

THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 29, 2004

APPROVED

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Raymond High School Media Center by Chairman Jonathan Wood. Members present: Norman Weldy, Paul Brown, Dick Wood and Jack Barnes. Also present: Town Manager Rick Bates. Department Heads present: Michelle Clark, Dennis McCarthy, Kevin Pratt, Michelle Gordon, and Craig Wheeler.

Chairman J. Wood led a salute to the flag.

Chairman J. Wood opened the public forum and invited anyone wishing to speak to come up and do so.

Public Forum

Selectman Brown stated that he would like to speak. Paul Brown came up and stated that he is a citizen of Raymond. He lives on Long Hill Road and would like to speak regarding the recent letter to the editor about the Board of Selectmen. He feels that the Board of Selectmen has a vast amount of experience among the members. Mr. Brown also stated that he is not seeking re-election in March and invites any "young blood" to step forward and run for the seat he will be vacating.

Tim Auclair came forward and asked the Board if the budget does not pass and automatically goes to a default budget, is there a way for a private citizen to have recycling put back on the default budget, what would a person have to do to get a warrant article placed on the ballot, in case the default budget passes? Chairman J. Wood stated that what Mr. Auclair would like to do is put forth a citizens petition for a warrant article for curbside recycling if the default budget passes. Selectman D. Wood stated that 25 signatures from registered voters will make up a citizens petition for a warrant article. Chairman J. Wood stated that if Mr. Auclair needs help making clear what is wanted, Mr. Auclair could talk to the Town Manager and he may be able to give him some assistance. Town Manager Bates stated he just had this conversation with the Local Government Center about having dueling warrant articles and it is okay. The budget is the budget and the warrant articles are the warrant articles. If the budget passes and the warrant article failed, it would not necessarily negate the budget passing recycling in the budget. Discussion followed regarding the wording that should be placed in the warrant article.

Chairman J. Wood asked if there was anyone else wishing to speak in the public forum? Hearing none, public forum is closed.

Public Hearing

Donation of picnic tables to Riverside Park from the Raymond Area Rotary Club. They are donating five picnic tables to Riverside Park. Chairman J. Wood asked for comments from the public. Hearing none he asked for comments from the Selectmen. With no further comments, Chairman J. Wood closed the public hearing.

Motion by Selectman Weldy to accept the five picnic tables from the Raymond Area Rotary Club to be placed in Riverside Park, seconded by Selectman Brown with thanks to the Rotary Club. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman J. Wood then asked for a volunteer to attend the acceptance of the picnic tables tomorrow at 11:00 a.m. Selectman Brown volunteered to attend.

Unfinished Business

CIP Warrant Articles – John Page – Michelle Clark

Mr. Page went over the CIP items with the Board explaining some changes that he made in some of the recommendations.

Selectman Barnes thanked Mr. Page for all his time and efforts in coming to these recommendations.

A discussion was held among the Selectmen regarding the target number they came up with prior to this meeting and making sure the tax rate did not bring that number up. They want to fund as many things as possible and keep the tax rate down.

Selectman D. Wood voiced his concern over funding the CIP accounts as another town that did not adequately fund their CIP accounts could not collect impact fees. They could not collect the money for the impact fees because the projects were not funded properly. Selectman D. Wood does not want that to happen here in Raymond. Chairman J. Wood asked Craig Wheeler if the Town of Raymond was currently funding roads, which is the first impact fee that impact fees will be collected for? Craig stated yes. The next two funds to come along are Police and Fire, are those funds being funded correctly now? Craig Wheeler stated he did not believe so. Chairman J. Wood asked for clarification that the Town will run into trouble in 2005 with the impact fees, were we to adopt impact fees for those two. Craig Wheeler stated he believes so. It is Town Manager Bates' recommendation that the Board of Selectmen avoid trying to grab at that money and stay with the plan of the 15%, move it up and get some money into the unfunded ones, as recommended and start working towards the goal of getting all unfunded accounts funded at least at some level, or the possibility of not getting it funded at all. Chairman J. Wood polled the Board with regard to that suggestion. Jack Barnes – Not sure; Paul Brown – yes; Norm Weldy – Not sure; Dick Wood – yes; Jonathan Wood – yes. Further discussion followed among the Board members.

