

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Norm Weldy. Members present: Jack Barnes, Frank Bishop, Harold Wood and Greg Bemis. Also present: Town Manager Richard Bates.

Please note: The Budget Committee opened their meeting as well at 7:00 p.m. The minutes of that meeting are on file in the Town Clerk's Office as required.

Chairman Weldy led a salute to the flag.

Public Hearing

Chairman Weldy read the Legal Notice for the **TIF BOND HEARING** as follows:

The Board of Selectmen Town of Raymond, NH will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at the Raymond High School, Harriman Hill Road, Raymond, NH in accordance with RSA 33:8-a, Procedure for Authorizing Bonds or Notes in Excess of \$100,000. The purpose of the proposed bond is to finance the design and construction of a wastewater treatment plant and sewer system, and other related infrastructure improvements.

Chairman Weldy also read Article 15 proposed for the Town Warrant. A copy of Article 15 is attached to the original set of minutes on file in the Town Clerk's Office.

Town Manager Bates stated that this Article was developed after a great deal of discussion. Jeff Taylor, Jack Dugan and Town Counsel worked on this Article. Rather than ask the voters to adopt all of it at one time, it was felt that it would be better to get these two single items done. If the Article passes, it moves us to a meeting in September. This allows the town to move to the next step but it does not obligate the Town to anything.

Frank Bishop stated we still have the feasibility studies and preliminary plans to do.

Town Manager Bates stated we can not do the bonding in September if this Article is not passed. It was recommended by Jeff Taylor to get it on the table now and have it reaffirmed in September by the voters. The Bond Bank and Town Counsel endorse us doing it this way.

Frank Bishop stated that it would set us back a year if we don't do this now.

Dick Wood stated that we would have to have a bond hearing in March.

Town Manager Bates stated the only way to have another meeting is if the court granted an emergency meeting. Another key point is that we will know about the Brownfield Cleanup money in June. All the pieces get tied up in September.

Chairman Weldy stated it costs us nothing for the bond to sit there and be ready for us in September.

Town Manager Bates stated as we go through the process, the additional time will allow us to have a better handle on how much grant money we will be able to apply for. The twelve million dollar cost is conservative. The Town will have a better sense of the cost in September.

Dick Wood stated that the voters in September will have the opportunity to say yes or no.

Jack Barnes stated that the citizens need to realize we need Articles 15 through 17 passed and there is no money involve until we come back in September and we have all the facts.

Doug Vogel asked what the related infrastructure improvements are.

Town Manager Bates stated that the Articles have general wording. One improvement may be an entrance road to the waste water facility.

Mike Farrell stated anything related to the construction of the treatment facility to make the plant operational may be an improvement.

Doug Vogel asked about extraction fees.

Jack Dugan stated that the bond number is conservative. Once there is a specific plan it's broken down as to what everything is. Impact and user fees can be used to reduce the bond amount as well as the grants the Town is pursuing. He stated he is not familiar with extraction fees.

Town Manager Bates stated we do not have them because we do not have a sewer facility.

Jeff Taylor stated they can be used for a defined activity. In order for the program that the Board of Selectmen envision, Article 15 has to pass. It relies on a TIF bond which means that Articles 16, 17 and 18 also have to pass. In September all four bullet points as noted on the posting need to be adopted. If the Town doesn't adopt the provision of Article 16 you have no opportunity to deal with those points on Article 15 and you can not go forward for the bond in September.

Town Manager Bates stated that Article 16 says we like the idea but come back in September to confirm that. He stated we can not move forward if we do not have an agreement with the town that the developer will pay the bond.

Tim Auclair stated the tax money from the developer's property tax pays for the bond. It's a surety to cover it.

Jack Dugan stated excess money from the developer's property tax would go into the general fund.

There being no further public comment, Chairman Weldy closed the Public Hearing.

Adjournment

MOTION: Dick Wood made a motion to adjourn. Jack Barnes seconded. Voted unanimously in the affirmative. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Bette Patterson
Recording Secretary