

**Town of Raymond
Ethics Committee Meeting
October 24th, 2006
High School Room 101
Final Minutes**

I. 6:30pm Call to Order

Chairman Marilyn Semple called to order a meeting of the Raymond Ethics Committee on Tuesday, October 24th, 2006, at 6:30pm, in High School Room 101.

Committee members also present:

Sandra Ellis
Pat Larney
Pam Turcotte

Committee members absent, and excused:

Frank Bourque

Members of the Public present:

None

The meeting was recorded 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 was confirmed by Vice-Chairman Larney for the High School, and Chairman Semple for the Fire Station.

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

September 26th, 2006: Ms. Turcotte moved that the minutes be accepted as written; Vice-Chairman Larney seconded. The vote was four in favor with Mr. Bourque absent; so moved.

VI. Old Business

A: Training Sessions

Chairman Semple had drafted an email to send to all Board & Commission Chairmen, asking for their preferences as far as training frequency and location are concerned. The Committee read it through and discussed it.

Ms. Turcotte suggested that although the Ethics Committee will provide training on an annual basis, board/commission members should only be expected to attend every other year, and new members be expected to attend during their first year of service. They could perhaps receive a certificate after taking the training.

Chairman Semple pointed out that training is not mandatory for board/commission members; only for Town Employees. A discussion followed as to what frequency Town Manager Rick Bates would prefer for his employees.

It is not certain that the Code will need to be changed if the frequency of training is changed. If so, the Committee will approach the Selectmen and ask them to make it a Town Warrant. If they are not interested in doing so, the Committee will put together a petition. The deadline for Petitioned Warrants is January 9th, 2007; Town Warrants will be discussed on November 28th, 2006.

Chairman Semple will revise the email based on the Committee's suggestions and send it to Vice-Chairman Larney, who will send it out from the Yahoo account. It is hoped that results will be in hand before the next meeting.

B: Discussion on RSA 91-A

A video of a previous meeting with Susan Slack as the guest speaker was shown. The subject was the Right to Know law. Much of the video focused on what can or should be public vs. non-public. Ms. Turcotte stated that the validity of the complaint and its relevance to the Code of Ethics should be determined first in a non-public session before proceeding with a public hearing. She believes that people will gossip about what happens behind closed doors.

Mrs. Ellis stated that some Complaint Hearings should be held in non-public session, due to potential damage to someone's reputation. She is concerned that a complainant or defendant might bring up another person's name who is not there to defend themselves.

Chairman Semple reminded Mrs. Ellis of the procedural pre-hearing where both parties will be required to submit rosters of who they plan to involve in their offense or defense.

Mrs. Ellis stated that she did not believe that all hearings should be held in a non-public session, but that the Committee should look at each complaint carefully before making that decision. She has heard from some Members of the Public that they might be reluctant to complain because hearings **are** held in public session.

Vice-Chairman Larney asked if it was possible that the Committee review each case individually,

and then decide at that time if portions should be made non-public or if it should be totally public. Committee members could recuse themselves at that time if they disagreed with the majority decision. The Committee members agreed with this plan.

VII. Any Other Business

A. Police Training

The Police Training went well. Only two persons were missing at the start, one showing up late. Ms. Turcotte stated that the examples weren't really relevant to the Police Department, however. Vice-Chairman Larney stated that the Police Department has its own Code of Ethics, and suggested that the Committee talk to the Chief about that Code so that the Committee could use portions of that for discussion examples. Ms. Turcotte suggested drawing up a 10-question handout that could be discussed after the training instead.

B. Other

There's a test on business ethics in the Yahoo account. All should review.

VIII. New Business

A: Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, November 28th, 2006.

B: Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

IX. Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Larney moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:47pm; Mrs. Ellis seconded. The vote was four in favour with Mr. Bourque absent; so moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda