

## **THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES OF WORKSESSION 4-11-05 APPROVED**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Raymond High School Media Center by Chairman Norman Weldy. Members present: Dick Wood, Jack Barnes, Frank Bishop and Greg Bemis. Also present: Town Manager Rick Bates.

Chairman Weldy led a salute to the flag and held a moment of silence for departed citizens.

Chairman Weldy stated that tonight is a work session and the discussion will be the Raymond economic development strategy and turned the meeting over to Craig Wheeler, Town Planner and Town Manager Rick Bates.

Town Manager Bates explained that this follows up on the work that was done a few months ago by the group that was chaired by Jonathan Wood. What needs to be done now is to take that proposal and put it into a format that will work for the Town and develop an economic council or Raymond business & economic development council, as they have recommended and start moving that forward. A lot of work was done by the group in a short period of time.

A further discussion was held over the forming of this new committee. It was decided that the membership would include 7 members and 2 ex officio members, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager. The Town Planner would attend the meetings for technical advice only, along with one alternate member. Town Manager Bates and Town Planner Wheeler will come up with some initial framework and come back to the Selectmen for their approval.

The Mission Statement of the economic entity that they will be forming reads: "To promote the economic vitality of Raymond, NH, by providing coordination and leadership in facilitating sustainable economic growth, opportunity, and the preservation and creation of quality jobs."

The Goals of the economic entity that they will be forming reads:

- To advocate on behalf of business interests before all boards and commission, with an emphasis on stabilizing the tax rate and bringing new jobs to Raymond, broadening the tax base and stabilizing the tax rate.
- To actively promote and market the Town of Raymond to potential businesses and developers.
- To dynamically adapt to respond to opportunities as they are presented.
- To maintain and publish an accurate, up to date inventory of available commercial and industrial sites, as well as, existing under utilized sites.
- To use the Master Plan as their guide in their promotional efforts.
- To communicate the status of business development on a quarterly basis to the Board of Selectmen.

The Board agreed on the above goals.

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Town Manager Bates will send a letter to the editor asking for volunteers to come forward and be interviewed by the Board of Selectmen for the economic development entity being formed.

It was decided that all the comments from tonight would be incorporated into a rough draft and this draft would be brought back before the Selectmen at the May 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. Town Manager Bates stated that on the 16<sup>th</sup> the interviews will be done. If needed the Board could also meet on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, which is not a regularly scheduled meeting.

Further discussion was held on the economic development entity.

Chairman Weldy asked if any Board member had anything further to contribute. Hearing none, he asked the audience if anyone had anything further to contribute. Mr. Buckingham stated that his concerns are being addressed with what the Board is presently doing.

Some audience members were polled and agreed with what the Board was doing.

Chairman Weldy stated that Town Planner Wheeler and Town Manager Bates will come back before the Board with a rough draft.

Town Manager Bates stated that the permit for the transfer facility was received by the Town. This means that the target date for the opening day of Bestway's operation of the transfer facility is April 30.

**Motion to adjourn by Selectmen Barnes, seconded by Selectmen Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.**

The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Cramer  
Executive Secretary/Selectmen's Secretary