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

Members absent: None

Staff present: Don Willard, Town Manager; Jack Cooper, Code Enforcement Officer

Others present: Hank and Ellen Williams; Gordon Street, Lee Fitzgibbons and their daughters Maggie and Annabelle.

1) Call to order. Betty McDermott opened the meeting at 7:00 pm at the Town Office.

2) Minutes of previous meetings:
   a) April 18, 2006.
   
   MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the minutes as written. Seconded by Mark Gendron.

   Corrections: Mr. Reynolds asked that a correction be made at the bottom of page 3 in the Town Manager’s Report which is missing what the conclusion was. He asked that it note that it was added to the warrant.

   VOTE: 4 in favor (Reynolds, Gendron, McDermott, Desjardins) 1 abstention (Taylor).

3) New business.
   a) Certificates of community appreciation.
      • Anxiety Solutions – Gordon Street and Lee Fitzgibbons
      
      Mrs. McDermott presented the certificate to Gordon Street and Lee Fitzgibbons.
      • Raymond Laundry – Hank and Kim Williams
      
      Mrs. McDermott presented the certificate to Mr. And Mrs. Williams.
      
      b) Town of Raymond Fee Schedule proposed fiscal year 2006-2007 amendments.
      Town Clerk Louise Lester

      MOTION: Mike Reynolds motioned to approve the submitted 2006 fee schedule. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor

      VOTE: Unanimous 5-0
      
      c) Maine Readiness Campaign – Selectman Mark Gendron
DISCUSSION: Mr. Gendron introduced the Maine Readiness Program which is sponsored by the Maine Department of Education. He said it was an 18-month program which was pointed at 8th graders and high school students to prepare them for going on to higher education. He informed them that only 37% of Maine’s high school graduates get degrees with 47% being the percentage for the New England states. He added this is a National campaign which is structured well for Maine. Promotion began April 11, 2006 with funding from the Gates Foundation of over $700,000. The partnership between high schools, volunteers from schools, politicians, and businesses should be a strong one. There is an opportunity for starting community colleges to gain associate degrees or for more students to get into college. He added that traditionally high school students have been prepared from their 9th grade high school choices of classes, which might not have been sufficient to allow them to go onto college if they so desired upon graduation. It is expected by the year 2012 that 80% of our employees will require an associate’s degree in order to do their jobs with computer skills being a “must”. We will need more sophisticated skills for the future because low-tech jobs are going overseas. Mr. Gendron said the organization is asking for community leadership. Schools will apply for 50 slots to be chosen as schools for the program. The applicant schools will have to declare what they will do to implement the program i.e. action strategy. There will be $1,000 available to schools to begin the application process. The organization is looking for schools and towns to endorse the program. They are asking for an expression of commitment. Maine’s graduation rate is high, but the number of students going on to higher education is lower. The School Committee would have to endorse the program as well along with a high school that our children attend. Mr. Willard said that we could partner with more than one school because our students attend several schools. Mr. Gendron noted that the program is asking the School Boards to endorse the program as well.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to endorse the program. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

DISCUSSION: Mr. Taylor felt that the Selectmen should encourage our School Board to endorse this program.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

4) Old Unfinished Business.

a. Lake Region Development Council

Mr. Willard announced that there will be a Lake Region Development Council meeting at the Songo Locks School on May 10, 2006 at 7:00 pm for area elected officials and legislative officials to share their vision of transportation needs in our area. He noted that state funding is short but if the towns don’t try every option nothing will happen. He
said that he would be attending and invited any of the Selectmen as well. Mr. Desjardins said that Raymond has participated a lot lately with the state road initiative by funding one third of the cost of repairs to Meadow Rd (Rt. 121) and Webbs Mills Road (Rt. 85).

b. Warrant for Election of Officers

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to approve the warrant for the 2006 election of officers. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

NOTE: The Selectmen signed the warrant.

5) Town Manager Report and Communications.
   i. Executive Secretary

   Mr. Willard announced that of 23 applicants Ms. Laurie Cook, resident of Casco, has been hired as the Town Manager’s secretary and will begin May 16. Also LeeAnn Shand, resident of Denmark, will be a part-time Deputy Town Clerk and Deputy Tax Collector to work at the counter beginning this week.

   ii. Town Meeting & Elections

   Town Meeting will be May 20, 2006 at 10:00 am at Jordan Small Middle School. Elections will be on Friday, May 19, 2006 from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm.

   iii. Raymond Roadrunner

   Mr. Willard informed them that the Roadrunner didn’t get to all of the Raymond residents with the Lake Region Suburban News but will be available at the town office, library and on the website. He said that this was a problem with the LRSN and would be rectified with the next issue.

   iv. Egypt Road

   Mr. Gendron asked about Gray’s part of the proposed state road project. Mr. Willard said that there is no reply from his recent inquiries. Mr. Reynolds said he had spoken to one of the Gray Town Councilors and was told that the funding was put in the 2006-2007 Gray budget.

   v. One Raymond Committee

   Mr. Willard announced that the One Raymond Committee would have a tour of the Technology Department at their next meeting May 9, 2006 at 7:00 pm at the JSMS modular meeting room and will be informed of what it is doing and its goals. Mr. Desjardins said he would have the measurements of the town office building for that meeting.

   vi. GPCOG Recognition Awards Applications.

   Mr. Reynolds said that the Greater Portland Council of Governments is initiating an award to recognize town’s groups, and volunteerism etc. He was planning to nominate the Route 302 Walk’n Weed group for this year. He noted the recognition would be awarded in June at the GPCOG annual meeting. Mr. Desjardins suggested Raymond Rec and what they do. He said their only expense is for certified swimming instructors for their summer swim program.

   vii. Raymond Baseball
Mr. Taylor announced that Raymond Baseball had a clean up day with 25 people raking and cleaning up the 5 playing fields.

viii. Public Computer Work Stations

Mr. Desjardins asked about the status of workstation(s) for public use at the Town Office. Mr. Willard said that it would be for online access to our website and for state registrations through the Bureau of Motor Vehicles or IF&W’s MOSES for hunting & fishing licenses and registration of boats, ATV’s, and snowmobiles. More promotion of these access points will be forthcoming when they are available.


MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of $54,882.51. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Warrant in the amount of $88,352.47. Seconded by Lonnie Taylor.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

7) Adjournment.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mike Reynolds.

VOTE: Unanimous 5-0

ADJOURNMENT: Betty McDermott adjourned the meeting at 7:46 pm.

Louise H. Lester
Town Clerk