

7. PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES

There are a number of public facilities and services available to the residents of Raymond. Some of these are provided by the Town, but many others are made available by volunteers and private groups and organizations. The following paragraphs contain a summary of the Town's government and its facilities and services.

Town Government

Raymond is governed by the Town Meeting/Selectmen/Manager form of government.

An annual town meeting is held in May, at which time the voters elect municipal officers, hear reports of various town committees, and appropriate funds for the coming year.

Board of Selectmen. Raymond's five Selectmen are elected at large for three-year staggered terms of office. Two are elected each year, except for the third year when only one is elected. The Board elects a Chair, who serves for one year and presides at regular and special Board meetings.

Town Manager. The Town Manager is appointed by and serves under the direction of the Board of Selectmen. The Town Manager is responsible for providing general management and administrative oversight of all operations, programs and services, including capital projects undertaken by the municipality. Raymond's full-time Town Manager also serves as Tax Collector and General Assistance Administrator.

Town Office Staff. In addition to the Town Manager, Town office staff includes the following (most office staff are deputized as tax collectors and town clerks):

- Finance Director who serves as Treasurer;
- Deputy Treasurer who serves as Motor Vehicle Agent;
- Town Clerk;
- General Assistance Administrator/Deputy Tax Collector;
- Code Enforcement Officer who also serves as Dispatch Supervisor;
- Information System Administrator who serves as Town Manager secretary and web-site coordinator;
- CEO/Assessing Assistant who serves as secretary to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals;
- Voter Registrar; and
- Contract Assessor.

Town Hall. The Town Hall, located on Webbs Mills Road (Route 85), is open Tuesday through Friday (including Tuesday evening until 7:00 PM), and Saturday morning. The Town Hall contains office and meeting room space for most of Raymond's governmental activities. Large municipal meetings are held at the Jordan Small School. The Town Hall was constructed in two sections. The older section was constructed in the early 1900's and was originally used as a one-room elementary school. An 1,800 square foot building addition was finished in 1989. The Town Hall contains a large meeting room, a clerical office area, a small kitchen area, storage space, the Town Manager's office, the

Assessor's office, the Code Enforcement Office, and the GIS Administrator's Office as well as a storage vault and food pantry in the basement. The Fire Chief's office and the fire/rescue dispatch office were moved to the new Public Safety building in 2003.

The Raymond Building Committee is currently studying options for meeting the long range needs of Raymond for office, library and meeting space. Despite the fact that the dispatch office and Fire Department moved from the Town Hall, thus freeing up office space, the Town will probably need additional office and meeting space.

Town Boards and Committees

Volunteers contribute significantly to the manner in which Raymond is governed by serving on various boards and committees. Some of these boards, such as the Planning Board, are relatively permanent, while others may be formed on a temporary basis to fill a short-term need. Some of the more important boards, committees and commissions, which are either involved in governing Raymond or advising its legislative body, include the following:

- 1. Budget Finance Committee.** The Budget Finance Committee reviews proposed Town and School budgets and makes recommendations to the Town. The Committee reviews proposed budgets from the standpoint of the Town's fiscal condition, as well as the long-term need of the community. The Committee also makes recommendations on specific projects and on Raymond's Capital Improvement Plan.
- 2. Planning Board.** The Raymond Planning Board, which is composed of seven members, administers the Town's Shoreland Zoning Ordinance and the Subdivision Regulations, and issues certain permits under the provisions of the Land Use Ordinance. The Planning Board is generally charged with planning for the long-range growth of the community which includes submission of ordinance additions/changes, and for encouraging the most appropriate use of land within the community.
- 3. Appeals Board.** The Town's Board of Appeals hears appeals arising from the administration of Town ordinances or from specific dimensional requirements of the ordinances.
- 4. Conservation Commission.** The Conservation Commission is concerned with protecting the environment and the natural resources of the community. The Commission's work includes a watershed stewardship project, invasive aquatic species (Milfoil) prevention, land conservation, efforts to establish a municipal open space fund, erosion control demonstration projects, public education, and land use ordinances.
- 5. Route 302 Committee.** The Route 302 Committee has worked since 1999 to develop plans for the improvement of the Route 302 corridor in cooperation with the Maine Department of Transportation, as well as residential and business property owners. The Committee's work includes the preparation of concept plans and engineering specifications aimed at reductions in unnecessary curb cuts, improvements to existing traffic patterns, plus the installation of pedestrian walkways and attractive landscaping. This project is scheduled to be completed in 2003.

