

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Harold Wood. Members present: Wayne Welch, Paul Brown and Jonathan Wood. Also present: Richard C. Bates, Town Manager.

Chairman Harold Wood led a salute to the flag and a moment of silent for Nicole Theriault.

PUBLIC FORUM

Steve Naoum stated he has lived here for 8 years and has always taken the time to vote. He stated that he respects the Board of Selectmen, however, after reading about the last meeting the high esteem he holds for them was tarnished because the Board of Selectmen is considering a government change. He stated he read the article in the newspaper. He considers himself an informed citizen and he disagrees with Mr. Wood and Mr. Bates that the Town is uninformed. He told the Board of Selectmen that they need to take more time to know what the people want. He said he found it offensive what the Board of Selectmen want to spent his tax dollar on. He said I thank you have been misinformed about who the people of Raymond really are and you will find the people who take the time to vote are informed. Mr. Naoum reviewed some census numbers and stated that these show that people in Raymond cannot afford to pay higher taxes. He said that before you change the government you should get back in touch with the citizens of Raymond.

Chairman Harold stated that no one on this Board is here for any personal gain.

Town Manager Bates stated that he did not want anyone to believe that he thinks people were all not informed. He said there are a lot of people that are like Mr. Naoum and take the time to know what is going on. He stated his goal is to get more people to participate and his job is to make sure that people have the information they need. He added that he believes in the process.

Mr. Naoum stated that we do not need another form of government.

Town Manager Bates stated that we are discussing how to get people more involved in the whole process and we have succeeded if people are casting their vote.

Selectman J. Wood stated that there was less than 50% of the registered voters that voted. We had even less participation in deliberative session. He stated that there was confusion over the wastewater treatment article.

Chairman Harold Wood stated that wastewater treatment would benefit the community. We don't know why they voted no. There may be lots of reasons but we don't know.

Don Drew stated that he did write a letter about why it was a no vote for the waste water treatment plant.

Mr. Naoum suggested that the Town should have more deliberative sessions.

Chairman Harold Wood said that before any change of government was made the people would have to make the decision.

Jack Barnes stated that if you get a way to get voters out then write a book about it.

Selectman Welch stated that the Board of Selectmen wanted to learn what other forms of government there are. This was an educational process.

Don Smith said that he had people asked him how to vote at the last election. He said he would never tell anyone how to vote but he did try to explain the articles.

Mr. Naoum stated that the people want the same government.

Proposal for Residing Library

Sherry Brox and Library Trustee Robert Gonser met with the Board to present information regarding the Library residing. The Board of Selectmen took the opportunity to look at several samples. The Trustees are recommending using the cement board that would be done in the same color as the Library is now.

Mr. Gonser stated that there is a CIP fund for the residing as well as the Library Trustee Trust fund.

Mrs. Brox stated that there are no restrictions from Carnegie on the type of siding that can be used. She stated that the Board of Selectmen have discussed the importance of presenting a good image for Raymond and the way the Library looks now is not a good example.

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a memo from Public Works Director McCarthy and two proposals relative to residing of the Library. Please note that these documents are attached to the minutes of the meeting. Public Works Director McCarthy recommended that an adequate contingency fund be established.

Selectman Welch asked if the cement board siding would prohibit us from getting on the historic register. Mrs. Brox stated that she did not think that the Town would want to do that because of the major restrictions that go along with it.

Selectman Welch stated that our maintenance budget is stretched to the limit so where would we pull the money from if we needed it? Mrs. Brox stated that it's general government buildings and the Library has no money so it's something we need to think about. She also stated that the sign out in front of the Library needs to be replaced. Public Works Director McCarthy stated that he would look at the budget and see if there is any money that could be used for the contingency fund.

Senator Jack Barnes – Education Funding Plan

Senator Barnes presented the Board of Selectmen with a copy of an educational funding plan submitted by Senator Gatchell. Senator Barnes stated he supports this proposal and it's now in committee.

Preparation of Cemeteries prior to Memorial Day

Senator Barnes stated that he was concerned that the flags were not replaced for Memorial Day and suggested that the Board of Selectmen put someone in charge of the flags for the Town.

Town Manager Bates stated that it was an unfortunate situation that the flags were not replaced. He said that Public Works Director McCarthy is well aware of the problem and has created a checklist to insure that this will not happen again.

Sailor's & Soldier's Monument Fundraiser

Frank Bishop and Don Smith met with the Board to kick off the fundraising efforts for the Sailor's and Soldier's Monument. Mr. Bishop and Mr. Smith stated that the VFW and American Legion are selling raffle tickets, the proceeds of which will be used to restore the monument on the common.

