

Raymond Ethics Committee
June 28, 2005
Final Minutes

I. Call to Order

Chairman Pat Larney called to order a meeting of the Raymond Ethics Committee on June 28th, 2005, at 6:30pm, in the High School Media Center.

Committee members also present:

Frank Bourque
Marilyn Semple
Pam Turcotte

Committee members excused:

Sandra Ellis

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Larney led the attendees in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Proof of Posting

The Proof of Posting was confirmed by Mr. Larney for the High School, and by Ms. Semple for the Town Hall.

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

April 26, 2005: It was noted that the cameraman for this meeting was Ron Edgar. Ms. Semple moved to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Bourque seconded. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

May 31, 2005: It was noted in Item I that Ms. Semple is Vice Chairman, not Co Chairman; in Item VI that Ms. Ellis alone trained the Budget Committee and Mr. Larney replaced Ms. Semple in training the Zoning Board; and in Item VII A that in the second instance, a letter had been sent to the Board of Selectmen rather than a letter being published in On The Common. Ms. Semple moved to accept the minutes as amended; Mr. Bourque seconded. There was no discussion. The vote was three in favor with Mr. Larney abstaining due to his

absence from that particular meeting; so moved.

VI. Old Business

A. Training - Dates/Committees

The following training date has been set:

Cable Commission (Ms. Semple & Mr. Bourque - June 29th, 7pm)

It appears that members of the following boards still have not been trained, nor have they responded with possible dates:

Historic District Committee
Recreation Advisory Board
Supervisors of the Checklist
Town Moderators
Trustees of Library
Trustees of Trust Fund
Solid Waste Committee
Economic Development (new)

The Committee set the date of Tuesday, August 9th for an 'open' training session that the members of the above listed boards, and anyone else who had missed their own training session, could attend. Mr. Larney will request that Ms. Ellis provide him with the attendance information so he can determine who has yet to be trained, and will see if Kathy Cramer can provide him with email addresses to these particular persons so that they may be invited to the open training date.

Mr. Larney will draft a letter to Mr. Bates to plan a 'town employee' training session.

B. Comments/Concerns Regarding Training

Mr. Bourque volunteered to merge the old and new presentations and add a sample question/answer slide. The results will be reviewed at an August meeting.

VII. New Business

A. Application of Ethics Code to the School District

Mr. Larney sent a query to Susan Slack (Legal Counsel for the New Hampshire Municipal Association) about this subject, but has yet to receive an answer. Mr. Bourque suggested that the Committee request a spot on the School Board's agenda and talk to them about it there. Ms. Semple suggested that we have a Plan B in place in case the Board isn't interested in discussing the subject, but the voters are.

The School Board evidently has its own Code of Ethics but the Committee is not sure how it differs from that of the Town and why they haven't adopted the Town's code.

In the same vein, Emergency Services has their own Code that supercedes the Town's Code but they follow the Town's as well.

Ms. Semple pointed out that two members of the Committee are current school employees. If the School District adopted the Town's Code, and a School-related Ethics matter came up before the Committee, those members may both feel the need to recuse themselves which would cause a problem leaving only 3 committee members and no plan in place for alternates. Mr. Bourque mentioned that the Planning board is allowed to appoint their own alternates, and there was some discussion about the feasibility of having previous board members called upon as alternates. As Ms. Ellis used to be on the School Board, this subject will be tabled until the next meeting when she is present.

B. Revision to the Code of Ethics

Mr. Bourque reiterated that Mr. Wheeler was going to read through the Code of Ethics to identify places he could revise/rewrite. Evidently "small cities program" is no longer a legal definition. Hopefully the Board of Selectmen would be willing to present any changes to the voters so that the Committee would not have to draw up a petition for the next election cycle.

C. Future Meeting Dates

No meetings are planned for the month of July. Mr. Larney will organize the open training session for August 9th, which will be the date of the next meeting. Ms Semple will handle the postings.

VIII. Adjournment

Mr. Bourque moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:11pm; Ms. Turcotte seconded. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Respectfully submitted,
Debra H. Doda