

**Raymond Ethics Committee**  
**January 10, 2006**  
**Approved Minutes**

**I. Call to Order**

Vice-Chairman Marilyn Semple called to order a meeting of the Raymond Ethics Committee on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006, at 6:30pm, in High School Room 101.

Committee members also present:

Frank Bourque  
Sandra Ellis  
Pam Turcotte

Committee members whose absence/lateness was excused:

Pat Larney

The meeting was televised by RCTV. The cameraman was Joe Lucafo.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

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

**III. Proof of Posting**

The Proof of Posting was confirmed by Vice-Chairman Semple at the Town Hall for today's meeting.

**IV. Public Forum**

As there were no Members of the Public present, the Committee moved on to Agenda Item

*V, Approval of Minutes.*

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

*October 25, 2005:* These minutes will be reviewed at the next meeting.

*December 13, 2005:* Ms. Turcotte moved that these minutes be approved as written; Vice-Chairman Semple seconded. There was no discussion. The vote was two in the affirmative with Mr. Bourque and Ms. Ellis abstaining due to absence from the referenced meeting; so moved.

**VII. Training Session - If Necessary**

As there were no Members of the Public present to be trained, the Committee moved on to Agenda Item *VIII, Old Business*.

#### **VIII. Old Business**

Ms. Turcotte had written up a response to Ms. Gail Columbus, who had appeared at last month's meeting with an inquiry. The response was a summary of the Board's opinion, which had already been given to Ms. Columbus verbally, that she did not need to recuse herself from the Budget Committee due to her pending lawsuit against the town, but that she should fully disclose. Its contents met with the approval of all members present. Ms. Turcotte will sign the response, as Secretary, and send it out to Ms. Columbus, with a copy to all Board Members.

Ms. Ellis reported that Ms. Columbus had indeed disclosed her situation at the subsequent Budget Committee meeting and indicated that she believed she could be fair and impartial. There was no adverse reaction from the other Budget Committee members.

Ms. Turcotte had brought her text from the meeting at Primex in December that concerned building and maintaining an ethical environment. Ms. Ellis took this copy to review. Ms. Turcotte had also brought an article that discussed board members disqualifying/recusing themselves when necessary.

Vice-Chairman Semple stated that all of the above information was useful as it presented different points of view. Mr. Bourque reminded all members that when they obtained information on ethics matters from other places to remember that although it may make good sense, it was not information that the Town of Raymond had voted upon as part of our own Code of Ethics, and if Board members wished to use that particular information, they would need to amend the Code of Ethics and have it voted upon. He suggested that the Board might want to start early if they wished to make any modification to the Code of Ethics for the next election period.

Mr. Bourque related a recusal experience he had recently with the Planning Board. There was a case coming before the board for a property near his residence. He examined the plan before the presentation and determined that there was no need to recuse himself, but while disclosing at the meeting he determined that he knew all the abutters and talked himself into recusing. Although Mr. Bourque believed that he could have been impartial, he did not wish to give the appearance of impropriety.

#### **IX. New Business**

##### **A. Future Meeting Dates**

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2006 at 6:30pm.

##### **B. Correspondence**

Vice-Chairman Semple received an email from Kevin Woods asking if the Ethics Committee would like to do a promotional piece for the upcoming deliberative session.

There was no other new business.

**X. Adjournment**

Ms. Ellis moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:50pm; Ms. Turcotte seconded. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda