

Town of Raymond  
401 Webbs Mills Road  
Raymond, Maine 04071  
207.655.4742

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES**

Tuesday, January 17, 2006

Members present: Betty McDermott, Chairman; Mark Gendron; Lonnie Taylor; and Dana Desjardins.

Members absent: Mike Reynolds

Staff present: Don Willard, Town Manager

Others present: Sandra Caldwell, Superintendent; Norma Richard, Principal; Teresa Sadak and Wendy Trask, School Committee; Suzie Brockelbank, One Raymond Committee; Jean Carter, Budget/Finance Committee; Holly Mitchell; Chris vanHaasteren; and Peggy Roberts, Lake Region Suburban Weekly.

- 1) Call to order. Betty McDermott opened the meeting at 7:05 pm at the Town Office.
- 2) Minutes of previous meetings dated:
  - a.) January 3, 2006;

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the minutes from January 3, 2006. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: 3 in favor (McDermott, Taylor, Desjardins) 1 abstention (Gendron)

- b.) January 10, 2006.

MOTION: Lonnie Taylor motioned to approve the minutes from January 10, 2006 with the correction that Betty McDermott adjourned the meeting.

VOTE: 3 in favor (McDermott, Taylor, Desjardins) 1 abstained (Gendron)

.

- 3) New business.

- a. Department head financial and goal presentation (in conjunction with One Raymond Steering Committee) – Sandra Caldwell, Raymond School Department Superintendent;

**CALL TO ORDER ONE RAYMOND STEERING MEETING**

Mark Gendron, chairman, called the One Raymond Steering Committee meeting to order at 7:07 pm saying that this would be a joint meeting with the Selectmen and

School Committee. The intention is to try to stop duplication between the school and town offices with the hope of saving on expenditures.

Mrs. McDermott introduced Sandra Caldwell, School Superintendent.

Mrs. Caldwell thanked the Board for this invitation. She said that her talk would not have any specifics tonight but was to talk about the budget process. She said that their budget was not an isolated event but a continuous process over years. Mrs. Caldwell said that their findings have been that all students should be able to know, understand and use the information given them. The teachers also need to know and be able to deal with these issues and have the tools with which to work. It's necessary to be able to track the progress of the children. The recent SAU review was very positive including their implementation of Chapters 125 and 127 "No Child Left Behind". She added that their goals are for the district, the teachers, and how they can progress. The goal is to have all class levels, no matter what room a child was in, have the same education from one grade level to the next. Another goal is to keep the schools in a clean and welcoming environment for the students.

This year we have set the budget increase of not more than 5%. There are challenges in this percentage because of fuel and insurance increases which will make it more difficult to balance the district's budget. As an example they have an operations and maintenance committee which includes two school committee members, teachers and townspeople which studies their needs and how they are going to procure them as well as the level of necessity that expenditure is.

Mark Gendron asked about sharing of services i.e. finance or maintenance. Mrs. Caldwell said that she has talked with Mr. Willard about this including the finance departments combining. Because both offices have people ready for retirement in the next few years this might be a way to progress toward this end. Mr. Willard felt that we are quite ready to do that and that Mrs. Cummings, Town Finance Director, would be willing to make that change. He added that building and grounds maintenance could be organized between the two including contracts and schedules. Efficiency of buildings is a necessity for all structures and town facilities i.e. ball fields. We already cooperate fully with our computer services and coming digital broadcasting studio.

Mr. Gendron asked about fuel since the town is paying for it. He felt that the town would look at this coordination as beneficial.

Mr. Desjardins felt that coordination of the work and the effect of contracts coming from a bid process for the whole town instead of its parts would show a cost saving i.e. school and town office. Mr. Desjardins asked if this happened, would it effect their school funding state and federal. Mrs. Caldwell didn't think it would but said it would have to be studied. Mr. Willard said that at this point the two contract effect does not jive because of time spans, but with a couple of years planning could happen. He felt that the assets of the town should be supervised in unison instead of piecemeal. Mr. Desjardins felt this would help prioritize work because that office would see the whole picture instead of just parts. He wanted to zero in on one or two objectives for next year.

Mrs. Brockelbank noted several places through GPCOG for coordinated spending. She mentioned it would be beneficial to find some best practices and places for savings. Mr. Willard said that Neal Allen, Director of GPCOG, was investigating some of these for us. Mr. Gendron noted that the town has a lack of space i.e. town office and library. He questioned the advisability of tuitioning the middle school students whether to us or from us to other schools. Another possibility is to have one person who

will work in more than one town to care for all the cooperative towns' facilities i.e. a heating professional. Mr. Allen would like to meet with area town managers and superintendents for a discussion about these ideas. Susan Gendron has volunteered to be the facilitator. Mrs. Caldwell mentioned the Sebago Alliance, a group of which Raymond is a member. Mrs. Caldwell said that a grant was applied for by the Sebago Alliance which resulted in grant for over \$800 thousand dollars for history professional development which in part will send area teachers to Bowdoin College for two week classes. She said that the diverse levels of need within the Alliance towns makes it easier for a town like Raymond to get benefit from this kind of grant.