6. **Tassel Top Park Committee.** This Committee oversees the operations of Tassel Top Park. Park activities include water oriented summer recreation as well as limited winter recreational activities. The park also rents a cabin on the property for summer residential use.
7. **Website and Technology Committee.** The Website Technology Committee has been involved in creating, maintaining and updating the Town's website, overseeing the Town's GPS/GIS project which includes mapping work tied to aerial photos, establishment of a cable TV station in the portable classroom outside Jordan Small School, maintenance of a town calendar on the website, and preparation of the Town's newsletter, the RoadRunner (this paper is published monthly; the work is undertaken by volunteers and in-house, part-time support).
8. **Recycling Committee.** The Recycling Committee is primarily concerned with promoting public support for and involvement in recycling. The Committee also monitors the extent to which materials are diverted from the waste stream into recycling.
9. **Comprehensive Plan Committee.** The Comprehensive Plan Committee has updated the Town's long-range comprehensive plan. A major goal of the Plan is to maintain the rural character of Raymond while directing growth to the growth areas of the community and discouraging inappropriate growth in the rural areas of town. The updated Plan will serve as a guide for ordinance revisions and capital investments over the next ten years.
10. **Town Office/Library Building Committee.** The Building Committee is charged with the responsibility of planning for the Town's long-range needs relating to office and meeting room space.
11. **Cemetery Committee.** The Cemetery Committee consists of volunteers who provide oversight of the Town's cemeteries. The Committee has cleaned stones and undertaken cleanup work to help keep the cemeteries looking nice.

Dispatch Center

The Dispatch Center serves Raymond, Poland, Frye Island, as well as covering mutual aid for surrounding towns. It handles calls relating to school bus operations, public works, animal control, fire and rescue. The Center is managed by the Code Enforcement Officer and employs four full-time people and four part-time people. The following is a breakdown of types of calls between 1999 and 2001:

Type of Call	1999	2000	2001
Fire	412	405	422
Rescue	684	754	810
Police	732	418	211
Animal Control	594	563	412
Miscellaneous	145	151	57
Total	2567	2291	1912

The dispatchers normally handle about 2,800 calls per month, or 95 calls per day. These calls include information and other inquiries. Police calls have declined because such calls now go directly to the Sheriff's Department. E-911 calls go directly to the Cumberland County Sheriff's Communication Center in Windham. Non-police calls are routed back to Raymond dispatch.

A key issue facing the Town is the cost of dispatch services, and whether they can be more efficiently delivered by sharing services with more communities.

Raymond Fire and Rescue Services

Raymond Fire and Rescue Service is a public safety group made up of mostly of dedicated volunteers. The Service now includes a full time paramedic responding to day time calls seven days a week from 6 AM to 6PM. As with the 1991 Comprehensive Plan, the main concern continues to be too few volunteers. The problem has been compounded by the annual demands for service growing to a new high of seven hundred and fifty-seven (757).

Raymond Fire and Rescue serves many more citizens, and many are aging with an increasing need of rescue services. Today, there are fewer members responding to more calls, attending more training and expected to handle all calls ranging from Anthrax threats to complex construction methods involving roof trusses. The added hazards of roof and floor trusses are common throughout Raymond and the surrounding communities.

Public Safety Building. The small Main St. Fire Barn has been replaced by a new Public Safety Building located just down the road at the corner of the Rt. 302 and Main Street. The eight and one half acre site was a gift the family of former Fire Chief Reginald Brown. The facility was developed by a cross section of local citizens and was developed and built over a four year period. The new Public Safety Building is becoming the center for public safety incorporating and centralizing dispatching, fire, rescue and even police needs.

The apparatus are now housed at the Public Safety Building include:

- A 2002 Ford/Braum Type III Ambulance and all related supplies
- A 1981 GMC-American LeFrance Pumper (1,000 gallons of water capacity)
- A 1987 International/KME Tanker (3,000 gallons capacity)
- A 1978 Ford/home made Forestry six wheeler Truck
- A 1987 GMC Utility Truck
- A 1983 Rubber Zodiac Rescue Boat and accessories

Webbs Mills Station. The second station is located on Rt. 85 near the Town Hall and is an old garage-type building. It shares the building with the school buses and the public works trucks. There are three bays housing the following apparatus:

- A 1987 Ford/Frontline Type III Ambulance
- A 1990 GMC 1,000 gallon front mount pumper
- A 1989 Used road tractor built for a tanker with 3,000 gallons

Staffing, Mutual Aid. The 44 total Fire/EMS members are supported by a full time dispatch center. Mutual Aid continues to be extremely important with Casco, Gray, Naples and Windham being the primary assistance. User pay and accountability will continue to be the themes that direct the current group of officers. Creative funding and a very diversified membership will help to maintain a proactive department.

Police

Raymond has no police force. Law enforcement is supplied primarily by the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department out of the Windham substation. The Maine State Police Barracks in Gray and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's warden service provide some additional coverage. There are two Sheriff's deputies that are assigned to an area encompassing the Towns of Raymond, New Gloucester, Gray, Bridgton, Naples and Sebago. There is no additional coverage during the summer months. The funds for this basic level of police coverage are provided through the Cumberland County budget. Raymond pays its share of Cumberland County taxes, but does not pay any money to the Sheriff's Department for additional coverage.

A key issue facing Raymond is the fact that the current allocation of County resources is not sufficient to serve Raymond's growing population, particularly during the summer months. Options for addressing police protection needs include contracting with the Sheriff's Department to provide additional support to Raymond or establishing a local police department.

Public Works

Raymond has a five-person Public Works crew that includes the director and four truck driver/equipment operators. The Department is responsible for routine road maintenance, some road reconstruction work, and municipal property maintenance other than mowing and building and landscaping maintenance of the schools. The Department also oversees the trash removal/recycling contract with BBI (Blow Brothers, Inc).

The Department plows municipal and school facilities as well as some town roads, but contracts its major road construction and snow removal work to private operators. The Public Works garage is a two-bay building located at the corner of Egypt Road and Webbs Mills Road near the Town office. The Department's salt/sand storage shed is located on a seven-acre site on the Plains Road. The Town is setting aside funds for the construction of a new public works building which will be located next to the salt/sand shed. The old Public Works garage will then be used by the School Department as a bus garage.

The Department's equipment includes the following:

Equipment	Year	Condition
John Deere road grader	1978	Fair
FMC street sweeper	1991	Fair
New Holland 675 rubber-tired backhoe	1997	Poor
931 CAT track loader	1984	Poor
C-60 Chevrolet 7-yard dump truck/plow truck	1995	Good
Ford F 550 12-ton plow truck with dump body	2003	Good
Chevrolet 1-ton truck with plow	2000	Good
Ford 800 8-yard dump truck – summer use only	1988	Good
Chevrolet 1-ton rack truck – summer use only	1990	Fair

The Town acquired the 2003 Ford 550 truck on a lease-purchase basis. The Department is currently planning to replace this truck in four years. Within the next five years, the Department plans to replace

one of the smaller 1-ton trucks. The Department also plans to purchase a wheeler dump truck for use in the summer months only.

Solid Waste

The Town contracts with a private hauler (currently BBI) for curbside pick-up of household waste, as well as recyclable items, while individuals take bulky wastes to the Lake Region Bulky Waste Facility in Casco.

Household trash. BBI transports household trash to the Mid-Maine Waste Action Corporation (MMWAC) facility in Auburn. Raymond is one of the original 12 owners of the facility, and currently enjoys a relatively low tipping fee (\$29 per ton). The volume of waste for the past three years includes:

2000: 1,446.98 tons
2001: 1,376.44 tons
2002: 1,453.88 tons

Recyclable material. BBI transports recyclable items to the City of Lewiston Solid Waste Recycling Facility. The volume of recycled materials for the past three years includes:

2000: 145 tons
2001: 138 tons
2002: 137 tons

Bulky wastes. Most of the items taken to the Casco facility are recycled, and Raymond is credited towards the recycling quota established by the State of Maine. For example, in the year 2001, 1,477 tons of waste were received from the Town of Raymond. Of this total, 49% was either reused or recycled, 38% was sent to Beaver Wood Power to be used in energy production, and 13% was land-filled at the Norridgewock and Sawyer landfills.

Water and Sewer

Up until the year 2002, all of Raymond was served by individual, private water systems. In 2001, the Town voted to join the Portland Water District and support the extension of a public water line from Windham to the EmbedTech facility in Raymond. The waterline extension was funded by a combination of a successful \$400,000 Community Development Block Grant and town bonds. The purpose of the water line extension was to enable EmbedTech to expand its facility and create additional jobs. The Town voted in March of 2002 to extend the water line further into Raymond from EmbedTech to Route 121 (Main Street) or all the way to the new Public Safety Building. The line currently runs from the Raymond/Windham town line along Route 302 to the intersection of Route 302 and Deep Cove Road across from the new Public Safety Building. The debt service necessary to support the extension is being paid from current property tax revenue generated by the Tax Increment Financing District. Town revenues from hook-up fees amounted to about \$90,000 during the year 2002.

Raymond does not have a central sewage collection or treatment system. The closest connection to a regional system would be in Westbrook. For the foreseeable future, there does not appear to be a need for a central system in Raymond or a need to connect to a system outside Raymond.

Outdoor Recreation

Raymond is fortunate in having a number of high quality, outdoor recreation facilities available to its residents, as well as a very active recreation program sponsored by the Raymond Recreation Association, a private group that has been very active in the community since the 1960's. The Town, the School Department, private children's camps and the Recreation Association all work together to provide a diverse array of outdoor recreation opportunities. In addition, a number of private groups and organizations such as the snowmobile club have been very active in providing for other recreation opportunities, including the management of an extensive trail system on privately owned property.

Recreation facilities. Raymond's publicly owned recreation facilities include the following:

1. **Tassel Top Park.** This 32-acre Town beach, located off Route 302 on Sebago Lake, is owned by the State's Bureau of Parks and Recreation and has been managed by the Town since 1992. The park contains a 980-foot sandy beach on Jordan Bay, a rental cabin, snack shack, porta-potties, a nature trail, a handicap ramp and wheelchair for the disabled, and parking area. The Tassel Top Park Committee provides oversight and management of the park.
2. **Raymond Beach.** Raymond Beach, consisting of 1.37 acres, located off Route 302 on Sebago Lake, was established by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife in 2000 primarily as a boat launch. It contains a public dock and a paved boat ramp on either side of the dock, as well as a small beach.
3. **Crescent Lake Beach.** This .25-acre, Town-owned park, located on Crescent Lake, contains an 86-foot Town beach, as well as a boat launch, porta-potties, and a parking area.
3. **Morgan Meadows.** Morgan Meadows is a 1,100-acre game management area that is owned and managed by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. It contains a nature trail, numerous trails for hiking, horseback riding, snowmobiling and other outdoor trail uses and is also used for hunting.
4. **Sheri Gagnon Field.** This 5.7 acre, Town-owned park is located on Mill Street in the village. It contains a large playground, two ball fields, a snack shack/equipment building and parking area.
5. **Schools.** Raymond Elementary (46.27 acres), located off Route 85, contains a soccer field, gymnasium and parking area. Jordan-Small Middle School, located on the opposite side of Route 85, contains a softball diamond (4.04 acres), as well as a nature trail (4.1 acres).

Raymond also has access to softball and Little League fields at Camp Hinds Boy Scout Camp on the Plains Road, as well as soccer fields at Camp Agawam. The Town has worked cooperatively with the owners of these camps and the Raymond Recreation Association to make these facilities available to Town residents. There are several privately owned tennis courts in the village which are used by the Raymond Recreation Association for tennis lessons.

Recreation Programs. The Raymond Recreation Association offers a wide variety of recreation programs to Raymond residents. Current programs include:

- Swimming lessons for children through the American Red Cross Learn to Swim Program at Crescent Lake Beach.
- Skiing programs on Wednesday afternoon and Friday evenings for students in grades 4-6. Students are transported to Shawnee Peak in Bridgton on Raymond buses with the Recreation Association paying for the drivers' time.
- Soccer for children in Kindergarten through grades 6.
- Tennis for students in grades 4-6 at the Village Tennis Courts on Mills Street.
- Basketball for students in grades 1-6.
- Karate on Wednesday afternoons.
- Raymond Youth Group – activities and community service.
- A dance program.
- An indoor learn-to-swim program at the Colonial Mast indoor pool in Naples.
- A sports clinic at Jordan Small School during school vacation periods in basketball, baseball and football.

Library

The Raymond Village Library has been at its present location, just off Main Street on Meadow Road (Route 121), since 1969. There have been two additions to the original building. In 1979, a children's room was added and dedicated to Eleanor Plummer, who ran the library for a number of years. In 1996, a capital campaign completely financed an addition to the rear of the building.

The purpose of the Raymond Village Library is to provide quality services and resources to the entire community in a welcoming atmosphere. With the rapid growth of the town, the use of the library has also grown. In the past five years, circulation has grown from 14,507 items to 23,317. The collection of books, audios and videos has expanded from 9,214 to 15,687.

The addition of computers in 1997 has allowed access to numerous resources which the library would not otherwise be able to provide. In addition to general Internet access, the availability of statewide online databases provides library users with reliable information from thousands of journals, reference books and other resources that would not be possible for a small public library to afford or shelve. The library is preparing the collection for an automated online catalog and an automated circulation system.

In October 2003, the Raymond Village Library Club voted to change its operational structure to an incorporated non-profit organization overseen by a Board of Trustees, plus one selectperson from the Town of Raymond who serves as an ex-officio member. The Board sets the policies of the library and is responsible for maintaining funding for operations. Approximately 40% of the annual budget is appropriated from the Town of Raymond. The remaining funds come from fundraising efforts of volunteers and donations from patrons and friends.

The Board employs a Library Director who is responsible for management of the library. The library also employs a part-time Youth Services Coordinator who provides weekly story times and activities for babies, for toddlers and for preschoolers, as well as planning special programs for children and families. Volunteers provide assistance to the organization and for its patrons by performing various tasks necessary to the operation of the library.

Issues facing the library in the next few years include:

1. Financial support--because of increased growth, additional funds are needed to adequately staff the library and to provide the services expected by the community.
2. Space needs--the children's room is currently much too small to comfortably accommodate regular programs and to make the collection readily accessible for children. The adult area is losing space for meetings and programs, due to the expanding collection.

School System

Raymond's School Department offers educational instruction from pre-school through the 8th grade. Students in grades 9-12 are then enrolled in high schools in other communities, with the Town paying the tuition for this service. Each family makes its own decision about which high school to attend. In the fall of 2002, the majority of high school students attended high school in Windham (77), Gray (53), Westbrook (53) and Poland (35).

Raymond has two schools, Raymond Elementary and the Jordan-Small School, both of which are located on Route 85 just north of the Town Office. Students in grades K-4 attend Raymond Elementary while those in grades 5-8 attend Jordan-Small School. Raymond Elementary is a relatively new school which began operations during the 2000-01 school year.

Up until the 2001-02 school year, the highest grade in the Raymond school system was grade 6. Beginning in 2001-02, 7th graders were added to the system, and with the 2002-03 year, 8th graders were added to the system. The school budget for the 2001-02 school year was approximately \$7.4 million, of which \$1.6 million was spent on tuition.

Raymond School Committee. The School Committee is comprised of elected community members who, by State law, participate in the operation of the Raymond Public Schools. The most important functions of the School Committee include:

- Hiring the School Superintendent, using a committee that includes teachers;
- Approving hires offered by the Superintendent;
- Approving educational policy;
- Approving the school budget; and
- Communicating with the Town and its residents.

School Staff. The Raymond School Department employs four administrators (the Superintendent, two principals, and a Special Education Director), 42 classroom teachers, 22 specialists, and 41 Ed Techs, for a total employment of 109 people, plus secretaries, clerks, cafeteria workers, bus drivers and janitors. The school staff includes the following:

- Raymond Elementary, with an enrollment of 308 students, has a Principal, 22 regular classroom teachers, seven specialists (Title I reading, music, physical education, art, computer lab, librarian, guidance counselor) and 12 Ed Techs.
- Jordan Small School, with an enrollment of 261 students, has a principal, 14 classroom teachers, eight specialists (arts, Spanish, music, physical education, computer tech and tech maintenance, gifted and talented guidance, librarian, Title I reading) and nine Ed Techs.
- The Special Education Department has its own Director, three classroom teachers in each school, seven specialists (two speech teachers, two social workers, one physical therapist, a

Title I reading teacher, a Title III teacher), plus 20 Special Education Techs. This Department serves 50 children; these children are included in the total student enrollment of 569.

Total School Expenditures. In 2001, Raymond's total school expenditure was \$6,541,490. This compares with a State average of \$2,774,466 for communities with populations ranging in size from 3,500 to 4,999.

Enrollment. As shown in the tables below, fall enrollments in grades K-6 declined from a peak of 482 students during the 1994-95 school year to 438 students during the 2001-02 school year. There was a slight increase during 2002-03 year (444), but school officials project a drop to 423 for the 2003-04 year.

Raymond Fall Enrollments											
Grade	93-94	94-95	95-96	96-97	97-98	98-99	99-00	00-01	01-02	02-03	03-04*
4 yr olds	3	4	6	4	5						
K	79	66	66	75	62	65	60	58	65	58	55
1	62	73	58	55	65	58	53	65	60	57	56
2	82	70	78	62	57	68	60	54	63	65	55
3	68	79	68	76	63	57	68	62	64	66	67
4	58	66	76	63	71	69	57	74	57	67	67
5	66	59	68	74	65	72	66	56	76	57	66
6	51	65	60	59	72	69	64	70	53	74	57
Total	468	482	480	468	460	458	428	439	438	444	423
7									72	54	74
8										76	55
Total									510	574	552

* Projected by Raymond School Department
Source: Maine Department of Education

In December of 2001, the Maine Department of Education prepared projections for Raymond's K-8 school enrollment to the year 2015, as well as the 9-12 school population. Raymond's K-8 enrollments can be expected to continue to decline between 2003 through 2008, then stabilize at a level of 533-540 students through 2015. Based on these projections, Raymond's schools should have sufficient capacity through the year 2015. High school enrollments are expected to be relatively stable during the same period, ranging from 279-298 students.

Raymond Projected Enrollments, K-8												
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
556	548	542	535	532	532	533	535	537	538	539	540	538

Source: Maine Department of Education

Raymond Projected Enrollments, 9-12												
2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
281	288	295	298	298	293	288	283	279	278	280	280	281

Source: Maine Department of Education

