

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, Allison Elizabeth.

Public Forum

Chairman J. Wood requested anyone wishing to speak to please come forward and state his or her name.

Peter Buckingham came forward and asked if any further information was gathered regarding a possible Citizen's Advisory Committee.

Town Manager Bates stated that he spoke with Craig Wheeler and his recommendation was that we already have the Industrial and Community Development Advisory Board that was previous established and he suggested that we re-invigorate that Board because the authority is already there. One of Craig's questions was that the Board would need to give some direction as to what level of responsibility the Board would want that Advisory Board to have. Whether it is strictly advisory, because some economic councils or boards have the ability to buy and sell land and contract. That is another whole level of responsibility and not being sure what the Board wanted he requested direction. At the least the first step should be to re-invigorate the Industrial and Community Development Advisory Board.

Selectman Barnes asked how would the Board re-invigorate the advisory board.

Town Manager Bates stated that we would investigate what the membership was and look up whatever information is available in the files. It is probably all archived now.

Chairman J. Wood asked Mr. Buckingham if he would like to be on this committee?

Mr. Buckingham stated he is not certain why the board stopped meeting. He stated he knows some people who were on it and he thought it was due to some illegalities or ethics issues.

Chairman J. Wood asked Mr. Buckingham what the reasons were if he desired to be on this Board?

Mr. Buckingham stated after he gathers more information he will make a decision. His main reason for looking for information was because of the conversation between the Board at the last meeting with regard to the letter from Nottingham.

Chairman J. Wood stated that Town Manager Bates will get back to the Board on what his investigation finds about the Industrial and Community Development Advisory Board.

Selectman Barnes stated possibly in 1985 or 1986 when the Industrial and Community Development Advisory Board existed.

Town Manager Bates stated that he would investigate and look into this matter further and report back to the Board at the next meeting.

Selectman D. Wood also suggested that if this board does come back that along the same lines that there is a Regional Board of Selectmen Meeting, there should also be a Regional Economic Development Board meeting to hear what other towns are doing.

Mr. Buckingham feels that anything that we can do to bring business into Raymond is a good thing and whatever board is decided on is fine.

Steven Georgopoulos came up next and expressed his concerns regarding the rubbish situation in town. He asked how much rubbish removal costs.

Town Manager Bates stated that in next year's budget it is roughly \$850,000.

Selectman D. Wood stated that Bestway is only taking over the Transfer Station; they are not taking over the contract to pickup trash that is still being picked up by Waste Management.

Mr. Georgopoulos wanted clarification of how this would save the taxpayers money.

Chairman J. Wood stated that there are two separate things here. There is the transfer station, which costs between \$150,000 to \$200,000 range. The Town was looking at putting a scale in at the transfer station and taking debris and such from outside people, contractors, etc. to help with the costs. By the time the Town pays people to monitor the scale, take the money, etc. it was going to come out to about 10 cents a pound. By having Bestway come in the people who are bringing material there that are going to have it taken away are going to be spending, from Bestway's estimate, 7 cents a pound because what they do is recycle quite a bit of the debris. They pull everything apart and separate the wood and recyclable material. The only thing that goes to a landfill is what cannot be recycled. We were not going to do that. Everything that came in would go out to a landfill. That is why there was a difference between 10 cents a pound and 7 cents a pound for demolition debris at the transfer station. The second part is the cost of trash removal. There was going to be an additional \$10,000 added this year for an additional truck to remove trash. This is a requirement due to the expansion of Raymond. Waste Management is having difficulty picking up trash with a single truck in a single week right now. We can take that second truck and fill it up with \$75 a ton garbage or we can take that truck and fill it up with \$15 a ton recyclables.

Selectman D. Wood stated that there would not be a cost to the taxpayer for the transfer station in their taxes. If you utilize the transfer station, it will cost you to take it there. If you don't utilize the transfer station, it will cost you nothing.

Further discussion was held among the Board members and Mr. Georgopoulos and the trash situation.

Bob Carlberg came up and voiced an observation that Herrington Company in Londonderry has outgrown their building and he was wondering if anyone has reached out and try to bring in a company like that to our community? This company only requires space, nothing else. If nothing has been done, why not?

Selectman Barnes asked if Bob Carlberg was interested in the Industrial and Community Development Advisory Board? Mr. Carlberg stated that he is interested and will look at it.

Selectman D. Wood stated he had not even heard that Herrington is looking.

Mr. Carlberg stated that they were runner up for a place in Manchester and they are now homeless, as the newspaper worded it. Mr. Carlberg stated that someone needs to go up there and see what the situation is. They are looking for places that also have a loading dock. They want a building with a front office, but they primarily need a loading dock.

Chairman J. Wood asked for any further comments for the public forum. None heard, he closed the public hearing.

Public Hearing

Acceptance of a donation to the Sanctuary Fund to benefit Police, Fire and Dispatch from an anonymous donor.

The public hearing is now open.

Town Manager Bates stated that the Sanctuary Fund is a fund set up to help police officers, fire fighters and dispatchers with the difficult situations and stresses that arise in their line of work.

Chairman J. Wood asked for any comments from the public. Hearing none, the public hearing is now closed.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to accept this generous donation from the anonymous donor, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Appointment of Ron Edgar as an alternate to the Cable Committee.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to appoint Mr. Edgar to the Cable Committee as an alternate member, seconded by Selectman D. Wood. Motion passed unanimously.

Little Red Schoolhouse

Chairman J. Wood asked the Board where they would like to go with this. Selectman Brown asked what the alternatives were. Chairman J. Wood stated that the alternatives are: It gets torn down because it is in the way of the new school building or just have the company move it over and drop it on the ground without a foundation under it; or put a foundation where it can be dropped on, then we have a usable building for storage. Selectman Brown asked if it could be done for no cost. Town Manager Bates stated that everything has a cost. Selectman Barnes stated that this building is used by the Town Parks Department and Recreation Department. The school does not use it. Town Manager Bates stated this is a school building and it is on school property. Town Manager Bates stated that predominantly the Town is who uses the building. Selectman Barnes stated that if this building is demolished, the Town is going to have to build a building to store maintenance equipment in or the equipment will be outside and get ruined. Selectman Barnes went on to state that this is more of a shed that the Town uses than a Little Red Schoolhouse, it is just on school property. The issue is whether we want to tear the building down and build another shed for the Parks Department or we keep this building and have the building moved and add a foundation. Selectman Barnes also stated that in order to accomplish this he does not want anyone utilizing overtime, it must be done during regular business hours.

A further discussion was held among the Board members.

Chairman J. Wood stated that what was requested from the Parks Department was that this shed be moved onto a foundation so that all the equipment that is stored there can stay, along with the equipment from the Recreation Department that is used for the various programs.

Town Manager Bates stated that we have equipment stored underneath the building now. We have equipment that continues to be stored under tarps outside. If the foundation is put underneath the shed, it makes the building much more usable for the equipment. Storage space is at a premium. It is the expenditure of our time, the highway crew's time, to dig the hole where the foundation is going to be and the contractor expressed willingness to help with the setting up of forms for the foundation if we dug the hole and we are fairly confident that we can come up with the concrete, possibly by donation for the foundation. That way they would have the additional space that is needed for the two big riding tractors we have, fertilizer, grass seed, etc. All that is now stored in a variety of different locations. Some of it is not in the best location. So we would be able to get everything, or most everything in one location.

Selectman Brown asked if it was appropriate to make a motion to do all of this but put a limitation on the amount of money that will be spent, for example \$5,000. Chairman J. Wood stated yes, but he wanted to get further input before they went into a motion.

Chairman J. Wood opened this up to the public for input.

Town Manager Bates stated that from the meeting that was held with Sally Paradis and those interested in saving this building, it seemed like she was okay with this being moved and used as a shed. The big thing is that once it is torn down, if there was any significance, it is now gone. If we save it, it is saved.

Kathy Lee came up to speak. Ms. Lee stated that Sally Paradis does not feel this building should be saved. She does see the panels as having historic value and yes, that should be saved if the building were to be torn down. Ms. Lee went on to state that originally when she heard the idea she thought it was a wonderful thing to preserve the first school in this town and to pay tribute and honor education in this way by restoring what was a one-room schoolhouse. Ms. Lee would like to help raise money and make it a long-term project and do this. After this she went and took a look at the building. She did not see a value for a historical building, she saw junk. She feels that too much money would be needed to restore this than what it is worth. Ms. Lee feels that the idea of just moving this building and putting it on a slab is the most economical one. Ms. Lee went on to state that if it is of no cost to the Building Committee, then go for it.

Selectmen Brown asked Ms. Lee what her opinion was, save it, or don't save it? Ms. Lee replied save the tiles and use those portable schoolrooms to store your stuff in, they are much easier to move, move them where you need them, store your stuff there and be done with it.

A further discussion was held between the Board of Selectmen and Ms. Lee.

Tim Louis stepped up to speak. He stated that this building has been added onto over the years, but originally it was one of the original one-room schoolhouses in Raymond. When he found out that it might be torn down, he felt that it should be preserved as a piece of Raymond's history. He feels it should be placed somewhere as a showpiece for the School District. Possibly having the Woodworking classes at the high school renovate the building.

Chairman J. Wood stated that this is the problem. There is the building, but the only people who have expressed an interest in doing something with this building, be it historical or otherwise, are the people who want to use it as a shed. People have mentioned the fact that they are interested in it from a historical perspective, however, no one has stood up and said I want to be the leader on this and he wanted to take it forward, but what is missing at the moment is for it to have any kind of historical impetus in the Town and unless someone does, it may just be a shed.

Mr. Louis stated that maybe it will end up being a shed, but he does not feel it will be a historical shed.

Further discussion followed as to the fate of the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Mr. Carlberg stated that from the beginning Sally Paradis went and inspected the building, she knows which part of the building is the old part and which is not. She thought that perhaps the building could be moved down below and be a concession stand for the games held there. If not, then the Building Committee would save the tiles and parts of the building that are historical and somehow incorporate them into the construction of the new school, perhaps a wall or such.

Town Manager Bates stated that he is concerned that it is starting to appear that the future of the Little Red Schoolhouse is in the hands of the Board of Selectmen and the decision that the Board of Selectmen are going to make. The Town got involved, basically because it seemed like there was a move to try and save the building and we offered a solution, if the Town was going to be involved, here was our solution. Otherwise, there is no reason for us to be involved. Other than that, it doesn't make a lot of sense. It now seems like the move to save the building has changed somewhat. Chairman J. Wood stated that to the point of cooperative measures, having a place to store town equipment on the school property, that is used to maintain the school property, is probably not too tough a deal to do. Chairman J. Wood asked for affirmation from the chair of the school board, he affirmed.

Chairman J. Wood asked for a nod from the school people to say that it is okay that we put a foundation or slab or something on the school property to have this building moved to it.

School Board Chairman James Levesque stated that the School Board has not yet taken a position on this. They have had preliminary discussions with Mr. Greenwood and are waiting for figures for new construction, which have not yet come in.

Andrew Harmon stated that this building, as a historical school building, is a sorry site. Ms. Lee did some terrific work in pointing this out. If this building is not in a condition to be moved without falling apart, then it should not be done. The money to build a new school will not be used to fix anything that happens to this building in the move.

Mr. Louis expressed one last comment. If there is anyone in town that has the same views on this matter as he, please contact him to form a committee to see what they can come up with. This is not going to happen tomorrow or next week. If a group of people in town wants to get together with him and work on this to see what can be done, he is more than willing to work with them. Chairman J. Wood thanked Mr. Louis for standing up and suggested that Mr. Louis meet with Jack Barnes and Rick Greenwood because those are the primary people involved, perhaps to come up with a solution to bring back to the School Board and Board of Selectmen.

Cemetery Advisory Board

Town Manager Bates stated that the Cemetery Advisory Board is in need of some help. Since the resignation of the chair some months ago, they have not been able to have a meeting, they have not been able to have a quorum. My advice would be for the Board to temporarily appoint Norm Weldy chair so that he can convene a meeting of the Cemetery Advisory Board and then also to make two appointments under the provisions of your recently adopted Appointment Policy as they do not have enough people to have a quorum. There is supposed to be seven people to make a full board, which makes four people enough for a quorum. Under your appointment policy, if there are quorum problems, the Board of Selectmen can appoint someone without going through the interview process. Gloria Carney and Peter Harney have expressed interest in being on the Cemetery Advisory Board, to get it running again. Chairman J. Wood stated that he would like to amend the dates of appointment to reflect it expiring in April 2005 as these are temporary appointments, not full permanent appointments. That way they can convene their meetings and then we can go forward from there.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to appoint Norm Weldy to temporary chair of the Cemetery Advisory Board effective today and his temporary term expires in April of 2005, or when they hold a meeting and elect a new chair prior to that date, motion seconded by Selectman Brown. Motion passed, with Selectman Weldy abstaining.

Motion by Selectman D. Wood to appoint Gloria Carney to the Cemetery Advisory Board for a term to expire on April 30, 2005, seconded by Selectman Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Selectman D. Wood to appoint Peter Harney to the Cemetery Advisory Board for a term to expire on April 30, 2005, seconded by Selectman Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.

Indemnification of Municipal Employees, Officers and Officials.

A discussion was held as to who is covered and for what.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to bring this back at the next quarterly meeting, seconded by Selectman Weldy. Motion passed unanimously.

Default Budget of the Town

Town Manager Bates stated that Michelle found another place where she could get more money out of the default budget. It was in the area of Welfare, so she was able to remove another \$8,000 out of the budget. The document before you is the document that the State requires we sign and submit prior to the public hearing, which is scheduled tomorrow, which defines what our default budget is. It does not follow along the Town's Municipal budget because it is a form done by DRA. DRA does not care how we set up

our budget. The Board needs to vote to sign this document. The final default budget is \$8,65,639.00. Town Manager Bates stated that this default budget goes back to whatever was in the default budget last year. The big-ticket items are insurance, wages – 3% increases, waste collection \$200,000, water \$200,000, which is offset by revenues. The default budget is \$1.00 over last year. The Board of Selectmen’s proposed operating budget is \$.14 over last year.

