

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.

Chairman J. Wood led a salute to the flag and held a moment of silence for departed citizens. Chairman J. Wood also welcomed a new birth, Caitlyn Denise.

### **Public Forum**

Chairman J. Wood requesting anyone wishing to speak, to please come forward and state your name.

Peter Buckingham came forward expressed to everyone on the Board of Selectmen, the Town Manger and the residents of Raymond a Merry Christmas. Mr. Buckingham expressed his unhappiness recent events having to do with a citizens petition.

With no further comments from the public, Chairman J. Wood closed the public forum.

### **Public Hearing**

Acceptance of Trees for Riverside Park from Scenic Nursery.

Chairman J. Wood opened the public hearing and invited comment.

Town Manager Bates stated that he was in receipt of a letter from Bob Gonser requesting acceptance of 23 trees worth approximately \$2,788.25 from Scenic Nursery to beautify the Memorial Garden and proposed picnic area in Riverside Park.

Mr. Gonser came forward and presented a map depicting where the trees will be going. Mr. Gonser also stated that this is just one donation in ongoing efforts by Scenic Nursery to continue to beautify the park. Mr. Gonser explained that this is going to be an ongoing donation and was wondering if there was something that could be done so they did not have to come before the Board every time. Chairman J. Wood explained than anything with a value of over \$25 must come before the Board for public hearing and acceptance.

Chairman J. Wood asked if anyone had any further comments. Hearing none, Chairman J. Wood closed the public hearing.

**Motion by Selectman Weldy to accept the donation of 23 trees with a value of \$2,788.25 from Glenn and Ann Caron, Scenic Nursery, and the Board would also like the Town Manager to send a letter of thanks to them, seconded by Selectman Brown. Motion passed unanimously.**

**Motion by Selectman Barnes to reopen the public hearing so that Glenn Caron may say a few words, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman J. Wood stated the public hearing is reopened.

Glenn Caron stated that Riverside Park is a wonderful thing to happen to Raymond and he stated he will continue to donate trees for as long as he can.

Town Manager Bates suggested to Mr. Gonser that this would be a good time to give a status update on Riverside Park.

Mr. Gonser stated that it is no longer a rock pit. There is about an acre and a half field for the residents of Raymond to enjoy. There is a horseshoe pit ready to go for next year. Mr. Gonser went over all the improvements made to the area and what they were hoping to have completed for next year.

The Board of Selectmen thanked Mr. Caron for his generous donations and Mr. Gonser for his continued efforts to make Riverside Park beautiful.

Chairman J. Wood asked for any further comments, there being none, the public hearing is closed.

### **Public Hearing**

Acceptance of the \$20.00 donation from Larry Lewis to the Raymond Police Department General Fund.

Chairman J. Wood opened the public hearing and invited comment.

Town Manager Bates stated that there was a memo from the Police Chief requesting the \$20.00 donation to the Raymond Police Department be accepted.

Chairman J. Wood asked if there were any comments, hearing none, the public hearing is closed.

**Motion by Selectman D. Wood to accept the \$20.00 donation to the Raymond Police Department General Fund, seconded by Selectman Brown. Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Interview of Ron Edgar – Cable Committee**

Mr. Edgar was asked to come forward. The Board interviewed Mr. Edgar and stated that a vote will be taken at the next business meeting of the Board of Selectmen, which will be on January 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Board thanked Mr. Edgar for his volunteer efforts.

### Highway Safety Committee Request

Town Manager Bates referenced a memo from Dennis McCarthy, Public Works Director. The Highway Safety Committee met to discuss the installation of a stop sign on Bald Hill Road and Lane Road because to the increased traffic flow due to the development that is going in there. This is now a shortcut between Chester and Raymond.

Town Manager Bates stated that if the Board would like the public hearing process to be started, the first could be January 24<sup>th</sup> and the second could be February 7<sup>th</sup>.

Chairman J. Wood asked if there were any further comments, hearing none, the public hearing is now closed.