Fire Chief Pratt wanted to bring up the possibility of the Building Permit fees funding the utility vehicle for the fire department. Chairman J. Wood asked if there was a part of the building permit fee that is addressed to fire? Fire Chief Pratt stated that yes 4 cents a square foot goes toward fire. Fire Chief Pratt stated that there is enough money in the account to fund the utility vehicle now and still leave some behind. Finance Director Clark explained the difference in the way it was set up if this were to happen. Further

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discussion was held between the Board of Selectmen and Craig Wheeler with regard to impact fees and proper funding.

Chairman J. Wood polled the Board to see if they agree to add a warrant article for New Town Facilities to the CIP Plan. Jack Barnes – yes; Paul Brown – yes, Norm Weldy – yes; Dick Wood – yes, Jonathan Wood – yes.

The Board of Selectmen and Mr. Page had further discussions on the CIP accounts and funding.

Chairman J. Wood asked if there were any final comments from the public, from the department heads?

John Page stated that the funding is better than what was done in the past, but it still needs improvement.

Motion by Selectman D. Wood to accept the proposed CIP with 15% increase over last year, but filling all the buckets, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Selectman D. Wood – yes; Selectman Weldy – yes; Selectman Brown – yes; Selectman Barnes – yes for all except sidewalks; Chairman J. Wood – yes. Motion passed.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Page for all the work he put into the CIP Plan.

Finance Director Clark then presented some changes in the budget. The health insurance will be switched to Harvard Pilgrim which will save \$42,000 off the budget. The other change that was brought up was the question of whether or not we needed to include a line in the budget for the pay per bag because of the creation of a special revenue fund for this whole process. We do need to include a line, however, there will also be a revenue line so it is an offsetting revenue.

Chairman J. Wood stated that when the budget was sent to the Budget Committee. The Board thought that they were reducing the expenditure line by \$500,000 or so. The Board did not reduce the expenditure line by \$500,000, they are offsetting that with the revenue, so the expenditure line goes out as it was proposed to the Board, however, there is an offsetting revenue (pay as you throw) that reduces the increase in the anticipated tax rate.

Chairman J. Wood made an announcement that the Raymond Arts Association is presenting “Don’t Drink The Water”. The signs you may see around the Town that say Don’t Drink The Water are for the show that they are putting on December 3, 4, and 5th and do not have anything to do with the Town’s water. Tickets are \$8 for adults; \$6 for seniors and students. They are available at Raymond Recreation and also at the door.

Committee Updates

Jack Barnes – None

Paul Brown – Update will be given next week.

Norm Weldy – None

Jonathan Wood – None

Dick Wood – attended Budget Committee a week ago and the Town Budget was presented to the Budget Committee.

Town Manager Report

Fire Department responded to a structure fire on Batchelder Road.

Annual Fire Fighter's Association Christmas Tree Sale will be December 4 and 5th at the Safety Complex.

Recreation Department is having a trip to Bright Lights in Springfield, Mass. That trip is full.

Christmas on the Common December 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Rick judged the Mr. Raymond Pageant last Thursday.

Rick attended a Chamber of Commerce meeting. He was elected to the Board of the New Hampshire Municipal Association.

The Police Department – Officer Holsten graduated from the Academy. Officer Loveless arrested a subject doing donuts on the Cammett Soccer Field.

Two cruisers are currently down, one with a transmission that is slipping and one with an electrical short.

Correspondence

Public Information Night for the new middle school for 2005 on Tuesday, November 23rd.

Letter from Insurcom Construction who was restoring the home of Mark Gallo on Colonial Drive which was necessary following a fire. They were impressed with the Town of Raymond's policy not to charge for permits to rebuild after a fire. They also complimented Richard Mailhot on his help and professionalism.

Motion by Selectman Brown to accept the Minutes of 11-8-04, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Motion passed unanimously.

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Motion by Selectman Brown to accept the Minutes of 11-15-04, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Cramer