Selectman D. Wood shared a discussion he had with a resident. They asked him about the default budget and operating budget and stated that if it is not spent in one place, it will be in another. Selectman D. Wood explained that if the voters do not vote to spend the money, it is not there to spend because the only money that the Town is allowed to spend is what is approved on the ballot in March, whether it is the default budget or the operating budget, those are the numbers that the Board of Selectmen live with.

Motion by Selectman D. Wood to accept the default budget of \$8,65,639.00, seconded by Selectman Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager Bates asked Chairman J. Wood if he wished to discuss the warrant article wording now.

Chairman J. Wood stated yes. The difficulty that we are having is that apparently we cannot put on the ballot below the warrant article the tax impact of yes is \$.14 and the tax impact of no is \$1.00. We can’t put it on the ballot, we can put it on everything else that we send out to the people, but we cannot put it on the ballot.

Town Manager Bates stated that now that we are an SB2 town we have a ballot and it has to follow certain guidelines. They don’t specifically allow you to put a tax interpretation on it. What Town Counsel is saying is that we could reword the article so it becomes part of the text of the article. It could read “to raise and appropriate an \$8,65,539.00, with an anticipated tax impact of \$1.00, etc.

Town Counsel has recommended two options, one is to bring it up at the Budget Committee public hearing tomorrow night, mention it there, stating that you are planning on amending the wording and if the Budget Committee agrees with that wording. The other option is waiting until deliberative session and amend it at deliberative session and amend it to include the tax impact wording in the warrant article.

Chairman J. Wood stated that here is one of the dilemmas, if there is any change in the valuation of the Town, we can only recalculate the tax rate. What we said in the warrant is that it is only going to go up by \$1.00, as far as default. If something happens and it goes up by \$1.02, what happens. Town Manager Bates stated that legal counsel would have to work on the wording. Selectman D. Wood stated that he does not believe that the amount ever has gone up, it has gone down in the past because of some unanticipated revenue.

Chairman J. Wood asked, “Do we ask our representative to ask the budget committee if they will amend our warrant article?”

Motion by Selectman Weldy to try to include the tax rate into the wording of the warrant article and ask the budget committee to amend the wording, seconded by Selectman Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

Upcoming Work Sessions

Town Manager Bates stated that there has been a request from the School Building Committee to make a presentation to the Board of Selectmen.

Also, the Board wanted to meet with a representative from the Guidance Office at the High School to discuss the scholarship criteria. Town Manager Bates is in the process of setting this up.

Town Manager Bates stated that the Board has been trying to meet earlier on work sessions, what time are you looking at for the work sessions?

Chairman J. Wood stated that Town Manager Bates can work out the time frame to get the School Building Committee and High School Guidance Counselor to come in on the 10th.

Committee Updates

Selectman Wood – attended a budget committee hearing.

Correspondence

Jonathan Wood went over miscellaneous correspondence.

There was a letter of recognition for Dispatcher William Wyner for an outstanding job done.

Public hearing for a stop sign on Bald Hill Road and Lane Road will be set for January 24th, the second and final hearing will be on February 7th.

Town Manager Report

Town Manager Bates stated that the Town Report deadline is on January 7th, so please keep that in mind.

The permit for the transfer station is in the hands of the State. It was there just prior to Christmas. Town Manager Bates has been in contact with the Director of Waste Division, Tony Guinta, and let him know that it is there. His staff is working on it. They have to assess it for completeness before they move it to the next stage and we are hoping that they move that assessment along as quickly as possible considering we have already

been before them once and they gave us a list of what we needed to do. Then they have to set up a public hearing. We would like them to set the public hearing up, because of the time frame for noticing abutters, etc. We would like to have this before the election, but it does not seem possible. Town Manager Bates stated that they have been very helpful and cooperative.

A letter was sent to Carol Murray expressing our interest in the State Highway Shed, stating that we were going to take this next year to work on satisfactory arrangements.

Minutes

Motion by Selectman D. Wood to accept the 12-20-04 Minutes as written, seconded by Selectman Brown. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Barnes would like to thank Rick for the Town Christmas party. It was very well received by the town employees. It was nice that there was such a large turnout of employees in attendance.

Selectman Barnes asked Town Manager Bates when the filing period was for the election. Town Manager Bates stated it was from January 19 to January 28.

Chairman J. Wood stated that there are four positions for the Planning Board that are open; there are three positions for the Ethics Committee; there are two positions for the Board of Selectmen; the Town Clerk is up for re-election; the Town Treasurer is up for re-election; there are two elected positions of Trustees of the Trust Funds and he believed that at least one of those positions is up for re-election. He also gave the reminder that if it is a paid Board there is a \$1.00 fee to sign up for it. If it is an unpaid Board such as Planning or Ethics, etc. it is free.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Cramer
Executive Secretary
Selectmen's Secretary