

**Raymond Ethics Committee
December 13, 2005
Approved Minutes**

I. Call to Order

Chairman Pat Larney called to order a meeting of the Raymond Ethics Committee on Tuesday, December 13th, 2005, at 6:34pm, in High School Room 101.

Committee members also present:

Marilyn Semple
Pam Turcotte

Committee members whose absences were excused:

Frank Bourque
Sandra Ellis

Members of the Public present:

Gail Columbus

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Proof of Posting

The Proof of Posting was confirmed by Ms. Semple and Mr. Larney for today's meeting.

IV. Resident Inquiry

Chairman Larney read an inquiry from Gail Columbus, a member of the budget committee. She is bringing suit against the Town of Raymond because of septic and well contamination due to a housing development. She regrets having to bring this action, but feels the Town has been unresponsive. She is concerned about her position as a member of the Budget Committee and is wondering if she should plan to recuse herself from discussions and deliberations, and if so, which ones.

Ms. Semple asked if there was any particular part of the budget as it stands that concerned Ms. Columbus. Ms. Columbus stated that she had already viewed the details of the budget before the lawsuit was filed, and doesn't feel that there were any areas of the budget that would be affected by her lawsuit. She is well aware that the Budget Committee is supposed to be completely neutral and wants to research and disclose any potential conflicts. She feels that she could be impartial in dealing with her lawsuit vs. the Town's budget, warrant

articles, etc.

Ms Turcotte stated that she didn't see that there would be any conflict, although she was not familiar with the specifics of the budget. Chairman Larney did not feel that there was any conflict of interest, and felt that as an elected official, Ms. Columbus should go ahead and do what she was elected to do. Ms. Semple stated that she felt it would be prudent for Ms. Columbus to err on the side of caution by laying the issue on the table, informing the Budget Committee of the situation, and letting the other members know that she feels she can be impartial and fair in all dealings.

Ms. Turcotte will write up the Committee's decision, and file it with the original inquiry.

V. Public Forum

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

VI. Approval of Minutes

November 8, 2005: The cameraman for this meeting was Joe Lucafo. Ms. Semple moved to approve the minutes with this addition; Ms. Turcotte seconded. There was no further discussion. The vote was three for approval with Ms. Ellis and Mr. Bourque absent; so moved.

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

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

An expected discussion on Verbal Inquiry Responses was tabled as the full Committee was not present.

IX. New Business

Ms. Turcotte and Ms. Semple attended a program at Primex this morning, which concerned building and maintaining an ethical environment. They both felt that it was very informative, and gave them the impression that the Town of Raymond Ethics Committee is doing what it was formed to do, and performing to expectations. They learned quite a bit about the Ethics Policies of other local towns. One part of the program was three case studies, which sparked quite a bit of useful and interesting discussions. Ms. Turcotte and Ms. Semple discussed one of the case studies that had been broached and how the meeting attendees had decided. Ms. Turcotte felt that the case studies might be useful for our own

training sessions. Also, there is good suggested wording in the text in case our Code of Ethics needs tweaking.

Mr. Larney will be taking the text home to review, and if he feels it could be useful for all members, will have copies made. There is money in the budget to cover these copies.

There was no other new business.

A. Future Meeting Dates

The next scheduled meeting will be on Tuesday, January 10th, 2006, at 6:30pm. It will be downstairs in Room 101.

B. Correspondence

No correspondence has been received.

X. Adjournment

Ms. Semple moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:04pm; Ms. Turcotte seconded. There was no discussion. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative; so moved.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debra H. Doda