

**Town of Raymond
Ethics Committee Meeting
February 27th, 2007
High School Media Center
Final Minutes**

I. 6:30pm Call to Order

Chairman Marilyn Semple called to order a meeting of the Raymond Ethics Committee on Tuesday, February 27th, 2007, at 6:33pm, in the High School Media Center.

Committee members also present:

Frank Bourque

Pat Larney

Pam Turcotte

Committee members absent:

Sandra Ellis

The meeting was televised by RCTV. The cameraman was Chester Goguen.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Proof of Posting

The Proof of Posting for tonight's meeting was confirmed at the High School by Vice Chairman Larney, 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

January 9th, 2007: Ms. Turcotte moved that the minutes be approved as written; Mr. Bourque seconded. The vote was three in favor with Mrs. Ellis absent and Vice-Chairman Larney abstaining due to absence from the referenced meeting; so moved.

VI. Old Business

A. Confirmation of Town Report Approval

The Committee congratulated Vice-Chairman Larney on a report well written. Ms. Turcotte moved that the Committee approve the report as written and submitted; Vice-Chairman Larney seconded. The vote was four in favour with Mrs. Ellis absent; so moved.

VII. Any Other Business

A: Scenario

Vice-Chairman Larney wished to discuss an imaginary ethics-related scenario. The gist of the scenario is that a vendor to the Town on a two-year contract gives their contact person, a Town Employee, four ski pass vouchers for Bretton Woods. The Employee has no interest in skiing, so holds a raffle for all interested employees with the vouchers as the prize. Has the Employee violated the Code of Ethics?

Ms. Turcotte stated that the employee should not have accepted the vouchers in the first place. She was certain that their value was well above \$25, which is the upper limit for accepting gifts.

Mr. Bourque stated that he had researched the value of Bretton Woods ski pass vouchers, and they were approximately \$79 each. He agreed with Ms. Turcotte's suggestion, but stated that if it was impossible for the employee to return the vouchers, the employee should ask the Board of Selectmen to accept the donation, and then hold a non-monetary raffle for the vouchers for all Town Employees.

Ms. Turcotte expressed concern about the definition of "town employees". Would it be possible for the raffle to include everyone in Town?

Chairman Semple suggested that the raffle could also be monetary, with the proceeds going to benefit some good works in Town, such as the Library, etc. She believed that an important question is whether or not the donation was given to an employee, or the Town at large.

Vice-Chairman Larney, who is an employee of the School District Food Service, stated that this sort of thing happens to him all the time. Although the School District does not follow the Town's Code of Ethics, he personally does. If a vendor wishes to give his staff gifts under the \$25 limit, he will raise no objection, but will take nothing himself. One of his vendors holds an annual golf tournament at the Balsams - he does not attend, although it could be considered a work-related event (with food shows, etc.). He does not wish to be indebted to the vendor or give any appearance of wrongdoing.

Ms. Turcotte asked if the tournament was a marketing tool? A learning experience? Vice-Chairman Larney again stated that he does not wish to leave even the perception of wrongdoing. Mr. Bourque stated that if the School District wished Vice-Chairman Larney to attend this tournament, they should pay his costs.

Vice-Chairman Larney stated that he agreed with Mr. Bourque's suggestion that the Board of

Selectmen be asked to accept the donation of ski pass vouchers. Mr. Bourque stated that that is indeed a path. He agreed that the perception is just as important as the reality.

VIII. New Business

A: Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be on the 4th Tuesday in March; March 27th, 2007, at 6:30pm.

B: Correspondence

Evidently no correspondence was received.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Larney moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:46pm. The vote was four in favor with Mrs. Ellis absent; so moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda