

TOWN OF RAYMOND  
401 Webbs Mills Road  
Raymond, Maine 04071

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, December 2, 2008

SELECTMEN: Mike Reynolds, Chairman; Joe Bruno; Mark Gendron; and Dana Desjardins.

SELECTMEN ABSENT: Lonnie Taylor

STAFF: Denis Morse, Fire Chief; and Bruce Tupper, Deputy Fire Chief.

OTHERS: Malory Shaughnessy, Cumberland County Commissioner; Bill Holmes, Cumberland County Dispatch Director; and Eric Goodine, Naples Town Manager.

- 1) Call to order. Mike Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:29 pm at the Broadcast Studio.
- 2) Minutes of previous meeting dated November 18, 2008  
TABLED
- 3) New business.
  - a) County service discussion – Cumberland County Commissioner Malory Shaughnessy

DISCUSSION: Mr. Reynolds introduced Ms. Shaughnessy and said she was here to talk about Cumberland County because of Raymond's interest in joining Oxford County and leaving Cumberland County. Ms. Shaughnessy noted that she wasn't here to give a presentation but wanted to hear what Raymond's problems were with Cumberland County. Mr. Reynolds said that it began years ago because of the Selectmen's frustration with Raymond's high assessment for county tax and their reluctance to listen to their rural towns. This year our county tax increased 7.5% where Raymond's tax increase was 3.2% including the county tax assessment. He said that their recent inquiry with Oxford County was because of this frustration. Ms. Shaughnessy said that there has been a 49% increase over the last 10 years most of which was because of the town's increased valuation. Mr. Reynolds indicated that the past two years there was a zero increase in Raymond's budget and this year a small increase which was primarily from the school budget. Ms. Shaughnessy noted that the County has the same problem with the County Jail being their "school" which was driving their budget increases. She said that this year's budget should be less because the state is forming a "consolidated" budget for all jails. She said that all jails had to submit a flat fund budget for the next biennium to the state. The statewide jail system will be reconfigured by June 2009. She noted that the medical expense of the jail had the greatest demand on the system. Mr. Gendron questioned the addition of the new forensics lab when the current program isn't financially solvent. He felt

that a new program is always expensive. He knew that the state had a working unit, and he didn't understand why they needed this duplication. Mr. Gendron also didn't feel that a new convention center i.e. civic center replacement was in the best interest of Raymond. Ms. Shaughnessy said that a small budget has been allowed for study of the possibility of a new convention center. She agreed that the core services should be strengthened i.e. more patrolling sheriffs. She said the forensics lab was a part of this because the state is cutting back and was hard to get services from. Mr. Gendron continued that the majority of the services are in the metropolitan and not the rural areas. Mr. Willard suggested that Cumberland County should have joined with the state to enhance their forensic service. He added that a greater need was more coverage of police patrols in the rural areas. He also suggested that it would be more advantageous for Cumberland County to ask the opinions of all member towns in any program they want to consider. Ms. Shaughnessy noted that the forensic unit was collaboration with other entities that wanted to have this tool. She said that they would like to have a Public Safety Plan to which ideas would be contributed by all Cumberland County towns.

Mr. Bruno didn't feel that the Commissioners truly knew the level of frustration that all the small rural towns feel. He believed that Raymond would have some problems with the Dispatch Center Board of Directors. Ms. Shaughnessy said that the Board was made up of representatives of the participating towns and if Raymond joined, it could have a representative as well. It was noted that the Casco member didn't get notice of the November 24<sup>th</sup> meeting because their membership didn't begin until January 1, 2009. It was said that she had not been added to the mailing list which has now been corrected. The Selectmen felt they should have been notified of the meeting since Raymond was being discussed. The issue of a sales tax was mentioned, but Mrs. Shaughnessy said the Commissioners never voted it. It was an idea put forth as a possible remedy to their budget. Mr. Reynolds asked what the new budget looks like and where will Raymond stand. Ms. Shaughnessy announced that the Budget Advisory Committee's next meeting would be Thursday, December 4<sup>th</sup> on the new budget. The Commissioners will vote on December 15<sup>th</sup>. They are looking at a 2.5 to 3.05 increase. The state now will not be funding the maintenance on the courthouse which is a new County expense. There have been some layoffs as well. Revenue projections are down. Mr. Desjardins didn't feel that Raymond could take an increase in taxes because our undesignated surplus is rock bottom, and we can't take any more from it to help the mil rate. He also noted that our population is showing "need" as never before.

Ms. Shaughnessy asked if they feel that the Dispatch contract was workable. She noted that the 6-month option was to allow some time to see if it will work. Mr. Willard felt that a 5-year contract would be more acceptable to Raymond. Mr. Bruno suggested that if Raymond were able to leave Cumberland County it would take a legislative vote and a 2/3 vote from Cumberland County voters. He said that it would take years to accomplish if at all. Mr. Willard added that if they had a 5-year contract and left Cumberland County there could be an amicable separation from Cumberland County Dispatch at that time. Mr. Gendron said that they were trying to find out what would be best for Raymond.

b) Discussion of draft Open Space Plan – John Rand  
TABLED

c) Review and approval of Cumberland County Regional Communications Center (CCRCC) dispatch agreement – Director Bill Holmes

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard reviewed the history of Raymond's Dispatch Service. He noted that all the other towns in County have started with 5-year contracts. Mr. Holmes explained that he was contacted for a dispatch contract which he provided. He was told that Raymond had already voted to join CCRCC at the Selectmen's meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>. On November 24<sup>th</sup> the CCRCC Board discussed three towns: Naples, Harrison, and Raymond. Naples was accepted, Harrison had not voted themselves to join, and they were being considered for a 6-month contract because of their financial position. Mr. Holmes commented that he felt Raymond and the CCRCC would work well together. The Board had concern that Raymond would secede from Cumberland County, and Mr. Holmes suggested a 6-month contact until that issue was resolved. Mr. Holmes had concern that the contract doesn't hold a way for Cumberland County to withdraw from the contact. Two additional sentences would be included in all municipal contracts concerning this issue. Mr. Willard noted that the Naples contract didn't contain that additional language. He didn't believe that Harrison's did either. Ms. Shaughnessy said that the Commissioners wanted it in all contracts. Mr. Goodine explained that he received Naples' contract in October and didn't know whether he would be asked to sign a new one. Mr. Holmes believed that since Naples and Casco have already signed their contracts it would be unfair to ask them to sign a new contract. Mr. Willard felt that they should be offered the same contract like all other towns and would like it for a 5-year term. Ms. Shaughnessy reiterated that the Commissioners feel that this addition should be in all contracts from this date forward, and they were remiss in not including that language before. She added that if Harrison signs a contract they would have the same language. Mr. Reynolds noted that they voted positively on November 18, 2008 to sign the contract with CCRCC. He felt that they might need another meeting to discuss and vote on the new contract if that is necessary because Raymond's attorney had not reviewed the new contract. Mr. Bruno questioned that they didn't know what Cumberland County's policies were and didn't want to enter into something without knowing what they are. Mr. Holmes thought that all associated towns had a copy of their policies but said that he would provide them.

Chief Morse's first concern was the safety of his department and secondly that it is equitable. He felt that regionalization was important. He encouraged a longer contract so that they didn't have to keep going back to it, and that all towns be treated the same. Mr. Holmes noted that they had a legal and moral duty to provide this service and that the Board understood that. Mr. Reynolds asked if the 6-month contract was the same as the 5-year contact. Mr. Holmes said that the 6-month contract was without the two sentences and the 5-year contact did have it. He felt there was an option to have a 5-year contract without the two sentences because he wants Raymond to join. Going forward he understood that the two sentences would be included in all contracts. Mr. Reynolds asked Chief Morse if there were other differences in the 6-month contract. Chief Morse

replied no. Mr. Reynolds asked if the price would be the same in 6 months. Mr. Holmes replied yes. Mr. Bruno wanted to vote on the original contract for 5 years because Raymond's town attorney had reviewed that contract. He suggested CCRCC going forward make changes to the other contracts, as they deem necessary with all contract towns. Mr. Gendron said that he would be willing to sign a revised contract if necessary. Ms. Shaughnessy reiterated that they intended to add the new wording as the contracts were renewed.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to sign the original contract submitted to us by Cumberland County Dispatch and reviewed by our attorney for a 5-year term. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

Derek Goodine asked if CCRCC was prepared to handle three more towns January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Holmes said that they would need to make some changes, but he felt they would be able to handle it. Mr. Goodine asked if Raymond would be willing to leave the equipment in the Naples Dispatch which Raymond provided. Mr. Willard said they intended to keep it as a regional backup asset.

Mr. Reynolds said that their Board would be willing to look at a revised contract at a later date with attorney approval before the 5-year term is completed. Mr. Bruno felt only an amendment to the contract would be needed.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to appoint Mike Reynolds as Raymond's designated representative to the CCRCC Board. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

d) Consideration of abatements – Contract Assessor Mike O'Donnell  
TABLED

e) Discussion of road maintenance policy for limited use dead end town roads –  
Selectman Joe Bruno  
TABLED

f) Budget goal setting for fiscal year 2009/2010 – Town Manager Don Willard

DISCUSSION: Mr. Willard read last year's fiscal goals. He noted that to hold the budget he would need to invade the core services area. Mr. Bruno hadn't heard any resident complaints about our services. Mr. Bruno felt that more road construction/repair was needed and a bond should be explored. Mr. Desjardins had concern whether we still need an assistant Code Enforcement Officer because of the drop in construction, and school office staff because of consolidation i.e. payroll. Mr. Willard wanted to consider marketing some web services. Mr. Desjardins asked about the heating oil contract. Mr. Reynolds said that the school couldn't break their contract. Mr. Willard replied that Nancy Yates was working on it. Mr. Willard remarked that the new budget would be conservatively figuring their town revenues.

- g) Set election date and approve warrant for Regional School Union 14 (RSU 14) Board of Directors election – Town Clerk Louise Lester

MOTION: Mark Gendron motioned to declare the RSU Board election for January 27, 2009 and sign the warrant. Seconded by Dana Desjardins  
VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

NOTE: The Selectmen signed the warrant.

- h) Re-appointment of Voter Registrar Louise Murray – Town Clerk Louise Lester

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to include the office of Voter Registrar with the Town Clerk's responsibilities. Seconded by Mark Gendron.  
VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

- 4) Old (unfinished) business.

- a) none

- 5) Town Manager Report and Communications.

- a) Confirm dates of January 2009 meetings (6<sup>th</sup>, and 20<sup>th</sup>)

Mr. Bruno asked that they have one date in January because of the added Budget Meetings. It was decided the next Selectmen's meeting be January 20, 2009.

- b) Dispatch Employee Separation

Mr. Willard announced that he would like the selectmen to consider a dispatch employee separation package related to the closure of the Naples Dispatch Center that would total not more than \$16,918.49 with Raymond's share being \$4,575.27. He added that if any of the five eligible employees elect to leave before the closure of the dispatch center, which is anticipated to be December 31, 2008 that they wouldn't be eligible to participate in the severance package. Naples Town Manager, Derik Goodine said that at least one employee might be hired by the CCRCC but he wasn't sure. The separation benefit provided would be two months paid medical insurance if they didn't get it at a new job, and two weeks pay if they stay to the end of the Dispatch operations in Naples.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve the severance package to a maximum of \$4,575.27 as Raymond's share with the proviso that the employee stay to the end of the dispatch service, and if they obtain other health care benefits within two months they can't claim such benefits from Naples Dispatch. Also Casco needs to participate in this program at their outlined share. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

- b) Lake Region Bulky Waste Facility

Mr. Goodine announced that the coupon programs have crippled the system. He invited the Raymond Selectmen to attend the LRBWF budget meeting on December 11, 2008 at 7:00 pm at the Naples Town Office.

6) Fiscal Warrants – Payroll and Appropriation Warrants – December 2, 2008.

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve the Treasurer’s Warrant in the amount of \$38,051.50. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

MOTION: Joe Bruno motioned to approve the Payroll Warrant in the amount of \$40,761.94. Seconded by Dana Desjardins.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

NOTE: Mark Gendron announced that he would like to resign in January or February. He said that January 20 would be his last meeting. It was discussed that since an election would be needed to fill his position, he would remain a Selectmen and attend meetings that he can until the next town election.

7) Adjournment.

MOTION: Dana Desjardins motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mark Gendron.

VOTE: Unanimous 4-0

ADJOURNMENT: Mike Reynolds adjourned the meeting at 9:59 pm.

Louise H. Lester  
Town Clerk