Mr. Gendron asked if Raymond is meeting its arrangement with Windham for high school. Mrs. Caldwell yes, just barely. He asked if her office has looked at tuitioning of middle school students? She said that the Alliance systems have talked about housing students in schools closer to their homes. She felt that possibly some internal movement in our present buildings might be helpful to this purpose of providing space for the town's use.

Mrs. Richard, principal, felt that having the children here through 8<sup>th</sup> grade is impressive both educationally and emotionally. If we go back to tuitioning 7 & 8 grade, it would make it more difficult to keep the children up to grade level and also know that space will be available for your children in other schools. She said the options for middle school is very different than for high school. She felt there was less room in the area middle schools than the high schools.

Mrs. Carter felt that GPCOG is viable but thought that going out independently to companies might bring us a better price i.e. heating oil pricing. Mr. Willard said that he is willing to try anything to save money.

Mr. Taylor asked if tuitioning is a benefit to the kids. Ms. Richard replied no, because they have smaller classes and are more successful in the Raymond system. All children have an opportunity to play in teams, to have the same teachers for a two-year period which isn't always available in other schools. She felt that the building of the elementary school was done because the state would not help with building a middle school because of the expense. She felt that the parents wanted to keep their children in Raymond until high school. She felt that keeping the students in Raymond was very beneficial.

Mr. Desjardins asked if they were looking into contracting with one school district exclusively. Mrs. Caldwell said Raymond has three contracts now and Windham's is ten years out, but they can't guarantee they will have room for our children that long. If we did cooperate fully with another town, it would probably have to be a regional building project. Mr. Willard noted that the state would be involved with this type of proposal because of Gov Baldacci's initiative in regionalization. We are once again looking at regionalization of rescue dispatch, and the potential for other areas will be discussed. Mr. Gendron said that the hope is if this can happen it will free up funding for other areas in the budget.

Jean Carter felt that working with the county would probably end up cost us more. Mr. Willard said that we now are the lowest mil rate in our size town in Cumberland County with a high valuation. This would put us at a disadvantage.

**NEXT ONE RAYMOND MEETING:** Mr. Gendron set the next meeting for the One Raymond Committee 7:00 pm February 14 at the Town Office. Mr. Gendron said that he would get updating from Neal Allen for that meeting.

ADJOURN ONE RAYMOND MEETING: Mr. Gendron adjourned their meeting at 8:18 pm.

b. Board of Assessment Review interview – Holly Mitchell, 49 Tenny Hill Road.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Taylor asked what research Mrs. Mitchell was involved in. She said that she was finishing her PhD in real estate concerns.

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to appoint Holly Mitchell as the alternate member of the Board of Assessment Review. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

Mr. Willard this will be an alternate position, and Amanda Simpson will be in touch with her.

c. Lake Region Development Council Board of Directors – interview – Chris van Haasteren, 9 Carriage Hill Rd.

DISCUSSION: Chris vanHaasteren asked to have a job description. Mr. Willard said he would get detail from Mr. Shattuck, Director of the LRDC. Also Dave Morton is very knowledgeable of what they do and can be of assistance. Mr. vanHaasteren said that through his experience in building a business in Windham recently, he hopes he can help other businesses come in with an easier time relieving them of some frustration.

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to appoint Chris vanHaasteren as Raymond's representative to the LRDC Board. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

d. Request for waiver of late property tax payment charges – Barry B. Holmes 58 Sunset Chimneys Road.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard outlined the item. Mr. Gendron wanted to compensate people's taxation interest for those that didn't get a tax bill because of incorrect addressing of tax bills. Mrs. McDermott felt that taxes are due and people must understand that. Mr. Gendron felt that if Raymond or its contract billing company mailed bills to problematic addresses, the town should not require interest to some point.

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to authorize Don Willard, town manager, to review any taxpayer claims that the town incorrectly addressed their tax bills because of which they never received them. This would exclude any request from a taxpayer where the incorrect mailing address was because of other reason than faulty data transfer. This interest to have a 30 day grace period beyond the initial extended due date of November 18, 2005 for this one time reprieve. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

e. Consideration of Cumberland County "CDBG Entitlement County Proposal".

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard didn't see much different than what we can do now because of our median value. This would supposedly qualify Raymond for more

grant money through the whole process. They are putting a study group together and recommend we participate in this and look at it again later.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to put Mike Reynolds on this committee. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

4) Old (unfinished) business.

None

5) Town Manager Report and Communications.

a. Electricity Audit

Mr. Willard said that the town office had an electricity audit. The quote was for \$2,700 for entire changes to lighting fixtures which will be done this week.

b. Kirstin Clark Banner

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to repair and raise the banner. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

6) Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – January 17, 2006.

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$42,458.71. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to approve the Treasurer's Warrant in the amount of \$93,790.19. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

7) Adjournment.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

ADJOURNMENT: Betty McDermott adjourned the meeting at 8:52 pm.

Louise H. Lester

Town Clerk