**Motion by Selectman D. Wood to place this item on the agenda for public hearing for January 24<sup>th</sup> and February 7<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Motion passed unanimously.**

### State Highway Shed

Town Manager Bates stated that he, Paul Brown and Jack Barnes met with Carol Murray, the Commissioner for the Department of Transportation to discuss possible options for the State Highway Shed. Paul Brown feels that the property is worth less than the asking price. The State has a Opinion of Value which lists the property at \$280,000. Paul believes the value is substantially less than that.

There are a couple of different options of how the problem of the value can be approached. It could be brought before the Long Range Planning Committee and make the case as to why we feel the value is too high and hope that they will lower it. The Long Range Planning Committee is a State Board that looks over the sale of State owned land and they make recommendations. Generally, they are trying to get more money for the sale of their property.

The second option would be to give the State more time to evaluate the actual value and bring it up at next year's meeting. They are not in a huge hurry to sell the land and they are not even going to vacate it until sometime in June or July. We could wait and try to negotiate verbally with them.

The third option is that we could have our own appraiser look at it. Dennis feels that there is money in the budget to have this accomplished. Then we could go before the Long Range Planning Committee with the appraisal in hand.

Selectman Barnes stated that there was also a fourth option. To have Paul Brown call a certain individual and talk with him. Selectman Barnes asked Selectman Brown if that was done. Selectman Brown stated that he has not talked to the individual as he is waiting for the consensus of the Board. Mr. Brown also brought up the possibility of a

lease and he did some quick figures on it. If the State would agree to lease it on a year to year basis, for industrial space it is worth about \$4.00 a square foot. It is a 2400 square foot building, that works out to \$9,600 a year and divide that by 12 and it is about \$800 a month. That is a net lease, where we pay the expenses, the insurance, repairs, etc. This should give us time to look into this further and if next year we decide to that purchasing it is what we would like to do, then we could get an appraisal done or go to the Long Range Planning Committee. At any rate we get to use the facility in the meantime.

The Board and Town Manager had further discussions regarding the above.

Town Manager Bates stated that certainly there is no rush to get this building, however, it would be a shame to have someone else come in there and we have to have a Highway Department move because they don't have room for expansion.

Chairman J. Wood asked if perhaps we should register a letter of interest in the property. Selectman Brown stated that he thought that would be wise.

**Motion by Selectman Barnes that we withdraw the Warrant Article that we have proposed for the State Highway Shed, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Motion passed unanimously.**

Chairman J. Wood polled the Board as to whether or not Town Manager Bates should send a letter of intent and possible method of acquiring the property to Commissioner Murray. Jack Barnes – yes; Paul Brown – yes; Norm Weldy – yes; Dick Wood – yes; Jonathan Wood – yes.

#### **Union Contract – Discussion and Action**

Town Manager Bates stated that the changes in the wording in the contract that were negotiated are before the Board tonight. Town Manager Bates, Norm Weldy and Jack Barnes worked with the Union back in August. The Union has agreed to these wording changes to the contract. The changes were discussed. (Copy of document on file in the Town Clerk's Office).

**Motion by Selectman Barnes to approve this to go on the Warrant Article and amend our current contract, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Selectman D. Wood also wants it to read that this is recommended by the Board of Selectmen, seconded by Selectman Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.**

#### **Board of Selectmen Report Committee Updates**

Jack Barnes – The only meeting is the one he attended in Concord with Rick and Paul Brown with Commissioner Murray.

Paul Brown – The same as above.

Norm Weldy – Attended a Highway Safety Meeting which was discussed above. He also attended a Raymond Coalition for Youth meeting and welcomed the new Coalition Coordinator, Gail Mills. She is part-time and will be correlating all the grants.

Dick Wood – Attended a budget meeting regarding the town warrant articles, no action was taken.

Jonathan Wood – Attended the budget committee meeting. He also attended the Conservation Commission meeting, a Volunteer Banquet Committee meeting, a Planning Board meeting, had a site walk on a conceptual development for manufactured homes off Blueberry Hill and then a site walk through Pine Acres where there is an application with the Planning Board having to do with an as-built site plan. The problem being that there are 45 more sites that are on the as-built plan then were approved and there was no intervening approval for those 45 sites. While on that walk Jonathan saw a significant number of recreation vehicles (campers) that did not have current vehicle registrations and also had what looked to be permanent porches attached to them. Chairman J. Wood spoke to the planner and the building inspector and they stated that this is something that has come before the selectmen before and what really needs to be done is to have the Town's Assessor go out and inspect these and see if there is any tax value in them because recently the Town of Weare won in court the ability to go and tax recreation vehicles that are onsite year round and never really go on the road and that have permanent structures attached to them.

