued that the website assessor’s space has a link to the Vision website which gives a lot of information in addition to the Raymond website’s information. Ms. Simpson noted that Raymond’s GIS information was linked to the assessing information which can be accessed on the Raymond website www.raymondmaine.org. She added that the website currently is up to date as of 12/21/05 and will be regularly updated monthly.

Mr. Tarello agreed to provide a sample of a waterfront and an inland parcel to show the methodology of Vision’s process to be used as information on our website. It was decided that the Vision Manual outlining Raymond’s evaluation would be posted on the website as well.

There was discussion that this type of discussion/program should have been provided before the revaluation was started to inform the taxpayers. It was noted by Mr. Tarello that historically in most towns pre-reval information meetings are not participated in by the public. It seems that until people have something to cause them concern, they don’t come to this type of meeting.

4) Adjournment

MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

ADJOURNMENT: *Betty McDermott adjourned the meeting at 9:25 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk