

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

Chairman Weldy opened the public forum and invited public comment.

Buster Hammond came forward and voiced his concern over the Scribner Road matter and that he was told it would be all settled soon after the October meeting. Town Manager Bates stated that he would check with Town Counsel on the status of that matter. Selectman Barnes asked if Mr. Hammond would get an answer. Town Manager Bates stated that he would call Mr. Hammond tomorrow after he speaks with Town Counsel.

Bob Carlberg came forward regarding a potential appointment to the Raymond Conservation Commission. This is in response to the meeting last week where Cody Cramer was interviewed by the Board of Selectmen for possible appointment to the Conservation Commission and where the Board thought there may be a conflict of interest. Mr. Carlberg stated that Mr. Cramer has been a president of the Bear Paw organization for some years and in that capacity has been in a leadership role and has taken control of local conservation easements as part of the state. That is fine on the face of things, but it tends to imply that this could mean the man might have a hidden agenda. His voting on important issues related to our own Town's conservation easements might be cause for concern. Mr. Carlberg feels that Mr. Cramer's past relationship with Bear Paw's organizations could bring into question his credibility. The Town of Raymond needs a fair and balanced makeup in the membership of the conservation commission. The Town is seeing case after case of conservation developments in front of the Planning Board and expect many more with the property constraints of the future. The numbers of makeup of the Town of Raymond's conservation commission is extremely important and with the wrong makeup of members this could adversely effect those complex issues on just how much property should be set aside for conservation uses and who is going to manage them and what are the types of uses of the easements that fits into Raymond's future. Mr. Carlberg went on to state his reasons. Mr. Carlberg urged the Board of Selectmen to think carefully about this appointment.

Chairman Weldy asked if there was anyone else for public forum.

Peter Cleaves came forward and gave a short rebuttal to Mr. Carlberg's concerns. Mr. Cleaves does not believe there is a conflict and believes that Mr. Cramer should be appointed.

Chairman Weldy asked if there was anyone further wishing to speak in public forum, hearing none, he closed the public forum.

Selectman Wood asked Chairman Weldy if they could move the review of deliberative session before the public hearings, as there are several people in attendance from out of town. Chairman Weldy polled the Board and they all agreed.

Review of Deliberative Session

Town Manager Bates stated that at the end of deliberative session a question was raised after the meeting was over about the tax impact information on the warrant and whether that was correct at .57 cents, when information on the MS7 seems to suggest that that was not the right number. Finance Director Grace Collette and Public Works Director Dennis McCarthy are in attendance tonight to answer questions.

Selectman Barnes stated that the word he received this morning, a day and a half after deliberative session, was that a member of the budget committee passed a note stating that there was a \$200,000 difference in the revenue and what the expenses were on the water department. The question was raised, what is going on? Selectman Barnes would like to know what is going on? He hears there is a study out to raise the rates and maybe the connection fees, but if that doesn't happen, it is Selectman Barnes understanding that the taxpayers will be on the cuff for that \$200,000 if that \$200,000 doesn't appear, making what the Selectmen stated incorrect and it would have a tax impact.

Town Manager Bates asked Grace Collette and Dennis McCarthy to come forward. Town Manager Bates stated that in a nutshell and Grace can elaborate on it, the warrant article as it is prepared, the tax impact information is prepared based on what we expect to happen over the next year. From the beginning, a water rate study has been planned for 2006 for many years. The water rate study will be completed by the beginning part of April, which will enter it into the Selectmen's hearing process in the beginning part of April. The plan all along was to do the water rate study to make sure that the fees we are charging are correct and also that the connection fees that we were charging were correct. This is scheduled to begin at the beginning of April. That means that the last three quarters of April will be covered by any change in the water rates. The connection fees now being collected are \$425 per house. They should be in the vicinity of \$2,000 per house, per connection. Raymond has been way under all along. The previous finance director had always planned on it and she was absolutely accurate that when we got to this point in time we would be very close, but we would not be going back to the taxpayers. There is enough money in surplus in the water department excess revenue account to cover any shortfall if the rate structure couldn't be increased enough to cover whatever was left. Town Manager Bates went on to state that last year there was an increase of the bonding capacity of the water department. The Town has tried to avoid going out to bond a second time because we had enough money in the excess revenue account to cover it, so we didn't need to go out and bond a second time. There is \$300,000 some odd in the account now that isn't reflected on the MS7. That number does not get reflected on the MS7, there is no place for it. So if you are simply just looking at the MS7, the projection based on that, you are going to come up with a number that the people are coming up with. Finance Director Collette explained the MS7 and how it was a snapshot in time and at that time the MS7 was correct. Finance Director Grace Collette stated that Public Works Director McCarthy will get the rate study completed and the rate structure in place, all information will be given to the Board of Selectmen prior to the tax rate being set. Selectman Barnes requested that the Board of Selectmen, who are also the Water Commissioners, receive a monthly report from the

Water Department to keep them up-to-date on everything. Public Works Director McCarthy stated that a monthly report is already being generated by the Treasurer and that should not be a problem.

Public Hearing – No Thru Trucking on Cross Road – First Reading, second reading February 27, 2006

Chairman Weldy opened the public hearing and invited public comment. A discussion was held on which roads already had the no thru trucking. Hearing no further input, Chairman Weldy closed the public hearing.

Unfinished Business

Request of the Ethics Committee relative to Conservation Commission Appointments

There was a letter sent from Patrick Larney, Chairman of the Ethics Committee that the proper way to handle such a request would be for Mr. Cramer to go to the Ethics Committee and ask the question with an inquiry form. Town Manager Bates stated that everyone should keep in mind that this is not an investigation, it is just the Board of Selectmen asking the Ethics Committee their opinion of whether or not Mr. Cramer being appointed to the Conservation Commission is a conflict of interest or not. A discussion followed this as to why the Ethics Committee was asked for their opinion.

Date Change for the RBEDC Open House for Exit 4 Development – Informational

Town Manager Bates announced that there has been changed the following are the correct dates for the Open Houses: Saturday, March 4 from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. and Tuesday, March 7 from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Raymond High School Cafeteria.

Road Signs Recognizing Raymond as the hometown of Chris Carpenter, 2005 Cy Young Award Winner - Discussion

Town Manager Bates stated that he heard from William Lambert, the person he was referred to by Carol Murray as the person to talk to about getting signs put up.

Motion by Selectman Barnes to accept Option #1: To work the “Hometown of 2005 Cy Young Award Winner” message into gateway, “Welcome to Raymond” signs on one or more of the conventional roads entering the town (NH 107, NH, 102, etc.). This could be accomplished through coordination with the Department of Transportation, William Lambert and would essentially involve identifying locations that would not interfere with maintenance operations and/or official highway signs. I’m not sure if Raymond has existing “Welcome” signs or not, but this is a pretty common practice for the Department of Transportation and easily doable, seconded by Selectman Bemis. Motion passed unanimously.

Town Manager Bates asked the Board of Selectmen if they would like him to go ahead and just get it done and Chairman Weldy responded yes. Selectman Bishop asked that before placing the signs, the locations be approved by the Board. Town Manager Bates stated he would bring back a site location map for the Board of Selectmen to approve prior to placement of the signs. Selectman Barnes asked Town Manager Bates to contact the family and make sure it was okay with them to place these signs. Town Manager Bates stated that he would ask for their permission.

New Business

Request for the continuation of Pond Road – Keith Martel

Town Manager Bates stated that Mr. Martel is in attendance tonight at the recommendation of the Planning Board to start the process of talking about the extension of Pond Road. Mr. Martel understands that there will be no decision made tonight. Tonight is mostly for informational purposes to get this on the table and get an explanation of what is going on.

Mr. Martel came forward and stated that Pond Road is off of Essex Drive. The proposed subdivision would be requesting a continuation of Pond Road and a new road to be constructed connecting through the subject parcel and onto Prescott Road. After a perimeter survey of the property, it would appear that the current location of Pond Road does not coincide with the deeded right of way and further that the homes located on the end of Pond Road are actually not on the intended lots but rather on Town land. A further discussion was held regarding this situation and what could be done to remedy it. It was decided that this was something that would need to go before the voters at the Special Election in September.

Invitation to the Rededication and 60th anniversary celebration for Jackson Lumber

This invitation has been sent to the Ethics Committee for their opinion. The Board will wait until they hear back from the Ethics Committee before discussing this matter.

Chairman Weldy then read the vacancies currently available on the Boards and Commissions in Raymond.

The Zoning Board of Adjustment has two alternate member positions available. The Conservation Commission has one full member and seven alternate member positions available.

The CIP Committee has three members at large positions available.

The Recreation Advisory Board has three vacant alternate positions available.

The Solid Waste/Recycling Committee has four full member positions available and two alternate members.

The Cable Committee has no openings.

The Historic District Commission has one vacant full member position is available and five vacant alternate positions available.

The Cemetery Advisory Board as two vacant alternate member positions available.
The Raymond Business & Economic Development Council has one vacant member position is available.

The Board of Selectmen gave their report.

The Town Manager gave his report.

Motion by Selectman Wood to adjourn, seconded by Selectman Bishop. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy L. Cramer
Selectmen's Secretary/
Recording Secretary