It was decided to make sure that they are not already being taxed and then have the assessor go check them out. The Board agreed and have asked Town Manager Bates to check out whether they are taxed or not and to report back to the Board.

Finally, Chairman J. Wood taped another episode of the Round Table. This was on volunteers on the different boards, what spaces are open and to encourage people not only to joint the boards, but also to sign up for the elections that are coming up.

### **Correspondence**

Chairman J. Wood went over various correspondence.

A letter from the Nottingham Economic Development Committee to Craig praising him for his efforts to help them get up to speed with their growth.

Discussion regarding the Nottingham Economic Development Committee and if Raymond should reform their Economic Development Committee. Selectman Barnes requested Town Manager Bates find out if a warrant article is needed to reform that committee.

Local Government Center Scholarship Program - Open to high school seniors whose parent or legal guardian is a full time employee of a New Hampshire municipal, school, county and village district who is a member/participant in the Local Government Center services on March 1 of the year of application. There are a minimum of 10 scholarships

valued at \$750 that will be awarded statewide. The deadline is March 1, 2005. For more information call 1-800-852-3358.

Selectman Weldy asked about the Cemetery Advisory Committee. The Chairman has resigned. A new chairman must be elected so that this committee can continue to meet.

Letter from Pennichuck with regard to the lawsuit and the continued commitment to provide quality water to Raymond.

Further discussion was held regarding the PUC and the eminent domain matter in the courts right now.

Chairman J. Wood announced that a Wildlife Inventory Protocol for the Dearborn property was done, along with two other pieces of property in town. This study was done by seniors in Wildlife Management, Forestry and Environmental Science at UNH. A copy of this study is on file at the Town Clerk's Office.

### **Minutes**

Minutes of November 29<sup>th</sup>. Selectman D. Wood had a change on page 2 to reflect "that if projects are not funded properly, towns are not able to collect impact fees."

**Motion by Selectman Brown to accept the Minutes of 11-29-04 as corrected, seconded by Selectman D. Wood. Motion passed unanimously.**

Minutes of December 6, 2004.

**Motion by Selectman Weldy to accept the Minutes of 12-6-04, seconded by Selectman Barnes. Selectman D. Wood abstained. Motion passed.**

### **Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Bates reported on the activity within the departments at the Town Office.

The permit for the transfer facility should be going to the State in the next few days. When the permit is approved the facility will be run by Bestway Disposal. This will probably be some time in February.

Thursday the Recreation Department reported that they had a senior trip to the White Mountains. 43 people attended.

This Thursday is the Town Office Christmas party at 2:30, the office will be closing at 2:30 in order for the employees to attend.

Town Manager Bates finished his Municipal Leadership Program sponsored by the Local Government Center.

He attended a meeting with Jonathan Wood with regard to the Little Red Schoolhouse project in an attempt to try and solve the issue of the schoolhouse. One of the possible solutions that came up was that the Town/Public Works/Parks Department would be the major beneficiary of the building and have the building moved to the location next to the tennis courts. It would not be terribly expensive or difficult for us to do the excavation work and there is some level of belief that we can get concrete donated for the foundation. The only major issue is the form work for the installation of the forms for the foundation that would go under it. It would give the Parks Department a place to store the mowing equipment and allow the building to be saved, rather than demolished. Selectman Barnes voiced his opinion on the building and that if the move of this building is going to benefit the school, if used as a concession stand, then the school should pay to have the building moved. Another way to pay for the move would be to have a fundraising effort, Sally Paradis and Tim Louis have suggested this.

Chairman J. Wood stated that the issue of the Little Red Schoolhouse will be put on the agenda for 1/3 and Sally Paradis, Tim Louis will be invited to this meeting.

Selectman Barnes wished everyone Happy Holidays.

**Motion to adjourn by Selectman Weldy, seconded by Selectman Brown. Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Cramer