Selectman Welch stated that he and Mr. Bishop have contacted the Sons of the Union Veterans from the Rochester area. This group has a lot of interest in this statue and they want to come to a Board of Selectmen's meeting and discuss fund raising and how they may be able to help us. There is also a small grant available from the group. Selectman Welch stated he would contact them.

The Board of Selectmen thanked the VFW and American Legion for their efforts.

Building Permit Fee for Jackson Lumber

Chairman Harold Wood read a letter from Jackson Lumber requesting that this discussion be postponed to the next Selectmen's meeting. The Board agreed.

Review and Adoption of Hazard Mitigation Plan

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the final draft of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Public Works Director McCarthy explained that Tracy Dignan from Rockingham County Conservation district worked with Town Officials to write the plan. The Committee was made up of Planner Grassie, Public Works Director McCarthy, Code Enforcement Officer Mailhot, Police Chief Salois, Fire Chief Pratt, Dan Olivier and Selectman Jonathan Wood.

Selectman Welch commented that this is a very good document and the Committee did a lot of work on it. Selectman Welch asked if this document will assist the Town in getting grants. Public Works Director McCarthy stated that the adoption of this plan makes the town eligible to apply for and possibly receive other grants that would help us in this area.

MOTION: Selectman Welch made a motion to adopt the Hazard Mitigation Plan as written. Selectman J. Wood seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative.

Campaign for Public Awareness

Don Drew stated that there is a silent majority in Town that even though they would like to participate they just may be uncomfortable in front of a public meeting speaking their mind. He proposed creating a forum for people to have the opportunity to talk and ask questions in a casual setting. He outlined his plan for an e-mail and call in session. Mr. Drew stated he has asked Selectman Welch to moderate this kind of meeting and he has agreed.

Town Manager Bates stated that any time we invite more public dialogue and discussion, we have an opportunity to promote better understanding and community understanding for the ideas and vision the Board is trying to promote.

Selectman Welch asked if the Board of Selectmen supported this endeavor. Chairman Harold Wood asked the Board and they agreed that they support the proposal.

Mr. Drew stated that he would like to set up a committee to organize this forum and suggested that a time in September would be good. The Selectmen agreed and asked Mr. Drew to move ahead with it.

Reconstruction of Long Hill Road – Phase III Project

The Board of Selectmen reviewed a memo from Dennis McCarthy relative to the reconstruction of Long Hill Road. The contract has been awarded to Rolfe Construction for the reconstruction project.

Town Manager Bates stated that in accordance with Dennis' recommendation, this has been a three-year project that needs to be completed this year. Every year that we delay, we are chasing an inflating price, and it gets more and more expensive each year. This is the fifth year for three phases of 7,000 feet of road. The water main construction funds would come from excess water revenues, which we currently have but are unbudgeted.

Town Manager Bates stated that the recommendation from Don Borrer of DRA is to have us go before the Budget Committee and request a letter be sent from them in reference to 32:11, which is Emergency Expenditure and over expenditures. If the Board agrees, we will make the necessary arrangements to start the process toward doing just that. Timing is an issue with this project. It is important that the water main get installed prior to the road being reconstructed.

MOTION: Selectman J. Wood made a motion to authorize payment of the water main construction in the amount of \$71,364.00. Selectman Welch seconded. Selectman Brown abstained. Voted unanimously in the affirmative by the remaining members of the Board.

Board of Selectmen Reports

Selectman Welch stated he wanted to compliment the Highway Department on the good job they did preparing the roads for paving.

Parks & Recreation – Selectman Welch reported that they received a grant from the County for \$11,900 for the summer recreation program. The Riverside Park Grant application is in Washington and pending approval.

Selectman Brown stated that he and Selectman Welch attended a Boy Scout dinner at Camp Carpenter and it was very nice.

Chairman Harold Wood stated that he presented the Selectmen's scholarship at the High School Graduation on Friday evening. He congratulated the Class of 2003.

Planning Board – Selectman J. Wood reported that an All Boards meeting was held with the Planning Board as the hosts. July 28th will be the next joint meeting at the Board of Selectmen.

Town Manager Report

New motor vehicle software is installed and the Town Clerk's Office is very happy with it.

Budget are being put together by Department Heads.

Rick Greenwood has been hired for Building and Grounds Maintenance. He will begin full time in October and part time until then.

The Library is now on summer hours.

The Chem Free graduation party went well with good participation.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Selectman Welch made a motion to adjourn. Selectman J. Wood seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:40 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Patterson
Selectmen's Secretary