

**Town of Raymond
Ethics Committee Meeting
January 9th, 2007
High School Room 101
Approved Minutes**

I. 6:30pm Call to Order

Chairman Marilyn Semple called to order a meeting of the Raymond Ethics Committee on Tuesday, January 9th, 2007, at 6:29pm, in High School Room 101.

Committee members also present:

Frank Bourque
Sandra Ellis
Pam Turcotte

Committee members absent:

Pat Larney

The meeting was taped, but not televised, by RCTV. The cameraman was Chester Goguen.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Semple led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Semple then led the attendees in a moment of silence in memory of recently departed former Ethics Committee member Emery Landis.

III. Proof of Posting

The Proof of Posting for tonight's meeting was confirmed at both the High School and the Fire Station by Chairman Semple.

IV. Public Forum

As there were no Members of the Public present, the Committee moved on to *Agenda Item V, Approval of Minutes*.

V. Approval of Minutes

November 28th, 2006: Ms. Turcotte moved that the minutes be approved as written; Mrs. Ellis seconded. The vote was three in favor with Vice-Chairman Larney absent and Mr. Bourque abstaining due to absence from the referenced meeting; so moved.

VI. Old Business

A: Budget

The Ethics Committee was not notified as to when their portion of the Budget would be discussed by the Board of Selectmen. Therefore, nobody was present to raise an objection when the Selectmen deleted the Legal line from the Ethics Committee Budget. Vice-Chairman Larney asked Town Manager Rick Bates about the removal; Mr. Bates replied that the Committee would have access to legal services should the need arise, but that if the Committee wished the line item reinstated, they would have to attend a Budget hearing. (Mrs. Ellis also suggested that it could be added in during Deliberative Session.)

It is not quite clear what legal services would be available to the committee, although the general consensus is that Mr. Bates was referring to Town Counsel. The Committee was not comfortable with this idea. Although the legal services line has not been used since the Committee's inception, the Committee feels that it is necessary in order to preserve their autonomy. Should an instance ever occur where a complaint hearing requires that the Committee seek legal input, for example, a conflict of interest could arise should the complainant or respondent also be entitled to use Town Counsel.

Vice-Chairman Larney will ask Mr. Bates for clarification. The Committee will be satisfied if Mr. Bates will indicate that the Committee is free to use any legal services they choose, not simply Town Counsel. As Mr. Bates is resigning as Town Manager in the near future, the Committee would prefer that his response be in writing in order to avoid any future confusion.

B: Training

Mr. Bourque asked for a review of the upcoming year's training schedule. He would like for training to begin as early as possible. Chairman Semple stated that Town Employees and the Police Department could be trained right away; Boards and Commissions need to wait until after elections and appointments are done. Mr. Bourque expressed his concern that appointments are made at many different times during the year. Chairman Semple stated that Sharon had indicated that this year there were plans in place to make all appointments as close to the same time as possible.

It was agreed that role-playing should be used during this year's training sessions.

VII. Any Other Business

A: Scenario

Vice-Chairman Larney had wished to discuss a potential scenario at tonight's meeting, but as he was not present, the Committee agreed to postpone this discussion until the next meeting.

VIII. New Business

A: Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be on the 4th Tuesday in February; February 27th, 2007, at 6:30pm. Channel 22 needs to update its schedule.

B: Correspondence

Apparently no correspondence was received.

D: Town Report

A draft statement from the Ethics Committee needs to be submitted by January 17th, 2007. Vice-Chairman Larney will be asked to write something up and email it to the Committee for their input and approval. The statement should include information about the training survey, training plans for the upcoming Fiscal Year, and training statistics from the previous Fiscal Year.

Adjournment

Mrs. Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:51pm. The vote was four in favor with Vice-Chairman Larney absent; so moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda